

December 4 - 10, 2019

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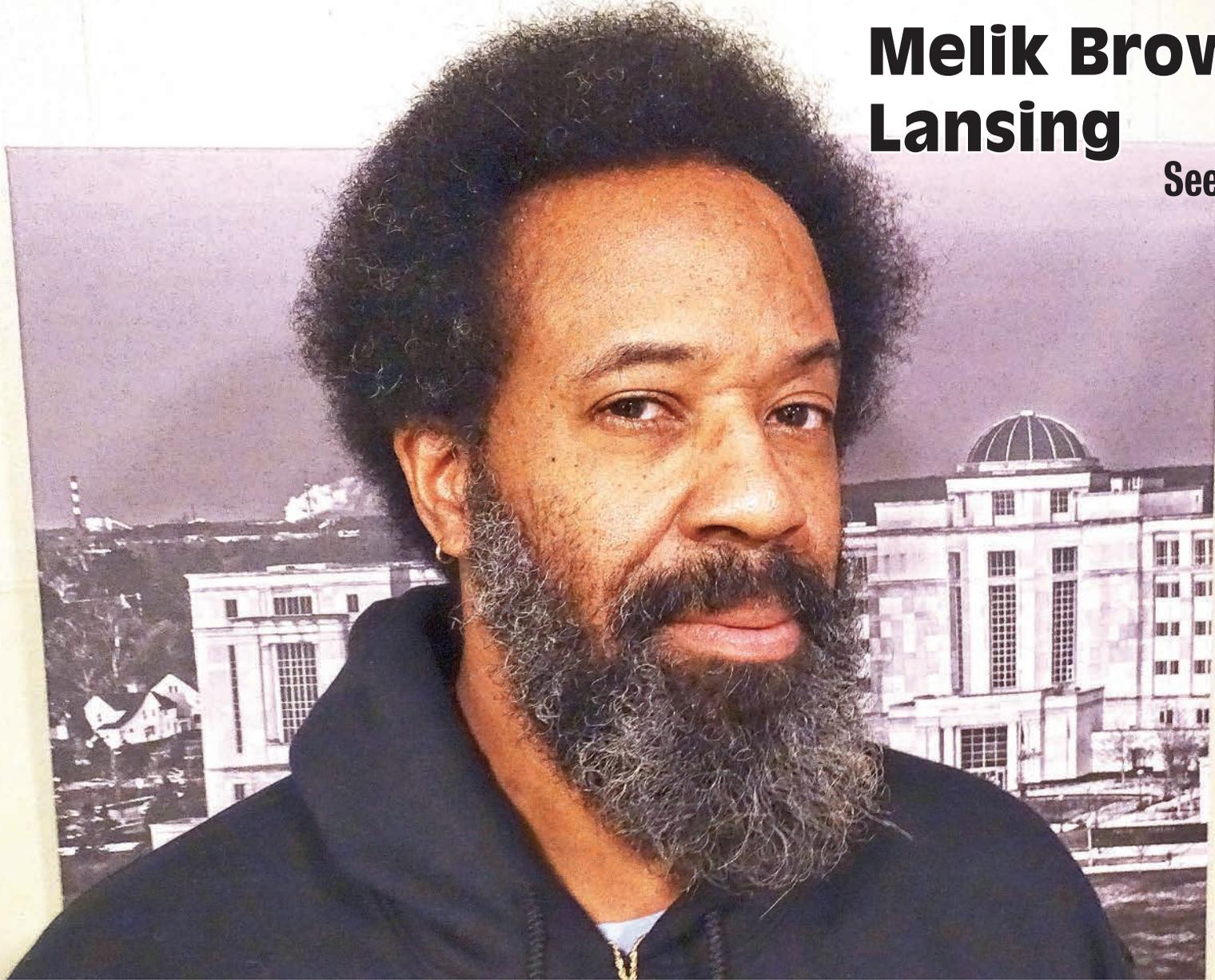
CityPULSE

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Locally owned • A newspaper for the rest of us

Melik Brown's Lansing

See page 11



If hindsight was
20/20, no innocent person
would be convicted by
eyewitness testimony.

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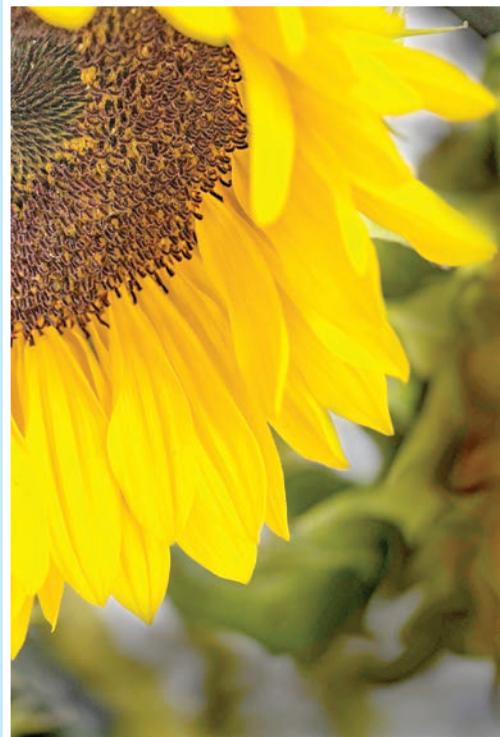
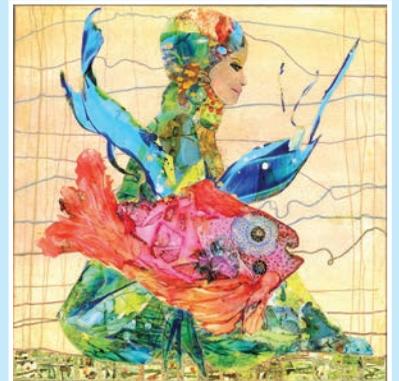
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FROM THE '70s

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SABBATHY STONER METAL

FROM THE '80s

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HIGH FADES

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FROM THE '90s

NERDISHLY LARGE, ROUND GLASSES

PLAID FLANNEL AND RIPPED JEANS

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SORENSEN

CityPULSE

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ISSUE 17

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How one artist made the switch



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Williamston man saves Christmas



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A craft cocktail for the cold winter days ahead



Cover
Art

By Lawrence Cosentino

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CITY PULSE

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THIS MODERN WORLD

IT'S TIME TO SEE THE WORLD AS TRUMP VOTERS SEE IT--WITH THE NEW, IMPROVED--

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Goggles!

AND WHILE THE FAKE NEWS MEDIA ARE SPREADING A LOT OF MIS-INFORMATION--

RUDY GIULIANI WAS WORKING WITH UKRAINE ON BEHALF OF TRUMP!

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THESE ARE JUST FACTS!



PERHAPS YOU FOUND THE IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS PERSUASIVE. NUMEROUS CREDIBLE WITNESSES DID TESTIFY THAT TRUMP TRIED TO PRESSURE A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TO DIG UP DIRT ON A POLITICAL RIVAL!

THIS DOESN'T SEEM PARTICULARLY DEBATABLE!



--YOUR MAGA-VISION GOGGLES WILL TRANSLATE THE LIES INTO MAGA-TRUTH!

THIS RUDY FELLOW WAS ACTING ENTIRELY ON HIS OWN! THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHO HE IS!

GORDON SONDLAND IS A DEEP STATE BUREAUCRAT--AND A NEVER TRUMPER!

HOW DID WE NOT SEE IT BEFORE?



by TOM TOMORROW

WELL--NOT SO FAST! MAGA-VISION GOGGLES WILL SHOW YOU THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY!

WAIT! IT LOOKS LIKE DONALD TRUMP WAS SIMPLY CONCERNED ABOUT CORRUPTION! AND HOW UKRAINE HACKED THE DEMOCRATS IN 2016 IN ORDER TO HELP HILLARY! AND SOMETHING ABOUT CROWDSTRIKE?

IT ALL MAKES PERFECT SENSE TO ME NOW!



YES, THE WORLD IS MUCH SIMPLER--WHEN YOU VIEW IT THROUGH REALITY-ENHANCING MAGA-VISION GOGGLES!

DONALD TRUMP IS THE CHOSEN ONE!

AND HE HAS THE STUNNING PHYSIQUE OF A YOUNG SYLVESTER STALLONE!

IT'S AS PLAIN AS THE GOGGLES ON MY FACE!



HE WAS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT SUPERB PHYSICAL CONDITION HE IS IN!

AGAIN, THIS MAKES PERFECT SENSE TO ME!

TOM TOMORROW ©2019

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Slide to the left

*Shifting dynamics on Lansing City Council*Conservatives take a hit,
but no revolution in sight
as Betz replaces Washington

As incoming Lansing City Councilman Brandon Betz prepares to replace Jody Washington in the Frist Ward seat, his views could shift the city toward a more progressive agenda — ultimately changing the dynamic of how elected leaders conduct business in the capital city.

“I’m looking to help constituents rather than do political favors,” Betz said. “I care about public services and our economic future, but just not on the backs of our residents. I want to transform this city into the future. I’m a new face with fresh ideas, and that puts me in a position to think about things from a different perspective.”

Betz, a 28-year-old economist with the Michigan League for Public Policy, beat Washington, 62, by 10 points in November. The outcome showcased diminishing support for Washington’s conservative tactics over the last eight years and highlighted a desire (largely from younger voters) for a left-facing future.

Betz takes office in January. Voters will soon learn whether his campaign promises — like fewer tax incentives for downtown developers and a more conducive market for marijuana — will match his performance as a City Councilman.

“He’ll bring up some issues that perhaps Councilwoman Washington wouldn’t bring up,” Council Vice President Peter Spadafore foresaw. “One person isn’t going to change the entire direction of the city, but it might change our focus to different issues that might’ve just been non-starters with the old group dynamic.”

That “old group dynamic” refers to a conservative-leaning four-person bloc of Washington, her son, Adam Hussain, Patricia Spitzley and Council President Carol Wood — with their views bolstered by supposedly moderate support from Jeremy Garza.

Spadafore, Brian Jackson and Kathie



Brandon Betz (far left, added to the photo) is in, and Jody Washington (marked with an “X”) is out, leaving the Lansing City Council in flux.

Dunbar represent the more liberal end of Lansing’s leadership spectrum. Betz’ addition splits the Council 4-4 with the more conservative wing.

The outgoing Washington predicted a big change.

“You should see a major shift in the way this city does business and the way the Council does its business,” Washington said. “It’s OK if that’s the agenda, but I’m not sure what they mean when they say ‘progressive.’ I think these are going to be interesting times. I fear for my city. I love this city with all my heart, but I’m worried.”

Progressivism to Betz means fewer tax incentives for downtown development, a renewed focus on the environment and another look at the city’s marijuana ordinances. He also wants to revisit Lansing’s rescinded status as a sanctuary city for immigrants.

Washington, Wood, Spitzley and Hussain voted to overturn that symbolic protection in 2017. Dunbar — without Spadafore and Jackson, who were elected later in the year, to lend their support — was the only one who still remains on the City Council to have voted to keep the designation. Progressive Councilwoman Tina Houghton, who strongly supported sanctuary city sta-

tus, lost her seat to Garza.

Subsequent turnover could allow the City Council to take an altogether different stance on the issue, Betz contended.

“Jody really dug in her heels and made a lot of enemies on the City Council,” Betz explained. “I’m not building a coalition with any particular people, but I do think that with Jody gone, we’re going to have a more progressive city that represents the actual views of its people. She was just overly conservative. That’s the reason I won.”

Betz, for instance, said he would have also joined Spadafore’s lone rejection of a redevelopment plan at the former Red Cedar Golf Course. He contends that developers — for \$2.2 million — paid the city far too little for the property and are reaping too many rewards with a \$54 million tax reimbursement for over 30 years.

He plans to provide a more judicious review on the amount of tax incentives flowing to future projects that would have otherwise continued seamlessly without decades of financial commitments from Lansing taxpayers.

Betz also differs from Washington in his support for Lansing’s marijuana industry. He said he’d soon like to revis-

See Council, Page 6



State Christmas tree

Since at least 1913 there has been a tree of some sort on the grounds at the State Capitol in Lansing during the holiday season. However, it was not until 1987 that the Capitol Christmas tree became a chance to showcase one of Michigan’s great trees. That was the third year of Silver Bells in the City and then-Gov. Jim Blanchard had recently returned from a trip to New York, where he was inspired by the iconic Rockefeller Center Christmas tree to similarly display an official State Christmas tree.

This year’s state tree is a 61-foot tall Blue Spruce, donated by the Wolfenber family of Iron Mountain in the Upper Peninsula. Michigan is third in the nation for live Christmas tree production, with more than 1.5 million trees each year. The Blue Spruce is one of the most popular varieties because its stiff branches can accommodate heavier weight and its layered branches give it an old-fashioned, traditional look. The Capitol Christmas tree is strung with nearly 10,000 multi-colored lights under the design and direction of the Michigan Capitol Commission and Lansing Board of Water & Light. The tree is topped by a ten-point star with a bluish cast. See it in front of the State Capitol at Michigan and Capitol avenues through the rest of December.

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

Spadafore: Lansing's next City Council president?

First-term member says he's ready for job

After a year at second-in-command, Lansing City Council Vice President Peter Spadafore this week announced a desire to take the gavel from Council President Carol Wood for a seat at the helm of the City Council in 2020.

"I'm interested in the presidency," Spadafore confirmed. "I believe the last year working alongside President Wood has given me the experience and knowledge to do the job. If my colleagues see fit to put their faith in me and elect me president, I'd be honored and thrilled to serve."

Spadafore, 34, was elected at-large to the Council in 2017. He was previously president of the Lansing School Board.

Wood, at the first City Council meeting of 2019, was chosen by her colleagues in a 6-2 vote to remain president for her second year. Spadafore — after some closed-door tension before the vote — was unanimously elected vice president, nabbing the position from now-outgoing First Ward Councilwoman Jody Washington.

The City Council will meet for its first organizational meeting in January to elect its new leaders. And while Spadafore is, so far, the only member to publicly seek the presidency for next year, he's garnering some early support



Spadafore

from other Council members.

Councilman-elect Brandon Betz said he has pledged his support to Spadafore because of his "willingness" to work collaboratively and find progressive solutions to various issues facing the capital city in the next year.

Patricia Spitzley, who was elected to her second term as an at-large member, said she is not seeking a leadership position. She said she'd also support Spadafore for president because he's "definitely qualified" after serving as the president of the Lansing School District and participating in several different committee appointments for the city of Lansing.

Spitzley also said it's unlikely that

Wood would seek a third year as president. Wood hasn't returned calls, but a review was unable to find a City Council president who remained at the helm for more than two consecutive years.

"I always favor having new leadership once in a while," Spitzley added. "It's important to have other Council members take those positions. It's good for the city," and Spadafore would make a "good president. I'd really like someone who hasn't been a president in the past. It's a good opportunity for him."

Councilman Brian Jackson hasn't given the leadership selection much thought, but said he wouldn't be surprised if his colleagues have already privately formed an election plan ahead of next month's meeting. He said everyone — including himself — is qualified to serve as president and hasn't made any decisions on his vote.

Both Jackson and Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar, however, voted against Wood's second year as president in January after citing a need for "fresh perspectives." Dunbar didn't return multiple phone calls, but her and Jackson's stances seems unlikely to change should Wood look to maintain the presidency for yet another year.

Councilman Adam Hussain also said he isn't seeking a leadership position but is open to it. He offered to support "many" of his colleagues for the presi-

dency — including Spadafore — and anticipates that City Council will continue to see "new faces" in leadership positions over the next few years.

"Leadership is about ensuring teams stay together, working on problem solving important issues and empowering respective members for teams to use their significant talents to drive the ball down the field," Hussain added. "Consequently, I think it's important for teams to choose those individuals who will lead."

Councilman Jeremy Garza, who hasn't served in a leadership role, didn't return a call for comment.

The presidency also carries more than just ceremonial gavel authorities. Spadafore, if elected president, would be empowered to appoint committee members and control the city government agenda, ultimately deciding what specific issues land on the Council's radar and what issues can be delayed — perhaps indefinitely.

The vice president and president are also paid more than other Council members. The vice president is paid \$25,140 annually and serves largely as a placeholder to manage meetings in the president's absence. The president earns a salary of \$26,640. The other six Council members earn \$24,640 annually.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Council

from page 5

it the city's ordinance that restricts the number of dispensaries, while simultaneously ensuring more room for growers and processors to fuel an adequate supply to the medical and recreational market.

He's also open to finding room in the budget for a sustainability manager to combat the effects of climate change and reduce the city's dependence on fossil fuels. That conversation — spurred largely by continued support from Jackson — started and quickly died at the Lansing City Council dais during the last budget cycle.

"People vote on the winning side," Betz said. "I'm not speaking badly about my fellow Councilmembers, but that's what they're expressing. Everyone has some interest, even the mayor, in changing the way we do business. I'd like to at least open the door to a longer

and more robust conversation on some of these different topics."

While the City Council in recent years has rarely split on the various issues facing Lansing, some suggested that Betz' arrival at City Hall could encourage those with more moderate viewpoints to feel comfortable swinging more to the left. At the very least, Betz' political ideals are likely to add another liberal voice to the dialogue.

Garza said he enjoyed working with Washington, but said he and Betz can also agree on a lot of different issues. "I like his fire and his drive, and I don't think there'll be any sort of problematic dynamic on the City Council."

Despite the ambitious nature of Betz' campaign, however, it'll always take at least another four Councilmembers to climb on board with his progressive vision to find a majority and make any real changes. And Spadafore doesn't expect any shift to be swift.

"One vote can change the dynamic on some issues, but certainly not every issue," Spadafore added. "I don't think

we're going to see a drastic swing to the left on the 10th floor. We still have to adopt a budget. Trash collection is non-partisan. This isn't Washington. We're working on things that affect life on a day-to-day basis."

Spitzley labeled Betz as a "good fit" to serve as Washington's successor in a ward that is moving leftward.

"We have a lot more things in common than we thought," she said of Betz. "Like anybody on the Council, there are going to be times where we disagree, but I only worry about my own vote. We've discovered some shared passions about the city, and I think we'll work well together."

"The reality is that everyone thinks the job is one thing and then they actually get into the position and the job is totally different," Hussain added. "At the end of the day, people want better public services, cleaner neighborhoods and economic development. I don't think we'll see Council deviate much from those issues."

Washington, however, contended

that Betz ran an overly ambitious campaign and made far too many promises to prospective voters. She thinks his comparatively rigid stance against tax incentives will only work to slow economic growth in downtown Lansing and cautioned local residents about a "negative" shift looming ahead.

"He does have a lot to learn, and I think he'll learn it. He doesn't really know the city. He doesn't really know city politics. He's never been involved in a neighborhood group or anything like that," Washington argued. "He made some really big promises and that's OK, but now he has to find a way to actually keep those promises."

Betz, for his part, doesn't think he'll have any issues staying true to his progressive ideals during the transition.

"The people of Lansing spoke. They wanted an ambitious agenda and they're ready for some change," he said. "The campaign is over." Washington, he said, "has no say in what goes on in the city of Lansing anymore."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Washington vs. Morgan?

Outgoing Councilwoman eyes run against son-in-law for Ingham Co. Commissioner

Outgoing Lansing City Councilwoman Jody Washington is hinting at a bid for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners — in a race that could pit her against her son-in-law.

Incumbent Thomas Morgan, serving his first year, said that's news to him. Regardless, he said he plans to run for a second term in three years.

"It would make for an interesting race, to say the least," Morgan added.

Washington mentioned candidacies for the county commission and Lansing School Board as she wraps

up her second term on the Council. Newcomer Brendon Betz defeated her handily in the General Election last month.

The commission is "much bigger and you can leverage the entire county," Washington said. "But there are so many things. There's the school district. I love our school district, but we need some help there. I'm not so sure."

Unless Washington were to move, her residence in Lansing's First Ward would force her to run against Morgan.

Washington didn't return subsequent phone calls to further clarify her intentions but said earlier this week that she's not going away and will continue to do anything she can to improve the city of Lansing.



Washington



Morgan

"I love Lansing so much, which is why you're still going to hear from me," Washington said. "I'm not even sure that City Council was the best place to effectuate change. We're really limit-

ed because we have this strong mayor government. ... There are just so many things and so many organizations to get involved with."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Lansing joins effort to fix employee health benefits

Schor: Access to prescription medicine 'critical' for city staff

The City of Lansing this week joined Ingham County in its efforts to tweak employee health insurance benefits after officials discovered that name-brand HIV treatment and other drugs were excluded from coverage.

City Pulse last week reported on the "unconscious bias" that some county commissioners contended was embed-

ded within a self-funded employee health insurance pool that covers employees of Ingham County, Lansing and the Community Mental Health Authority. An investigation into the concerns continues.

Among the problems uncovered last week: Employees, without being forced to seek specific insurance exceptions and repeatedly disclose their private medical histories, are unable to access name-brand prescription medication for HIV and other doctor-prescribed

drugs that are designed to facilitate gender transitions.

And now officials in both Lansing and Ingham County are working to patch the coverage gaps.

"It's critical that people have access to the medicine they need," said Lansing Mayor Andy Schor in a statement.

Officials said this year's shift to a self-funded insurance pool is saving Ingham County about \$2 million annually, but the changeover also came with a new list of excluded medications. Among those are Botox, drugs to induce abortions, anabolic steroids, sexual dysfunction medication and other cosmetic items like hair growth products.

But, for reasons still unknown by county and city officials, that list also specifically prohibits name-brand HIV drugs and treatment for gender dysphoria. The results of an Ingham County

investigation into the issue is expected to be released this week and could shed more light on what solutions are available — and at what cost.

"Access to HIV medication already comes with unnecessary stigma and high

costs," said Lansing City Council Vice President Peter Spadafore, who raised the issue at Monday's Council meeting "because I wanted to make sure that our employees are provided the lifesaving medication they need without jumping through unnecessary hoops."

Name-brand HIV treatment medication, as officials previously explained, is often behind the curve of constantly evolving research on the virus. Drugs that aren't on the cutting edge of medical technology often include a host of negative side effects and can lend to substandard treatment for county and city employees.

And because the FDA has yet to formally approve any method of hormonal transition treatment for transgender patients, all medication for gender dysphoria is prohibited under the shared insurance plan as well. As a result, municipal employees have been cut off from accessing those drugs without a formal exception.

While Ingham County officials continue to investigate their next steps, officials in Lansing are also planning to begin searching for an alternative healthcare consultant as early as next month. City officials still can't promise that some medications won't remain excluded from future coverage, but efforts to bridge the gap are under way.

"We will not select a carrier that includes language that — for all intents and purposes — is discriminatory," said Lansing Deputy Mayor Samantha Harkins. "Sometimes, with the high cost of drugs, there will be things that are not covered, but we're not going to have something that includes this same list of exclusions for our employees."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

LETTERS to the editor

Tree yes, menorah no
 Whatever it's called, the "Christmas tree" is manifestly not a religious symbol, or it wouldn't be celebration central in December in the homes of upwards of 100 million American unbelievers.

The U.S. Constitution mandates separation of church and state (to the benefit of both, in my view). As a supporter of this separation, I would have a problem with a cross or a menorah on the capitol lawn. As a Christian I don't want us to do anything to open the door to a Satanist display.

My only objection to the Christmas tree is that is has become the center and symbol of a celebration of the wretched excesses of the capitalism that is destroying the very world we live on. An idol, worshiped by many,

albeit a secular one.
 If we must have this massive secular idol on the capitol lawn, let us not violate the Constitution by adding religious symbols to it.

Charles Haynes
Lansing

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages? Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800
- At lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column:
 Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
 PROBATE COURT
 COUNTY OF INGHAM
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 Decedent's Estate
 File No. 19-1424-DE**

Estate of Shirley Ann Gentes.
 Date of birth: 10/13/1935.
 TO ALL CREDITORS:
 NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Shirley Ann Gentes, died 05/15/2019. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Amy Grant, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

12/02/2019

Robert L. Refior II P43374
 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave. Ste. 5
 Lansing, MI 48910
 (517) 374-8890

Amy Grant
 446 North Barnes
 Mason, MI 48854
 (517) 604-0089 CP#19-353

Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting proposals for Demolition & Debris Removal and Asbestos Containing Material & Hazardous Materials Removal & Disposal. The Request for Proposal packet is available December 4, 2019 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 12pm on December 23, 2019 and will be opened at 12pm, December 23, 2019. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFP#: Demo-Abatement 12-2019

CP#19-350

2020 TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 19th day of November, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski
ABSENT:

Clerk Dreyfus revised the 2020 Board Meeting schedule, changing the proposed December 15th meeting to December 8, 2020. Clerk Dreyfus moved to accept the Board Meeting schedule as presented. Supervisor Styka seconded via request for Roll Call vote.

WHEREAS, the Township Board desires to announce the time, date, and place of all regular meetings of the Board, pursuant to MCL 42.7; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board deems the 2020 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Board's Policies and Procedures, and advance its Global Ends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan that the Township Board adopts its regular 2020 meeting schedule as follows:

Tuesday, January 7, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2020	6:00 P.M. Joint Meeting (Township Boards and Commissions)
Tuesday, February 4, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 18, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 31, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2020	6:00 P.M. Joint Meeting (School Districts & Local Governments)
Tuesday, April 21, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 16, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 6, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 1, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting (Budget Hearing & Deliberations)
Tuesday, September 15, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 8, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 22, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 5, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 1, 2020	6:00 P.M. Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2020	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting

2. Each of the above meetings shall be held at the specified time in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan (517) 853-4000, unless changed and noticed in accordance with MCL 15.265.

3. A summary of this resolution stating date, place, and time shall be posted in the Meridian Municipal Building within ten (10) days after the first regularly scheduled meeting of the year in accordance with MCL 15.265.

ADOPTED: YEAS: Supervisor Styka, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Jackson, Opsommer, Sundland, Wisinski

NAYS:

Resolution declared adopted.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 19th day of November, 2019.

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK
CP#19-352

Local media ignore peace effort, to our peril

By TERRY LINK

This fall a coalition of organizations from around the state hosted an all-day conference

OPINION here in East Lansing



on "Building a Peace Economy" where instead of spending \$100 million dollars for a single jet fighter we invest it in schools, medical care for all, or renewable energy. More than 100 gave up their Saturday to learn from several nationally recognized speakers as well as state and local activists, why and how the money pit that has grown for military spending might be redirected towards true community well-being and security. More than 300 others watched online and hundreds more have viewed it since. A year was spent moving the idea of such an event to reality, reaching out to many players along the way and with hopes of drawing participation from our elected representatives in DC, who would be home in Michigan on break. We wanted to hear what they thought of the ideas: What hurdles must be overcome? How can concerned citizens better effect change in policy?

We hoped for coverage in the news media, either before or after the event, to give the topic some visibility. All of this was for naught. Not one of our elected members of Congress nor any of their staff joined us. Not one media outlet we contacted well in advance and with follow-ups near the event contacted us or showed up to cover the event.

It would seem from these reactions that our elected officials are not comfortable discussing the blatant slush funds that revolve around military spending, even those who sit on committees that oversee that funding. The media in many cases has a shrinking news hole and concomitant shrinking staff, and national affairs like military spending are beyond their attention span. Yet, we continue to pour increasing cascades of tax dollars into this slush fund, much of which is unaccounted for. (See, for example, the work of MSU Economics Professor

Mark Skidmore, or the recent report on the increase in secret spending of the Pentagon to \$76 billion last year).

If our elected officials and the news media continue to ignore the allocation of our treasury to increase militarism, how will we ever begin to discuss building an economy that preserves the biosphere we depend on, while affording an equality of opportunity and economic security for all of the children, leaving no one behind? In 2017 all 193 member states of the United Nations agreed on a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals to collectively work towards by 2030. There is no doubt that the increasing expenditure of weaponry and militarism is antithetical to those globally agreed upon goals. As President and General Dwight Eisenhower so prophetically noted,

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

"This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities. It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population. It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals. It is some fifty miles of concrete pavement. We pay for a single fighter with a half-million bushels of wheat. We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people. ... This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

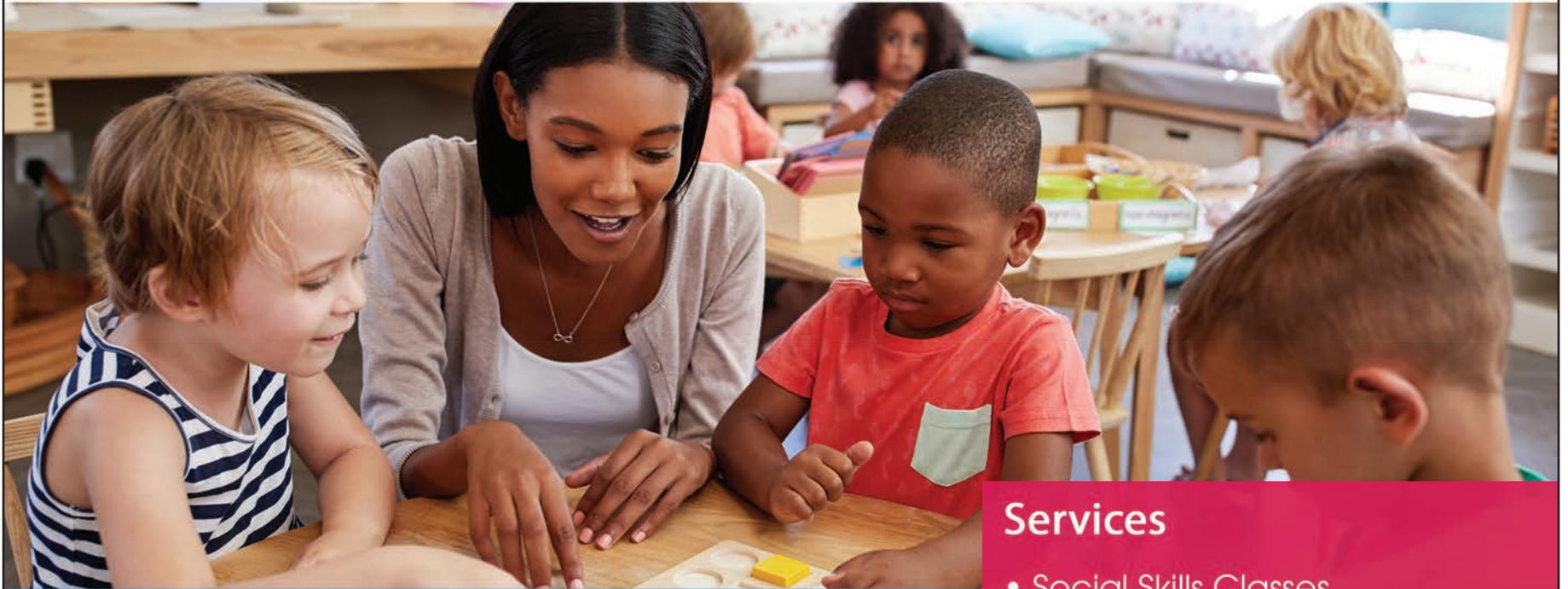
How do we get news media to look at this issue, or elect officials brave enough to publicly address it? Self-immolation by Buddhist monks helped direct world attention to the catastrophe of the Vietnam War, but we're not ready for that level of sacrifice yet. Tell us, please: When will this travesty become news?

(Terry Link is a consultant and founding director of the Office of Sustainability at Michigan State University.)



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7 thoughts from a long holiday weekend

No. 4: Trump's overlooked war on the poor

I spent Thanksgiving on a chilly, nearly deserted beach, trying to disconnect from work and politics and the world at large. I wasn't entirely successful; an idle mind can't help but ruminate. In any event, the news tsunami awaits the second you return. So instead of picking one story from the deluge to focus on, this week's column threads together several smaller thoughts — seven, as it turned out. Ready?

1. Donald Trump is better positioned in 2020 than you think. Yes, even though his approval rating is below 42%. Three reasons: 1)



JEFFERY G. BILLMAN

INFORMED
DISSENT

1974, Richard Nixon wouldn't have resigned. The key difference between Nixon's impeachment and Trump's isn't the strength of the case but Republicans' willingness to hold their party leader accountable. Gerrymandering and polarization are to blame, but so too is the right-wing propaganda machine that checks dissent and reinforces nonsensical and conspiratorial talking points. And so, for instance, Sen. John Kennedy, of Louisiana, could go on the Sunday shows last weekend to dissemble about Ukraine hacking the the DNC server without consequence, and Trump can complain about being shut out of the impeachment process even as he refuses to participate in hearings, and Fox News et al. will regurgitate this narrative to his base. Nixon was born a half-century too early.

2) the U.S. isn't expected to see a recession in 2020; and 3) the Electoral College tilts in Trump's favor.

2. If Fox News existed in

3. Trump's DOJ is a political tool. On Sunday, The Daily Beast published an interview with Lisa Page, the former FBI lawyer whom Trump has casually accused of treason because a) she was part of the investigation into Russian election interference, and b) she criticized Trump in text messages with Peter Strzok, an FBI agent with whom she had an affair. Next week, a Department of Justice inspector general report will reportedly clear Page and others of bias, but the damage is done. One anecdote from the Beast story: In December 2017, the night before Deputy Attorney

General Rod Rosenstein — then overseeing Robert Mueller's investigation — was to testify to Congress, a DOJ spokeswoman offered reporters a salacious, context-free selection of Page and Strzok's texts. In the two years since, Trump has relentlessly targeted Page as an avatar for the Deep State and demanded to know why she isn't in prison. At a rally in October, Trump simulated an orgasm as he mentioned her name.

4. Trump's overlooked war on the poor continues. While we're focused on impeachment, the Trump administration has been trying to gut assistance to low-income families. In December and July, the Department of Agriculture proposed two rule changes that would kick more than 3.7 million people off of food stamps. And then, in October, it proposed a third rule that would eliminate benefits for nearly 8,000 additional households while cutting benefits for 19 percent of households who receive them. (The public comment period for the first two proposals has ended; final rules are coming soon.) Meanwhile, the gap between rich and poor is the largest it's been in the 50 years since the U.S. Census Bureau began monitoring income inequality.

5. The Democratic primary? Who knows? If you'd asked me six months ago who the Dem nominee would be, I'd have said Kamala Harris, thinking she'd have the best chance of assembling a coalition of African Americans, women and establishment types. But she failed to launch, and last week, both the Post and The New York Times wrote postmortems for her campaign two months before the first votes. A month ago, I'd have said Elizabeth Warren. But she stumbled over her health care rollout (see no. 6) and now finds herself in a three-way tie for second (depending on the poll) with Bernie Sanders and Pete Buttigieg. Joe Biden remains stubbornly out in front (see no. 7).

6. The M4A fight is pointless. Warren's health care plan was derided by centrists as too ambitious (since it increases federal spending by \$20 trillion over a decade) and by left-wingers as not ambitious enough (since it doesn't eliminate private insurance until the third year). To my mind, that only illustrates the point that duking it out over the fine print is a fruitless exercise. Any progress on health care will require a) a Democratic president, b) a Democratic House and Senate, and c) a Democratic Senate willing to eliminate the filibuster. If you hit the trifecta, fine, then argue about how to phase out private insurance — and whether you can get the votes from a caucus that will include the likes of Joe Manchin. Until then, you're providing Trump with ammo and giving the base unrealistic expectations. Medicare for All is the best policy. A public option is a more attainable goal.

7. Joe Biden 2020 = John Kerry 2004. Ask me about the nomination today, and I'd tell you Biden might pull it off. Yes, he's clunky and corny. And yes, he has baggage and excites precisely no one. But he has as-yet-unrivaled support in the African American community — you don't win without it — and among party leaders. More important, he's viewed by many shell-shocked Democrats as the most electable candidate — the safest choice in a precarious election, a responsible, relatable, nice-guy contrast to Trump's circus act. Perhaps that's true. But it also reminds me of the underlying thesis behind John Kerry's campaign against George W. Bush 16 years ago: the reluctant war hero versus the chickenhawk, the intellectual wonk versus the uncurious doofus. Remember how that went? (See no. 1.)

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate File No. 19-1423-DE

Estate of John Richard Gentges.
Date of birth: 09/21/1935.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, John Richard Gentges, died 04/24/2018. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Amy Grant, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

12/02/2019

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CP#19-351

'Everything is here'

Melik Brown finds a home, Lansing finds a champion

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Melik Brown doesn't need a stage. The hood of his sweatshirt is a proscenium arch. His face and his voice supply the humor, drama, tenderness and anger, the lights and the shadows.

Lansing's one and only Metro Melik is the guiding force of LansingMade, a multi-pronged barrage of positive promotion and merchandise meant to shake Michigan's capital city out of its deep-seated inferiority complex.

But Metro Melik is only one facet of Melik Brown. He's been in plays and movies, had his own cable TV show, took a turn as a rapper and might have served you a chowder at the Soup Spoon Café back in the day. In a series of disturbing and funny one-man performances at the Robin Theatre, he shares his experiences as a black man living in America.

He often recedes into his hoodie and poses as the regular guy who's just like you and me — his least convincing role. "People tell me I have a theatrical way about me," he said with a shrug. "I don't know what that means."

To get a deeper feel for Brown and his love for Lansing, go to Casa de Rosado, the cozy community gallery on Mt. Hope.

There, you'll find a display of photographs he's taken over the past several years. They tell the story of a restless soul who has been to Paris, New York, Puerto Rico and many other places, but has decided, with open eyes, to settle in Lansing.

That's "settle in," not "settle for."

"People talk about, 'Lansing sucks,'" he said. "What do you mean? Get out of your house. We've got two rivers, we have a River Trail, four seasons, a Big 10 university and museum, an award-winning community college that's pretty much an art museum in itself."

The topic draws him out of his hood, stage front.

"Everything is here except marine biology," he said with a grin. "Equity theater. All kinds of music. You want to see a Broadway play without having a Manhattan apartment? You can get home by 11. You're 10 minutes away from a park, at the most, an hour away from a Great Lake. The secret of Lansing is it's all here, you just have to look around the corner."

Up in the sky

In a luminous photograph by Melik Brown at Casa de Rosado, downtown Lansing is awash in silver light. Even though the familiar Capitol dome and

"Flight"
by Melik Brown

Brown

from page 11

Boji Tower dominate the view, people ask Brown where the photo was taken. The angle is unusual and the city looks like a metropolis.

Photographs by Melik Brown

Dec. 7-8
Casa de Rosado
204 E. Mt. Hope Ave.,
Lansing
(517) 402-0282

“It took me a year to get this picture,” Brown said. “Planning, thinking, waiting for the perfect sunrise, getting

permission and access to the roof. I’m on Ottawa Street, straight up in the sky.”

The feeling that Lansing is home ripened gradually for Brown.

As a kid, he bounced around the country, living wherever his Air Force dad was stationed. His family ended up in Oscoda in northern Michigan.

A short stint at MSU studying hospitality management didn’t work out. Textbooks and tests didn’t suit his brain patterns.

“It wasn’t my bag,” he said. “My blood alcohol was higher than my grade point by the time I left.”

In the 1990s, he stuck around the Lansing area and worked at various service jobs. He sums up his 20s as “restaurant work, bad relationships, evictions from apartments — regular life stories.”

How old is he? “We don’t talk about that,” he said, making himself plural to shut the question down extra hard.

One day in 1993, he spotted a notice for a Riverwalk Theatre production of “West Side Story,” with open auditions. “I thought, maybe I’ll get the part of a tree,” he said. “I didn’t know it was an inner-city story. That’s how ignorant I am.”

Part of Brown’s message about Lansing is that it’s a city that gives you a shot, leaves you space to spread your wings. He wanted to try out for a show since his high school days in Oscoda, but never had the opportunity.

He showed up alone for auditions, with no idea what to expect. He watched more experienced applicants hand sheet music to their accompanists.

“I thought, ‘So that’s how you do it,’” he said.

In lieu of a prepared audition, he sang a pop tune he liked, Shai’s 1992 ballad “If I Ever Fall in Love.”

“It was years since I’d been in choir,” he said. “I could hold a note once I



Melik Brown kibitzes with his partner’s daughter, Evelyn, in “the nook,” the merchandise-crammed home of LansingMade, at 2722 E. Michigan Ave.

found it.”

But nobody warned him about the dancing.

“I’m looking at ladies in leotards, dudes stretching, and I’m like ‘I don’t belong here,’” he said.

Encouraged by jovial Riverwalk director Jeffrey Brenner, Brown gave it a try.

“It was jump, jump, turn around, jump,” he said. “They had a French name for it.”

He stumbled the first time and asked if he could go again. “The choreographer gave me a great welcoming smile and told me, ‘Sure,’” he recalled. “It wasn’t much better, but I felt a sense of accomplishment.”

When the cast list was posted, he was shocked to see his name in the chorus, just like people do in the movies.

It sounded like a perfect gig — stay out of the limelight, fake it if you need to.

But Brown has a knack for being in the right place, with eyes open. The actor cast as Pepe, friend to gang leader Bernardo, dropped out during rehearsals.

Meanwhile, Brown read the script and learned that the play was about racial conflict. He was already getting sucked in when Brenner asked him if

he wanted to play Pepe.

“I wanted to be a lamp post, and now I’m Pepe,” he cracked. After a rehearsal, he mentioned to Brenner that he had written a poem, “Rhythm of the Streets.” Brenner asked him over to his house to read the poem. He was so impressed he asked Brown to read it before each night’s performance, in addition to playing Pepe.

“All 12 performances,” he said. “I had a ball. I was terrified the whole time.”

Taking root

In the early 2000s, Brown put on rap shows at the Masonic Temple in Detroit, with dancers, DJs, a video crew and full-on choreography. In Lansing, he produced a public access cable show that featured standup comics, musicians and oddities like a man who built a hot rod tractor.

“We took a camera out into the parking lot and it shot flame,” he said. “I love that kind of stuff.”

He made industrial films. He took acting classes from C.L. Adams, who ran a modeling and acting school in the same East Side building on Michigan Avenue where Brown’s LansingMade merchandise “nook” is now nestled.

He popped up in a few movies, including “Eight Mile” (as an extra) and “The Elevator,” a TV production by Blind Squirrel Productions. Elizabeth Berkley of “Saved by the Bell” was also in the cast. When a bit player didn’t show up one day, Brown was promoted from extra to speaking role. He was handed a notebook and shouted out a question as part of a scrum of reporters being whisked into an elevator.

Little by little, he took root in Lansing. He bought a house, worked at the Soup Spoon and pursued his side projects. He was doing a routine shift at the cafe when a stranger fixed a penetrating gaze at him.

“You’re Melik, right?” the man said.

Brown was used to being recognized from his cable TV show and from his appearances on WLNS-TV, but this was different.

“It was like he was peering into the deepest, darkest recess of my soul, which was terrifying,” Brown recalled.

“You should meet my cousin,” the man said. “She’s ready to meet people.”

“Well, I’m not.” Brown had just gotten out of a bad relationship. “I had gray hair. I was done.”

But he made a date with the cousin,

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"To or Fro"
by Melik Brown

Brown

from page 12

Jessi Yeargin, anyway.

"I wasn't used to normal and it scared me," he said. Not too much, though. They have now been partners for three years and live on Lansing's west side with their 2-year-old son, Raiden, and Yeargin's two older kids, Gabriel and Evelyn.

While Brown and I talked in the LansingMade "nook," Yeargin and Evelyn popped in to visit. Brown handed Yeargin a bouquet of flowers he had stuffed onto a shelf crammed with Lansing sweatshirts. No occasion. There was a prolonged, soft rustle of hugs and murmurings in the hallway when Yeargin left.

"Dude, she lit up the room, right?" Brown said when he came back.

A photograph of Yeargin sitting in the window of an apartment in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, is featured in the Casa de Rosado show. Her white dress glows like cream against the ancient stucco. There is a fort in the middle ground and a wall of dark thunderheads in the distance.

Comes the storm

One of Brown's most personal projects is his series of one-man spoken word performances at the Robin Theatre.

He tells the story of Yeargin's troubled pregnancy with Raiden, not for its own sake, but as a vivid lesson in

what it's like to be black in America.

While pregnant with Raiden, Yeargin had a few serious health scares. One night, Brown went home to join them after his shift and he found her on the floor, unconscious.

In a flash, he thought: is she dead?

"Did I just meet this wonderful person, and then I have to go back and tell her kids Mommy's not here anymore?" he recalled.

In the same instant, a second needle of panic pierced his primary pain.

"And I'm black," he said. He laughed, but the laughter had an acidic burn.

"And I've got these cute little blond-haired kids sleeping in my apartment, with a white woman, possibly dead on my floor, and I got to call the police at 11 o'clock at night. I said to myself — and I'm being very frank — 'Nigger, you've got to get your story straight.'"

He tried to revive her. She stirred. He dialed 911.

"Hi. My name is Melik," he said, re-enacting the call. He barked the words as if the hearer were deaf. "I. Live. At. Such-and-such. It's my house. I found this situation. Send help I live here. I'm a black guy. This is where I live. My house. I live here."

He paused.

"Now here's another advantage of living in Lansing," he said. "I'm pretty sure some of the horrible things happening across the country aren't going to happen here. However ..."

The acid laugh bubbled back up.

Yeargin was prescribed bed rest. The night she went into labor, a wave of thunderstorms and tornadoes swept through the area.

Brown searched his phone for baby names that mean 'thunder and lightning.' He found Raiden, the god of thunder and lightning in Japanese Shinto mythology.

He found out later that it's also the name of a character in Mortal Kombat.

He shrugged. There was less acid in his laugh.

Time and chance

Brown's reputation as a storyteller has grown to the point where people ask him on short notice to do all kinds of public speaking gigs, often on short notice, because someone didn't show up or bowed out of an obligation.

He's not crazy about that.

"I'm not a jester," he said. "I don't show up and go 'durp de durp' for your entertainment. I'm comfortable in my house, sipping whiskey and watching a movie in my own dimly lit space."

Besides, LansingMade is spreading a lot of tendrils, with promotional videos, a network of partnerships with area businesses and more merchandise on the way, and the project is taking up more of his time.

But he will, with good cause, talk your ear off. He will gladly walk you through the photography exhibit at Casa de Rosado (providing Raiden is up from his nap), offer commentary on each image and "stop when you say stop."

One of the most striking pieces at the show is "Face of Rock and Roll," a concert photo of Verdine White, the original bassist of Earth, Wind and Fire.

White played at the Lansing Promise dinner at the Lansing Center a few years ago.

Brown had no interest in what he called "up the nose with boogers" views typical of concert photos. He captured White head on, in mid-riff, kicking up on one leg, with his hair whipping across his face. It's a dramatic image in its own right, but to Brown, White's hair-covered face symbolized his underserved obscurity in music history, and that of many black pioneers of rock.

Being in the right place and spotting opportunities others miss is Brown's formula for photography as well as life.

"It's a curse," he said.

"Don't" is a dark panorama of ice floes on Lake Huron at the exact moment the sun appeared over the horizon. The title refers to a sign warning people not to walk on the ice, which, of course, he did.

"Time and chance," he said. "You're driving down the road and you go, 'That's it.' You start driving crazy, you don't care where you park the car, you don't care if you get a ticket. I'll talk to you later, we'll have all day. I've got to do this."

Another photograph depicts a discarded note full of expletives left by an angry motorist in Detroit: "You fucking douchebag asshole, learn how to park your P.O.S. truck." Brown framed the note lovingly, as if it were a bouquet of roses.

By now, his laughter had brightened into a supersonic wheeze of pure amusement.

"Good luck editing all this."

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Adrienne Gelardi says quit your day job

Tips from an art entrepreneur for budding creatives looking to make the switch

By **AUDREY MATUSZ**

It's hard out here for an artist (or anyone) living in a capitalist society that values production over quality. Creative types looking to make the switch to self-employment perhaps struggle the most, owing to lack of guidance on topics such as basic business-to-business marketing strategies or how to file taxes. For that, one must rely on the wisdom of those who have crossed over before them.

Illustrator and muralist Adrienne Gelardi, 33, had Big City dreams that led her from her home town of Canton, Michigan, to Columbia College in Chicago, where she studied traditional animation. She is known in greater Lansing for bringing cheery murals with flowers and geometric patterns to almost 40 home exteriors in the area. However, this never would've happened if she had not left her job as a graphic designer at Dart Container to become a full-time artist in 2017.

"I'm not good at dealing with social situations that I'm not happy with," Gelardi said. "Being fake happy, which is something I felt like I had to do there, can be draining. There was no energy to pursue what I actually loved doing."

For five years, Gelardi overpowered the corporate blues by creating electric-colored designs for plates and cups, which were widely distributed in supermarkets such as Walmart and Meijer. She keeps unopened stacks of Solo plates in her basement

and proudly pointed out her abstract vulva design. The fact the layered, geometric design was picked up by a client and coincided with a release of a Star Wars film still amuses her.

However, with the birth of any stroke of genius come the pains of responsibility of maintaining the purity of your craft while pleasing patrons.

For commercial artists just starting to get their feet wet, Gelardi recommends a few basic tips to make the transition smoother.

#1 Have something to fall back on

Gelardi emphasized the need to have a cushion of savings loaded up before rage quitting a fulltime gig. She sees her steady years slinging paper plate designs as her key to stocking stacks.

With some peace of mind stored in the bank, Gelardi dived head first into working on projects that had gotten away from her as a corporate designer.

"When I first left, I was busy full time doing all these paintings," she said. "On top of that, more people were able to see me online."

#2 A necessary evil

One element of being a freelance artist that has been daunting for Gelardi is understanding taxes.

"I have to do my taxes five times a year, it's outrageous," she said. "When you work for an employer, they pay a portion of your employment tax. But when you are working for yourself you have to pay it yourself, and they



Audrey Matusz/City Pulse

Adrienne Gelardi in her studio working on a portrait of a client's pet.

expect you to pay it throughout the year."

Yes, the all and powerful "they" throw another hurdle into the journey for self-sufficiency. Gelardi recommends keeping track of business expenses (she uses Google spreadsheet) and hiring a specialist to help file your taxes.

"You are pretty much at their mercy. Either you wing it and likely get it wrong, or just go to someone," she said.

The second part of grappling with the money monster is finding ways to monetize passion projects.

"I know that I could pump out cheesy stuff that people would buy, but I'm trying not to do that," said Gelardi.

She said keeping a balance between her projects for clients and her projects "for funsies" often tilts to the side where there are more dollars to be had. However, she is nowhere short of creative ideas, which pushes her to find ways to bring them into fruition.

"I like really weird stuff. I want to do something really cutesy with demons. Kind of like a Lisa Frank style," Gelardi said.

#3 Perseverance in making plans

Gelardi said January to March tend to be slower months, which requires her to plan to ensure financial stability, but also opens a new window of time she can dedicate to building her online presence and passion projects.

Gelardi credits her time spent making bold patterns for paper plates to her latest enterprise of painting door murals. Less than two winters ago during a lull in business, she got the idea to cover the front door of her home in yellow chrysanthemums. Since then she's brought blasts of color and whimsical designs to nearly 40 doors in the Greater Lansing area and beyond.

"Passion projects are what furthers

your style," she said. "Painting my front door was a passion project that became my whole income because I did so well. So you need that time to generate new ideas. It's like a scientist working on a new theory. That's what creates innovation."

#4 Standing up for your art

As Gelardi's business began picking up steam and new customers came pouring in, so did the headaches. She said most of her clients are a dream to work with, but every so often you run into the person that is never pleased. Gelardi said it's not natural for her to be patient with the customer who routinely sends her back to the drawing board, but she has developed a few strategies to finish the job.

"I always explain how and why I'm making my choices," she said. "I always plan the materials I use. I think some people think we just show up day of and start painting whatever."

Gelardi added that in most cases a verbal agreement and sharing sources of inspiration usually results in a happy customer, but creating sketches and stating your purpose for materials and design elements can help put a client's mind at ease.

In addition to taking steps to ensure you won't have to compromise your vision based on a misunderstanding with a client, Gelardi's biggest tip of all is to never work for free.

Regardless if an artist is working part-time, helping out an acquaintance or making their living from their craft, she said taking a job purely "for exposure" is the greatest farce in the art world.

"A lot of younger, up-and-coming artists will work for free for exposure, but it makes it harder for everyone else," she said. "Bigger picture, it devalues art and I don't think people always see that."



Courtesy photo

Gelardi started painting doors as a hobby in 2019 and has painted 40 door murals in the Greater Lansing area.

Riverwalk's 'Charlie Brown' takes comic to new dimensions

The story holds up 52 years after the 'Peanuts' characters' theatrical debut

By **DAVID WINKELSTERN**

Any analysis of “You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown” might end up sounding like the “whaa, whaa, whaaas” spoken by adults in the “Peanuts” TV cartoon. As I type this review, I can’t get that distinctive horn blare out of my head.

Review

Riverwalk Theatre’s “Your A Good Man, Charlie Brown” musical includes authentic horn sounds and many familiar aspects from Charles M. Schulz’s “Peanuts” comic strips, which began in 1950. The musical — book, music and lyrics by Clark Gesner — had classic scenes of the baseball team, kite flying, Snoopy vs. the Red Baron, Schroeder’s masterful piano playing and Lucy’s “Psychiatric Help 5 Cents” booth. And no shortage of “Oh, good grief.”

The musical, originally premiered

in 1967, is a series of vignettes straight out of a Schulz comic strip. The singing and musicianship in the Riverwalk version take the production to higher levels.

Jeff English directs a capable, five-piece orchestra that is one of the stars of the show. Besides the 16-song accompaniments, English’s keyboard finesse is a full choir on its own. And when Schroeder pretends to play Beethoven and other masters, English effortlessly duplicates their skills.

English also plays recognizable tunes from the TV specials during intermission and after the encore.

All of the main “Peanuts” characters in “Charlie Brown” have voices that soar. Tricia Rogers as Lucy Van Pelt has an operatic prowess that commands your ears. The sextet blends well together and harmonizes splendidly.

Director Bob Purosky chose a suitable cast of characters. Even though the collection of eternal kids all have annoying traits and obvious adults play them, somehow an audience of kids and adults is made to enjoy them all.

Brian Farnham, with a full head of hair, replicates the depression and insecurities of Charlie Brown. Robert Mueller is the bossy and snooty Schroeder. Braden Cooley is the thumb



David Winkelstern/City Pulse

Cast of “Charlie Brown” backstage (left to right) Robert Mueller as Schroeder, Tricia Rogers as Lucy, Christopher Verhil as Snoopy and Braden Cooley as Linus.

sucking, blanket-obsessed Linus Van Pelt. Taren Going plays Sally Brown, the ditzzy, younger sister. Together with Rogers’ crabby Lucy, the troublesome group is genuinely charming.

Christopher Verhil’s Snoopy, even with a human nose with no black tip, often steals the show with goofy animations. His “Supertime” solo had the house making its own dog-like howls.

The minimal, moveable set embellished with drawings by Eric Chatfield is an adequate playground for the iconic figures. Snoopy’s dog house, featuring drop-down wings and a Sopwith Camel insignia, and Lucy’s booth were clever recreations. Oversized pencils, toothbrush and other props designed by Jean Burk and Gloria Vivalda, as well as projections of crayon drawings by July George Purosky added to the immersive experience.

Despite an almost-two-hour-with-intermission running time, “Charlie Brown” keeps all ages engaged. This was achieved through Purosky’s fast pace, the ever-changing scenarios and a Schulz-like ability to find humor in things like rejection, anxiety, self-doubt and bullying.

Youngsters react with glee to the silliness and slapstick. Adults are amused by the wit hidden in such antics. “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” has aged well and remains a god choice for families.

Cynical, adult critics might be bothered by a show with grown-ups in token disguises who try so hard to act like kids that they sometimes seem to play dumb instead of acting innocent. Most who see the popular production might think that’s just some whaa, whaa, whaaa from a blockhead.



Holiday Celebration

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2019

Holiday Happenings

Dec. 5 - Winter Wine & Stein at Potter Park Zoo

Sample delectable hors d'oeuvres and beer and wine from local restaurants on an illuminated "Wonderland of Lights" path around the zoo. Attendees must be 21 and over to qualify. \$25, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing Charter Township, MI 48912. (517) 483-4222, www.potterparkzoo.org

Dec. 6 -

Ten Pound Fiddle Holiday Sing

Seasonal, secular songs and a few hymns compose a warm evening of participatory music during the holidays for Ten Pound Fiddle's annual Holiday Sing concert. Vocals and accompaniment will be provided by Doug Berch, poet Ruelaine Stokes, Marzeih Ghiasi and Doug Austin on piano. Ten Pound Fiddle booking manager Sally Potter hosts. Lyric sheets provided. \$20, 7:30 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing (517) 337-7744, www.tenpoundfiddle.org

Dec. 7 -

East Lansing's Winter Glow

East Lansing's free outdoor winter festival will feature ice carving, horse and carriage rides, a special outdoor holiday farmer's market, a heated music tent, free family portrait with Santa and Mrs. Claus. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., 300 M. A. C. Ave, East Lansing (517) 337-1731 www.downtownel.com

Dec. 7 -

DAOM Heavy Metal Holiday Meltdown at The Avenue Café

The Dark Arts of Michigan closes out a year of sheer horror with a dense line up of entertainment including Tater Tot Noxious, Prince Marsallis, Veronica Lockhart, Leena Allure, Eartha Kitten, Caffeyne Luv and Darryn Storm. Two floors of vendors and readings at Triple Goddess Bookstore all night long. 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., \$10, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, facebook.com/

Dec. 7 -

Toys for Tots at Potter Park Zoo

An annual initiative to fill a moving truck with toys. Each person who brings in a new, unwrapped toy



Audrey Matusz/City Pulse

Dear Ollie greeting cards made by Sara Pulver were a hot item at Strange Matter Coffee Co.'s Holiday Market last week.

receives free admittance to Wonderland of Lights. 5 to 8 p.m., 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing Charter Township, MI 48912. www.potterparkzoo.org, (517) 483-4222

Dec. 7 -

Scrooge Scramble 5K and Holiday Hullabaloo in Old Town

Around 400 runners will participate

in a 5K "Scrooge Scramble" while Old Town businesses transform with Holiday goods and more for its annual Holiday Hullabaloo. Santa will be visiting as well.

10 a.m. to 7 p.m., 1232 Turner St., Lansing (517)-485-4283, www.iloveoldtown.org

Dec. 7 -

Phil Denny Christmas Show

National saxophonist Phil Denny puts his spin on Christmas classics and performs original music at this family friendly seventh annual event. Denny also welcomes trumpeter, songwriter and bandleader, Ryan Montano, Detroit's rare jewel vocalist Gwen Foxx and guitarist Wayne Gerard, who rounds out the list with elements of rock, blues, Hip-Hop, punk, funk and jazz.

7 p.m., \$28, Margaret Livensparger Theater, 5885 W. Holt Road, Holt hhs-theaterprogram@gmail.com, www.pdcc.brownpapertickets.com

Dec. 7 -

REO Town Neighborhood Holiday Pop Up

Fifty different vendors in eight storefronts unite for this holiday pop up. Goods range from local roasted coffee to wreaths and knitted apparel.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., REO Town, 1027 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

Dec. 7 -

Williamston Holiday Light Parade

With illuminated floats and vehicles, a marching band and tree lighting, check out Williamston's annual Holiday Light Parade with area businesses open extended hours. There will also be a costume contest with the winner receiving a stocking filled with Living Arts goodies and candy.

4 p.m., 201 School St., Williamston (517) 655-1549, www.williamston.org

Dec. 7 & Dec. 21 -

Contra and Square Dance at Central United Methodist Church

All dances taught - no partner needed. Wear loose clothes, comfortable shoes, and be prepared to have a good time! Come early - at 6:30 - for a quick

See Happenings, Page 17



GREEN FRIDAY

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The Grace Holiday Party & Jenna Kator Trunk Show
Fri. Dec. 6th 5pm-8pm

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Grace Boutique of Old Town
509 E. Cesar E Chavez Ave
(517) 927-8628



2019
Holiday Happenings

Happenings

from page 16

workshop on easy contra dance moves. 7 to 10 p.m., \$12, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, tenpoundfiddle.org, (517) 614-5858.

Dec. 7 - Night Lights Christmas Parade and Festivities in Grand Ledge

Grand Ledge celebrates its Christmas tree lighting with a parade of floats and festivities starting from the Grand Ledge Fire Barn, 500 N. Clinton St., down Bridge Street. The Grand Marshal is Jill Mangrum, recently retired principal of Grand Ledge High School. 7 p.m. Grand Ledge Chamber, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge (517) 627-2383, www.grandlege.org

Dec. 10 - FALCOERS Sensory-Friendly Wonderland of Lights

Thousands of lights will create extraordinary animal exhibits and holiday displays designed for people with unique challenges. Registration for free admission to the zoo and activities ends Dec. 9 at midnight. 5 to 8 p.m., 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing Charter Township, MI 48912. (517) 483-4222, www.potterparkzoo.org

Dec. 13 - Holiday arrangement workshop at Where the Wild Things Bloom

Weave, trim and arrange the ideal holiday centerpiece with evergreens, pinecones, red roses and holiday trim. The event is food and alcohol friendly. 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., \$40, Where the Wild Things Bloom, 523 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing (517) 253-8519, www.wildthingsbloom.com

Dec. 13 - Caroling with LUVS in Moores Park neighborhood

Join the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle for an evening of caroling, community, and holiday spirit in the Moores Park neighborhood! All faiths, backgrounds and identities are welcome, and the LUVS will select a sackful of holiday tunes to share!

7 p.m., 400 Moores River Drive, Lansing, [facebook.com/517LUVS](https://www.facebook.com/517LUVS)

Dec. 14 - Holiday Sing-A-Long with Carrie Quisenberry at MSU Community School

Carrie Quisenberry will lead a sing-along for folk enthusiasts from ages 3 to 13 and their family. 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing, tenpoundfiddle.org, (517) 974-3751.

Dec. 14 - Terri Davis-Hayden Christmas Cabaret at UrbanBeat

You're invited to "A Davis Family Christmas" featuring performances by the vocally-inclined bunch including Terri Davis-Hayden, Mike "Mr. Entertainment" Davis and Jeff Davis. 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., 1213 Turner St., Lansing, urbanbeatevens.com, (517) 331-8440

Dec. 20-22 - Holiday Cheer at Riverwalk Theatre

Directed by Meghan Eldred-Woolsey, the Holiday Cabaret will feature local performers singing classic Christmas songs alongside the John Dale Smith Trio and dancers from Karyn's Dance Place.

7 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m., \$15, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing (517) 482-5700, www.riverwalktheatre.com

Dec. 21 - Storytime & Cinnamon Rolls with Santa at All!ve

A classic Christmas tale read by a storyteller and special guest, wish list making and cinnamon rolls. Families are encouraged to wear Christmas pajamas to this event. 10 a.m. to noon, \$25-\$30, 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, (517) 541-5800

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve Salsa Party at UrbanBeat

Back by popular demand, dinner starts at 8 p.m. Salsa lessons for those who wish to partake will be given after dinner. 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., 1213 Turner St., Lansing, urbanbeatevens.com, (517) 331-8440



Chris Purchis

Aral Gobble plays Bob Bennet, a foley sound effects artist tasked with being the sole performer in a Christmas radio show.



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CURTAIN CALL

Williamston Theatre reinvents Christmas classic

By MARY CUSACK

Williamston Theatre has a history of producing outstanding plays designed to cultivate good cheer for the holiday season. Past productions included two unique variations of the Charles Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol." One was told from Jacob

Marley's point of view, another revisited Scrooge 15 years after the events of "Carol," as he experiences his last Christmas. This year, Williamston Theatre adds to that rich history by presenting "A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show."

The play takes place on Christmas Eve 1947 at an aptly named radio

Review

"A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show"

Through Dec. 22
\$10-28
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
(517) 655-7469
www.williamstontheatre.org

station, WXMS. As per tradition, the station is supposed to present a live production of "A Christmas Carol," but all of the radio talent are snowed in. Fortunately, Bob Bennett (Aral Gobble), the foley sound effects artist responsible for the soundtrack, is able to make it to the station. Bob insists the show must go on, and, along with an unseen sound board operator, he launches into a one-man performance.

Playwright David Albert wastes little time setting up the premise and doesn't fall back on farce. Instead of making Bob a bungling goof, Albert has created a script that allows a skilled actor to shine in the role. Gobble is such an actor. He has proved in past productions, such as Williamston's "Greater Tuna" in 2010, that he can juggle multiple characters and change between them in quick succession. This skill is imperative to the success of this one-man show.

Not only does Gobble need to juggle characters, he also has to

juggle instruments as he performs the script. Gobble deftly works the many tables, racks and machines of noisemaking, which also provides the audience with an education of the ingenuity and simplicity of foley sound effects artists.

A box of corn starch makes footsteps crunching through snow, a bit of cellophane makes a warm crackling fire and a tin can strung with a leather lace makes a creepy creaking door when twisted just right. It is tempting to close one's eyes and experience the play as it is supposedly meant to be heard, but to do so would mean missing Gobble's gleeful gleam.

In addition to Michelle Raymond's complex prop design, Kirk Domer has created a lush set, adorned in warm gold tones and a rich red drapery that create a cozy and Christmas-y environment. The lighting design by Dustin Miller is at first subtle, but as the story rushes headlong toward the Christmases yet to come, the lighting intensifies along with Scrooge's horror. This scene is critical in providing the play with the right amount of tension and gravitas that keeps the play from being just a fluffy bit of fun.

In the end, however, the play is great fun. Because this is a "live" radio show, there is no intermission. Like the Energizer bunny, Gobble goes and goes for 80 minutes non-stop, fueled in part by the energy from the audience. The conceit of a live radio show allows the audience to play a role in the show, as the audience of the live broadcast. As such, be prepared to applaud on cue and study up on famous Tiny Tim quotes.

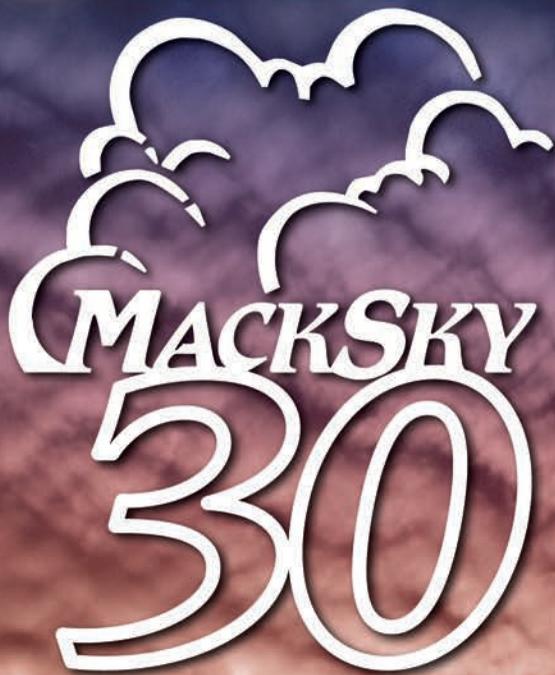


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Susan Skarsgard goes back to the future of GM Tech Center

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Amazon, Facebook, Google and Microsoft like to think they conceived the idea of a corporate campus. However, in 1956 when the General Motors Technical Center in Warren opened, it was arguably the first corporation in the United States to centralize its design and product development in one location.

Not only was the Tech Center concept an expensive proposition, but General Motors also took the risk of engaging the then 38-year-old Eero Saarinen as the lead architect. Of course, Saarinen would go on to become one of most influential architects and furniture designers of the 20th century, but at the



Skarsgard

time, he had never taken on a project of this scope.

“Where Today Meets Tomorrow: Eero Saarinen and the General Motors Technical Center,” written by Susan Skarsgard, takes readers

on a journey back in time to examine the concept, design and construction of the GM Tech Center and what today is still considered an architectural model.

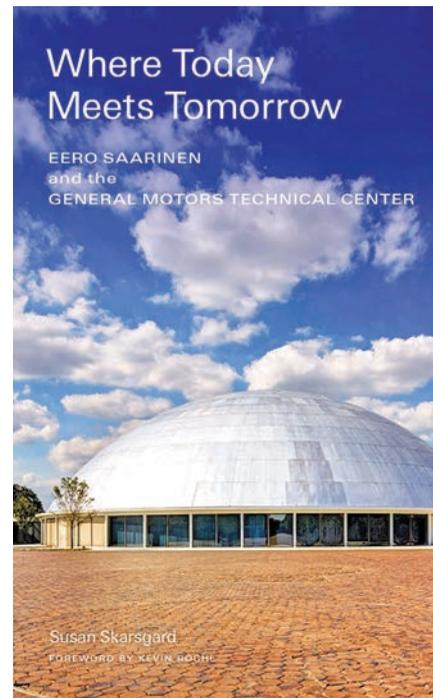
She writes about how leading up to the appointment of Saarinen, there was an internal dispute about hiring an untested architect. Initially, corporate leaders leaned toward Albert Kahn, who designed GM’s Detroit corporate headquarters and numerous other GM facilities.

Skarsgard started as a designer for General Motors specializing in car emblems and type design and jumped at the opportunity to become the founder and first director of the GM Design Archive and Special Collections — a post she held until her recent retirement.

The author has an intriguing background outside of her GM career and is known internationally for her calligraphy, artist’s books and original lettering design.

Skarsgard said she made the choice of researching and writing the book, rather than designing it, after working on the Tech Center’s 50th anniversary celebration in 2006.

For that, Skarsgard opted for a one-of-a-kind artist’s book replete with mechanical pop-ups. Ten years later it



would serve as the inspiration for her to take on the daunting project of writing a book on the GM Tech Center, a paean to Modernism.

“The project indirectly led to a big change in my career,” Skarsgard said.

The book shows Saarinen left no design element on the campus to chance, applying his design skills right down to the silverware to be used in the executive dining room. Some of the Saarinen design elements such as the “tea cup” desk in a lobby, the “wall of water” and the Alexander Calder sculpture have been included in other modern design books. Skarsgard’s collection of photographs feature never-before-seen elements, such as sketches for the dome-shaped aluminum clad Styling Auditorium.

The reason the vast majority of the campus’ futuristic design elements have never been seen is the campus is

off-limits to the public in order to guard its top-secret design work. During planning for the Tech Center, GM purposely decided on a 183-acre, out-of-the-way farm to locate its corporate campus. The campus now sprawls over 813 acres.

Skarsgard starts the book with a concise, well-written chapter on the history of General Motors and its corporate leaders. It’s just enough to give readers not familiar with the history of the auto industry in Michigan an understanding of how the corporation grew.

Skarsgard writes in the book that Saarinen may have been influenced by the GM Futurama Exhibit at the 1939 World’s Fair, which attracted an estimated 5 million visitors and was designed by noted designer Norman Bel Geddes. Saarinen had worked as a draftsman on the project for Geddes.

The book’s chapter on Saarinen is heavily illustrated with sketches and design illustrations and is worth lingering over. For instance, it shows how Saarinen created individual designs for each of the five different lobbies to create a distinctive look. Dominating each lobby is a spectacular staircase which ranged in design from cantilevered to spiral.

The dedication of the Tech Center in 1956 was such a big deal that it has its own chapter. The week-long dedication included a National Broadcasting Co. TV special hosted by Dave Garroway and was broadcasted by radio and TV star Arthur Godfrey. However, they were overshadowed in history by President Dwight Eisenhower’s keynote speech at dedication ceremony May 16, 1956. Despite that, the real focus became the incredible structures and their groundbreaking designs.

Saarinen had utilized the services of top flight designers like Florence Knoll, Alexander Girard and Harry Bertioia to blend all the design elements into one cohesive statement.

In the closing of her outstanding book, Skarsgard writes, “An awareness of the architectural significance of this campus is a value that has been handed down from one generation of its inhabitants to the next.”

She said she is proud to have been a part in creating the Tech Center’s archives.

“When we started we had 100 design sketches and today that number exceeds 20,000 and growing,” Skarsgard said. “It was a huge amount of information to winnow down.”

SCHULER BOOKS

STORY TIME W/ MICHAEL WOODWORTH December 7 · 11am

Local author Michael Woodworth will be reading his newest title, *The Crab*, at storytime! Joining him will be the book’s illustrator Morgan Ferland. A signing will follow. These gorgeous picture books make great holiday gifts. Join us for story time and activities.

STORYTIME W/ MRS. CLAUS December 14 · 11am

Mrs. Claus is taking a break from helping Santa and is joining us for storytime! Stop in and enjoy some holiday stories straight from the North Pole.

BOOK SIGNING W/ RICHARD P. SMITH December 16 · 2pm

Join us for a signing with award winning outdoor writer, photographer and speaker Richard P. Smith.

SCHULER BOOK CLUB December 18 · 6pm

Join us monthly for the Schuler Book Club—a great way to create community, and engage with new books. Stop in our store for this month’s book to get started.

SchulerBooks.com / Event
Meridian Mall · Okemos

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the chimney with care
knowing a book would
fit perfect in there!*



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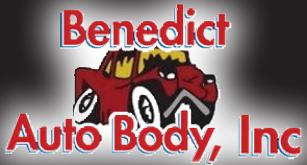
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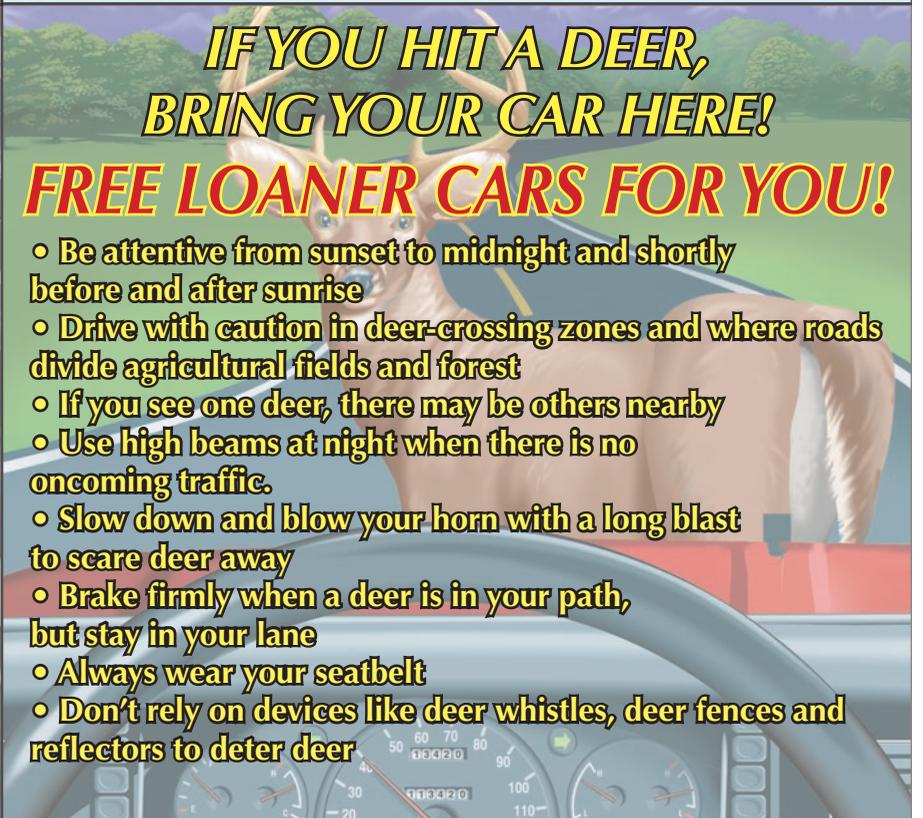


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- Slow down and blow your horn with a long blast to scare deer away
- Brake firmly when a deer is in your path, but stay in your lane
- Always wear your seatbelt
- Don't rely on devices like deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors to deter deer

OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, December 4

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aqua Fitness - Fun for all fitness levels. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Five Elements Tai Chi & Qigong for Grief & Loss - 3:45-5 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot, East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Kids' Robot Zone (Ages 5-8) - Learn with our iPad-controlled robots. 4-5 p.m. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 N. Aurelius Rd., Holt.

Line Dance Lessons - 7-9 p.m. Overdrive Lansing Mall, 5330 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

Queer Family Storytime (Ages up to 6) - Featuring stories about LGBTQ families. 10:30-11:30 a.m. CADL South, 3500 S. Cedar, Lansing.

Rock n' Read Storytime - Combines books, music and movement. 10:30-11 a.m. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

EVENTS

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. with live music at 5 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Brain Injury Association Capital Area Chapter Support Group - 6-8 p.m. Peckham Inc, 3510 Capital City Blvd., Lansing.

Cookie Decorating & Reindeer Visit (All ages) - Enjoy hot chocolate outside, then come in for cookie decorating. 4-6 p.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. cadl.org

FOHL Holiday Bazaar - Unique gifts by local artists. 12-4 p.m. The Bookend, Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

Holiday Open House & Reindeer Visit (All

ages) - 7-9 p.m. CADL Holt - Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. cadl.org

Holiday Open House & Reindeer Visit (All ages) - 5-6:30 p.m. CADL Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

Lansing Area Mindfulness Community - 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S MLK Blvd., Lansing. 517-420-5820. lamc.info.

Line Dancing - No partner or experience needed. 1-2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Seeds of Growth Meditation - 6:30-8:30 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

ARTS

The Rainmakers Exhibit - 12-4 p.m. daily. 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-6073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Relief/Linocut Printmaking & Spreading Ideas - 4:30-6 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Teen Wheel - 6:30-8 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Tween Wheel - With Gabby 4:30-6 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Thursday, December 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aqua Fitness - Fun for all fitness levels. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

EVENTS

25th Annual Wonderland of Lights - Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222.

69th Athenian Luncheon and Bake Sale - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1701 E. Saginaw St., Lansing

Bath Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Rd, Bath. bathtownship.us.

FOHL Holiday Bazaar - Unique gifts by local artists. 12-6 p.m. The Bookend, Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

The Future - Talk about the future. 10-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Gift of Heart - Offering support for parents of foster children or adopted. 6-8 p.m. Allve, 800 W Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. www.myalive.com.

Lansing Grassroots Philosophy - discussion group. 6:30-8 p.m. Kelly's Downtown, 220 S Washington Square, Lansing.

Participatory Budget Nights - Join Mayor Schor for a discussion to understand the City Budget process. 6:30-8 p.m. Lansing City Hall, 124 W Michigan Ave, Lansing.

Social Hour at Michigrain - with Thought Club, a social club for queers. 6-9 p.m. 523 E Shiawassee St, Lansing. 517-220-0560. thethoughtclub.com.

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

ARTS



Old Town's SantaCon 2019

For 25 years, cities around the world have participated in this absurdist holiday celebration. The epic convention of Santas will take place locally in the form of a bar crawl starting at Zoobies Tavern (1200 N. Larch St.) at 6 p.m. and ending at Spiral Dance Bar (1247 Center St.) around midnight.

The rules are simple. Come dressed in full Santa gear (suits are available at Party City for \$25) and don't make

Santa look bad. The organizers of the event remind participants that Santa does not get arrested for being drunk in public, he also doesn't "make children cry" or "throw gifts" at others.

SantaCon officially started in San Francisco in 1994, inspired by a Mother Jones article about a Danish theatre troupe. In its original form, 35 members of the Cacophony Society, a group of San Franciscan surrealist artists, began a parade full of bearded, red and white clad folks to shock people on the street

and shake up typical Christmas expectations.

The Cacophony Society got the idea from a 1977 article in Mother Jones magazine about a four-day demonstration by Solvogen, a socio-politically charged anarchist theater group based in Denmark. The Danish group formed a Santa Claus Army advocating for radical generosity which came to a climax inside one of Copenhagen's largest department stores when the band of Santas began handing out presents to customers directly off the shelves. What remains from the demonstration are photos of police taking the presents out of people's hands and arresting the Santas. Since then, Santacon.nyc markets the global holiday event as a chance for adults to "spread absurdist joy."

Other participating bars for Old Town's SantaCon are The Grid, Unicorn Lounge, UrbanBeat, Ozone Brewhouse, Sir Pizza and Spiral Dance Bar. This event is not for children. For more details on SantaCon at large visit santacon.info/about.html.

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

Learn 517 - Lesson - 1:30-3 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.

TOS-CAPS - 3-6 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown - 7-9:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

MUSIC

Concert Orchestra - MSU Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. music.msu.edu.

Friday, December 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aqua Fitness - Fun for all fitness levels. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

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

Line Dance Lessons at Overdrive - All ages welcome. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Overdrive Lansing Mall, 5330 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing. 517-331-2701.

EVENTS

25th Annual Wonderland of Lights - 5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222.

Festivals of Lights (All ages) - From Deepavali to Hanukkah, Yule to Christmas. 4-6 p.m. CADL South, 3500 S Cedar, Lansing.

FOHL Holiday Bazaar - Unique gifts by local artists. 12-4 p.m. The Bookend, Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

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

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

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

Warren Miller Ski Movie - Hosted by Lansing's Jug and Mug Ski Club. 6-9 p.m. Okemos High School, 2800 Jolly Rd., Okemos. 517-663-1854.

ARTS

Friday Clay Lab - 4:30-6:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown - 8-10:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

MUSIC

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

The Steiner Chorale presents Vivaldi's Gloria - 8-10 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot, East Lansing. steinerchorale.org.

Teen Studio: Portfolio - 3-6 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

FRIDAY, DEC. 6 >> TEN POUND FIDDLE HOLIDAY SING



Seasonal, secular songs and a few hymns make for a warm evening of participatory music during the holidays at Ten Pound Fiddle's annual Holiday Sing concert. Vocals and accompaniment will be provided by Doug Berch, poet Ruelaine Stokes, Marzeih Ghiasi and Doug Austin on piano. Ten Pound Fiddle booking manager Sally Potter hosts. Lyric sheets provided.

7:30 p.m. \$20
MSU Community Music School
4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing
(517) 337-7744
tenpoundfiddle.org

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"I Before E?"—
—which way
is it?

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Fraud-monitoring agcy.
- 4 Deprive of weapons
- 9 Judge's seat, in court
- 13 Boxer botherer
- 14 "London Warsaw New York" musician born in Poland
- 15 "Shepherd Moons" singer
- 16 2019 debaters, for short
- 17 "Gloves are off"
- 18 Unit of gold or silver?
- 19 Reattaches a tomato to a plant (but in a messy way)?

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14						15			
16					17						18			
19					20						21			
		22						23				24		
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51				52		53			54		55			
56			57					58	59				60	61
62						63					64			
65						66					67			
68						69					70			

- 22 Grammy-winning bossa nova musician Gilberto
- 23 Source of some milk
- 24 Big expense in blockbuster films
- 25 Freudian topic
- 27 "___ one, think that ..."
- 30 Drum teacher's session
- 32 Actor who's all about the money?
- 35 "Horrors!"
- 36 Lennon partner
- 37 "Incoming golf ball!"
- 41 Autobiographies, two by two?
- 46 Light benders
- 49 Part of the mnemonic HOMES
- 50 Wall-E's love interest
- 51 Common Market abbr., once
- 52 Bedroom furniture wood
- 54 Romanov royal of Russia
- 56 Roll call on a ship?
- 62 "Person of the Year" awarder
- 63 "The Many Loves of ___ Gillis"
- 64 ___ Yun (performing arts company with ubiquitous ads)
- 65 Strait of Hormuz country
- 66 Golf equipment
- 67 Like mud or slime
- 68 '99 Luftballons" German singer
- 69 Nine Inch Nails founder Reznor
- 70 #1 concern?
- 57 "Just Dance"
- 58 1949 alliance
- 6 Professional org.
- 7 Public uprisings
- 8 It has a round cover
- 9 Wally's TV brother, with "the"
- 10 Hijinks
- 11 "Us" actress Lupita
- 12 Entered
- 13 "Fireside chat" monogram
- 20 Depilatory brand with "short shorts" ads, once
- 21 Window shopper, essentially
- 25 Tiny unit of work
- 26 Formerly Portuguese Indian territory
- 28 Natural gas add-in
- 29 Step in the shower?
- 31 Online financial services company focused on student loans
- 33 "House" actor Omar
- 34 American-born former queen of Jordan
- 38 Winter footwear
- 39 Lovejoy on "The Simpsons," e.g.
- 40 Point opposite NWN
- 42 In a wild way
- 43 Emphatic words after "There!"
- 44 Survival group?
- 45 Grateful Dead bassist Phil
- 46 Gel in jellies
- 47 Bring back on
- 48 Val Kilmer, in "Top Gun"
- 53 Boxed soup and bouillon brand
- 55 He was famous for fables
- 57 Pro wrestler John
- 58 Orchestra's tuning instrument
- 59 Swede's neighbor
- 60 Cold-___ (zinc-based brand)
- 61 At ___ cost

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Answers Page 25

SUDOKU

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

Intermediate

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 25

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Dec. 4 - Dec. 10, 2019

ARIES (March 21–April 19): In composing this oracle, I have called on the unruly wisdom of Vivienne Westwood. She's the fashion designer who incorporated the punk esthetic into mainstream styles. Here are four quotes by her that will be especially suitable for your use in the coming weeks. 1. "I disagree with everything I used to say." 2. "The only possible effect one can have on the world is through unpopular ideas." 3. "Intelligence is composed mostly of imagination, insight, and things that have nothing to do with reason." 4. "I'm attracted to people who are really true to themselves and who are always trying to do something that makes their life more interesting."

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): "I'm drowning in the things I never told you." Famous make-up artist Alexandra Joseph wrote that message to a companion with whom she had a complicated relationship. Are you experiencing a similar sensation, Taurus? If so, I invite you to do something about it! The coming weeks will be a good time to stop drowning. One option is to blurt out to your ally "all" the feelings and thoughts you've been withholding and hiding. A second option is to divulge just "some" of the feelings and thoughts you've been withholding and hiding—and then monitor the results of your partial revelation. A third option is to analyze why you've been withholding and hiding. Is it because your ally hasn't been receptive, or because you're afraid of being honest? Here's what I suggest: Start with the third option, then move on to the second.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): I've got some borderline sentimental poetry to offer you in this horoscope. It may be too mushy for a mentally crisp person like you. You may worry that I've fallen under the sway of sappy versions of love rather than the snappy versions I usually favor. But there is a method in my madness: I suspect you need an emotionally suggestive nudge to fully activate your urge to merge; you require a jolt of sweetness to inspire you to go in quest of the love mojo that's potentially available to you in abundance. So please allow your heart to be moved by the following passage from poet Rabindranath Tagore: "My soul is alight with your infinitude of stars. Your world has broken upon me like a flood. The flowers of your garden blossom in my body."

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Try saying this, and notice how it feels: "For the next 17 days, I will make ingenious efforts to interpret my problems as interesting opportunities that offer me the chance to liberate myself from my suffering and transform myself into the person I aspire to become." Now speak the following words and see what thoughts and sensations get triggered: "For the next 17 days, I will have fun imagining that my so-called flaws are signs of potential strengths and talents that I have not yet developed."

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): An interviewer asked singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen if he needed to feel bothered and agitated in order to stimulate his creativity. Cohen said no. "When I get up in the morning," he testified, "my real concern is to discover whether I'm in a state of grace." Surprised, the interviewer asked, "What do you mean by a state of grace?" Cohen described it as a knack for balance that he called on to ride the chaos around him. He knew he couldn't fix or banish the chaos—and it would be arrogant to try. His state of grace was more like skiing skillfully down a hill, gliding along the contours of unpredictable terrain. I'm telling you about Cohen's definition, Leo, because I think that's the state of grace you should cultivate right now. I bet it will stimulate your creativity in ways that surprise and delight you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Poet Juan Felipe Herrera praises the value of making regular efforts to detox our cluttered minds. He says that one of the best methods for accomplishing this cleansing is to daydream. You give yourself permission to indulge in uncensored, unabashed fantasies. You feel no inhibition about envisioning scenes that you may or may not ever carry out in real life. You understand that this free-form play of images is

a healing joy, a gift you give yourself. It's a crafty strategy to make sure you're not hiding any secrets from yourself. Now is a favorable time to practice this art, Virgo.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): In accordance with current astrological omens, here's your meditation, as articulated by the blogger named Riverselkie: "Let your life be guided by the things that produce the purest secret happiness, with no thought to what that may look like from the outside. Feed the absurd whims of your soul and create with no audience in mind but yourself. What is poignant to you is what others will be moved by, too. Embrace what you love about yourself and the right people will come."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): "I swear I became a saint from waiting," wrote Scorpio poet Odysseus Elytis in his poem "Three Times the Truth." According to my reading of the astrological omens, you may be in a similar situation. And you'll be wise to welcome the break in the action and abide calmly in the motionless lull. You'll experiment with the hypothesis that temporary postponement is best not just for you, but for all concerned.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): "My greatest asset is that I am constantly changing," says Sagittarian actress and activist Jane Fonda. This description may not always be applicable to you, but I think it should be during the coming weeks. You're primed to thrive on a robust commitment to self-transformation. As you proceed in your holy task, keep in mind this other advice from Fonda. 1. "One part of wisdom is knowing what you don't need anymore and letting it go." 2. "It is never too late to master your weaknesses." 3. "If you allow yourself, you can become stronger in the very places that you've been broken." 4. "The challenge is not to be perfect. It's to be whole." P.S. And what does it mean to be whole? Be respectful toward all your multiple facets, and welcome them into the conversation you have about how to live.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): You can't escape your past completely. You can't loosen its hold on you so thoroughly that it will forever allow you to move with limitless freedom into the future. But you definitely have the power to release yourself from at least a part of your past's grip. And the coming weeks will be an excellent time to do just that: to pay off a portion of your karmic debt and shed worn-out emotional baggage.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Aquarian playwright August Strindberg didn't have much interest in people who "regurgitate what they have learned from books." He was bored by stories that have been told over and over again; was impatient with propaganda disguised as information and by sentimental platitudes masquerading as sage insights. He craved to hear about the unprecedented secrets of each person's life: the things they know and feel that no one else knows and feels. He was a student of "the natural history of the human heart." I bring Strindberg's perspective to your attention, my dear one-of-a-kind Aquarius, because now is a perfect time for you to fully embody it.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): "It's no fun being in love with a shadow," wrote Piscean poet Edna St. Vincent Millay. And yet she indulged profusely in that no-fun activity, and even capitalized on it to create a number of decent, if morose, poems. But in alignment with your astrological omens, Pisces, I'm going to encourage you to fall out of love with shadows. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to channel your passions into solid realities: to focus your ardor and adoration on earthly pleasures and practical concerns and imperfect but interesting people.

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

PUNKS VS POKES RETURNS TO THE AVENUE CAFÉ



Pokes: Flatfoot, a local alt-country group led by guitarist/vocalist Aaron Bales (far right), headlines the Punks Vs Pokes concert. Other twangy acts include Old Empire and Paul Dubya & The Oak River Bridge Boys Band



Punks: Foxgrave, a Lansing-based outfit, represents for the "punks" at Punks vs Pokes, along with The Plurals and Otho Roi.

Punks goes country, country goes punk

Friday, Dec. 6 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, FREE, 8 p.m.

The annual Punks vs Pokes concert, now in its 14th year, has consistently stuck to its roots. Each year, local punk bands play country covers while country bands belt out punk covers. The unique idea keeps each year's set list fresh, though event founder Aaron Bales said he's content with sticking to the basics.

"I don't know if we've evolved much," said Bales, who performs each year with his band, Flatfoot. "The music is good, especially strong in the past few years. I suppose without the Cartridge Family on the bill the odds of getting hit by a corn-cob are much lower."

This year, on the punks' side, are The Plurals, Foxgrave and Otho Roi. Over on the twangy side, along with Flatfoot, are Old Empire and Paul Dubya & The Oak River Bridge Boys Band. The atypical lineup may be diverse, but Bales said the two genres blend nicely.

"Chocolate and peanut butter, punk and country — both classic combinations," he said. "If you take some of the best bands from each genre, alternate them in the bill, everyone always has fun."

As for Flatfoot, the band has released five full-length LPs since its genesis nearly 20 years ago. The current lineup comprises Bales (vocals, guitar), Tom Green (guitar, pedal steel, vocals), Thomas McCartan (vocals, bass) and drummer John Mizga (of Eight Ball Gritter). With a growing discography, Bales said it's hard to choose a favorite disc.

"I'm proud of them all, and each come from such a different place in life and as a band," he said. "The circumstances for recording were all unique and we were fortunate to work with awesome folks to record them. I probably listen to 'Wild Was Our Mercy' the most, likely because it has the fewest songs I actually wrote

and sang. I have an easier time enjoying listening when it is the other guys signing."

Similar to the architects of alt-country, such as the Flying Burrito Brothers' Chris Hillman and Gram Parsons, Flatfoot has always featured numerous songwriters both on record and onstage. 2009's "Wild Was Our Mercy" was the album McCartan shined on.

"That one had Tom McCartan coming back to Michigan after five years in New York City with a ton of songs," Bales recalled. "He sang one on each of the first three records, but by 'Mercy' he had really found his voice and became a songwriting force. That was also the one album where Justin Zeppa was in the band. He came in and shook things up, kind of like Gram Parsons did with the Byrds on 'Sweetheart of the Rodeo.' Justin really revved us up — that 'Mercy' period was peak punk for us."

Over the years, 13 "official members" of Flatfoot have rotated in and out. Bales said the churn has surely inspired its dynamic, albeit sometimes unpredictable, batch of country-fueled rock 'n roll tunes.

"We've never really had much direction as a band," he said. "Sometimes we fit the songs to the musicians we are, sometimes we stretch out to be the musicians the songs require. Lansing is a very transitional area, but whenever people move we've had awesome people join up."

With 2012's "Blue Water" being its last album, Bales said, perhaps, 2020 could see a new release.

"We have an album's worth of new songs that I can't wait to lock down and record," he said. "We're still figuring them out as a band, but there will be a sixth Flatfoot record."



Upcoming show? Contact Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Trivia Night: The Simpsons 10PM	GTG Free Show 8PM	Punks VS Pokes 2019 8PM	DAOM Heavy Metal Melttdown 8PM
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.				3 Track Mind 8PM
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River, East Lansing			Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Wednesday Vibes Eddie Bandz 9:30PM	Old School Thursdays DJ Jalese 8:30PM	Avon Bomb 9:30PM	Avon Bomb 9:30PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.			Mix Pack 9:30PM	Roux 9:30PM
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia with Sporcle 9PM			
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Steady Flow 8:30PM	Pop Evil 7:30PM
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Funknight 9PM	Bass Night 9PM	Midnight Air 8PM	Homesafe 7PM
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot, East Lansing			The New Rule 7PM	The New Rule 7PM
Spiral, 1247 Center St.		Songs from RENT - Drag Show 9PM	No Diggity 90s Dance Party 9PM	Lansing SantaCon 2019 6PM
Unicorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing	Open Mic 9:30PM		Live Music with Delilah DeWylde 9PM	Live Music with Good Cookies 9PM
Urban Beat, 1213 Turner Rd.			Jury Duty vs Euro Trio - 8PM	Grady Hall & Disciples of Funk 7PM
Wildlife Pub, 6380 Drumeller Rd., Bath			Open Mic 7:30PM	

From Page 22

Saturday, December 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Harry Potter Year Four Party (Age 7 & up) - Yule Ball. Triwizard Tournament. 2-3 p.m. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin, Haslett.

The Poetry Room Open Mic: Theme: Promise. 6:30-9 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Rd., Okemos.

EVENTS

25th Annual Wonderland of Lights - 5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222.

ARTspace Winter Pop up Market - All merchandise is handmade. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. 517-230-7679.

Christmas Festival/Craft Show - Lots of great shopping opportunities. Clinton County RESA, St. Johns. festivalnet.com.

Clayworks Holiday Pottery Sale - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 13121 Wacousta Rd, Grand Ledge.

Contra and Square Dance - 7-10 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Hwy., Grand Ledge. fagl.org.

Death Cafe - Drink tea, eat cake and discuss death. 10-11:30 a.m. Hospice of Lansing, 3186 Pine Tree, Lansing. 810-938-2410. deathcafe.com.

Decorate a Gingerbread House (Ages 2-16) - Build and decorate a gingerbread house. 1-4 p.m. CADL Mason, 145 West Ash Street, Mason.

Drop-in DIY Holiday Gifts & Crafts (All ages) - 1-3 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

The Eclectic Emporium Gift Market - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

FOHL Holiday Bazaar - Unique gifts by local artists. 12-2 p.m. The Bookend, Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

Holiday Pop Up Artisan Market - Many

handcrafted items. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. REO Town Marketplace, 1023-27 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

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

Queers who Brunch at the Allen Neighborhood Center - 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing. experiencefare.com.

St. Nicholas Day Craft Bazaar - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Rd, Lansing. 517-323-2272.

ARTS

Casual Clay Studio - 12:30-2:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Family Day - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Form and Movement - An exhibition. 12-4 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643.

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.

The Ha Ha Holidays Show - 7-10 p.m. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St, Charlotte. 517-541-5690.

Meet the Artists - Come meet John and Stephanie Gregg. 12-4 p.m. Absolute Gallery, 307 E Grand River Ave, Lansing. 517-482-8845.

MSU Winter Arts & Crafts Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MSU Union, 49 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

SmART Show | Pop-Up SmART: Art Movements - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing.

Sunrises & Smokestacks Ecological Art Exhibition - 12-4 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown A - 8-10:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

MUSIC

Three Men & a Tenor - 7-9:30 p.m. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St, Charlotte. 517-541-5690.

Sunday, December 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

EVENTS

2019 Advent Celebration - 12-2 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-6073.thepeopleschurch.com.

25th Annual Wonderland of Lights - 5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222.

Clayworks Holiday Pottery Sale - 12-4 p.m. 13121 Wacousta Rd, Grand Ledge.

MSU Winter Arts & Crafts Show - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. MSU Union, 49 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

ARTS

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.

Study Smart - at the MSU Broad + Art Lab! 2-7 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown - 2-4:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

MUSIC

Delta Community Choir Winter Benefit Concert - 4-5:30 p.m. Grand Ledge High School, 820 Spring St. deltacc.org.

Lansing Symphony Family Series - 3 p.m. Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-884-4800. cadl.org

Peace, Joy and Songs of the Season - enjoy the beautiful sounds of more than 200 singers. 3-5 p.m. St. Mary Cathedral, 219 Seymour Ave, Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Monday, December 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aqua Fitness - 10:30-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Intro to Italian Conversation - 3-4 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Seminar Series: Holiday Bird Crafts - 7-8 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos. michiganaudubon.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Homeschool Discoveries (Age 6 & up) - Read and discuss books. 2:30-3:30 p.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. cadl.org

Kids Reading to Dogs (Age 6 & up) - 4-5 p.m. CADL Foster, 200 North Foster, Lansing.

EVENTS

FOHL Holiday Bazaar - Unique gifts by local artists. 12-4 p.m. The Bookend, Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

Pet Photos with Santa - Bring your furry friends for photos with Santa! 6-9 p.m. Meridian Mall, Okemos. meridianmall.com.

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

Refugee Foster Care Informational Session - 5:30-7:30 p.m. Samaritas, 1545 Keystone Ave., Lansing.

ARTS

Drawing Foundations - 4:30-6 p.m. Reach

Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

MUSIC

Monday Jazz at Red Cedar Spirits - MSU Jazz students. 8 p.m. Red Cedar Spirits, 2000 Merritt, East Lansing.

MSU Holiday Brass Concert - 7-9 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-6073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Tuesday, December 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aqua Fitness - Fun for all fitness levels. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

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

Healthy Holiday Baking - 12-1:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Science Tuesdays (Ages 12-16) - Make your own "Glass Blown" ornament 3-4:30 p.m. CADL Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Rd., Williamston.

EVENTS

Death Cafe - 12:30-2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

December 2019 Economic Club - 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Kellogg Center, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing. lansingchamber.org.

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance Support Groups - 7-8:30 p.m. Sparrow Professional Bldg., 1200 Michigan Ave., 2nd Floor, Room 1-A, Lansing. 517-643-7671.

FOHL Holiday Bazaar - Unique gifts by local artists. 12-4 p.m. The Bookend, Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

Holiday Celebration & Reindeer Visit (All ages) - 6:30-8 p.m. CADL Downtown, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Holiday Open House & Reindeer Visit (All ages) - 4-5:30 p.m. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org

Prime Time Crime Time - Movies of the 60s and 70s. Dec. 10: Bullitt. 1-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

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

ARTS

Kid's Clay: Beginners - 4:30-5:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Make 3 Pairs of Holiday Earrings - 1-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

MSU Libraries' Knit In Tuesdays - All materials provided. 12-1 p.m. MSU Libraries, 366 West Circle Dr., East Lansing. 517-420-8593.

Study Smart - at the MSU Broad + Art Lab! 12-7 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

MUSIC

Russian Chorus Concert - features sacred music in Church Slavonic and carols in various European languages. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Emanuel Lutheran Church, 1001 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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

SATURDAY, DEC. 7 >> EAST LANSING'S WINTER GLOW



East Lansing's free outdoor winter festival will feature ice carving, horse and carriage rides, a special outdoor holiday farmer's market, a heated music tent, free family portrait with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
300 M. A. C. Ave, East Lansing
(517) 337-1731
downtownel.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 7 >> PHIL DENNY CHRISTMAS SHOW



National saxophonist Phil Denny puts his spin on Christmas classics and performs original music at this family friendly seventh annual event. Denny also welcomes trumpeter, songwriter, bandleader, Ryan Montano, Detroit's rare jewel vocalist, Gwen Foxx and guitarist Wayne Gerard who rounds out the list with elements of rock, blues, Hip-Hop, punk, funk and jazz.

7 p.m., \$28
Margaret Livensparger Theater
5885 W. Holt Road, Holt
pdcc.brownpapertickets.com

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

The bold and the beautiful: A sommelier's favorite wines of 2019

By **JUSTIN KING**

Every year, I'm likely to taste a few mind-blowing wines that make me contemplate my existence. Most are wines I can rarely afford.

Palate differences notwithstanding, this year was a wild ride. I didn't get to taste nearly as much wine as I usually do. But



ing, this year was a wild ride. I didn't get to taste nearly as much wine as I usually do. But

there were some thought-provoking and pleasurable wines at affordable prices.

Sometimes the best wines are uniquely alive in a fleeting moment, and I can't expect the same experience the next time. It wouldn't be fair. And that's OK. That's part of the journey of finding exceptional wines at prices one is willing to pay.

The truth is, the best wine I tasted this year was a \$300 bottle of Chave Hermitage Blanc, a gorgeous wine made from marsanne and roussanne grapes from the Northern Rhone region of France. I'll literally never buy that bottle again. It was a lifetime moment and a lifetime bottle. Ernest Hemingway once wrote, "All you have to do is write one true sentence. Write the truest sentence that you know." He was on to something. Wine alone doesn't define humanity's best attributes. We are no more interesting or special if we are drinking fermented grapes, compared to, say, cow's milk. Next to those expensive bottles of your biggest moments, those cheap bottles slugged off on a humble retail shelf might seem stupid to talk about. Screw that. This is the stuff of legends. Wine is simple: It's there for us to enjoy, to love, to drink as we see fit with our friends and family. And that's why the 2018 vintage of "Unlitro" (at around \$18) is my wine of the year.

Have I had better wines this year? Definitely. But there's something about this wine that threads different flavors, concepts, needs and overall value far better than most wines I've tasted. Saddled from Tuscan vines, this funky Carignan-Grenache blend is effortlessly fruity, earthy and floral. This is not meant to be a gatekeeping type statement, but chances are this wine may not be exciting to you if you only dig on the same California cabernet sauvignon or zinfandel you've been drinking for the last decade. And that's OK.

Meat, herbs, savory notes and impressive balance: How can a low-



Justin King/City Pulse

The 2018 vintage of "Unlitro" is Justin King's wine of the year.

er-tannin wine with no real faults somehow express character at this level? Sign me up. This is one of those wines I'd keep on hand at all times. It will sing with burgers, steaks, eggplant and Indian cuisine. Ultimately, it's the right wine for now. It's unfiltered and unfinned. It's not a lab project conjured from the annals of a wine conglomerate.

Realistically, you can't just drink one wine for the year. I want to include some other huge stand-outs of their pricing and genre. Dassai "39" is technically not a wine. It's a sake made in the Junmai Daiginjo style. Quick primer on sake: It's a beverage made using specific grains of rice, produced using the multiple parallel fermentation process, when sugar and alcohol conversion occur simultaneously. Easily one of the best sakes I've ever had, Dassai 39 is an impressive exercise in purity. Drink this slightly chilled, like you would a white wine. The aromas and flavors match those of green melon, lilacs, lilies and nectarines. It squeezes in like an assistant to well-constructed traditional sushi and sashimi. Expect to spend about \$35 per bottle.

Runner up: the 2016 Combe Trousseau, from Santa Barbara County, California. A compelling project from Peter Stolpman of Stolpman Vineyards and Raj Parr, a famous sommelier guy who has been all over the place this last decade. This sings like some of our best pinot noirs. Trousseau is a native French grape from the region of Jura, noteworthy for its lower-tannin and high-acid style. Expect to pay around \$30. Eventually, I think we all come to realize these highlights are only snapshots. They are reflections of specific experiences that might not be duplicated in the exact same life-affirming way that we may have previously enjoyed them.

Drinking "good" wine ultimately has much more to do with who you're with, the food you're eating, the music, the art, the ridiculous stories and the harmonious vibes from all of those elements interconnecting. Enjoy it while you have it. Happy holidays.

Justin King is an Advanced Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers. He is owner of Bridge Street Social, a wine and cocktails-focused restaurant in DeWitt, and Bar Mitena, a Spanish winebar opening soon on Lansing's Eastside.

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The Michigan Apple at Sanctuary Spirits

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

It's served in a rocks glass with lots of "rocks." Even while chilled, the Michigan Apple had the ability to warm me up — all the way down.

The drink at Sanctuary Spirits in Grand Ledge suits the time of year and it suits the cavernous room it's served in.

The Michigan Apple doesn't include any common brandy. A healthy splash of Sanctuary



simple syrup and a squeeze of lime were added. The sweet, sour, fruity and boozy mix was a surprisingly tantalizing combination. I wouldn't expect such different tastes to blend as well as they

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Monday - Saturday: 11am to 2am • Sunday: 9am to 1am

Okemos • 1937 W Grand River Ave • (517) 347-0443
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Sanctuary Spirits

902 E Saginaw Hwy
Unit 3
Grand Ledge
(517) 925-1930
Sunday, Noon-6 p.m.
Monday-Thursday,
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday-Saturday,
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Spirits own Spirit of the Apple forms the basis of the \$5.83 (with tax) drink.

The brandy is smooth, warming, and full of flavor without the sting of harsher brands. "Spirit of the Apple" is made from 100 percent Michigan apples. The brandy is distilled on-site at the back of the building.

To make it more of a cocktail — and to engage more taste buds —

did.

It's worth noting that Sanctuary Spirits is not a restaurant, but it does allow patrons to bring in their own food. Ample tables can accommodate diners who supply their own meals.

The question arose, "What nearby food would go well with a "Michigan Apple?"

Next to the establishment that's entered through the front, is Pancho's Taqueria truck — but Mexican food seemed an odd mix with an apple brandy. Down the road a bit is a Subway. I thought layered sandwiches and a classy spirit was another incongruous combo.



David Winkelstern/City Pulse

Sanctuary Spirits' Michigan Apple.

Then I remembered "Sophia's House of Pancakes" across the street. A to-go stack of their fluffy flapjacks — with a side of applesauce — was the perfect choice to complement my Michigan Apple.

Appetizers

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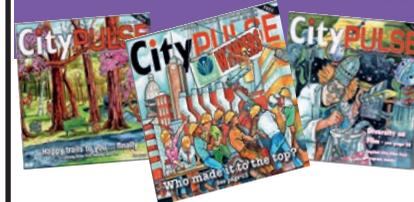


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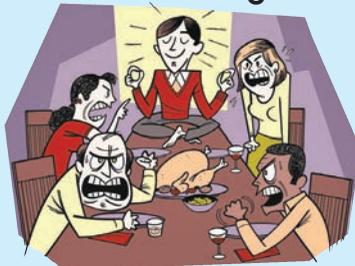


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