

# CityPULSE

October 9 - October 15, 2019

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**The Beer Issue:  
How Michigan  
women are changing  
brewing culture**  
See page 18



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# Fall is in the Air



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# *Favorite Things* Bartender Justin 'Loki' Bowler and the Hofbrau Heifeweizen Dunkel



My favorite thing we have is the Hofbrau Heifeweizen Dunkel beer. I discovered it when I was riding around Germany on a motorcycle. I rented a BMW and tore it up on the Autobahn across the country. This is a darker beer with a thick creamy head.

Germany has a very old food law still upheld called "Reinheitsgebot" (1571) that says beer can only be made of four ingredients. You can't even sell an American Budweiser over there unless it is being sold as a soda in a McDonald's. It is just a slightly more watered-down version of what we have here.

I noticed all the beers were much purer over there. I didn't worry much more about hangovers the next morning. I could taste the variety of flavors and profiles. It is amazing how much of a difference it makes the way they treat each ingredient and what different styles you can get out of that.

It was very impressive. A lot of American beers rely on adding coffee or rice or fruit or some alternate source grain to get a profile. There, it is all in how they treat those four ingredients, most importantly the hops.

When I had a distributor mention they had Hofbrau to me, we started bringing it in here. It was easy for me to order it and I assume you can get it around town if you look.

When I talk to people about beer, this is usually my go-to crowd pleaser. The fun thing about this beer is how you pour it. Hofbrau adds more yeast in when they package it, so you'll have to pour a little bit in the glass, stick your finger in the top and give it a swish to get it back mixed in to avoid a small amount of yeast sludge at the bottom.

It's funny how this is our biggest crowd pleaser when people try it, yet no one hardly thinks to order it.

A hefeweizen means a lighter beer. This beer is a classic dunkel where if you treated the ingredients the same when brewing in your garage you can come up with something very similar to it. This is not a secret recipe. It is a good solid beer that isn't too fancy.

To make this beer simply requires roasting the hops longer to give it a darker color. The yeast added in late gives it a really creamy head.

When you are thinking of a German style beer, you have to think about how you're consuming a tradition of the purest ingredients. It doesn't mess around.

*(Midtown Brewing Co. is located at 402 S. Washington Square. This interview was edited and condensed by Dennis Burck. If you have a recommendation for "Favorite Things," please email dennis@lansingcitypulse.com.)*



**FALL  
SPECIALS**



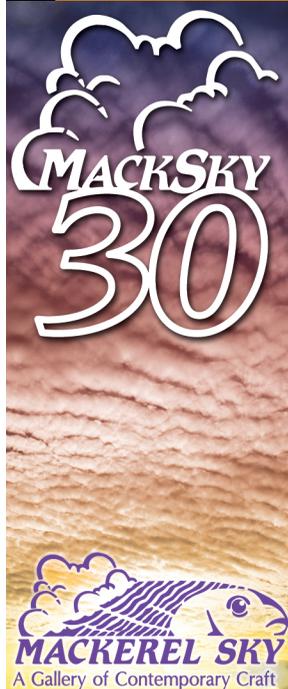
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**Saturday, November 23 from 10-3**  
The Annual Biedermann Commemorative Ornament signing. Martin Biedermann will be joined by Georg the master cutter from Germany who will be demonstrating the intricate method used to create the commemorative ornaments.

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

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# CityPULSE

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City Pulse's guide to local elections

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GTG Fest brings storm of local punk rock to the Avenue Cafe

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Say hello to Lansing's first cat cafe

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By Kimberly Lavon

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

MUELLER DIDN'T NAIL ME ON COLLUSION--WHICH PROVES I AM INNOCENT! SO HOW CAN THEY IMPEACH ME FOR CRIMES I DID LATER?

IT'S A REAL HEAD-SCRATCHER, BOSS.

SO I ASKED THIS ZELENSKY GUY FOR A LITTLE FAVOR! WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? THIS ISN'T AN IMPEACHMENT--IT'S A COUP! WE'RE GOIN' TO THE MATTRESSES, BOYS! AND IGNORE THOSE SUB-POENAS--SNITCHES GET STITCHES!

BARR--I WANT YOU TO GO TO ITALY AND FIND EVIDENCE THAT DEMOCRATS WERE THE REAL COLLUDERS! AND MAYBE GET SOMETHING SOLID ON PIZZAGATE, WHILE YOU'RE THERE!

ON IT, BOSS!

POMPEO--YOU NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THIS CALL WITH ZELENSKY! UNLESS THEY BACK YOU INTO A CORNER, IN WHICH CASE YOU HEARD IT FIRSTHAND AND IT WAS PERFECT AND TOTALLY INNOCENT!

FOOLPROOF STRATEGY, BOSS!

AND RUDY, UH...BE YOURSELF. BETTER THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT YOU THAN ME! GO ON TV AND SHOUT A LOT ABOUT BIDEN! AND STOP ADMITTING CRIMES LIVE ON THE AIR, WILLYA?

I'LL DO MY BEST, BOSS!

NICE LITTLE COUNTRY WE GOT HERE--BE A SHAME IF CIVIL WAR HAPPENED TO IT! BESIDES, VOTERS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT ME, ACCORDING TO NUMBERS I JUST MADE UP IN MY HEAD!

NOW SOMEBODY FIND THIS WHISTLEBLOWER! I'LL SEE IF MR. PUTIN CAN ARRANGE A LITTLE ACCIDENT--WITH POLONIUM! MAYBE WE CAN TAKE OUT SCHIFF WHILE WE'RE AT IT! DID YOU SEE THE WAY HE MOCKED ME? TREASON!

OH, AND WHITE-HAIRED GUY? I CAN COUNT ON YOU TO TAKE A FALL TO PROTECT ME, RIGHT?

WHAT POSSIBLE REASON WOULD I HAVE TO DO ANYTHING ELSE, BOSS?

MUST...KEEP...SMILING...

TOM TOMORROW © 2019

## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## Slotkin under attack for impeachment stand

Sensing that independent voters aren't in love with the idea of impeaching President Donald Trump, Republicans nationwide are hopping on Democrats in battleground districts who have come out in support of an impeachment inquiry.

In Michigan, that means Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Holly, whose district includes Ingham County, and Rep.

Haley Stevens, R-Rochester Hills, are being collared with their support for moving forward on removing Trump from office. The latest drives come after Trump's apparent attempt to hold up foreign aid to Ukraine until the country agreed to investigate potential wrongdoing in their country by Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his son Hunter.

In a rare move, the Republican National Committee is working with the Trump reelection campaign to buy \$10 million in cable TV and digital buys in 25 to 50 competitive House districts, including Michigan's 8th and 11th districts. The National Republican Congressional Committee have stepped up its criticism of both. Its central theme is that both "caved into D.C. partisan politics" instead of being the "problem solvers" they both ran on.

It also means upped visibility by the Michigan Republican Party and its public criticism of Slotkin and Stevens. On Tuesday, GOP state party chairwoman Laura Cox held press events in front of Slotkin's Lansing office and Stevens' Livonia office to voice her displeasure.

Standing with Cox in Lansing was 8th Congressional District Chairman Norm Shinkle, Linda Lee Tarver and a couple of dozen like-minded Trump backers holding up such signs as "Impeach Slotkin," "4 More Years," "Slotkin Doesn't Work 4 Michigan," and "Democrat Socialists kill countries."

"She told the 8th District that she would go to D.C. and work for our families, working for our friends. She's not doing that," Cox said. "She's playing po-

litical games in D.C. She wants to redo the election of 2016. That's not right. We're here to stay, 'Stop it, Elissa.'"

Cox urged the freshman member of Congress to vote on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which Republicans fear U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is holding up for political reasons.

As around 15 to 20 pro-Slotkin counter-protesters heckled Cox she said Slotkin is playing to "The Squad" and the "ultra-left" instead of wanting to vote on prescription drug reform or immigration reform.

As it turns out, Slotkin was hosting a "Costs of Care" roundtable discussion in Rochester on Monday about the costs of healthcare and prescription drug costs. While Slotkin does support an impeachment inquiry, the House Democratic leadership doesn't have her on the front lines on this issue.

Instead, the congresswoman's team noted that a bill she's actively working in Washington would lower out-of-pocket costs for those need prescriptions. It also would allow Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices.

"This morning, Rep. Slotkin met with manufacturing and logistics suppliers in our district to talk about how to leverage Michigan companies' unique expertise for defense innovation," said a Slotkin spokeswoman.

"As Rep. Slotkin has done throughout her life of service to our country, she made the decision to support an impeachment inquiry based on her commitment to our national security," said Hannah Lindow. "Rep. Slotkin has made it clear she is an independent voice for Michigan's 8th District who has never wavered in her fierce commitment to the issues Michiganders are demanding she work on: lowering the price of healthcare and prescription drugs, ensuring access to clean water, and bringing decency and integrity back to politics."

Also in Lansing this week, U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Delta Township, was at the Ingham County Health Department talking about climate change and the impacts on human health. Like Slotkin, Stabenow was talking about



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS



Kyle Melinn/City Pulse

Republicans, led by 8th Congressional District Chairman Norm Shinkle, protesting outside U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin's office at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Saginaw Street Tuesday.

something other than Trump.

Of course, by the time the media got to Michigan's senior U.S. senator, the subject of the Trump's conduct in office came up.

Stabenow supports the impeachment inquiry. Any time a president takes a foreign country hostage by withholding aid until that country "digs up dirt" on a potential future political opponent, that's a problem, Stabenow said.

Defending Trump's shenanigans has turned into a political gut-check for Republicans. Stabenow said her Republican friends have no interest in looking into the evidence of abuse of power and that's unfortunate.

"We're seeing very dangerous actions come from this president. They are very erratic and they have very long-term

implications for our country.

"This is a president who has abused his power," she said. "We have a president who relishes division and controversy on every topic. The President's view is that he somehow benefits from division and partisanship. I think it's wrong."

On Slotkin and Stevens, Stabenow said she was "proud of" both of them for doing what's right for the country.

"When you look at someone like Elissa Slotkin, who served in the role of CIA adviser ... this goes way beyond party. This is about standing up for our Constitution, our country, for our national security, keeping us safe. I'm proud she had the courage to do that."

(Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service is at mlinnky@gmail.)

# Medical cannabis sales returning to Michigan Avenue

Medical marijuana dispensaries were once prolific on Michigan Avenue, with numerous locations operating there in the days before the city and state embraced regulation. They all closed in its wake.

But by the end of the year at least one fully licensed provisioning center on Michigan should be in business. Superior Wellness is set to open at 2617 E. Michigan Avenue in the same building that once housed Best Buds.

Co-owner Jeffrey Hank said he and his partners have won approval to reopen from both the state and the city but now there's a shortage of supply, as a backlog of officially sanctioned cannabis receives state inspection.

"That's a statewide problem. It's got nothing to do with us," Hank said. "You can't find flower cannabis right now. There's a bottleneck in the system."

Previously, provisioning centers could sell off surplus cannabis flower and bud from medical marijuana caregivers, but Hank said the state cut off that supply chain.

Michigan Avenue, home of the capital city's prominent old trolley line running from the Michigan State Capitol to Michigan State University, had so many dispensaries during the unregulated heyday, that it created a political backlash, and the tortuous bureaucratic approval process that followed caused the number operating on Michigan to dwindle to zero.

The street could see a second provisioning center open in the next round of approvals. A prospective business, Michigan Avenue Wellness, has a zoning board hearing on Thursday. The proprietors seek a zoning variance to be allowed to operate a dispensary on the 1900 block of Michigan Avenue, within 500 feet of two other applicants.

City Clerk Chris Swope said Michigan Avenue Wellness is likely to be denied, and even if it is approved, his office would never permit stores that close together out of a limited number of licenses. In this round of applications, the city received 54 applicants for just five licenses, which the city clerk scores.

Even before the hearing, Michigan Avenue Wellness has received an initial denial from the city clerk. Swope said he would either approve one or zero dispensaries on that stretch of Michigan — not two and definitely not three.

The new marijuana ordinance that the Lansing City Council approved last month will do away with the ability



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Superior Wellness plans to reopen this year at 2617 E. Michigan Ave., marking the return of provisioning centers to the avenue where they once proliferated.

for provisioning center owners to seek zoning variances and appeals through the zoning board. Mayor Andy Schor felt the zoning appeal only added an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy, since the city clerk would not approve exceptions to the city rules regardless. Another provisioning center in the 5900 block of South Pennsylvania Avenue was denied a variance last month.

Superior operated the Michigan Avenue storefront as Best Buds and won the 2018 City Pulse Top of the Town contest as the best dispensary in Lansing before shuttering because of the regulatory hoopla. The first runner-up, Greenwave on Oakland Avenue is applying for one of the last five medical marijuana licenses, while Old 27 Wellness, the second-runner-up, is in operation on the north end of town.

Hank and his partners have plans to onboard three dispensaries in Lansing by the end of the year, but until they work out the supply problem, they are operating just one — Edgewood Wellness, at the south end of the city. The third location will be in the 2800 block of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, just north of the Logan Square shopping center.

Superior is one of eight provisioning centers that have received approval from both the state and the city of Lansing to sell marijuana to patients with a medical marijuana card. Two have been approved on the north side and three on the south side. Until the Michigan Avenue store reopens, east side marijuana patients have one option: Stateside Wellness on Kalamazoo Street.

Hank said he's seeking the ability to sell recreational marijuana to the adult public at all three by the end of winter, although it may be 2020 before he gets bureaucratic approval. He said he hopes to make the Edgewood location a marijuana destination with a social club license, but he'll need to pass another approval process for that, and Lansing is only allowing one in each ward.

Lansing plans to allow 28 dispensaries. Eight have received the green light from both the state and city, while 12 have received city but not state approval. The city is currently weighing approval of five more for medical marijuana, while three more recreational-only licenses will be granted next year.

## Here is a list of active and pending dispensaries in Lansing:

### State/City Approved

- Cannaisseur 3200 N East St.
- Cornerstore Wellness 3316 S Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- Edgewood Wellness 134 E Edgewood Blvd.
- Homegrown Lansing 5025 S Pennsylvania Ave
- Pure Options 5815 S Pennsylvania Ave
- Old 27 Wellness 2905 N East St.
- Stateside Wellness 1900 E Kalamazoo St.
- Superior Wellness 2617 E Michigan Ave
- City Approved, pending State Approval**
- Primitive 5620 S. Cedar St.
- Kin 3425 S Martin Luther King Blvd.
- Altum Provisions 5829 Executive Drive
- Apex Ultra 2101 W Willow St.
- The Lansing Botanical Co. 3535 Capital City Blvd.
- First Class 2515 N. Grand River Ave.
- Sky mint 2508 S. Cedar St.
- Sky mint 700 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
- Green Square 7045 S. Cedar St.
- Michigan Pure Med 6283 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- Green Roots 515 N. Larch St.
- Superior Wellness 2829 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

— CHRIS GRAY



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# All the president's morons

*The fish rots from the head,  
but everyone around him stinks*

To believe that the president of the United States has done nothing wrong in asking the government of Ukraine — and now, more openly, China — to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and/or a California company called CrowdStrike, which investigated Russia's hack of Democratic National Committee's servers for the DNC in 2016, you have to believe the following.

Donald Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, has stumbled onto a Deep State conspiracy worthy of a shitty Dan Brown novel involving the State Department, intelligence officials and other world governments to — bear with me — cover-up Ukrainian interference in the 2016 election so that Democrats could blame Russia; and cover up a



JEFFREY C. BILLMAN

INFORMED  
DISSIDENT

multimillion-dollar scheme in which Biden's son took a do-nothing job as an adviser to a sleazy oligarch's natural gas firm, then Biden — at the urging of President Obama and the International Monetary Fund, which is naturally very concerned with Biden family interests — pushed Ukraine to dump a corrupt prosecutor who had a year earlier dropped an investigation into that firm.

Got all that?

Occam's Razor, of course, would dictate that Donald Trump did exactly what the facts suggest he did: He and Giuliani, along with his attorney general, secretary of state and possibly vice president, have been involved in a months-long effort to convince a foreign government to dig up dirt on Trump's political opponent, holding over its head much-needed military aid. And now, out in the open, he's asking China to do the same, all while negotiating a stop-hitting-yourself trade war.

Subtle, he's not.

These are impeachable offenses, of course. Throw them on the stack, atop all of the other ones: the multiple incidents of obstruction of justice noted in Robert Mueller's probe, the ongoing efforts to block congressional investigations, the president's twittersy insinuations that his political opponents should be executed for treason. At its core, the impeachment standard — “high crimes and misdemeanors” — is a breach of trust between the president and the public he's supposed to serve. And Trump's entire administration, at its core, is a walking, talking, lurching, hulking, prevaricating, mouth-breathing breach of trust.

The fish rots from the head. But make no mistake: The fish has rotted, thoroughly and unequivocally, and everyone who comes in contact with it can't shake the stink.

Mike Pence is simultaneously trying to convince the right wing that he's Trump's righthand man and everyone else that he's a major player and he had no idea what Trump was up to in Ukraine. Bill Barr is gallivanting around the globe, indulging Trump's conspiracy theory du jour. Mike Pompeo is trying to block State Department officials from responding to congressional subpoenas. Trump is trying to throw Secretary of Energy Rick Perry — reportedly on his way out — under the bus, blaming him for the phone call with Ukraine's president. Even John Bolton — John Bolton! — ran for the hills.

Whatever the best and brightest is, this is the opposite. And at the center of it is a man who on Monday tweeted about his “great and unmatched wisdom,” and a man who boasted during the campaign that he would hire “the best people” — and, it seems, a man who has turned his administration in the Keystone cops division of Infowars.

But when Giuliani and Trump's other ardent defenders ramble on about CrowdStrike, or when Trump's campaign blankets cable news (as it did this weekend) with invented accusations about Biden's supposed corruption that the media then dutifully regurgitates (noting, also dutifully, that they are “baseless” or “unproven”), or when the White House pretends that it is Very Serious about some scandal you would already know about if the Fake News cared about the Truth, understand this: They're not out to convince people of anything. They're

out to pollute the conversation with nonsense, then fill the swamps with noise on to give the right-wing propaganda feeds something to hyperventilate and your uncle to breathlessly share on Facebook.

They're out to not to make Donald Trump appear upright, but to make everyone else appear corrupt, too — to make it seem as if there's no truth out there, because everyone is corrupt, because it's all pollution and noise and nothing can be trusted.

So, to Trump's followers, the message is clear: They can't trust anyone. And since the elites are ganging up on him, the elites are ganging up on them, too. They're all in this together. Even if they think Trump is a bastard, he's their bastard.

It's Demagoguery 101. In the short term, it will probably work. GOP officials will listen to their voters, and their voters will tolerate no daylight between them and their president. Consider the case of U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, who last week called maintaining whistleblower protections “critically important” — obvious, no? — but then had his press secretary force a local newspaper to “clarify” its assertion that he was “breaking” with Trump after his primary opponent criticized him. (The spine, it bends.)

In a cult, the person at the top is more important than any principle. Trump's GOP functions very much like a cult. This is why, no matter how much Trump degenerates over the next few months as impeachment proceedings drag on, no matter how much he lashes out at Mitt Romney, no matter what horror shows he concocts to deter asylum seekers, no matter how much he sounds like a sundowning Wizard of Oz on Twitter, Democrats are unlikely to snag the 20 Republican senators they'll need to remove the president from office.

Of course, cult leaders also tend to be poorly served by their subordinates, as everyone who's smart enough to know better stays away. On a completely unrelated note: On Monday, Axios reported that Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, believes that Trump's inevitable impeachment will lead him to a 45-state landslide next year.

*(Jeffrey Billman is the editor of INDY Week, in Durham, North Carolina.)*

**B/20/023 WINTER MAINTENANCE BID** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **OCT. 17, 2019** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#19-293

**RFP/20/033 EPA ASSESSMENT GRAND RFP** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed RFPs at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **OCT. 24, 2019** at which time proposals will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#19-294

**RFP/20/034 FIREWORKS FOR JULY 4TH, 2020** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed RFPs at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **OCT. 24, 2019** at which time proposals will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#19-291

**B/20/035 TWO NEW CHASSIS CAB TRUCKS** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **OCT. 17, 2019** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#19-290

**CITY OF LANSING  
SUMMARY OF  
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1257**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 1300, Sections 1 through 16 to add business licenses to address recreational marihuana and update the ordinance to reflect changes in laws and rules.

Effective date: 30 days after enactment, October 30th

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

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

**CP#19-292**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ON PROPOSED 2020  
INGHAM COUNTY BUDGET**

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2020 Ingham County Budget on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at the Courthouse, 3rd floor, Mason, Michigan at 6:30 p.m. The hearing is for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed budget prior to its adoption. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

The proposed budget may be examined on weekdays at the Controller's Office, 1st floor of the Courthouse in Mason, Michigan between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Questions on the proposed budget may be addressed to Timothy J. Dolehanty, County Controller/Administrator, P.O. Box 319, Mason, Michigan 48854.

**CP#19-289**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING  
INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

**TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN,** the owners of the land described below within the Street Lighting Special Assessment District, and any other interested persons:

2328	Showtime	1609	Lake Lansing Road	2620	Lake Lansing Road	3309	Wood Street
2401	Showtime	1615	Lake Lansing Road	2628	Lake Lansing Road	3315	Wood Street
2501	Showtime	1627	Lake Lansing Road	2704	Lake Lansing Road	3319	Wood Street
2505	Showtime	1634	Lake Lansing Road	2706	Lake Lansing Road	3323	Wood Street
2620	Showtime	1700	Lake Lansing Road	2710	Lake Lansing Road	3320	Preyde
3508	Wood St.	1707	Lake Lansing Road	1540	Lake Lansing Road		
2810	Chamberlin Dr	1720	Lake Lansing Road	2800	Preyde Blvd		And Also Parcels:
2500	Kerry Street	1813	Lake Lansing Road	2500	Showtime Dr		
2503	Kerry Street	1910	Lake Lansing Road	2201	Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-02-100-002	Wood St.
2511	Kerry Street	2000	Lake Lansing Road	3115	Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-03-200-011	Wood Street
2127	Lake Lansing Rd	2017	Lake Lansing Road	2800	Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-02-126-03	Showtime
2401	Lake Lansing Rd	2030	Lake Lansing Road	2925	Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-02-126-100	Showtime
2615	Lake Lansing Rd	2110	Lake Lansing Road	3225	Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-03-200-014	Wood Street
1320	Lake Lansing Road	2129	Lake Lansing Road	2320	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-200-015	Wood Street
1384	Lake Lansing Road	2200	Lake Lansing Road	2401	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-401-017	Lake Lansing
1403	Lake Lansing Road	2250	Lake Lansing Road	2510	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-007	Lake Lansing
1405	Lake Lansing Road	2300	Lake Lansing Road	2707	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-009	Wood Street
1408	Lake Lansing Road	2312	Lake Lansing Road	2715	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-021	Lake Lansing
1411	Lake Lansing Road	2400	Lake Lansing Road	2723	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-427-034	Lake Lansing.
1415	Lake Lansing Road	2408	Lake Lansing Road	2727	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-451-005	Lake Lansing
1422	Lake Lansing Road	2410	Lake Lansing Road	2733	Wood Street		
1475	Lake Lansing Road	2412	Lake Lansing Road	2920	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-503-001	Wood St.
1492	Lake Lansing Road	2414	Lake Lansing Road	2925	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-503-001	Wood St.
1500	Lake Lansing Road	2425	Lake Lansing Road	3010	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-023	Lake Lansing
1515	Lake Lansing Road	2500	Lake Lansing Road	3018	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-127-001	Showtime
1824	Lake Lansing Road	2502	Lake Lansing Road	3107	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-127-002	Showtime
1520	Lake Lansing Road	2510	Lake Lansing Road	3125	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-128-002	Showtime
1530	Lake Lansing Road	2512	Lake Lansing Road	3300	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-201-008	Preyde
1568	Lake Lansing Road	2515	Lake Lansing Road	3305	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-201-009	Preyde
1600	Lake Lansing Road	2524	Lake Lansing Road	3318	Wood Street		

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Township Supervisor has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by her related to all properties listed above, and that are within the Street Lighting Special Assessment District, and are benefited by the street lighting improvements generally described as follows:

The acquisition, construction, installation, maintenance and operation of luminaires, standards, and other equipment, wiring, cables, and appurtenances related to street lighting generally, but not necessarily limited to, along Lake Lansing Road from US 127 west to the City limits, and Wood Street from David Street north to county line.

The special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the annual cost of the acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of the street lighting improvements and work incidental thereto within the special assessment district. Information regarding the street lighting improvements is on file and available for public examination with the Township Clerk at the Township's Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, within the Township. The total assessment is \$109,360.00, which amount will be assessed to the properties within the special assessment district.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Supervisor has further reported that the assessment against each parcel of land within the special assessment district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in the special assessment district as the benefit to such parcel bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in the district.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Board will meet on Tuesday, the 15th day of October, 2019 at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., in the Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48917, for the purpose of reviewing the proposed special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. The special assessment roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of the hearing and may further be examined at the hearing.

Appearance and protest at the hearing, in person or in writing, are required in order to appeal the action of the Township Board in approving the special assessment roll, and/or the amount of an assessment, to the state tax tribunal. A property owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment proceedings or may file his or her appearance and protest by letter and his or her personal appearance will not be required. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of a special assessment with the state tax tribunal within 30 days of the date the special assessment roll is confirmed by the Township Board.

Dated: September 19, 2019

Susan L. Aten, Township Clerk

**CP#19-282**

# Bernero returns to the debate in new podcast

Virg Bernero, the 50th mayor of Lansing, has settled into private life as a consultant, which he said is going well and is less stressful than were his 12 years running Lansing that ended in 2017. "But I miss public service," he said. So he has accepted an offer from NRM Streamcast, in Farmington Hills, to air a weekly, hour-long podcast, "The Virg Bernero Show," beginning Oct. 17, that will stream live noon to 1 p.m. Thursdays. Here are edited and condensed excerpts from an interview in the house that BerneroHannan (Randy Hannan was his chief of staff) rents on Seymour Avenue from businessman Chris Holman.

## Why are you doing this podcast?

In the era of Trumpism, all decent Americans concerned about democracy need to ask themselves, "Are they doing enough to stand up for what we know is right, to stand up for the America that we love?" Not giving like I was all day, every day, I feel that I can do more and I need to do more. This is a time when more than ever

we're reminded that the U.S. is actually us, and democracy is not a spectator sport. It's an age of polarization. It's not that I want to contribute to polarization. I want to contribute to the conversation. When future generations say, "Where were you? What did you do when democracy was under attack? — at least I'm going to do this. A big part of the podcast, a big part of my message, it will be hard-hitting, it will be fact-based, and it's going to be standing up for democracy.

## What's the show about?

Democracy and citizenship in America. There's a lot to talk about. I mean, healthcare, the environment. I hear people castigate the Green New Deal. They have no idea what's in it. We're in an era of talking points, slogans, factless statements and advocacy. You can't care about democracy without caring about truth. When I heard Kellyanne Conway say there are alternative facts ... yeah, there always have been. That's called lies. We can all remember the time when there



Berl Schwartz/City Pulse

The rented headquarters of the consulting team called BerneroHannan, 617 Seymour Ave.

were three or four news channels. And if Walter Cronkite said that's the way it is, that's the way it was on that date then you knew it. And you could start the debate based on a common set of facts. We've got to get back to that.

## You understand voters pretty well. How do you account for 40% of the electorate still standing by Trump?

It is difficult to fathom. I intend to delve into that on the show. It's not going to be liberals only, progressives only. We will bring on folks from every side of the political spectrum. But I will demand an honest debate. There will be facts. And so I will tell people, "Bring your 'A' game."

To preserve democracy, we have to have good dialogue. Uncomfortable as it might be at times, we have to communicate with one another on even where we have strongly held opposite beliefs.

And that's despite the fact that my wife has banned me from talking politics at the holiday family gatherings, and I know a lot of people are in that position. But I don't believe that's sustainable in a democracy.

When people talk about an existential threat, I believe this polarization, which Trump has hugely contributed to, if not created is an existential threat to democracy. We cannot be a house divided so strongly where we don't even communicate with each other. I grew up in an Italian household where every Sunday at a mini-



Berl Schwartz/City Pulse

Former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero will host a podcast beginning next week that he hopes will help Americans return to talking to each other, not past each other.

mum, every Sunday, the family all got together, there was great food, great conversation ... and some yelling and screaming.

I remember there being always a debate, and everybody was encouraged to participate. The TV wasn't on, the radio wasn't on, nobody had a cell phone, obviously. That was the thing. After dinner when the dessert came out, that's when the discussion started, and it was about everything. And of course, there were comparisons to Mussolini, and what happened in the old country, and what was happening today. It was a healthy, robust discussion. Nobody ever got hurt.

I'm not saying nobody ever got grabbed by the lapels. But I think we have to get back to where it's OK to have that. I intend to show some of that disagreement. The truth is my best friend in the world is a Trump supporter. So I can't hate. If I'm accused of hating Trump supporters, that just is not true, because my best friend is a Trump supporter. And so we will talk about it.

— BERL SCHWARTZ

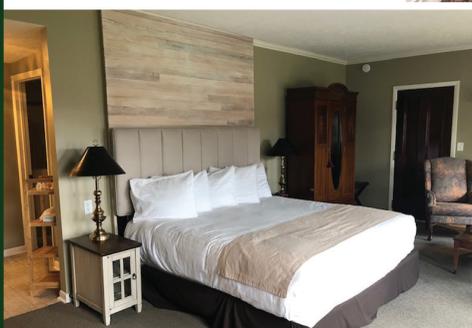
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# ELECTION GUIDE

## 1st Ward race pits newcomer against incumbent

By CHRIS GRAY

Polished in a shirt and tie, Brandon Betz has spent months knocking the doors of the First Ward in northeast Lansing, vying for a spot on the City Council.

He doesn't always get great results for his efforts. On a recent walk up and down Fairview and Magnolia avenues, he got only six voters from his list.

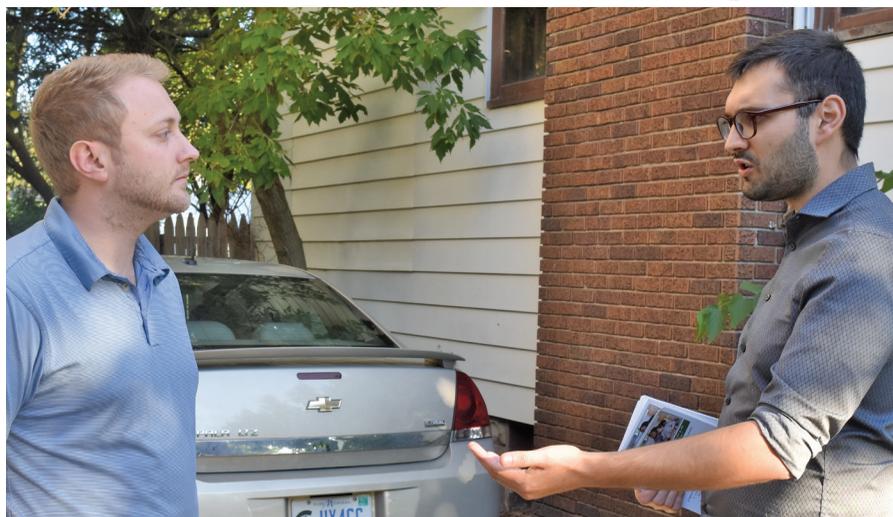
His brother was a Mormon missionary, so he is well aware of the risk he poses being mistaken for a religious proselytizer. "Politics is one thing, but I bet religion is even harder. People have some strong feelings."

At each house, he's consistent with his elevator speech, repeating the same lines to anyone who'll answer the door, with echoes of Bernie Sanders.

"Hi, my name is Brandon Betz. I'm an economist by trade and I'm running to represent you in the City Council. This city has been peddling to the interests of the wealthy and powerful, and I want to give it back to the people. They've been giving tax breaks to big developers and that's not the way to do things."

Most of the people who do listen to him are receptive. "I don't want to see Lansing become a homogenous city like Grand Rapids," said Michael Tosto. He also wanted to see improvements south of Kalamazoo Street. "Everyone needs to come up if we're going to come up."

Betz, 28, is counting on a changing of the generational guard to propel him to city office. He's not from here, having



Lansing City Council candidate Brandon Betz (right) meets with a 1st Ward constituent in canvassing effort.

moved to Lansing for a job in 2017 after finishing graduate school at Syracuse University. He grew up in Alaska.

But he has a small band of millennials knocking doors for him in Lansing — many of whom also chose to plop down in the east side of Lansing in recent years and have become more politically active, spurred both by Sanders and President Trump.

Betz is making opposition to the taxpayer-supported Red Cedar Golf Course redevelopment and the city's restrictive approach to marijuana sales two key planks of his platform, along with civic-pride ideas such as more trees and bike lanes.

He's up against two-term incum-

bent Jody Washington, 62, a lifelong resident of Lansing with the backing of the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and most labor unions. Washington first made her name in city government as an opponent of former Mayor Virg Bernero, and has continued as a critic of the marijuana industry.

In the Aug. 6 primary, Washington was held to 40 percent against four opponents. Betz, the second-voter getter, survived to face her in the general election on Nov. 5. Incumbents come with name recognition, but that's no guarantee of being returned to office: Jeremy Garza defeated two-term incumbent Tina Houghton for the Second Ward seat in 2017 and in 2015 Adam Hussain, Washington's son, knocked off two-term incumbent A'Lynne Boles in the Third Ward.

### Bootstraps Councilwoman

Washington also got her start as an outside neighborhood activist, knocking off the favorite, former Rep. Lynne Martinez, in 2011. She did so with a groundswell of union support. Washington, who has been a member of three unions, credits organized labor with helping her to raise two children on her own while working her way out of public housing.

She quickly became a close ally of Council President Carol Wood and



Courtesy Photo

Washington

thorn in the side of Bernero, who infamously referred to her as "Eric Hewitt in drag" — referencing her predecessor in the 1st Ward, another Bernero foe. When Bernero wanted the city to consider privatizing the Board of Water & Light, Washington joined Wood in quick opposition.

From her perch at the City Council, Washington has helped incubate something of a political dynasty. Her son, Adam Hussain, who was elected to the 3rd Ward seat in 2015, is unopposed this year. In 2018, her son-in-law, Thomas Morgan, was elected to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, representing most of Lansing's first ward, along with slivers of Lansing Township and East Lansing.

Over the years, Washington — as well as Hussain — lost battles against Bernero to give part of a park to BWL for a new substation and transfer ownership of the Groesbeck Golf Course to the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority as well as build an access road to the golf course through a park.

The two of them also opposed Bernero's compromise marijuana ordinance that culled the city's dispensaries from as many as 80 to 25 because they thought it was too liberal and wanted fewer. They supported a new compromise with current Mayor Andy Schor

See 1st Ward, Page 12

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Charter Township of Lansing Board of Appeals to be held Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Offices located at 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, for the purpose of hearing the following appeal:

BA-19-10 -- To allow a 7 foot variance from side yard setback (Ordinance requires 12 foot setback) on north property line to allow construction of 11 unit carport structure to run east to west.

Address: 3009 Woodruff Avenue

Tentative text and other information may be examined at the office of the Clerk, 3209 West Michigan Avenue.

Susan L. Aten, Clerk  
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#19-296

# Three men contest three-year mayor's term in Grand Ledge

By CHRIS GRAY

The city of Grand Ledge has a spirited three-man race for mayor, with three longtime residents with a background in public service all facing off to lead their city of 7,786 people.

The Mayor's Office opened as a competitive seat after former Mayor Kalmin Smith, who'd served since 2007, resigned and moved to Texas. The new mayor will serve three years, through 2022.

Thomas Sowle, who had served on the Council as mayor pro tem, was elevated to the mayor's seat when Smith left office.

Sowle touts the new city amenities and development along M-43 that have occurred in recent years as the pitch for an elected term. The city has a new splash pad for children, a handicap-accessible kayak launch and a new bandshell for outdoor concerts.

He's being challenged by a pair of Mi-

chaels: Mike Coll and Mike Doty.

Doty is giving up a Council seat to run for mayor. He accused City Manager Adam Smith of creating a hostile work environment and wants to run to support the city employees. After serving on the parks and recreation board, he also believes Smith treats the committees as superfluous and ignores real community input. "It's the good old boy network and I'm trying to break it up here," Doty said.

Doty owns Doty Audio & Video. His father had been a City Councilman and his grandfather was an Eaton County commissioner.

Coll, a 24-year Army veteran who spent much of his military career overseas between the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars, served on the Council in the '00s and on an elected committee to rewrite the city's charter, moving elections to even years. This will be the last odd year election for Grand Ledge. "I



Sowle



Doty



Coll

have a lot of experience in how a city should be run," Coll said.

He strikes a middle road between Sowle and Doty — pushing for economic development in the industrial park and downtown, while believing he can find waste in the city budget.

Grand Ledge also has a Council race in Ward 2, pitting Lynne MacDowell, owner of MacDowells Fireplace, against retired special education teacher Betty Mielay.

## Other Eaton County races:

Charlotte has one competitive at-large Council race for a four-year term:

Branden Dyer  
Zachary Story  
Pottersville City Council, four-year term (pick 4):

Joseph Graham  
Robert Nichols  
Cyndi O'Neil  
Michael Potter  
Sarah Pulda  
Loren R. Smalley, Jr.  
Jack Temsey

## 1st Ward

from page 11

that increases the number slightly to 28, while reducing the number of marijuana grow operations over time from 75 to 55, while further restricting the area of the city that provisioning centers can operate.

While standing up to Bernero, Washington has also pushed back at her perceived adversaries — publicly cutting off communication with City Pulse after it considered endorsing Houghton in 2017, and just recently getting a personal protection order against local homeless rights activist Martin Mashon, who'd allegedly called her a

bitch and threatened a "war" against her.

Washington has seemingly likened pot shops to another pet peeve — liquor stores, which she wants to reduce in the city, with help from local state legislators. "You've got these predatory businesses, liquor stores in the middle of a poor neighborhood. Why would you put that there?"

Betz acknowledged the potential for blight, but he wondered if Washington's approach to liquor and marijuana just leave a lot of empty storefronts in Lansing. He champions the pot industry and says the city should lift caps. He also wishes Lansing had a social equity program that provided entrepreneurial opportunities to people harmed by marijuana prohibition, and he would have supported city preferences for

local small business owners, a policy Washington has opposed.

## Red Cedar

Betz thinks the city gave away the store when it approved a 30-year tax abatement on the Red Cedar property. "The tax breaks are just sweetheart deals. There's no evidence that they need to be there," he said. "Our city hands out brownfield abatements liberally. We hand them out for every single project."

He said developers make their plans years in advance and then go to municipalities seeking sweeteners, after they've already decided to build. And without big developers paying their share of the tax burden, the city is chipping away at its ability to pay for critical needs like police, fire and infrastructure.

Ironically, Washington was once the one at odds over giving tax breaks to developers when it was Bernero advocating for development. Continental Ferguson, the Red Cedar developers, had originally come to town with a worse deal — a request for public bonding to help it develop land along the Red Cedar floodplain that had been contaminated by golf course fertilizers.

Washington demanded guarantees to pay a prevailing wage for local labor and agreements not to build small studio apartments that would be geared solely for students.

"This was vetted for a number of years with a lot of community input. We didn't bond for anything," Washington said, expressing her change of heart on the development. "We got local labor. They will keep up the new park, lots of construction jobs, new housing, hotels, and positive energy in the avenue."

"I know the new people are complaining, but you can't make everybody happy. On top of that, we will coordinate the drainage effort and clean our river and have very cool public art and place-making."

Betz said he supports strong labor provisions but the point is moot, since he believes the developers would have gone forward with the construction anyway, and those supports for labor could have remained. "I'm very proud to have union support from a lot of rank-and-file members who did not like their union's endorsement."

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**B/20/037 ENGINEERED WOOD FIBER** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **OCT. 22, 2019** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#19-297

# Candidates vying for Lansing, East Lansing council seats

By **CHRIS GRAY**

Absentee voting is already under way for candidates running for the city councils in Lansing and East Lansing. In Lansing, four are running for two at-large seats, which will go to the top two vote-getters. Two ward seats are also up. In East Lansing, six candidates are seeking three Council seats, which will go to the top three vote-getters. The election will be decided on Nov. 5, when polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## At-Large

The top two finishers will be elected.

**Carol Wood** — Lansing's sitting Council president was first elected in 1999 and is running for her sixth and final term in office. At 69, she is a clear favorite, having won every precinct in the primary and 35 percent of the total vote. Wood was a strong counterweight to former Mayor Virg Bernero and continues to lead a Council bloc that forces Mayor Andy Schor to compromise on issues like marijuana regulation. Wood says she serves to give neighborhoods a voice.



**Patricia Spitzley** — As a first-term incumbent, Spitzley is also a favorite for re-election, but a narrower one after taking in 24 percent in August. Spitzley, 54, is an attorney for the Racer Trust, which was created out of the General Motors bankruptcy to clean up and redevelop the automotive company's toxic assets, such as the former Fisher Body plant on the west side of the city. She has been an independent-minded swing vote.



**Yanice Jackson-Long** — This is Jackson-Long's second try for the Council after not making it past the primary in 2017. The 41-year-old grew up in Lansing but worked for AT&T in Atlanta for much of her adult life. She returned several years ago to help with her family newspaper, the Chronicle-News, before taking a job with the Ingham County Treasurer. Jackson-Long is concerned about the city's decrepit roads and limited options for youth.



**Julee Rodocker** — A lifelong resident, Rodocker, 49, is an electric materials purchasing agent for Consumers Energy. She ran unsuccessfully once for the Lansing School Board in 2014 and for the 2nd Ward Council seat in 2017. She serves on the Lansing Board of Police Commissioners. Rodocker wants a citywide finance audit and reforms to the pension and healthcare system for retirees.



## 1st Ward

**Jody Washington** — Washington, 62, seeks her third term. She works as a grievance and litigation specialist for the Michigan Department of Corrections and earlier worked as a nursing assistant. A lifelong Lansingite, she has long been a close ally of Wood.



**Brandon Betz** — Washington's upstart challenger is an economist with the Michigan Center for Public Policy. Betz, 28, earlier worked for the Anderson Economic Research Group. He was born in Alaska and came to Lansing in 2017 to work for the state of Michigan, analyzing unemployment reports. Betz is running as a progressive millennial.



## 3rd Ward

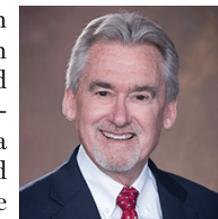
**Adam Hussain** — Hussain, 37, is unopposed for a second term serving the southwest side of Lansing. A Waverly Community Schools civics teacher, he is the son of two-term Lansing Council Member Jody Washington, and aligns with her on most issues, particularly marijuana regulation, labor issues and neighborhood-focused development.



## East Lansing

The top three finishers will be elected.

**Mark Meadows** — Meadows, 72, has served twice as East Lansing's mayor, first from 1997 to 2005, and again starting in 2015. In between, he served as a state legislator. Meadows is a lawyer who worked three decades in the state Attorney General's Office. If re-elected to the Council, the other four Council members will decide whether he should continue to serve as mayor, which is appointed from the Council, not directly elected.



**Erik Altmann** — The other incumbent, Altmann, 55, is an MSU psychology professor who first won election in 2015. Altmann commutes by bicycle between home and campus and wants to improve the city's bike network with protected lanes as well as increase the number of electric charging stations. He has also supported the new city income tax and recent downtown developments.



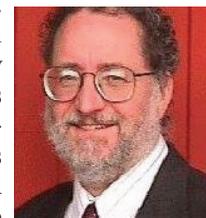
**Lisa Babcock** — An outsider candidate, Babcock, 53, is an attorney and former Democratic legislative staffer who started her career as a journalist in northern Michigan. She's running to increase transparency and accountability in city government and has called into question development deals and land sales.



**Jessy Gregg** — Gregg, 42, operates a boutique fabric store, Seams, in downtown East Lansing and has a fine arts degree, with fabric as her medium. She wrote for East Lansing Info before trying her hand in city politics and serves on the Ingham County Parks & Recreation Board. After the loss of the city's folk festival, she's running to ensure the arts community has a voice in city government.



**John Revitte** — Revitte, 69, is a professor emeritus of human resources and labor relations at MSU who has lived in East Lansing since 1991. He has served on the East Lansing Parks and Recreation Committee and worked to revive the farmers market. He started his run for office as the city tried to tackle its deer overpopulation and believes his background could help the city look to other places to solve its bigger problems.



**Warren Stanfield III** — Stanfield, a 20-year-old student at MSU and former wrestling star, is running to increase the student voice at city government and bridge the town and gown divide. Stanfield grew up in Detroit and graduated from Walled Lake Central High School before matriculating at MSU in 2017, where he studies political science and pre-law. He interned in the Legislature with Rep. Cynthia A. Johnson, D-Detroit.



Also, voters will decide if East Lansing should sell 27 acres of scrub land along the U.S. 127 freeway on the west side of the city. The land, to the southwest of the intersection of West Road and Coleman Road, was purchased through foreclosure proceedings.

# ELECTION GUIDE

## 6 candidates fight over 3 seats on East Lansing Council

By **CHRIS GRAY**

East Lansing has a six-way scrum for three positions in this year's City Council election, giving residents a chance to affirm the big changes that have come to the vibrant college town over the past four years or vote in some new blood.

The city is assured of at least one new member on the Council in January, after Shanna Draheim chose not to run. Incumbents Mark Meadows and Erik Altmann are also seeking another term. Both of them were appointed to leadership positions by the full Council — Meadows to mayor and Altmann to mayor pro tem.

Challenger Lisa Babcock, 53, an attorney, sees herself running as much against Altmann as for the open seat. She has been a sharp critic of the current city government, arguing it lacks transparency.

Babcock is incensed the city attorney had been able to misuse federal

Housing and Urban Development money for his office — money that the city was forced to repay, and is outraged at how a six-acre parcel was sold on Merritt Road that was unloaded on eBay for \$1.1 million.

"You can curse the darkness or turn on a light," Babcock is fond of saying.

Babcock said few people knew about the eBay bid, which may have depressed its sale price. After site plans were approved, the new owner listed the real estate for \$12 million.

"There will be no backroom deals. There will be no hand-picked bidders," if she gets elected. Babcock had earlier worked as a Senate Democratic staffer in the state Capitol and as a journalist in Petoskey.

Meadows, 72, defended the so-called eBay sell, noting the six-acre lot had sat vacant for two decades as the city had been unable to find a buyer. In 2016, it was sold for \$950,000, only for the buyer to back out and allege the property

needed \$3 million in environmental cleanup before it could be developed.

The new buyer, Kodiak Landarc, is getting no tax breaks and has already drafted plans for a Holiday Inn Express, a strip mall and a marijuana dispensary on the property. He doubted Kodiak Landarc could sell the property for \$12 million, but would be happy if they did — since that will increase the tax value of the property. "I'd rather have it over 20 years," he said.

"Nobody had a problem with it. If she thinks there's some kind of backroom deal, she doesn't understand what's going on," Meadows said.

Altmann, 55, stood by his record as well, particularly as the city took on the difficult task of enacting an income tax levy while lowering property taxes by 5 mills. He said that allowed the city to hire two new police officers and two firefighters, as well as pay down pension debts and put more money into parks and roads.

Going forward, he would like the city to pursue a greener agenda — installing a protected bicycle lane on Burcham Drive and mandating that parking garages and large lots include electric vehicle charging stations. He also thinks the city could install solar panels on city buildings.

Jessy Gregg, 42, is an artist and owner of Seams, a boutique fabric store in downtown East Lansing. She has served on the Ingham County Parks & Recreation board, and says the arts community needs a voice on Council after the failure of the folk festival and the loss of galleries and artsy businesses like Mackerel Sky, which is closing at the end of the year.

She's concerned about the fate of the arts festival, whose executive director was let go last year. She wants someone who will ensure the arts stay central to the community. "I'd like somebody on the Council that has that kind of expertise — and it's me," she said.

Gregg also wants to rewrite the city's zoning code to make it more practical and give fewer exemptions

that allow developers to disrupt the existing community. "Right now, there's no reason to abide our zoning because we know that it's out-of-date," she said.

A fifth candidate, John Revitte, 69, is a professor emeritus of human resources and labor relations at Michigan State, who said he was inspired to run for office by the city's white-tailed deer problem.

He associates himself with the deer issue in jest — but he sees the issue as an example of where East Lansing failed to look at other communities in how to deal with a common conflict — one his background in labor relations and grievance resolution at the university would serve the city well.

"You've got to listen to all sides and come up with creative solutions," Revitte said.

Revitte wants the city to consider a moratorium on new student high-rises until they can assess the long-term needs. He doesn't think enrollment at MSU can continue to rise indefinitely. He also worried a lot of the more interesting businesses and restaurants that East Lansing needs to thrive are fleeing to places like Old Town in Lansing.

Meadows is much more likely to let development bear on market forces — and said apartment rents in the north part of the city should fall, alleviating the cost of living for students.

They are joined by a sixth candidate, a political science student at Michigan State, Warren Stanfield III, who grew up in Detroit and wrestled with the Spartans, while also serving as an intern to Rep. Cynthia A. Johnson, D-Detroit.

Stanfield, 20, said the city was aloof to the students' concerns and did not rise up and defend them adequately during the Larry Nasser sexual assault scandal and coverup.

He also said that despite what Meadows and Altmann might say, the new construction going up, like the Hub, was junk. "It looks like it was thrown together with duct tape and glue sticks."

### ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

Sealed bids marked **S/20/021, ABANDONED VEHICLES** will be accepted at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, LPD OPS Center, Wise Rd, Lansing MI. 48911 until but no later than, 1:00 PM, local time in effect **WED. OCT. 16, 2019**. Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Stephanie Robinson, Buyer, at (517) 702-6197 or email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com.

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

SHROYER'S, 2740 EATON RAPIDS RD, LANSING MI. 48911	8:30 AM
PJ'S, 1425 RENSEN, LANSING MI	10:00 AM
NORTHSIDE TOWING, 226 RUSSELL, LANSING, MI 48906	10:45 AM
H&H, 1500 HASLETT RD, EAST LANSING MI 48823	9:15 AM
SWIFT TOWING, 2347 N CEDAR ST, HOLT, MI 48842	11:30 AM

### ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE OCT 16, 2019

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YEAR	MAKE	YEAR	MAKE	YEAR	MAKE
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1999	CHEV	2000	JAG	2007	MAZDA
2010	CHEV	2007	CHEV	2006	GMC
2007	CHEV	2005	CHEV	2012	FORD
2018	NISSAN	2009	CADIL	2003	CHEV
2002	FORD	1996	CADIL	2005	GMC
2003	BUICK	1998	LEX	2011	BUICK
2009	CADIL	2007	VW	2016	DODGE
2018	MOPED	2007	CADIL	2014	FORD
2016	MOTORCYL			2007	CHEV
2013	TOYO	<b>H&amp;H</b>		1999	BUICK
2011	BUICK	2012	CADIL	2016	CHEV
2015	CHEV			2011	CHEV
2013	BUICK	<b>SWIFT</b>		2006	CHEV
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## Feinstein updates the Songbook in show coming to Wharton

By **BERL SCHWARTZ**

Singer/songwriter and American Songbook archivist Michael Feinstein returns Saturday to the Wharton Center with a show called “Shaken and Stirred.” He’ll be joined by a five-piece band and singer Storm Large, who, he said, “not only sings the Great American Songbook brilliantly, but can do everything from Kurt Wehl to the Grateful Dead.” The song list will “run the gamut from Gershwin to Great Balls of Fire, Hoagy Carmichael and Harry Warren to Bacharach and David.

**What is the Great American Songbook?**

“For me, for a song to be part of the songbook, the song is known 20-30 years and continues to have popularity, and it’s interpreted by many different people. Where it’s not about a recording of something but about the song itself, like the Carol King songs, Joni Mitchell or Billy Joel.

**You haven’t produced a CD in five years. Anything coming?**

**“Shaken & Stirred”**

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“I’m working on a CD called “Gershwin Country.” It’s duets of Gershwin songs with country singers, including Dolly Parton,

Brad Paisley, Lyle Lovett and Alison Krauss. I’ve never wanted to do a duet album, per se, but I was thinking who were the great interpreters of lyrics these days, and those are country singers because they still tell stories and sing the words. It’s one of the most fun projects I’ve ever worked on. It will come out early next year.”

**Are you doing all the duets in the studio with the artists or are they phoning them in, so to speak?**

“Most are face to face. I flew to Houston to work with Lyle, and was in Nashville just last month with Alison. We’ve had to do a couple virtually, but I’m lucky enough to know the artists and we still can evolve a routine in

a real interpretation. Because that’s the thing. A lot of these duet albums sound phony, and then what’s the point?”

**Tony Bennett was the only artist on Sinatra’s duet albums who insisted on doing it with him. And you can tell the difference.** “Sinatra recorded all of those songs solo, and then the producer, Phil Ramone, took them and turned them into duets. He had no input about how they’re going to turn into duets, except I didn’t know that about Tony, but Sinatra just sang the songs. So even though they were the best-selling recordings of his career, that I hear, they were done in the most ass-backwards way.”

**I see you just bought a mansion in Pasadena.** “That house was really found by my husband, Terrence Flannery. I realized that this house has the space on the lower level for an archive that I’ve only dreamed about. A lot of my material has been donated to my Great American Songbook Foundation for the purpose of benefiting young people, and it’s a great organization, I must say. But some of the things that I still hold, I’m processing and such. This house will have a basement archive, 10,000 square feet with library shelves. It’ll be the kind of archive I can only dream about. And I imagined that eventually, after we shuffle off this mortal coil, this house will probably become a museum or some sort. We’ll just be temporary tenants of it.”

**Your club in New York, Feinstein’s/54 Below, is intimate. The Wharton Center holds 2,200 people. Do you have a favorite kind of place to perform?**

“It isn’t any different for me as a performer in that the rules are the same. It’s about connecting with people. As far as favorite venues, I must say working at the Pasadena Pops. I conduct the Pasadena Pops and we have a summer venue at the Arboretum, which is a gorgeous park with roaming peacocks and a beautiful



Courtesy Photo

Five-time Grammy-nominated pianist and vocalist Michael Feinstein joins forces with Pink Martini’s Storm Large Saturday at the Wharton Center.

lagoon. I love Carnegie Hall. I also do like Feinstein’s/54 Below because it’s an elegant room. It’s conducive to making music because a couple of million dollars were spent in refurbishing the room. It’s the things that people don’t see — the sound system, the lighting and all of those things that are essential components that make for comfort.”

**You also own a club in Los Angeles.** “Feinstein’s at Vitello’s. That’s another fine room that we took, fluffed and turned into a beautiful space.

And Liza Minnelli allowed us to copy her iconic Warhols, and we have a Liza room that’s fun to hang out in before and after the show. We will be opening a Feinstein’s in Carmel, Indiana — where the Great American Songbook Foundation exists — inside a new hotel. We’ve had an offer for Australia, and we just had an offer for another city in California. It’s sort of evolving on its own, which is a wonderful thing.”

# Don't lose local news! *Keep CityPULSE in Kroger*

## Kroger's ban on free publications a mistake

By **JIM HIGHTOWER**

Do you shop at a Kroger supermarket? Or maybe at Ralph's, Fred Meyer, King Sooper's, Fry's, City Market, Pick n Save, or ... well, never mind, all of these and more are part of the vast Kroger fiefdom of 2,759 grocery stores spanning the US. It also owns 38 food processing plants, 44 distribution centers, 1,556 gas stations, and 251 jewelry stores. In short, Kroger is BIG — a colossus that is America's largest grocery chain, dominating many local markets from coast to coast. The Cincinnati-based retail conglomerate sacks up revenues topping \$121 billion a year from us consumers.

Yet, for all of its mass and money, Kroger has recently shown itself to be pathetically small in many of the communities it supposedly serves and profits from — small as in petty, snooty... bullying.

The chain's carefully crafted PR image portrays it as "America's Grocer" — wherever you are, they present their stores as your friendly neighbor, supporting all things that make your community unique and vibrant. So imagine the surprise of thousands of shoppers, local businesses, community groups, and other real neighbors this month when the giant's aloof executives in faraway corporate headquarters arbitrarily ejected a core element of vibrancy for many cities: The myriad of alternative newsweek-

lies and community papers that are distributed in the stores free of charge. In one blow, top honchos in Cincinnati summarily kicked all such local journalism out of their stores in Colorado Springs, Lansing, Louisville, Memphis, Omaha, Salt Lake City and hundreds of other cities in 35 states. While

establishment newspapers that peddle the corporate line — from hedge fund-owned dailies to The Wall Street Journal — are still allowed to peddle their papers inside Kroger, customers can no longer find racks of the free community papers that cover a wide diversity of local stories, offer alternative viewpoints, publish investigative exposés, report on community events, and otherwise actually let people know what's happening in their town.

By shutting out these community papers, Kroger is literally banning the free press from its stores. That's not only unneighborly — it's un-American.

Corporate executives, like most politicians, never do anything wrong. Instead, if anything wrong "happens,"

it was someone else's fault, not the chiefs.

That's been the gutless claim of Kroger supermarket honchos who senselessly yanked all local newsweeklies and community papers out of its stores. Cluelessly, top execs seemed to assume no one would notice their sweeping purge, but when a firestorm of local protests (under such banners as "DontLoseLocalNews") reached all the way to the executive suite in the mega-chain's Ohio headquarters, a PR flack was rushed out to explain who was responsible for banishing the papers: The papers themselves! They failed to keep up with the digital age, she asserted, so shoppers are no longer picking up the free papers.

WRONG. While it's true that chain-owned daily newspapers are losing readers after shriveling their coverage and jacking up their prices, free local independent weeklies have become more valued than ever by folks looking to fill their town's print-news gap. As the publisher of the weekly in Lansing, Michigan, points out, media audits show that the pick-up rate of his paper by Kroger shoppers alone has nearly tripled since 2012.

Lest you think that poor Kroger shouldn't be burdened with offering free papers, let me note that it got paid by a distribution firm to carry them. In addition, those papers have real news, food for thought, and other

valuable content that the grocer is allowed to give for free to its customers and communities — a considerable PR plus for the stores. Kroger's edict to remove free weeklies nationwide is a case of corporate conceit at its most stupid. It was issued from Kroger's HQ with no warning and no consultation (much less negotiation) with papers or communities. It didn't have to be so inept and ugly — and now that they've bungled the operation, Kroger's executives have gone into hiding, petulantly refusing to meet or even return phone calls to the people they're hurting, apparently hoping the furor will just go away.

That's truly stupid. Indeed, a group of indy papers has now launched a national campaign to call out Kroger's executives, literally rallying us supporters of independent local news to give them our two-cents-worth. Call toll-free to 1-800-KROGERS (576-4377), then press 3 for "store experience" and to speak to a Kroger manager — and demand that they restore the free press to all of their stores.

*(Syndicated columnist Jim Hightower is a progressive political activist and author. From 1983 to 1991, he served as elected commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture. His column appears in about 200 newspapers. This column is courtesy Creators Syndicate.)*



Hightower

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Please sign our petition at [www.lansingcitypulse.com/KROGER](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com/KROGER) to let Kroger know that you would like it to continue this free service.

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You may also wish to call Kroger's executive office at (800) 510-5965 and email [Kristal.Howard@Kroger.com](mailto:Kristal.Howard@Kroger.com) to share your views.

# THE BEER ISSUE

## Women in brewing

*In an industry full of beards, Michigan women are leading efforts to advance the culture*

BY AUDREY MATUSZ

Had you told teaching specialist Nicole Shriner five years ago that she would be the head of the Distilling and Fermentation specialization at Michigan State University, she most likely would've laughed in your face. However, after training with Michigan's godfather of craft brewing, she discovered teaching was her key to continuing a legacy.

Through higher education, STEM programs and women's organizations, Michigan's brewing industry is seeing women rise in the ranks. According to womenshistory.org, women have been crafting their own brews since the dawn of Mesopotamia. The craft came to the United States from European settlers, and women returned to their roles as tavern keepers and brewers. However, leading up to the Industrial Age, women were replaced by men and mechanization. Shriner, 28, said that with recent efforts to get women involved with STEM programs, this culture is quickly shifting.

"I think as the craft beer industry has grown, the percentage of women in brewing grows," she said.

This fall, Shriner filled the role left behind by her mentor, Distinguished Professor Kris Berglund, by teaching chemical engineering and food science majors the nitty gritty of brewing and distilled beverage making.

"Kris gave me a lot of opportunity for growth because he let me branch out into brewing," she said, recalling her time as a TA in Berglund's fermented beverage and distilled courses.

Shriner's dissertation was on cyclic distillation, where she focused on energy conservation in the production of

craft spirits, specifically hard cider.

"The day I passed my dissertation defense, Professor Berglund was talking to my mother," Shriner recalled. "He said something like, 'you know, I'm not going to be around forever.'"

Berglund died last December, the same day that Shriner graduated from MSU with her doctoral degree. Shriner described the situation as "really eerie," but took the sign to submit her application and began seeking out answers on her own. Prior to graduation, Berglund spent five years working for Berglund, either as a TA or intern at his craft distillery, Red Cedar Spirits in East Lansing.

But she felt that wasn't enough to fill the big shoes her mentor left behind. She spent two months studying brewing sciences in Chicago and four more in Gräfenberg, Germany. It was there, she said, she learned the ins and outs of the craft, "from raw ingredients to malting and packaging."

When I asked the brewmaster what her favorite recipe is, she took me through a fluorescent-lit lab and opened a metal door that led to a hallway. That hallway led to another hallway, until we stopped at a vaulted door, where she entered a keyless entry code, revealing a walk-in refrigerator where metal, cylindrical carboys were on the floor with different labels. And there it was, next to the "Strawberry Bubblicious Baby" — a vessel labeled "ShrinerWeiss," the first brew Shriner perfected after returning home from Germany.

This semester, Shriner teaches four senior-level and graduate courses, from the environmental impacts of the fermented beverage industry to



Audrey Matusz/City Pulse

Nicole Shriner, 28, pours a sample of her first perfected craft brew recipe, which she calls ShrinerWeiss.

building original beer and wine recipes. She said her favorite part of her role in preparing the next generation of brewers is helping them make craft brews they enjoy.

While interning at various breweries she said she mostly worked with "guys with big beards and plaid shirts," but she added that she never felt she was treated differently by her coworkers.

"There was one time when an owner tried to kind of scare us and said 'If you can't lift 50 pounds over your head, you can't work,'" she recalled. "So, I got a bag of malt, put it over my shoulder and put in the mill just like a guy would do."

### The future of Michigan brewing

With the 12th most breweries per capita in the United States, Michigan's industry continues to battle for its corner of the national market, according to a 2018 study by the Brewing Association, a national not-for-profit trade network.

Shriner's latest project has been drafting a proposal for a fermented beverage lab to present to the department of chemical engineering. The vision is to offer Michigan breweries an in-state lab where samples or raw product can be sent for analysis, adding that "the biggest problem in brewing is consistency."

During a mash, Shriner explained,

different sugars are developed. Those other sugars end up as ethanol and other byproducts. As a result, slightly different concentrations of sugars produce a different product. "Understanding why their product was consistent often has to do with more sophisticated equipment, which they don't want to invest in," she said.

Even in-house, researchers are sending wheat and barley samples to out-of-state labs for analysis, a transaction that can cost around \$250 per sample. The lab will not only give students experience testing raw materials, but Shriner hopes it will also save the department money and reduce its environmental impact with less shipping.

"Kris had this idea for a while and always mentioned it, so I'm trying to see it through," she said.

### All Michigan everything

There are signs of rising demand for "all-Michigan beers." Shriner noted the buzz surrounding the construction of a \$100 million facility to process barley and malt in Litchfield, Michigan. Hop Growers of America cited the state as having the largest hop production outside the Pacific Northwest.

At the front of that culture shift is Emily Geiger, 30, who founded her

# Brewing

from page 18

yeast extraction and quality control company, Craft Cultures, when she was 23.

While Geiger was living in Houghton, Michigan, a fellow brewer knew of her talents for trapping the wild organism and tipped her off to a nearby “yeasty” smelling beach. Along the white sands of Eagle River, Geiger set up mason jars, filled with sterile wort and covered by cheese cloth, and waited.

“Most of the traps — when they come back, there are communities of microorganisms. Bacteria, yeast and fungus,” Geiger said. “But this one site was just yeast. I still don’t know why to this day.”

Eagle River Ale Yeast was born. Created in 2013, Eagle River Ale Yeast, is one of seven “indigenous Michigan” yeasts available on [craftcultures.com](http://craftcultures.com) and is still Geiger’s best seller.

The Michigan Tech graduate discovered the potential of the liquid yeast market while working as a chemist at Keweenaw Brewing Co.’s labs in Houghton. She said it took her eight months to learn how to extract, test and brew yeast. Once she learned, she looked at a file containing receipts from past purchases the lab had made from yeast brewers on the West Coast. She said “shipping alone was around \$300.”

“I started doing market research and realized there was nowhere in the Midwest, east of the Mississippi for breweries to buy yeast from,” she said.

Now, Geiger has clientele in Wisconsin, Northern Michigan as well as Howell, Flint, South Lyon and Grand Rapids, to name a few.

Breweries and distilleries from across the state send her samples of crops grown nearby. Geiger will run several preliminary tests on ethanol tolerance and spot lingering bacteria until it’s ready to brew. The result is a signature yeast exclusively owned by the brewery, called “proprietary yeast.”

“A lot of people are referring to it as the Michigan terroir,” she said, referring to the winemaking term for the environment in which a wine originates. “The beer styles don’t really fall under traditional beer categories,

which some brewers view as a flaw. But the beer market is oversaturated, so it’s really fun to come up with new flavors and characteristics that represent Michigan.”

Noting there is a divide between “traditional brewers” and those seeking unique yeast strains, Geiger said the craft brewing industry “is a great to be a part of because everyone is so collaborative,” — a welcome breath of fresh air after navigating the “competitive” world of academia.

## Fermented Sisters

Geiger is part of a statewide collective called Fermenta, a collective encouraging women to pursue education and careers in the fermented beverage industry through workshops and scholarships.

In the past, Geiger has donated yeast to Fermenta’s regular “Collaboration Beer Days.”

Since its inception in 2014, Fermenta hosts Collaboration Beer Days every year where selected breweries serve as public laboratories for beer enthusiasts to meet up, mingle and design a signature recipe together. Fermenta spokeswoman Emily Hengstebeck said International Women’s Collaboration Brew Day always draws the largest crowd.

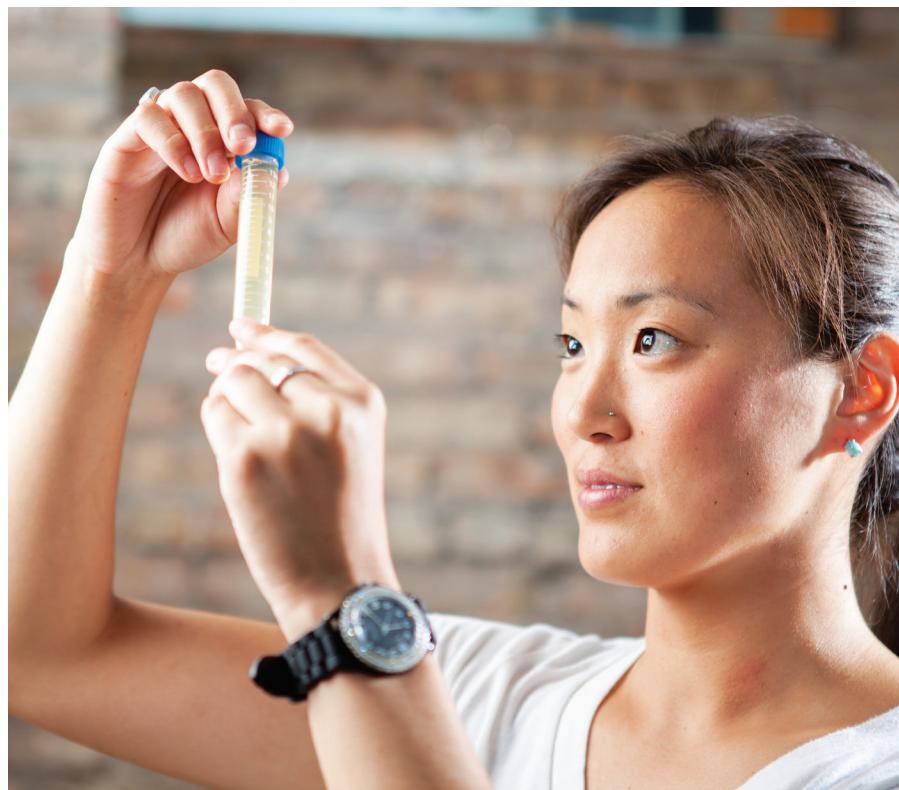
“It’s everyone, not just women, coming together,” she said. “Plus, we get to come back in a month to try the beer and discuss what worked. Before you know it, you know these people for two to three months and it goes on from there.”

Hengstebeck said she didn’t start drinking alcohol until she was 21 years old. Her interest in craft brewing culture stemmed from frequent “up north” trips with her parents, which usually included stopping at breweries.

At 25, she moved to Petoskey to work as a pub tender at Beards Brewery. Shortly after learned about Fermenta.

Upon meeting co-founder Pauline Krueger, sales director at Shorts Brewery, Hengstebeck became the “number one Fermenta fan girl. I walked right up to her and I was like, ‘we are going to be good friends,’” Hengstebeck said.

The group served Hengstebeck as a pathway to advancing in the industry. She said she used to travel to craft breweries around the state as a hobby, but it’s now her job as the sales direc-



Courtesy Photo

Emily Geiger is the founder of Craft Cultures, a liquid yeast production and brewing quality control testing company in Houghton, Michigan.

tor at Beards Brewery.

“It’s easy to say that craft culture is a man’s world,” Hengstebeck said. But that’s a relatively recent development. “Women were the first brewers. They were the ones that kept the house, did all the cooking and became the first chemists who made these volatile beverages that we can drink for fun.”

In 2007, Tiffany Davidson graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree, having studied the roles of European women and spirituality during medieval times.

“Some of these women just happened to make their own beer, too,” she said. “I thought, ‘if they can do that, why can’t I?’”

Her adventures in homebrewing started in 2012 with a “Mr. Beer Kit” her wife bought her as a Christmas gift. Then she started seeking out all-grain recipes used by the medieval brewers and alewives she had been reading about.

“Women’s roles changed, and the industry that was theirs was taken away by men. Some women were even branded as witches. Groups like Fermenta serve as the support system to help encourage and educate the brew-

ers of today and tomorrow.”

Eventually, Davidson applied for a scholarship through Fermenta and attended her first “beer camp.” She has since won two scholarships from the group and earned a Certificate in Fermentation Science from CMU last year.

Now, Davidson lives in Lansing and works as a brewer and regulatory and safety manager for Old Nation Brewery in Williamston. She echoed Geiger and Shriner’s observations on the craft brewing culture in Michigan.

“I’m very inspired by the diversity that is starting to show in the industry,” Davidson said. “More individuals across the gender spectrum, of different sexualities, races, religions and spiritualities are becoming part of this industry here in Michigan. It’s amazing to see the growth.”

Hengstebeck said that the role of Fermenta is to raise awareness about opportunities for women through partnerships instead of “petitions.”

“If we can increase awareness for women in the craft work place, or any work place, I think we’ve lived out our mission of craft scholarship and education.”



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# How Lansing's underground homebrewers craft the perfect glass

By DENNIS BURCK

In basements, porches and back rooms across Lansing, homebrewers are the hyperlocal backbone of the craft beer movement. Some operations remain humble with stovetop setups, but others are turning their spaces into small scale “nanobreweries,” complete with chalkboard signs, neon art and multiple rotating beers on draught.

John Frederick is the owner of Poidog Brewery on the south side, a nanobrewery with five beers on tap. His basement bar setup is flanked by a wall of tanks and brewing supplies. However, he prefers to make his grog outdoors on the porch. Frederick has been into the craft of homebrewing since 2001.

“It started when one of my best friends came over one day with a beer, handed it to me and said ‘Try this. I made that,’” Frederick said. “I couldn’t believe he made it, but people weren’t doing it back then. It wasn’t a craze yet.”

Frederick immediately jumped on the hobby after the encounter, buying supplies from homebrew supplier Things Beer in Webberville.

“I started tweaking the recipes. Even with the first one, I changed it up,” he said. “Then I got into writing my own. With any hobby you do, you keep growing as you get more into it.”

Maneuvering around a boiling pot full of rye grains, Frederick uses a timer and consults a sheet on what times to add cups of hops for different flavors. Hops added at the start of the process retain the signature bitterness of an IPA while hops added at the end

lend a more aromatic note in the brew.

In the warmer months, Frederick brews as many as five beers per month. Each takes about six hours of work and requires two weeks to ferment. Winter does slow him down with outdoor brewing, but he still musters the will to get out on the porch and brew occasionally.

“I can keep warm by the boiling pot,” he said.

What makes Poidog a nanobrewery is that it is a micro-microbrewery, Frederick added. The concept focuses on small-batch beers in rotation over big batches.

“Nanobrewing is where it is at. It gives you versatility,” Frederick said. “I’m taking the baby steps to get my system into a small place with small food offerings. There will be lots of beers to choose from but not a lot of it. I like the nano aspect in small brewing. You can sell out of fresh. And if it is a hit, it’ll grow.”

The homebrewing movement can be credited with 1% of all beer production in the United States, according to a 2017 study by the American Homebrewers Association. Though it sounds small, 1% equates to roughly 1.4 million barrels of beer per year.

Frederick said it is a challenging and rewarding hobby.

“I just love the aspect of growing and being artistic. What better way to enjoy a glass of your own beverage as someone says it’s a good beer?”

Dave Vander Roest is another homebrewer who has six years of experience. He recently got done making a toasted coconut stout with a hefty 14% alcohol



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Homebrewer John Frederick stirs a boiling homebrew vat of rye and hops.

per volume content.

“After it’s done fermenting, I add two pounds of cocoa nibs and toasted coconut. That sits in there and the beer just absorbs the flavors. I keg everything and put it into bottles for sharing,” Vander Roest said.

His home setup has six of his beers on tap.

“Homebrewers is where the craft beer movement really started. For me, I started brewing things I couldn’t buy. As embarrassing as it is to admit, I really like pumpkin spice ales. I didn’t just like them in October. I wanted to make them in January too.”

Vander Roest started with small homebrewing kits from the store where the only thing needed was water and a stovetop. Over the years it transitioned to a full-fledged home setup worth thousands.

“I originally told my wife I’d be saving money by homebrewing. We’re not saving a cent,” Vander Roest added.

Vander Roest kept brewing the things he couldn’t buy or find in Michigan. At one point, he brewed a Fat Tire amber when the beer wasn’t available in the state. Now, he’s settled on making Northeastern IPAs. “Eventually, I’ll move on into something else,” he said.

For Vander Roest, he said homebrewing is a creative outlet.

“You don’t brew unless you love it because it is a lot of work. You’re talking about an eight-to-10-hour brew day lifting liquids and heavy grains. It is a labor of love not for everyone,” he said. “Brewers are all creative folks. We can be scientific, artistic or a mixture of both. You just have to understand the basics of it.”

The Greater Lansing Brewtopian Society and Red Ledge Brewers are the two major brewing groups in Lansing. The groups are dedicated to sharing tips and mentoring newcomers in homebrewing. Each has monthly meetings open to any to attend.

“You’ll learn more from those guys than any YouTube video. Learning from and watching actual brewers is what will make you better. They are always willing to share their stories if you are willing to talk to them,” Vander Roest said.

Todd Branster is the owner and manager of Capital City Homebrew Supply, which manages the Greater Lansing Brewtopian Society. Branster helps homebrewers of every level with the tools, equipment and know-how to brew beer. He got into homebrewing after a trip to England. He was floored by the beer there and since he couldn’t find anything comparable in the states, he made it himself.

“It awakened my spirit of homebrewing. Back then you couldn’t find it, so you had to make it. I liked making cherry stouts. Red ales were a favorite,” Branster said referring to rare flavors he experienced overseas.

Branster said small breweries with beer brewed and served exclusively on premises stand the most to grow in today’s beer culture. “There are a lot of people brewing beer in Michigan, but the future is in small pub style breweries like Dimes Brewhouse in Dimondale.”

He classifies working retail at the homebrew supply store as a dream job.

“My clientele are husbands, wives, college students, bankers, executives and everything. It is really fun to deal with it like that. I get to see everyone in this place and I enjoy people.”

According to Branster, the introductory basic three-gallon homebrewing setup costs \$125.

The best homebrewers are people who enjoy making things themselves, Branster said.

“They would enjoy cooking, growing things and the process of it. If you enjoy that, homebrewing is a great hobby for you.”

## 12 DRAFTS



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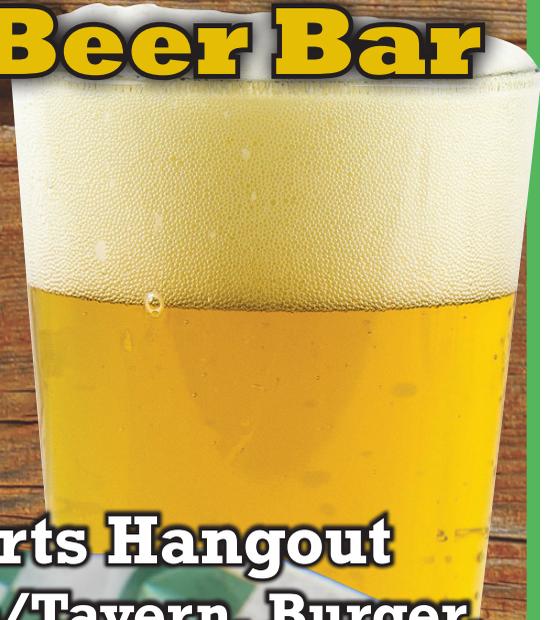
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# FALL BEER EVENTS GUIDE



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## Thursday, Oct. 10 > AARP On-Tap at Brickhaven Brewing Co.

The group described this "over 50+" hang as a "network with interesting, purposeful adults." BYOB. 4-6:30 p.m., 200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge, (517) 267-8929, [aarp.cvent.com/OnTapBrickhaven101019](http://aarp.cvent.com/OnTapBrickhaven101019)

## Friday, Oct. 11 > Deerfield Run at Lansing Brewing Co.

Deerfield Run is a bluesy, rock trio that fused country and a dash of funk. Hailing from Grand Rapids, this downhome band will pair nicely with your earthy ales and seasonal stouts.

7-11 a.m., 518 E. Shiawassee St., [lansingbrewingcompany.com](http://lansingbrewingcompany.com)

## Friday, Oct. 11 > Oktoberfest 2019 in Grand Ledge

Oomph music and Gemütlichkeit take over the city.

5-10 p.m., \$5, Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge (517) 627-1443 [gloperahouse.com/oktoberfest.php](http://gloperahouse.com/oktoberfest.php)

## Saturday, Oct. 12 > Grand Ledge Beer Fest at Fitzgerald Field

Held in conjunction with Color Cruise and Island Festival families and walk across the parking lot to Beer Fest and enjoy beer and cider in Fitzgerald Field.

3-8 p.m., \$25 adv., \$30 doors, 206 W. River St., Grand Ledge [grandledgechamber.com](http://grandledgechamber.com)

## Saturday, Oct. 12 > Fermenta 5th Anniversary Party & Fundraiser

Listen to live music by Syd Burnham under the rapidly changing foliage of Fitzgerald Park. There will be a taco bar, raffle and silent auction benefiting scholarships for women in the fermentation industry. Parking is \$3-5.

Noon to 3 p.m., \$20 members, \$25 non-members, Fitzgerald Park, 100 Fitzgerald Park Drive, [fermentamichigan.org](http://fermentamichigan.org)

## Monday, Oct. 14 > Beer & Bingo at REO Town Pub

REO Town regulars will race till the final round to claim a steak dinner for two.

7-10 p.m.  
1145 S. Washington Ave.  
(517) 485-4863, [Reopub.com](http://Reopub.com)

## Thursday, Oct. 14-Thursday, Oct. 28 > Brewed for Movies Series

A recurring film screening series in coordination with Goodrich Quality Theater.

7-9 p.m., \$3, Goodrich Quality Theater, 3250 Kabobel Drive, Saginaw (989) 797-8463, [foundersbrewing.com](http://foundersbrewing.com)

## Friday, Oct. 18 > Founders Tasting at Blue Front Ann Arbor

Free beer tasting with Founders Brewing Co. 5-7 p.m., 701 Packard St., (734) 929-4618, [BFA2.com](http://BFA2.com)

## Saturday, Oct. 19 > Horrocks Autumn Festival

Stop by one of the top food sources in the area for live music, bean soup, cider, donuts and so much more. \$3.

5-8 p.m., 7420 W. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing, (517) 323-3782, [shophorrocks.com](http://shophorrocks.com)

## Saturday, Oct. 19 > Brews in the Grove Festival

Hosted by the Beer City Brewers Guild, this citywide event occurs inside different breweries which will debut unique, one-off beers.

1-5 p.m., \$45 general, \$10 tasting tickets, [beercityguild.com](http://beercityguild.com)

## Thursday, Oct. 24 > Creatives' Costume Party at EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

Hosted by Opportunity Arts, the regular artist networking event encourages festive attire and costumes.

7-9 p.m., EagleMonk Pub and Brewery, 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy. (517) 708-7350, [eaglemonkbrewing.com](http://eaglemonkbrewing.com)

## Saturday, Oct. 26 > Booze & Brews Halloween Party at Midtown Brewing Co.

Costume contest with cash prizes and signature drinks.

8 p.m. to midnight, 402 S. Washington Square, (517) 977-1349, [midtownbrewingco.com](http://midtownbrewingco.com)

## Saturday, Oct. 26 > Yoga at the Brewery at Lansing Brewing Co.

The fee covers the yoga session and one pint of local craft beer. Mats not required. Cash preferred.

11 a.m.-12p.m., \$12, 518 E. Shiawassee St., [lansingbrewingcompany.com](http://lansingbrewingcompany.com)

## Friday, Oct. 25-Saturday, Oct. 26 > 11th Detroit Fall Beer Festival

IPAs, murals and beards.

Fri., 5-9 p.m., Sat., 1-6 p.m., \$45-55, Eastern Market, Detroit, [Mibeer.com/events](http://Mibeer.com/events)

## Friday, Nov. 8-15 > Traverse City Beer Week

Traverse City brewers team up with local restaurants for a week celebrating the craft of brewing with tastings, workshops and dinner pairings.

101 W. Grandview Parkway, Traverse City, (231) 947-1120, [traversecity.com/tcbw](http://traversecity.com/tcbw)



# Fear not, Lansing: Your guide to local Halloween events

By **AUDREY MATUSZ**

There will be no need to venture far outside city limits to get your ghouls on. Here is a look at what greater Lansing has to offer this season. Starting with the accumulation of autumnal flowers and décor at Lansing Gardens, this season is full of family-friendly activities from zombie walks to petting zoos. Foodies can get their goblin grub on at the Food Truck Mash-Up Oct. 9, while college students may wish to attend Lambda Delta Phi's Zombie Prom. Other staples are a "Rocky Horror Picture Show" screening, craft workshops, tattoo festival and plenty of bar hangs.

## Lansing Gardens' Fall Festival

Celebrate the season's harvest with kids' face painting, dessert walk, apple toss, costume contest and more. Donuts and cider are on the house.

*Saturday, Oct. 12, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 1434 E. Jolly Road, (517) 882-3115, lansinggardensllc.com*

## Falconers Special Boo at Potter Park Zoo

This sensory-friendly event is designed for children and adults with special needs and unique challenges. Pre-registration is required.

*Friday, Oct. 18, 5-7:30 p.m., 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., (517) 483-4222, register at potterparkzoo.org*

## Rocky Horror Live Shadow Cast at Sun Theatre

Tickets and prop bags will be available at the door. Rice, confetti or lighters will not be supplied or permitted.

*Friday, Oct. 18, 9:40-midnight, \$20 150 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston, williamstonsun.com, (517) 655-1850*

## Zombie Prom at Spiral-Dancebar

The annual fundraiser for Delta Lambda Phi sets the stage for a series of Halloween-themed events slated for this month at Old Town's signature dance club.

*Saturday, Oct. 12, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., 1247 Center St., (517) 371-3221, spiraldancebar.com*

## Food Truck Mash-up Meet-up at Cooley Law School Stadium

One ticket comes with \$5 in Mash-up Cash to use toward any food truck purchase.

*Saturday, Oct. 19, 6-9 p.m., \$20 general, \$10 under 15, 501 E. Michigan Ave., tickets.foodtruckmashup.com*



## Downtown Lansing Zombie Walk 2019 at the Lansing Center

Celebrating 10 years of bringing a horde of undead to Michigan Avenue. This open to the public event is collecting nonperishable food donations to support the Greater Lansing Food Bank. After invading the steps of the Capitol, a How-To Halloween party will kick off at the event center.

*Sunday, Oct. 20, 12-2 p.m., 333 E. Michigan Ave., (517) 204-6119, facebook.com/Lansingzombiewalk*

## 100% That Witch pillow making at ALT Printing Co.

Create sassy seasonal pillows on repurposed fabric. While you wait for one-on-one sewing machine assistance, design and print your own festive poster.

*Thursday, Oct. 24, 6-9 p.m., \$65, 1139 Washington Ave., altprintingco.com, (517) 388-3558*

## Nightmare off Elm St. in REO Town

The official REO Town Halloween block party is an artist market by day and eccentric night club after 8 p.m.

*Friday, Oct. 25, 5 p.m.-2 a.m. REO Town, facebook.com/reotown*

## Tattooween at Woke Mind Body Studio

ARTspace is gathering up tattoo artists, henna and body-painting artists to REO Town for a full day of ink and spooktacular activities and vendors. Must be over 18 to enter.

*Saturday, Oct. 26, 12-8 p.m., \$5 1133 S. Washington Ave., eastsideartspace@gmail.com, (517) 348-2271*

## Tag and Treat Costume Party at Zap Zone Lansing

Get a wicked start to the spookiest day of the year at this all-ages, free event.

*Saturday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 936 E. Mall Drive, (517) 327-0747, zap-zone.com/Lansing*

## Artist's Umbrella Vol. V at the Loft

This special Halloween edition will feature Detroit poet Native Brown Child, the Sanderson Sisters as well as a smattering of local artists.

*Wednesday, Oct. 30, 6:30-9:30 p.m., \$10 adv, \$12 door, 414 E. Michigan Ave., (231) 855-1065, theartistsumbrella.com*

## Ultimate '80s Halloween Party at The Grid

Awards will be given to the Best Costume, Best Single Costume, Best Couple Costumes and Best Group Costume at 10 p.m.

*Thursday, Oct. 31-Friday, Nov. 1, noon to 2 a.m., 226 E. Grand River Ave., (517) 885-3010, thegridoldtown.com*

## Haunted Lansing Tour

Based on the book by local scream queen Jenn Carpenter this tour opens a portal to some of the most haunting histories across the Capital City. Register for the tour at dementedmittentours.com.

*Saturday, Nov. 2, 7-11 p.m., \$45, info@ dementedmittentours.com*



# The joy of listening: LSO's Patrick Harlin wants your ears

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The summer symphony of crickets, fireworks and lawn mowers is winding down, but Patrick Harlin is about to give us something new to listen to.

Harlin, a Seattle-born composer who treks around the world to record the sounds of vanishing ecosystems, was named the first-ever composer in residence at the Lansing Symphony Orchestra last month.

Harlin's pulsating, multi-layered, ecstatic music — the fruit of a hard-core deep listening ethic — will be featured in at least two symphony concerts a year, through 2022.

Saturday's LSO concert will give the public its first taste, a ballet-inspired piece called "Shadow Dances."

He'll also write a completely new work during the residency, and the Lansing Symphony will give it a world premiere.

"Shadow Dances" sprang from Harlin's awe for the dynamism of the

human body. While studying composition at the University of Michigan, he played piano for a modern dance class.

"I started to imagine a piece of music for a dancer that had superhuman abilities, that moved beyond our natural world of physics," he said.

In Harlin's imagination, the gravity-defying adventures of Superdancer generate a cosmic storm that wobbles like an unbalanced washing machine.

"You have these frenetic gestures that are trying to pull against the pulse of the piece," he said.

Harlin comes from Redmond, Washington, a suburb of Seattle. He started composing as a toddler, as revenge for being told he couldn't take piano lessons. (To be fair, he didn't know how to read music yet.) He enlisted sympathetic adults to help him write down the music in his head.

The all-American music of Samuel Barber and George Gershwin made a big impression on him as a kid. Harlin's recent homage to Gershwin, (#tbt), throws a generous heap of Gershwin-isms into a blender and vvr-rrs up a suave, spiky smoothie.



Audrey Kelley

Patrick Harlin, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra's first composer-in-residence, studies and records the night sounds of the Amazon rain forest.

In college, Harlin gravitated toward heavier composers — Gyorgi Ligeti, Sergei Prokofiev, John Adams. A low, Adams-style chugging drives much of Harlin's music, but he's no minimalist.

His hyper-awareness animates his music with an "X" factor that can be traced to his other great passion — going to remote places like the Amazon in Peru to capture the "soundscape" of rapidly disappearing ecosystems.

Some of those sounds found their way into "River of Doubt," Harlin's musical vision of Theodore Roosevelt's disastrous 1912 Amazon River expedition. (The Lansing Symphony will play "River of Doubt" in spring 2020.)

However, the connection between Harlin's music and his "soundscape ecology" work runs deeper than a pinned-down collection of sounds.

"When I write music, the things that happen are related to one another, they're organic processes," he said. "It's like an ecosystem. If you change one thing it changes another thing, throws it out of balance."

There's a whiff of field research in Harlin's Lansing residency, too. Not only will the residency give local audiences a multi-dimensional look at a dynamic young composer, it will also give Harlin a chance to form a relationship with the musicians and the audience. Harlin expects his experiences in Lansing to inform the new piece he'll write during the residency.

Besides writing music, Harlin will

help curate the contemporary music the symphony will program in its MasterWorks concerts and in the chamber series. He's also hoping to launch a program encouraging young students to write music.

Harlin and Lansing Symphony Maestro Timothy Muffitt have already had some long talks about how best to program new music.

They both agree that to make new music work, you have to give the audience "as many ways in as possible."

"You write a piece because you have an idea you think is exciting, but I also think about people who have never been to an orchestra before, and long-time audience members who have certain expectations," he said. "I'm thinking about how to get them excited and maintain the integrity of my idea."

Harlin saw that magic happen in May 2017, when Muffitt and the LSO mounted a spectacular performance of Paul Dooley's "Northern Lights," an intricately woven acoustic/electronic tapestry.

"I connected right away with his style of conducting, the way he engaged with the audience and the orchestra," Harlin said.

Harlin and Muffitt have also had long talks about what makes an orchestra relevant in the 21st century.

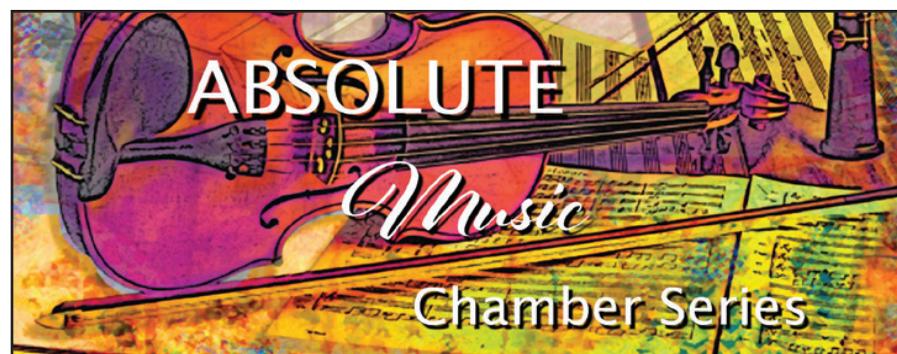
To Harlin, the most compelling argument to keep the beasts around is hiding in plain sight.

"I know it can seem like an antiquated institution, but I see it as one of the greatest models of human cooperation," he said. "You have people at the highest level in each of their respective instruments performing together, cooperatively. That's impressive and important, as a model of something greater than the sum of its parts."

Another reason to embrace live orchestral music, for Harlin, is "being in a space together with other people at the same time. I know it sounds simple but less and less of that happens."

As if that weren't enough, Harlin views his work as part of an even bigger mission — to overthrow what he calls the "visual hegemony" that is overtaking the world.

"The world has moved toward privileging the visual over every other input," he said. "As a composer, my job is to get you focused on sound."



**Thursday, October 17, 2019 • 7:30 PM**

**Kodaly-Duo for violin and cello, Opus 7**

**Tchaikovsky-Trio in A minor, Op. 50**

*Olga Dubossarskaya Kaler, Violin; Daniel Kaler, Cello; Genadi Zagor, Piano*

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**Buy tickets online: [absolutemusicdancing.org](http://absolutemusicdancing.org) or at the door  
Urban Beat Event Center, 1213 Turner Street Lansing, Michigan 48906 in Old Town**

# 'Sweat' chronicles the personal lives of striking union workers

By TOM HELMA

You know that bar. The ramshackle one across the street from the steel mill or the cork factory. Maybe a few letters out on the blinking neon sign. Everyone there knows your name, but this two-and-a-half-hour play sure ain't "Cheers."

Riverwalk Theater's production of Lynne Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "Sweat" takes place in that bar. The blue-collar, after-work hang-out for residents of Reading, (pronounced Redding), Pennsylvania, is the heart of the great recession.

## Review

Director George Popovich visited Reading to absorb the ambience of Mike's Bar, which inspired the play's setting. Emily Willemese's set design replicates much of what Popovich saw. The only thing missing is the beer smell.

## "Sweat"

Thursday, Oct. 10  
Sunday, Oct. 13  
Various run times  
\$17 adults, \$14  
Senior/student/military  
Riverwalk Theatre  
228 Museum Drive  
(517) 482-5700  
Riverwalktheatre.com

Popovich assembled an ensemble of nine actors to enact the consequences of union strikers and resistant corporate managers to come to terms with recession and international warfare from 2000 to 2008.

Scott Pohl is bartender-owner Stan, a Vietnam vet disabled from his factory job. Stan is the glue that holds this out-of-work community together, but just barely. Pohl is outstandingly grounded and steady-as-you-go in this role, as he comforts and confronts the varying complaints and outrage of his customers.

Chief among equals in this group of beautiful underdogs are two middle-aged women — one white, one black. Maureen Sawdon is Tracy and Rose Jangmi Cooper is Cynthia. Sworn to be best friends forever, their friendship is torn to shreds when Cynthia is elevated to a managerial position.

Sawdon as Tracy is all grit in this role, unrelentingly determined not to be destroyed by circumstances outside her control.

Cooper as Cynthia is conflicted, not wanting to lose a friendship, but tired after years of standing and working 10-hour shifts.

When the plant owners offer a down-sized plan that will save jobs, but require cuts in pay, Cynthia gets caught in the middle of pleasing her best friend and a desire to hold on to



Artniko Artistry

The cast of "Sweat," a play that analyzes the struggle of the working class.

what works for her.

Anger and outrage explode, as these two characters shout and curse each other out as only factory workers can — more fuck words in a single sentence than seemed possible.

Another relationship at the brink of combustion is between Jason and Chris, the young adult sons of Tracy and Rose who also work in the factory. Matthew Kowalczyk is notable as play's fight director. He orchestrates a bar melee that involves all the characters.

Connor Kelly as Jason brings a bristling physicality to his role, that eventually comes to a boil in the bar, where he assaults Oscar, played by Edward Heldt, resulting in serious prison time. Oscar is a stock boy at the bar, and crosses the union picket line as a scab non-union worker.

Lekeathon Wilson, as Chris, is caught up in the fight and also ends up in prison.

Julian Van Dyke does double duty, as a stalwart no-nonsense parole officer and the falling-down drunk hus-

band of Cynthia.

Nottage's script attempts to tag on something of a redemptive moment at the end of the play.

Alas, nothing can mitigate the over-

all despair of these characters, trapped in the truth of their culture during the aggravating diffuse of economic crisis.

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# Tanya Darby digs in for a week at MSU Jazz Studies

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Two notes was all it took. At a Monday afternoon concert with MSU jazz professors and grad students, trumpeter Tanya Darby riveted down a staccato series of two-note figures, heavy as 12-inch bolts, to begin her solo on “I’ll Remember April.”

Drummer Randy Gelispie instantly picked up the blueprints at this swinging construction site. Bap-bap, he rammed each rivet, hot from Darby’s trumpet, all the way in. Then Darby really got to business, lifting I-beams of steely sound into her top register and stringing triple-thick cables of countermelody.

## MSU Jazz Orchestras Tanya Darby, trumpet

Friday, Oct. 11  
8 p.m.  
\$7-17  
MSU Fairchild Theatre  
542 Auditorium Road,  
East Lansing  
(517) 353-5340

Darby’s muscular, clarion sound and warm camaraderie with the MSU crew promised a rewarding week for all concerned.

“If there’s any inspiration I can be, it’s to be your-



Photo courtesy MSU College of Music

Trumpeter and teacher Tanya Darby from Boston’s Berklee College of Music kicked off a new season of jazz artists in residence at MSU with trumpeter Nicholas Pietuszka and bassist Jared Beckstead Monday.

self, be true to yourself and never let anyone else tell your story,” she said.

Darby is the top brass (more accurately, director of brass studies) at Boston’s Berklee College of Music.

Her experience in several major big bands, most notably the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra and the all-female DIVA Jazz Orchestra, make her an ideal fit for MSU’s long-running artist in residency program. She’ll be working with the MSU bands all week, with rehearsals, workshops and a tour of Michigan high schools in Byron Center, Detroit, Charlevoix and Ludington.

To cap the week, Friday, Darby will perform at MSU with the jazz ensembles at the Fairchild Auditorium.

In addition to working on the music, Darby will also pass along lessons from a lifetime of experience. She often stresses simple things like making yourself available and reliable. She credits many of her best gigs, including dates with Aretha Franklin, Clark Terry, Gladys Knight and the Count Basie Orchestra, to being in the right place at the right time.

She was clearly pleased to be back at MSU for a longer period after a brief two-day visit last April for the 2019 Jazz Spectacular.

“I don’t use this word lightly, but they’re family here at MSU,” she said. “That’s one of the reasons I love coming here. It’s not just the caliber of musicianship, it’s the camaraderie.”

Darby has clearly been absorbed into the family. She beamed at trumpeter Nicholas Pietuszka, an MSU grad student, after his butterfly-nimble, Lee Morgan-ish solo on Clifford Brown’s “Sandu.” She rested a supportive hand on Pietuszka’s back as they listened to trombonist Michael Dease, guitarist Randy Napoleon, saxophonist Diego Rivera, pianist Bijan Tighavi and bassist Jared Beckstead tell stories of their own. Another MSU student, Jordyn Davis, later took command of the double bass. (Davis and Beckstead proved to be engrossing and eloquent substitutes for MSU Jazz Studies director Rodney Whitaker, who was away at a gig in Australia.)

Darby’s every note and gesture added more proof, if any be needed, that the trumpet is not an instrument for shrinking violets. She turned her spotlight number, “Body and Soul,” a duet with Napoleon, into a brass-knuckles blend of badass belting and breathy balladry.

In between tunes, Darby gave an extended shout-out to the teachers who keep the music alive and the parents who support their kids, schlepping them to band practice and supporting their musical ambitions.

“I would not be here today if it were not for programs like this in middle school and high school,” she said.

## CityPULSE



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Deadline: Oct 23

# 'The Queen Next Door' shows glimmers from Franklin's hey-day

By **BILL CASTANIER**

When Aretha Franklin died in 2018, her life was feted with an eight-hour funeral service, but the real tribute began three decades earlier in 1982.

Franklin returned to Detroit after spending time in the plastic-fantastic Los Angeles. Franklin returned home to care for her ailing father The Rev. C.L. Franklin, a pastor and civil rights activist, who had been shot during a robbery.

A Detroit News writer and photographer, 29-year-old Linda Solomon, was there to record Aretha's triumphant return to her home town on film.

Keith Richards came to Detroit, as did Ron Wood and Whoopi Goldberg, along with scores of others including

## "The Queen Next Door"

### National book launch

Sunday, Oct. 7, 4 p.m.  
Detroit Institute of the Arts  
5200 Woodward Ave.  
(313) 833-7900  
Register at [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

the grand-father of soul, James Brown. The bottom line was, if you wanted

to record something with Aretha you had to come to Detroit. Or like Dick Clark did in 1986 for the American Music Awards, you beamed her in on satellite as she sat on a velvet couch at her home.

Solomon was the only photographer-journalist who had access to Franklin, and now she lets us in on that period with her sumptuous 155 natural-light photographs in her new book "The Queen Next Door: Aretha Franklin, an Intimate Portrait."

Because of her unparalleled access to the music diva, Solomon was able to capture images of Franklin at her home, at her unrivaled private parties and in quiet moments when Franklin was just lounging around at home.

In her introduction, Solomon writes how some of her photography mirrors Franklin's lyrics, including "the moment I wake up, before I put on my make up."

Solomon's favorite photograph of Aretha lights up the book's cover showing Franklin peering out of a window dressed as Queen Nefertiti for her masquerade ball in 1988. A minimalist, Solomon said she only shot two frames to get the photo.

Fans of Franklin will adore Solomon's photos taken during the 1986 filming of an Amoco commercial where Franklin is seen at a gas station filling up her pink Cadillac while "Freeway of Love" plays in the background. One photograph shows Franklin peering at the car's pink "RESPECT" vanity plate as a Manhattan night skyline shines in the



Courtesy Photo.

Linda Solomon was the only photographer-journalist who had access to Franklin, and now she lets us in on that period with her sumptuous 155 natural-light photographs in her new book "The Queen Next Door: Aretha Franklin, an Intimate Portrait."

Tracks," and the article mentioned an upcoming benefit Franklin was hosting for her father.

Shortly after, Solomon writes in her book, "An assistant called and invited me to attend a private reception at the Manoogian Mansion (the Mayor's residence)," she wrote. "That was the beginning of our relationship."

Over time, as Solomon describes in her comments, Franklin began to call her directly and "we would chat and have girl talk."

Solomon writes she saved "many" voice mail recordings of Franklin "just to be able to hear that incredible sweet voice whenever I wanted."

From Solomon's photographs, it's clear that Franklin either went big or not at all when it came to throwing parties. For her son Teddy's graduation from Michigan State University in 1986,

distance. Just for the record, the TV ad was shot in Troy, Michigan.

"I wondered what she was thinking, and I believe I am the only one with photos of that event," Solomon said.

The photographer said in today's world, where celebrity access is both controlled and at the same time a free-for-all with Instagram and Twitter, "You couldn't do this book."

The photographs show both sides of Franklin, with her signature furs, elaborate costuming at private parties, performing in local venues and at home puffing on a cigarette.

Solomon first connected with Franklin when working as a reporter for the Detroit News. The reporter stopped by WXYZ studios where the singer was filming an interview for the Kelly & Company talk show.

Solomon described how she took only a few photographs of Franklin that first time, a technique she continued to use when documenting the star.

A single photo of a bespectacled Franklin appeared in Solomon's weekly column in the Detroit News "Star

## 70th

# MICHIGAN ANTIQUARIAN BOOK & PAPER SHOW

Sunday, October 20 ♦ 9:30 AM - 5 PM ♦ Free Parking



**Causeway Bay Hotel & Conference Center**  
6810 S. Cedar, Lansing

Bring this coupon for **\$1 off**  
\$5 admission price



[curiousbooks.com](http://curiousbooks.com) 332-0112  MICHIGANBOOKSHOW

she booked the MSU cheer team for an appearance which Solomon recorded on film.

Also included in the book are photographs of invitations Franklin sent for birthday parties and galas she hosted. Franklin personalized them and handwrote driving instructions to her home.

Solomon closes the book with a playful photograph of Aretha Franklin turning a camera on her.

Photographs you will not see in Solomon's book are those she shot of the private family gathering at the St. Regis Hotel in Detroit, which occurred just prior to the funeral for the Queen of Soul.

# SCHULER BOOKS

## MAGIC/KEYFORGE GAME NIGHT

Tuesdays · 6pm

Play Magic or KeyForge in a casual, friendly environment. All Magic products are 20% off for those who attend the event.

## BOARD GAME NIGHT

October 17 · 6pm

Join us in the cafe for board games! Bring your some of your favorites or choose from among those provided! This month we'll be focusing on games with a strong economic element.

## POETRY NIGHT WITH JOYCE BENVENUTO

October 17 · 7pm

Local poet, Joyce Benvenuto joins us to release her newest title *Road to Duncan*.

## KID'S STORY TIME

Saturdays · 11am

Jump into the pages of our favorite books! We will sing songs, make a craft and go on a new adventure. Join us for a special story time on October 12—Halloween costumes encouraged!

[SchulerBooks.com/Event](http://SchulerBooks.com/Event)  
Meridian Mall · Okemos

# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, October 9

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**3-D Design** - Work with wire. 9-10:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

**Beginning American Style Waltz** - Group Dance Class. 7:15-8:05 p.m. The MAC, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

**Beginning Salsa Group Dance Class** - 7:15-8:05 p.m. Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

**Lansing Refugee Resettlement (Adults)** - Learn about the global refugee crisis. 6-7 p.m. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

**Living a Good Life On Your Own** - Workshop Series for Widows, Widowers and others. 4-5:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

**Raise Them Up: Parenting Empowerment Class** - 5:30-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

**Tiny Tots Tumbling Tour** - Introduction to tumbling. 10-11 a.m. World Tour Cheer and Tumble, 1860 1/2 W Grand River, Okemos.

**Women's Tee Time** - Group demonstration on indoor golf simulator. 6-7:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. [myalive.com](http://myalive.com).

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Family Storytime (Ages up to 6)** - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CADL Webberville, 115 N. Main

St., Webberville. [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

**Meet Author Doc Fletcher (Adults)** - The History of Tiger Stadium: A Love Letter to Baseball at Michigan & Trumbull. 6:30-7:30 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

### EVENTS

**CCBS Workday** - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Drive, Lansing, Okemos. [michiganadubon.org](http://michiganadubon.org).

**Lansing Area Mindfulness Community** - 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S MLK, Lansing. 517-420-5820. [lamc.info](http://lamc.info).

**Michigan's Haunted Lighthouses (Adults)** - 6:30-7:30 p.m. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

**Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. [meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us).

**Trick or Treat Trail** - at Sharp Park. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, Lansing. [deltami.gov](http://deltami.gov).

### ARTS

**BookWorks** - New exhibit 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-6074. [thepeopleschurch.com](http://thepeopleschurch.com).

**Refuge Lansing Exhibit** - Storytelling exhibit that celebrates refugee resettlement. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. all week. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

**Water, Wildlife, Sky and Earth** - Exhibit. 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-6074. [thepeopleschurch.com](http://thepeopleschurch.com).

### MUSIC

**MSU Libraries' Music in American Life: Nebraska Memories** - 7-8 p.m. MSU Libraries, 366 West Circle Dr., East Lansing. 517-420-8593.

## Thursday, October 10

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Adulting 101: Personal Finance** - 5:30 p.m. Music Building 145, Michigan State University, East Lansing. [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu).

**Awaken Your Creativity** - based on book "It's Never Too Late to Begin Again." 1:30-2:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

**Beginning East Coast Swing Group Dance Class** - 7:15-8:05 p.m. The MAC, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

**Beginning East Coast Swing Group Dance Class** - 7:15-8:05 p.m. The MAC, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

**Beginning Texas Two Step Group Dance Class** - 8:15-9:05 p.m. Sparrow Michigan



## Empty Bowls to Benefit Greater Lansing Food Bank at Troppo

### Empty Bowls

Friday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.  
\$20  
111 E. Michigan Ave.  
[greaterlansingfoodbank.org/events](http://greaterlansingfoodbank.org/events).

Friday, a \$20 donation will get you a one-of-a-kind bowl, cup of soup, bread and water at Troppo.

As part of the Greater Lansing Food Bank's 29 years of Empty Bowls, the lunch fundraiser assists in its efforts to plant community gardens, distribute and rescue food as well as outreach for federal assistance programs.

The handmade bowls are crafted by members of Greater Lansing Potters Guild and Clayworks Pottery.

The potters guild has provided bowls to GLFB since it adopted the fundraiser from Red Cross, 29 years ago.

"The whole concept of Empty Bowls started in Michigan and it's national now," said guild member Liz Meyers. "We're making about 300 bowls and then Clayworks will contribute about another 300. Some folks will also con-

tribute bowls."

Tina Oxeer, a longtime member of the potters guild, said that the guild will have "bowlathons" in preparation for Empty Bowls, where they will spend several nights in a row to throw craft vessels.

Oxeer added that the event decided to stop serving the soup in the custom bowls to use Styrofoam instead for sanitary purposes.

"People were concerned because guests come in masses and they would pick up the bowls, feel them and look at the bottom so it wasn't good for food," Oxeer said.

Tickets to the annual event can be purchased beforehand or at the door for the same price of \$20.

"It's unique in that is one venue that potters can generate income for the food bank," said Meyers. "Twenty bucks, that's a meal on the table. You make a bowl, you're feeding a family. So it's exciting to think of it that way."

Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

**Grateful Living** - Explore all the amazing benefits of gratitude and ways to cultivate intentional practice. 1-2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Haunted Lansing Book Talk** - 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. [grandledge.lib.mi.us](http://grandledge.lib.mi.us).

**MSU Libraries' Therapy Dog Thursdays** - "paws" to play with our therapy dog friends! 3-4:30 p.m. MSU Libraries, 366 West Circle Dr., East Lansing. 517-420-8593.

**Queer Poetry of Color Discussion Group** - 5:30-7 p.m. Salus Center, 408 S Washington, Lansing. 517-580-4593. [thethoughtclub.com](http://thethoughtclub.com).

### EVENTS

**Ask A Lawyer Event** - Access to an attorney for a free consultation for up to a half hour on a variety of legal issues. 5-7 p.m. WMU Cooley Law School, 300 S. Capitol Ave, Lansing.

**Bath Township Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13751 Main

St., Bath. [bathtownship.us](http://bathtownship.us).

**Clinton County Open Food Distribution** - 8-10 a.m. Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Rd, Bath. [bathtownship.us](http://bathtownship.us).

**Fire Prevention Open House** - 6-8 p.m. Delhi Township Fire Dept., 2074 Aurelius Rd., Holt. [delhitownship.com](http://delhitownship.com).

**Healing Hearts Support Group** for families with children who have mental health disorders. 6-8 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. [myalive.com](http://myalive.com).

**Nyaka Aids Orphans Project "One By One" fundraiser** - 6-8 p.m. Studio C! Celebration Cinema, 1999 Central Park Place, Okemos. 517-381-8100. [nyakaschool.org](http://nyakaschool.org).

**Rocktoberfest 2019** - 5:30-9 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 East Shiawassee, Lansing.

**South Lansing Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. St. Casimir Parish Church, 800 W. Barnes Ave, Lansing. 517-374-5700.

**Thursday Night Dance Exchange** - Calling all Detroit Ballroomers, Chicago Steppers, Hustlers (Line Dancing), and Two Steppers! 7-10 p.m. Lucky's, 400 Baker St., Lansing.

See Out on the town, Page 31

## THURSDAY, OCT. 10 > LAUREL PREMO/AARON JONAH LEWIS AT ROBIN THEATRE



An all-age show bringing acoustic virtuosity through two duos. Laurel Premo and Aaron Jonah Lewis unearth their Michigan roots to bring energy to old-time music, as well as original fiddle and banjo tunes. Acclaimed mandolinist Ethan Setiawan and Louise Bichan will make their Robin Theatre debut.

7:30 p.m. \$12 adv. \$15 door  
The Robin Theatre  
1105 S. Washington Ave.  
[robintheatre.com](http://robintheatre.com)  
(989) 878-1810

# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"And I ..."--my mistake, that caught me off guard.**

by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Tasseled hat
- 4 Iranian money
- 10 Distress message
- 13 Hardcore
- 15 Type of doll for revenge seekers
- 16 Mummy king discovered in 1922
- 17 The place at the mall to buy supplements and chickens?
- 19 Tokyo-born Grammy winner
- 20 "\_\_\_": Battle Angel (2019 film)
- 21 Overly formal letter opener
- 22 Florida resort city, for short
- 23 "Cathy" exclamation
- 25 Adopts, perhaps
- 27 Possum foot
- 30 1978 Nobel Peace Prize co-winner Sadat
- 32 Carson Daly's former MTV show
- 33 One, in Rome
- 34 "New Look" couturier
- 35 Z-lister
- 38 Talk over?
- 40 Place to display titles
- 41 Plays a ukulele
- 42 Apply blackout
- 43 Down for a few days
- 44 Wallach of "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"
- 45 Green-skinned melonlike fruit
- 46 Take in some tea
- 47 Hall & Oates hit with the refrain "Oh, here she comes"
- 50 "Hamilton" creator \_\_\_-Manuel Miranda

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13			14	15							16		
17				18							19		
20					21					22			
			23	24	25			26					
27	28	29		30	31			32					
33				34				35			36	37	
38			39				40						
41						42					43		
		44			45						46		
47	48			49				50		51			
52				53			54	55		56	57	58	
59				60				61					
62				63						64			
65				66							67		

- 52 Diner staple
- 53 Corner shapes
- 55 Be skeptical
- 59 Pasture noise
- 60 Spicy plant that hangs low on the stem?
- 62 Goya's gold
- 63 Like some projections
- 64 "At Last" singer \_\_\_ James
- 65 Spruce juice?
- 66 Like some bread or beer
- 67 "And I \_\_\_" (recent meme phrase, and this puzzle's theme)
- 5 Accelerator particles forces
- 6 Close companion?
- 7 Devotee
- 8 Bird perch
- 9 Absorb, with "up"
- 10 Designer Vuitton on the front porch?
- 11 Pound piece
- 12 Mink's cousin
- 14 Numbers to be crunched
- 18 Nut in Hawaiian gift shops
- 22 Backyard party, briefly
- 24 Makes a scarf
- 26 Like some clearance sales
- 27 Dad jokes may depend on them
- 28 Sci. course
- 29 Slimy stuff in a rabbit's home?
- 31 Melancholy
- 35 Like some military
- 36 Kosher eatery
- 37 Restaurant review app
- 39 Board game insert
- 40 Place for an X
- 42 Places for cones
- 45 Jai alai ball
- 47 Inbox buildup
- 48 Phobia prefix
- 49 Brief and pithy
- 51 "Get that scary thing away from me"
- 54 Altercation
- 56 "It's all \_\_\_ you!"
- 57 O'Rourke in the 2019 Democratic Debates
- 58 Golf course obstacle
- 60 "You're Never Weird on the Internet (Almost)" author Felicia
- 61 Toilet paper layer

**Down**

- 1 Bean favored by Hannibal Lecter
- 2 CBS psychological drama that debuted Sept. 2019
- 3 Baked pasta dish
- 4 506, in Roman numerals

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Answers Page 31

## SUDOKU

## Advanced

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

### 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 31

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

October 9-15, 2019

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** "Love is when you meet someone who tells you something new about yourself," wrote poet André Breton. I think that's an excellent principle to put at the top of your priority list in the coming weeks, Aries. To be in maximum alignment with cosmic rhythms, you should seek input from allies who'll offer insights about you that are outside your current conceptions of yourself. You might even be daring enough to place yourself in the paths of strangers, acquaintances, animals, and teachers who can provide novel reflections. There's just one caveat: Stay away from people who might be inclined to fling negative feedback.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Constantine P. Cavafy's poem "Waiting for the Barbarians" imagines the imminent arrival of an unpredictable agent of chaos. "The barbarians are coming today," declares the narrator. Everyone in town is uneasy. People's routines are in disarray. Faces look worried. What's going to happen? But the poem has a surprise ending. "It is night, and the barbarians haven't come," reports the narrator. "Some people have arrived from the frontier and say that there aren't any more barbarians." I propose that we use this scene as a metaphor for your life right now, Taurus. It's quite possible that the perceived threat isn't really a threat. So here's my question, taken from near the end of the poem: "What are we going to do now without the barbarians?"

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Some folklorists prefer the term "wonder tales" rather than "fairy tales." Indeed, many such stories are filled with marvelous events that feature magical transformations, talking animals, and mythical creatures like elves and dragons and unicorns. I bring this up, Gemini, because I want to encourage you to read some wonder tales. Hopefully, as you do, you'll be inspired to re-imagine your life as a wonder tale; you'll reframe the events of the "real world" around you as being elements in a richly entertaining wonder tale. Why do I recommend this? Because wonder tales are like waking dreams that reveal the wishes and curiosities and fascinations of your deep psyche. And I think you will benefit profoundly in the coming weeks from consciously tuning in to those wishes and curiosities and fascinations.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** I suspect that in the coming days you'll be able to see into everyone's souls more vividly than usual. You'll have a special talent for piercing through the outer trappings of their personalities so as to gaze at the essence beneath. It's as if your eyes will be blessed by an enhancement that enables you to discern what's often hidden. This upgrade in your perception may at times be unsettling. For some of the people you behold, the difference between how they present themselves and who they actually are will be dramatic. But for the most part, penetrating to the depths should be fun, enriching, even healing.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** "This heart is rusty," writes poet Gabriel Gadfly. "It creaks, it clanks, it crashes and rattles and bangs." Why is his heart in such a state? Because he has been separated from a person he loves. And so he's out of practice in doing the little things, the caring gestures and tender words, that a lover does to keep the heart well-oiled. It's my observation that most of us go through rusty-heart phases like this even when we are living in close proximity to an intimate ally. We neglect to practice the art of bestowing affectionate attention and low-key adoration. We forget how important it is for our own welfare that we continually refresh and reinvigorate our heart intelligence. These are good meditations for you right now, Leo.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** "All the effort in the world won't matter if you're not inspired," writes novelist Chuck Palahniuk. I agree! And that's a key meditation for you right now. Your assignment is to enhance and upgrade the inspiration you feel about the activities that are most important to you—the work and the play that give you the sense you're living a meaningful life. So how do you boost your excitement and motivation for those essential

actions you do on a regular basis? Here's a good place to begin: visualize in exuberant detail all the reasons you started doing them in the first place.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** I hope you are embarking on a vigorous new phase of self-redefinition. I trust you are excited about shedding old ways of thinking about yourself and eager to revise and re-imagine the plot of your life story. As you do, keep in mind this helpful counsel from physicist Richard Feynman: "You have no responsibility to live up to what other people think you ought to accomplish. I have no responsibility to be like they expect me to be. It's their mistake, not my failing."

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You've probably heard the saying, "Genius is 99 percent perspiration and one percent inspiration." It's often attributed to inventor Thomas Edison. Sixteenth-century artist Michelangelo expressed a similar idea. "If you knew how much labor went into it, you would not call it genius," he said about one of his masterpieces. I'm guessing that you Scorpios have been in a phase when these descriptions are highly apropos. The work you've been doing may look productive and interesting and heroic to the casual observer, and maybe only you know how arduous and exacting it has been. So now what do you do? I say it's time to enjoy the fruits of your efforts. Celebrate! Give yourself a thrilling gift.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** "The universe is under no obligation to make sense to you," declared astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson. If that's even a little bit true, I bet you won't believe it in the coming weeks. According to my analysis, the universe will make a great deal of sense to you—at times even exquisite, beautiful, breathtaking sense. Life will be in a revelatory and articulate mood. The evocative clues coming your way about the nature of reality could tempt you to believe that there is indeed a coherent plan and meaning to your personal destiny.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** In 2005, Facebook was a start-up company barely on the map of the internet. Its president asked graffiti artist David Choe to paint murals on the walls of its headquarters. Choe asked for \$60,000, but the president convinced him to be paid with Facebook stock instead. Years later, when Facebook went public, Choe became a multi-millionaire. I suspect that in the coming months you will be faced with choices that are less spectacular than that, Capricorn, but similar and important. My conclusion: Be willing to consider smart gambles when projects are germinating.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** "Experiment is the sole source of truth," wrote philosopher and polymath Henri Poincaré. "It alone can teach us something new; it alone can give us certainty." He wasn't merely referring to the kinds of experiments that scientists conduct in laboratories. He was talking about the probes and explorations we can and should carry out in the course of our daily lives. I mention this, Aquarius, because the coming days will be prime time for you to do just that: ask provocative questions, initiate novel adventures, and incite fun learning experiences.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** In my opinion, Piscean singer, poet, and actor Saul Williams produces high-quality art. So he has earned a right to critique mediocre art. In speaking about movies and TV shows that are hard to enjoy unless we dumb ourselves down, he says that "we have more guilty pleasure than actual f----- pleasure." Your assignment in the coming weeks, Pisces, is to cut back on your "guilty pleasures"—the entertainment, art, and socializing that brings meager returns—as you increase and upgrade your actual f----- pleasure.

# TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Fri. Oct. 11

NO SKULL RELEASES DYNAMIC NEW EP AT GTG FEST

LOCAL TRIO REVAMPS LOST '90S SONGS



No Skull sits outside its rehearsal space in Haslett. The band performs its EP release show Friday at the opening night of GTG Fest at The Avenue Café. The annual fest spans three days and is held at three venues. Other performers include Matthew Milia, The Lippies and The Plurals. Check [gtgrecords.net](http://gtgrecords.net) for the complete schedule.



EP art for the new No Skull release. For more information, visit [facebook.com/hasnoskull](http://facebook.com/hasnoskull).

Friday, Oct. 11 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, \$8, 7 p.m

No Skull, the sonically experimental Lansing-based sludge-punk trio, releases its epically heavy self-titled EP Friday at GTG Fest at The Avenue Café.

The band, led by vocalist/guitarist Ryan Andrews (formerly of Red Teeth, BerT and Dr. Device) also comprises bassist Jules Purosky and drummer Abby Moog. Their set at the fest will showcase the five tracks from the new EP, but the songs are far from “new.”

“Maybe half of the songs are tunes I wrote back in the ‘90s, when I was in high school,” said Andrews, a long-time fixture in the Lansing music scene. “They’re old four-track demos from a period where I didn’t have a band.”

The grungy-flannel era was not lost on a young Andrews, and it shows on these unearthed and freshly-recorded tunes. No Skull may have formed back in 2016, but these tracks — produced locally with engineer Corey DeRushia at Troubadour Recording Studios — unmistakably harkens

back to that golden alternative-rock era. For a sample, check out the newly unveiled video for the first single, “Bottom of the Sea,” at [noskull.madlantisrecords.com](http://noskull.madlantisrecords.com).

“The songs mirror what you think of from that period — Nirvana, Soundgarden, Melvins and Alice in Chains — I loved those bands back then,” said Andrews, among a laundry list of other groups. The outcome presents Andrews’ signature brashness mixed with blasts of catchy hooks. This is new terrain for the local songwriter, who’s best known for hoisting a middle-finger to mainstream-music standards.

“For lack of better term, they were more pop,” he said. “They were a little more straightforward. We just went in and played them live in the studio, and then I added like 150 layers of guitars and loud amps over the tracks.”

“It’s relatable, but also sometimes unpredictable,” Moog added. “It’s original. It’s meant to be loud.”

While there are echoes of Pixies-esque

structures, too, Andrews admits he hadn’t even heard them back when he initially wrote these songs.

“I’d only heard their name back then,” he said. “In the ‘90s, there was barely an internet, so it was hard to find out about bands or even hear them. I never wanted to take a chance on buying a record I didn’t know, so I stuck to Smashing Pumpkins and Green Day, things like that.”

While digging through his dusty songbook, Andrews admits he reworked some of his adolescent lyrics, ones focused on “smoking weed or drinking booze.”

“I rewrote some of the lyrics to be more meaningful,” he said. “Some of it was stupid nonsensical shit I didn’t want to sing about anymore. I was trying to do my own version of Nirvana and Melvins lyrics.”

Issued by GTG Records and Madlantis Records, the EP offers up a throwback-yet-revamped sonic universe — one Purosky calls “heavy and dreamy.” Her favorite song on the disc, “Lake Erie,” is the majestically

murky closer.

“I like that one because it’s powerful, hypnotic and perfect for travelling to other dimensions,” she said.

“Lake Erie,” which is also drawn out to grand, prog-rock lengths at live shows, is also a stand out for Moog.

“It’s a great example of minimal drum style,” Moog said. “[The beat is] slow and powerful and plays in unity with guitar and bass. It stirs something in my soul and it helps me deal with deep-rooted emotion, brain stuff.”

Moog, a self-described “smashy rather than super technical” drummer, said playing in No Skull is a real work out, too.

“Ryan’s vision and writing style is very clear on everything including how the drums sound,” she explained. “Usually, drummers are told to tone it down and play quieter, but in No Skull, it’s like I can’t play loud enough.”

**LIVE AND LOCAL**

Upcoming show? Contact [Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com)

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Trivia Night: Parks & Rec 10PM	Super 80s Karaoke 9PM	GTG Fest	GTG Fest
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.				Wise Guys 9PM
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River, East Lansing		Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Old School Thursdays w/Jalese 8:30PM	Smooth Daddy 9:30PM	Smooth Daddy 9:30PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Karaoke	Miranda and the M80s 9PM	DJ E-Nyce & DJ Crazy Caz
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia with Sporcle 9PM		Deerfield Run 8PM	Tony Halchak & the Happenstance 8PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Josh and Jake Hill 7PM	Rage to the Grave 9PM	Smells Like Nirvana 8PM
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Number Twelve Looks Like You 7PM		Jaydo's XL Extravaganza 8PM	Convenient Trash 7PM
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd., East Lansing			The New Rule 6PM	The New Rule 6PM
Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave.		Laurel Premo & Aaron Jonah Lewis 7PM		Nessa 8PM
Unicorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing			Live Music with Frog & the Beeftones 9PM	Capital Sundogs 9PM

**From Page 28**

**TOPS** - Take Off Pounds Sensibly - 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Room 207, Haslett. 517-927-4307.

**ARTS**

**Intro to Clay on the Pottery Wheel** - 6:30-8 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org

**Studio (in)Process** - 6-9 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Sweat** - 7-9:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

**MUSIC**

**MMCO Not-So-Spooky Fall Concert!** - Come join us for some beautiful fall classical music! 6:30 p.m. Clinton Northern Railway, 107 E Railroad St, St. Johns.

**Friday, October 11**

**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

**Beginner Meditation** - 1-2:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

**Ice Age** - 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**Open Ballroom** - Enjoy "open dance floor" time with light instruction. 6-7:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

**LITERATURE AND POETRY**

**MSU Libraries' Special Collections Friday Pop-Up** - display of rare, unusual, and historical titles! 12-2 p.m. MSU Libraries, 366 West Circle Dr., East Lansing. 517-420-8593.

**EVENTS**

**Celebrate Shabbat** - with MSU Hillel! Services 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. Lester and Jewell Morris Hillel Jewish Student Center, 360 Charles St., East Lansing.

**Color Cruise and Island Festival** - A three-day fall pioneer festival at Island Park. 206 W. River St., Grand Ledge.

**Friday Night Fun at Uncle John's** - 4-7 pm. Live music. d 4-7 p.m. Uncle John's Cider Mill, St. Johns. ujcidermill.com.

**Holt Farmers Market Mini-Market** - 2-6 p.m. 2150 Cedar St, Holt. delhitownship.com.

**Howl at the Moon: Guided Night Walk** - Leashed dogs and flashlights welcome. 7-8 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing** - 7:30-8:30 p.m. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing.

**TGIF Dance Party** - 7 p.m.-12 a.m. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. www.tgifdance.com.

**ARTS**

**Frankenstein presented by MSU Dept of Theatre** - 8 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. events.msu.edu.

**Healing Through Art** - A community art exhibit and auction. 7-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Old Town, Lansing.

**Small Stained-Glass Panel Lamp Shade** - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

**Sweat** - 8-10:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

**MUSIC**

**MasterWorks 2: Mozart and Beyond** - 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982.

**May Erlewine - CD Release** - 7:30-10 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

**MSU Jazz Orchestra** - 8-9 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, MSU, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

**Saturday, October 12**

**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

**Code Club (Ages 7-17)** - Learn about coding. Bring headphones. 2-3:30 p.m. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org.

**Ice Age** - 11 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**LITERATURE AND POETRY**

**Sing, Dance, and Move Storytime** - 3:30-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

**EVENTS**

**12th Annual October Antique Harvest Festival** - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Centennial Farm Antiques, 4410 W Howe Rd., DeWitt.

**25th Annual CraneFest** - Watch as thousands of migrating Sandhill Cranes fly in to roost. 12-7 p.m. Kiwanis Youth Conservation Area, Okemos. michiganadubon.org.

**Boo at the Zoo** - 12-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

**Citizens for Prison Reform Annual Dinner Meeting and MI Documentary** - 5-8 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing, 5509 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing.

**Color Cruise and Island Festival** - Island Park. 206 W. River St., Grand Ledge.

**Dinner & Magic Show** - Featuring Jeff the Magician! 5-8 p.m. Eaton Area Senior Center, 804 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte.

**Environmental Stewardship Work Day** - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. East Lansing. More info at cityofeastlansing.com.

**Farmers Market** - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

**First Annual Kellie's Shopping Crawl** - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Kellie's Consignments, 5000 Marsh Road, Meridian. www.eventbrite.com.

**Free Public Tours** - 1 & 3 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Dr., East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Grand Ledge Beer Fest** - 12 Local Breweries and Cideries at Fitzgerald Field 3-8 p.m. Fitzgerald Field, Boardwalk, Grand Ledge.

**Haven House 5k Fun Run/Walk** - 9-11 a.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing.

**Holt Farmers Market** - 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Holt Farmers Market, 2150 Cedar St, Holt. delhitownship.com.

**Second Saturday Supper** - 5-6 p.m. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. 517-484-3139. mayflowerchurch.com.

**Stewardship Mornings** - 9-11 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

**ARTS**

**ARTspace Pop-Up at Henry's Place!** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Rd., Okemos.

**Frankenstein** - 8-10:30 p.m. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. whartoncenter.com.

**Introduction to Watercolor with Michelle Detering** - 12-2 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

**Sweat** - 8-10:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

**Williamston Pop Up Art & Craft Show** - Autumn Open House show. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Keller's

Plaza, 100 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston.

**MUSIC**

**Accompaniment and Rhythm Workshop** with Noah Fishman and Baron Collins-Hill. 4:30-5:45 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-372-7880. elderly.com.

**Children's Show** - 10-11:30 a.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

**"Fine Times At Our House" Workshop** with Noah Fishman and Baron Collins-Hill. 3-4:15 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-372-7880. www.elderly.com.

**Live Music** Bring your family for a day of fun! 1-5 p.m. Uncle John's Cider Mill, St. Johns. ujcidermill.com.

**Michael Feinstein and Storm Large: Shaken & Stirred** - 8 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. whartoncenter.com.

**Noah Fishman and Baron Collins-Hill Live at Elderly Instruments** - 6-8 p.m. 1100 N Washington Ave. 517-372-7880. elderly.com.

**Sunday, October 13**

**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

**Juggling** - Learn how to juggle! 2-4 p.m. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing.

**EVENTS**

**12th Annual October Antique Harvest Festival** - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Centennial Farm Antiques, 4410 W Howe Rd., DeWitt. 669-5096.

**25th Annual CraneFest** - Watch as thousands of migrating sandhill cranes fly in to roost. 12-7 p.m. Kiwanis Youth Conservation Area, Okemos. michiganadubon.org.

**Autumn Color Walk** - 2-3 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

**Boo at the Zoo:** - 12-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, **See Out on the town, Page 32**

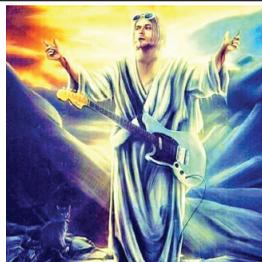
**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 29

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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 29

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

**SATURDAY, OCT. 12 > SMELLS LIKE NIRVANA AT THE LOFT**



Hailing from Chicago, the Nirvana tribute band will play songs off Bleach, Incesticide, Nevermind, In Utero and MTV Unplugged.

**8 p.m., an \$15 adv., \$20 door**  
414 E. Michigan Ave.  
(517) 913-0103  
theloftlansing.com

**SATURDAY, OCT. 12 ADULT HOOP DANCING CLASSES**



Let fitness instructor Nat Spinz guide you through the basics of hoop dancing. From body passes, weaves, waist hopping to completing a series of tricks. Hoops are provided, new hoops will be available for \$20.

**2-3 p.m.**  
**Cedar Street Art Collective**  
1701 S. Cedar St.  
(517) 749-5582  
NatSpinz.com

**From Page 31**

1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

**Color Cruise and Island Festival** - A three-day fall pioneer festival at Island Park. 206 W. River Street, Grand Ledge.

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

**Free Public Tours** - 1-3 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Dr., East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Larzelere Memorial Lecture** - Phillip Gulley to speak at The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River, East Lansing, at 1 p.m.. "Unlearning God: How Unbelieving Helped Me Believe."

**ARTS**

**Frankenstein** - 2 p.m. Wharton Center, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com

**Sweat** - 2-4:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

**MUSIC**

**Brunch & Classics**: 2-3:30 p.m. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St, Charlotte. 517-541-5690.

**Monday, October 14****CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

**Beginning American Style Foxtrot Group Dance Class** - 8:15-9:05 p.m. The MAC, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 364-8888

**Beginning Drawing** - It's never too late to

learn to draw! 1-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

**Beginning West Coast Swing Dance Class** - 7:15-8:05 p.m. The MAC, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

**Easy Instant Pot Cooking Class**- 12-1:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

**Estate Planning with Theodore Hughes** - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

**Homeschool Study Group** - 1-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

**EVENTS**

**DDL Walking Club** - 10-11 a.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Rd, DeWitt. 517-669-3156. dewittlibrary.org.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing** - Meeting 6-7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka Street, Lansing.

**Refugee Foster Care Informational Session** - Could you provide a home to a refugee youth without family? 5:30-7:30 p.m. Samaritas, 1545 Keystone Ave., Lansing.

**Sharing Your Story** - It's important to record and share our stories and experiences before they are lost. 1-2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

**ARTS**

**Drawing Foundations** - 4:30-6 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

**Pour Painting** - Experience the unique nature of fluid art. 10-11:30 a.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence

Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

**Tuesday, October 15****CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

**Beginning American Style Tango Dance Class** - 7:15-8:05 p.m. The MAC, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

**Beginning Cha Cha Group Dance Class** - 8:15-9:05 p.m. The MAC, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

**Beginning Italian** - Learn a new language. 1-2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

**Business Plan Basics Course** - 6-7:30 p.m. Delta Twp. District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. 517-483-1921. sbdcmichigan.org.

**Drop-in Citizenship Test Prep** - Practice for the USCIS Naturalization Test. 1-2 p.m. CADL South, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. cadl.org.

**Educational Community Forums on Immigration and Transgender Issues** - Samaritas and Faith Lutheran Church join forces to sponsor two Community Forums! 7-9 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Rd., Okemos

**LITERATURE AND POETRY**

**Paws for Reading at GLADL** - Read to a therapy dog! 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

**Preschool Storytime** - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

**EVENTS**

**Death Cafe** - Death is part of life, and when we

talk about it, we help normalize it. 12:30-2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

**Injury Clinic** - Free consult with a sports or health professional. 5:30-7 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte.

**Lansing Area Parkinson's Support Group** - 6-8 p.m. Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Dr., East Lansing. 517-230-2629.

**Professional Speaker Series: Domestic Violence** - 6-7:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

**Yawn Patrol Toastmasters** - 7-8:30 a.m. Two Men and Truck Corporate, 3400 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. 517-214-3327. yawnpatrol.com.

**ARTS**

**Adult Clay Fall A** - With Gabby 6:15-9:15 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

**Chinese Brush Painting** - 1-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

**Envisioning Hope: The Story of the Chilean Arpilleras** - 5:30-7 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

**Frankenstein** 7:30-10 p.m. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. whartoncenter.com.

**MUSIC**

**Concert Orchestra** - MSU Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. music.msu.edu.

**SUNDAY, FALL FUN CLAY WORKSHOP AT SUNSET CLAY STUDIO**

Instructor Abby Deneau will demonstrate handbuilding techniques to create pumpkin lanterns, candy dishes or anything else you can come up with. There will be a follow-up glazing session from 2-4 p.m., Oct. 20. Family discounts are available.

**2-4 p.m. \$50 per person**  
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(517) 282-9850  
facebook.com/sunsetclaystudio

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# FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

## Herbaceous, juicy wines for the autumn transition

By **JUSTIN KING**

October is a month of transition. Sure, there might still be some precious sunlight many days a week, but the pitfalls of cold and dreary weather start to increase the closer we get to Halloween.



For this time of year, I often think of slightly earthy red wines, with not a lot of tannin and body. They pair well with simple foods like burgers and portobello mushrooms. And they tend to be drinkable with a variety of cheeses, including night cheese (yes, it's a thing). Ergo, I'm a fan of these kinds of wines.

Grape harvesting this season really kicks off in the Northern Hemisphere.

For \$15, the 2017 Terramata Barbera d'Alba is a recent favorite hailing from Cantina Vingnaioli, a growers' cooperative in Piedmont, Italy. Terramata smells and tastes both fruity and earthy with notes of black raspberry, button mushrooms and rosemary. It's slightly herbaceous, light-to-medium bodied, extremely interesting and balanced. Wines such as this are what I crave to see more of at this price.

"Barbera d'Alba" means wine from the barbera grape, native to a small area very close to the Italian city of Alba. As the saying goes "what grows together goes together," so it's hardly a coincidence that Alba is also known for the Piedmont white truffle, one of the more magical things you can pair with the earthy wine. In case you don't want to splurge on some baller truffles, mushroom risotto would be another fanciful option with the barbera.

Heading west, the winemakers in Oregon have built quite a culture of quality and integrity, and the foundation is largely on the plantings of pinot. Most well-known pinots are from the Willamette Valley, which sprawls roughly south of Portland. Foris Winery is in Rogue Valley in southern Oregon, and its 2016 pinot noir (\$25) stands up to most Willamette pinot I've had under \$35. There are many typical pinot characteristics here, including notes of cherry, dried herbs and a tiny bit of sweet spice — likely coming from the wine being aged in oak barrels. To the point, this wine is juicy. The fruit notes keep coming and coming, without the wine exhausting the palate or overwhelming you like some sort of obnoxious jam. I think most long-time lovers of Willamette pinot know why their prices have gone up, so getting a hold of these kinds of wines at a lower price is a welcomed addition to wine-drinkers. This feels like a mop-up wine, meaning you could put any lighter meat, cheese, snack, grilled vegetables on the dinner table and this will be immensely enjoyable.

New Zealand isn't exactly known for pinot noir, but they absolutely should be. Sure, sauvignon blanc produced in

Malborough is the most common to represent New Zealand. Yet, there is so much more to the Kiwi wine scene.

The style of Craggy Range's 2016 pinot noir is somewhere between Sonoma, California's, pinot noir, and the pinot that comes from the motherland of Burgundy, France. At roughly \$30, an expression of fruit, complexity and overall deliciousness, the Craggy Range has more of a backbone. A wine with a touch more acid, such as the Craggy Range, tends to drink not as well on its own but lends itself to some beautiful moments with food.

These wines are readily available at any local independent store or restaurant. It's just a matter of knowing the right distributor. Regardless, there are many similar wines out there on the market. Ask your favorite wine pros for any suggestions; they'll be happy to share.

*Justin King is an advanced sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers, and was named 2017 Best New Sommelier by Wine & Spirits Magazine. He is owner of Bridge Street Social, a wine and cocktails-focused restaurant in DeWitt, and Bar Mitena, a Spanish wine bar opening in Lansing.*

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# Lansing's first cat cafe opens on Lake Lansing Road

By DENNIS BURCK

Grab a cup of java and relax while surrounded by rescued feline friends at the Constellation Cat Cafe in East Lansing. In partnership with non-profit cat rescue Saved by Zade, the cafe was a crowdfunded effort to provide felines most in need with a place to be adopted that's more fun than a shelter.

According to Executive Director Kelsey Maccombs, all of the proceeds from the adoption fees and coffee will go toward feeding, housing and spaying or neutering the cats until they find their forever home.

"I knew a lot about cats and worked in rescue for six years," Maccombs said. "I was working as a secretary at Michigan State University and I was in a spot where I needed to do something different. This weirdly felt totally right. I decided on Sunday I wanted to do it. By Monday, had a business plan and board of directors the following week."

Maccombs turned to crowdfunding on IndieGoGo.com to bolster her

business plans. Supporters donated a total of \$3,500 toward the business.

After being open for a few days, the cafe saw its first cat adoption out of 15 kittens.

"It was really overwhelming. I'd seen this woman come in Saturday night. I saw her walk back in and thought, 'Oh my God, it is happening. We're doing this,'" Maccombs said.

"Our whole purpose of our nonprofit is to find cats a home. All those 16 hour days were totally worth it."

The first cat cafe opened in Taiwan in 1998, seeking to give young people with apartments that don't allow pets the companionship of an animal. The movement blossomed shortly after in Asian metropolises like Tokyo, which is home to 57 cat cafes as of 2015. Constellation Cat Cafe is the fourth cat cafe to open in Michigan.

"People should come in with an open mind that cats do what they want to do," Maccombs said.

"We have enough where to at least one would want to play with you at any given time and one would like to

snuggle you. Coming in at different times of the day also gives a different experience. Some of them get the zoomies in the morning, but after 3 p.m. is cat nap time."

Cordoned off into two rooms, the cat cafe keeps its coffee shop separate from the cat room. Beverages are allowed in both. Admission to the cat room is \$8. Volunteers can get in for free.

Also, Constellation's coffee bar is not an afterthought. It is fully equipped with locally roasted 517 Coffee Co. beans, espresso machines and sourced teas from Ann Arbor, making it a formidable coffee dig able to compete with the coffee-only shops.

"Coffee is for everyone. We want to meet people where they are at. We want to be knowledgeable without being pretentious," Maccombs said.

The goal for Maccombs is to have at least one cat adopted per week. All cats available for adoption are up to date on shots and neutered. A one-time, \$125 adoption fee and screening is required to see if the purchaser is a responsible pet owner.

"If you can switch and just buy your morning latte here, you will be paying the same price, with all of the profit going toward cats and animal rescue locally."

The cafe is in its soft opening stage ahead of a grand opening Oct. 12 and 13.



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Constellation Cat Cafe executive director Kelsey Maccombs poses with its first successfully adopted cat.

## Constellation Cat Cafe

Monday to Friday  
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Saturday  
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Sunday  
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
3320 E. Lake Lansing Rd., East Lansing  
(517) 273-2233  
constellationcatcafe.com



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(517) 371-2600, lansingbrewingcompany.com
- 2. Ellison Brewery + Spirits**  
4903 Dawn Ave., East Lansing  
(517) 203-5498, ellisonbrewing.com
- 3. BAD Brewing Co.**  
440 S. Jefferson St., Mason  
(517) 676-7664, badbrewing.com
- 4. Dimes Brewhouse**  
145 Bridge St., Dimondale  
(517) 303-2067, dimesbrewhouse.com
- 5. Ozone's Brewhouse**  
305 Beaver St., Lansing  
(517) 999-2739, ozonesbrewhouse.com

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