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December 18-24, 2019

FREE

CITY PULSE



TALKING TURKEY IN 2019

POLITICS, FAMILY AND THE HOLIDAYS See page 12

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

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Buy 6 applications by 2020 get 1 additional application or Free Aeration.

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Contact the office at 517-322-2671 for Outdoor Beautification Services

1434 E. Jolly Rd., Lansing
Garden Center **517.882.3115**

Favorite Things



Tattoo artist Sean Peters and his 1978 Gibson SG

I traded a tattoo for this 1978 Gibson SG 20 years ago. It's not very pretty to look at, but man I've written so many songs with this guitar and recorded so many tracks, albums — you name it. This is the guitar I choose to play when I write stuff and play at home. I play it live sometimes, but it pretty much stays at home now. I've written all of the songs for my new band, Grave Moth, with it.

The tattoo was for a friend of mine, Cameron Craig. We were briefly in a band together and he knew I was a big '60s rock fan. He said, "Hey, I've got this classic SG," and offered to trade it for some sleeve work. He was going for a traditional Japanese look — a koi fish or lotus flower — something like that. He originally told me it was from 1967 and I was like, "No way!" That happens to be my favorite year of music. That's when the first Pink Floyd album — the one with Syd Barrett — came out. It's that classic era that gave us all the great psychedelic music and, of course, The Beatles. And then I actually looked up the serial numbers and discovered it's a '78. But still, the thing is so old,

the frets aged perfectly and the action is like nothing.

I like guitars that are a little older and have a little more patina to them, because you can feel it when you play it. I could get a brand new version of this exact same guitar and probably feel like, "Yeah, this is just OK." It wouldn't feel as special as this one right here. This guitar just feels like home when I play it.

There's some dings taken out of it. I'm sure a lot of those blemishes are products of frustration at the end of show where I chucked it across stage, which is really dumb 'cause it's a neck-through body. But the funny thing is the buckle rash from when I used to wear bullet belts and stuff like that.

It's just an absolute face melter when it's played right, you know? I have this 2x12 cabinet combo amp with a built-in chorus effect that just sounds great, man. I don't even need distortion.

(Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. Have suggestions? Please email skyler@lansingcitypulse.com.)

THE FRIENDS OF
Turner-Dodge House
& Lansing Parks and Recreation

PRESENT
8th ANNUAL
Festival of Trees



Saturday, December 7th thru Wednesday January 1st

ADMISSION AT THE DOOR

\$5.00 per person

Children 12 & under FREE

please call 483-4220 for admission times

www.lansingmi.gov/938/Turner-Dodge-House



Andy Schor, Mayor

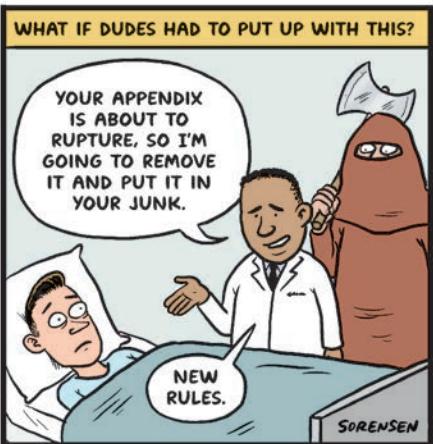
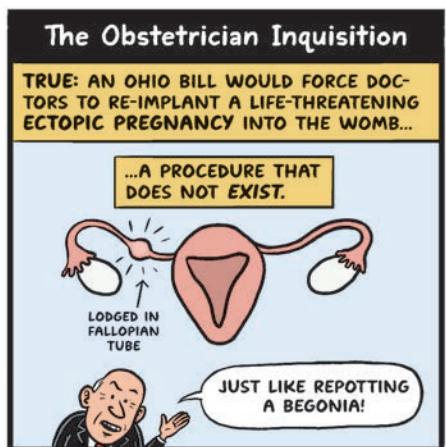
Fight Hunger by Recycling Your Old Fridge!



LANSING
BWL
Hometown Energy Savers

GREATER LANSING
foodbank

During the holiday season, BWL residential electric customers who recycle a qualifying appliance can choose to donate their \$25-\$50 rebate to the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Call 800-573-3503 to schedule your FREE pickup today!



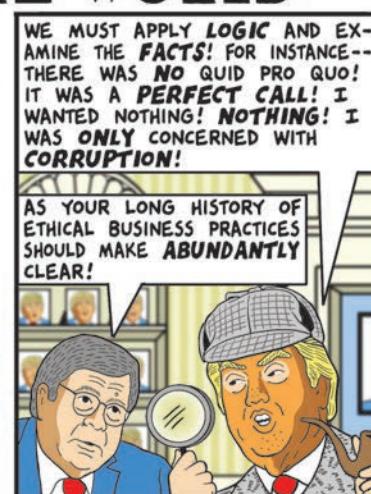
CITY PULSE

on the AIR

NOW AT 10:00 A.M.
SUNDAYS on

WDBM
IMPACT
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THIS MODERN WORLD



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Is Lansing the future weed capital of Michigan?

Entrepreneurs look beyond Ann Arbor amid industry expansion

By KYLE KAMINSKI

James Daly holds a momentous distinction in Michigan's budding recreational marijuana industry.

As the owner of Arbor's Wellness in Ann Arbor, Daly was the first licensed weed salesman to sell a legal bag of recreational pot in the state. For him, that sale helped materialize years of legislative evolution for an industry that was once considered an unthinkable notion. And it also energized his expansion plans.

"In Ann Arbor, this has been a big industry and sort of a statewide destination for medical — and now recreational — marijuana," Daly said. "But the bottom line is that the industry in Lansing is poised to be much bigger than Ann Arbor simply because of the cultivation and processing facilities taking off within the city."

Daly's parent company — Arbor Farm — is one of the largest license holders for growing operations in Lansing. It recently secured \$17 million in funding. Crews are renovating a massive, 144,000-square-foot industrial space on the corner of Hazel and Hosmer streets to house 15,000 plants.

"In Ann Arbor, there are less than a handful of growers," Daly added. "These operators are all kind of eyeing Lansing as their headquarters in this industry, and we're all intent on opening up as quickly as we can."

But why isn't Lansing already competing with Ann Arbor for the state's first recreational sales? Supply issues are slowing the market. Some industry insiders also blame the Lansing City Council and an overly competitive selection process. But most agree: Lansing hasn't missed out on much. And momentum is building.

"Lansing and Flint were both one or two Council members away from being Ann Arbor," explained Rick Thompson, owner of the Michigan Cannabis Business Development Group. "It's all about the constitution of the City Council. That's the real determining factor in which city gets the first stab



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Arbor Farm, the company behind one of the first licensed recreational pot shops in Michigan, is in the midst of renovating a 144,000-square-foot industrial space to house up to 15,000 plants on the corner of Hazel and Hosmer streets.

at the recreational market."

The Lansing City Council in October welcomed Michigan's recreational marijuana industry by amending an ordinance that could eventually allow for up to 28 dispensaries for both medical and recreational weed in the city. Applications for those shops open next week. Officials plan to get them licensed as quickly as possible.

Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope estimated that recreational dispensary licenses could be issued as soon as February. But after the state started issuing licenses earlier this month, Lansing has already fallen behind.

"Look at the history. Lansing has had some significant resistance to adopting pro-cannabis ordinances," Thompson added. "Ann Arbor, on the other hand, was willing to make this work more quickly. Lansing is just a step behind, and it all comes down to whether the City Council truly represents the feelings of its citizens."

Voters took a step in that direction last month when they replaced First Ward Councilwoman Jody Washington

with decidedly pro-pot Brandon Betz.

Lansing's competitive scoring process for recreational pot — much like for medical — allows would-be retailers to apply for a limited number of licenses. The highest scoring applicants on criteria like capital investment and job opportunities will get first dibs. A preference will also be given to those already licensed for medical sales.

Swope noted that Lansing's licensed provisioning centers are all in "pretty good position" to go recreational.

The 30-day window for recreational applications will open Dec. 23. In the meantime, and after Ann Arbor's licensed shops raked in more than \$1.6 million in the first week of sales, Lansing's local pot entrepreneurs have been forced to sit on the sidelines as the industry plants roots on the other side of the state.

"I really like to stay as advanced as possible," said Tom James, owner of Homegrown Lansing. "I am really kind of bummed out that we didn't get to be

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EYE FOR DESIGN



This week's Eye for Design can be found at an indoor location in the greater Lansing area. If you know where, send an email to me at carriesampson@micourthistory.org by next Wednesday, December 25. The first one to correctly identify the location wins an Eye for Design mug — which could come in handy when visiting that location.

Reveal:

Last month's Eye for Design was correctly identified by Susan Sweitzer as the parking ramp at Sparrow Hospital on Michigan Avenue. Several others also recognized it; however, there was less agreement about what the design is called. The likeliest answer is Roman lattice, defined by the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art (ICAA) as "an openwork system of rectangular bars crossing each other to make a pattern of triangles (usually, but not always, right triangles) within repetitive squares."

— CARRIE SAMPSON



"Eye for Design" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eye candy of the Week and Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Berl Schwartz at (517) 999-5061.

Pot

from page 5

fully recreational by December. I saw the buzz in Ann Arbor, and, of course, yeah, we would've liked to have been a part of that, but I still see Lansing as a big hub for this industry."

In addition to running his provisioning center off Pennsylvania Avenue, James is constructing a 15,000 square-foot grow operation for 1,500 plants along Oakland Avenue. It'll be finished in February, just in time to develop his own supply chain for what he hopes will soon become Lansing's first recreational pot shop.

"Lansing has had its own process and its own timeframes, but they decided to go with this process, and now it's just a matter of time," James added. "We might've had to wait a few months, but at least we're still in the game."

Ann Arbor enacted its ordinance on recreational pot about a week after the Lansing City Council. Still, its comparatively streamlined selection process has given it a headstart into the recreational marijuana market.

Ann Arbor Planning Manager Brett Lenart said his city's selection process, while it shares the same 28-shop limitation as Lansing, skips Lansing's scoring process for licenses. Would-be weed retailers in Ann Arbor are instead only required to have a special land use permit granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Our Council and the city has traditionally had this certain level of support during this legislative evolution of marijuana," Lenart added. "They were really interested in asking us to move expeditiously and sort out of the structure to move forward as quickly as possible. We knew that adult-use, recreational sales were coming."

For some Lansing City Council members, hindsight is 20/20. Councilman Brian Jackson, for example, is still disappointed that the capital city fell behind the forefront of the industry — if only by a couple months. He thinks hesitation from his colleagues and a general "fear of the unknown" has stalled expansion in Lansing.

"Some of our leaders have had a strong stance against it and therefore didn't want to take charge or move forward with anything that would allow this to happen too quickly,"

Pot poll: Who tokes on the Council?

We asked. They answered. Does the Lansing City Council smoke pot?

Outgoing First Ward Councilwoman Jody Washington — NO

"No, but I don't care if other people do. It's not my business."

First Ward Councilman-Elect Brandon Betz — YES

"I do. Yes. Absolutely."

Second Ward Councilman Jeremy Garza — NO

"I do not."

Third Ward Councilman Adam Hussain — NO

"Not personally, no, but I certainly don't have any problems with it."

Fourth Ward Councilman Brian Jackson — YES

Jackson added. "We were also just very slow to act on what we knew was going to happen. We all knew it was going to be legalized recreationally."

"You've got a City Council that is changing, so these things are going to change," added Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar. "I think you'll find there is a more progressive majority on the Council next year. I'm very concerned that we're losing some opportunities for revenue by not having this system already in place and operating."

Betz, who replaces Washington Jan. 1, said he plans to revisit Lansing's recreational marijuana ordinance in January. He recently tasked a marijuana "insider" with rewriting portions of the ordinance to allow for more social clubs and microbusinesses and increase the limit on the number of dispensaries allowed within city limits.

And he thinks a newfound pro-marijuana coalition — consisting of him, Dunbar, Jackson, Councilman Peter Spadafore and perhaps Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley — could generate enough support to make progress.

"It's important to take this step into the future because it's a lot of money we're talking about and a lot of economic opportunity," Betz said. "There is a wealth of investment money out there ready to pour into this city for shops, grow operations and even

"I do, on occasion. ... It's only occasionally."

At-Large Council Vice President Peter Spadafore — NO

"I do not smoke. ... But I have used CBD oil."

At-Large Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley — NO

"I do not. It's just not my thing. ... I prefer red wine."

At-Large Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar — YES

"I do, but I prefer edibles and CBD. I'm just not a smoker."

At-Large Council President Carol Wood — PROBABLY NOT.

Wood declined to answer the question, but we're betting she doesn't puff.

business operations much at all.

"There isn't enough flower product in the system to really support a larger industry at the moment anyway," Hank added. "The stores in Ann Arbor are running out of product. If they gave us a recreational license tomorrow, we'd run out of flower products immediately. I don't think we're behind in a bad way at all."

A recent state ruleset allows newly licensed dispensaries to transfer up to 50% of their medical stock into the recreational market. And the split supply amid increased demand is only exacerbating a state wide product shortage as prices skyrocket and retailers struggle to find a reliable and consistent cultivator to stock their shelves.

Robin Schneider, executive director of the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association, said Lansing is only behind Ann Arbor because the Lansing City Council took longer with a more complicated selection process. But the delay isn't causing any would-be entrepreneurs to miss out on too much cash. The market is tough, she said.

"We have some serious inventory problems," Schneider added. "There's this idea that businesses are a lot more profitable than they actually are. A lot of these businesses are barely able to keep their doors open. I think prices are going to continue to go up and there's a real possibility we'll run out of flower in the next two months. If anything, Lansing needs to speed up the growing facilities and get them up and running. That's what we need."

Added Lansing Mayor Andy Schor: "I don't think it's a race to get started. I think it's about getting it done right. I know a lot of money was made, but I don't see marijuana as a one-time thing. It's now legal and it'll continue to be legal and there will be money to be made for everyone just as soon as we're able to issue licenses."

In addition to raising the cap from 25 to 28 cannabis retailers in Lansing, the City Council's amended ordinance from October also allows for four microbusinesses that can grow and sell up to 150 pot plants on site. Four marijuana "social clubs" — one for each ward — could also open under the ordinance for onsite consumption.

Up to 75 growers could also be licensed to operate in the city, but that cap is set to shrink to 55 by 2021 should any unfilled cultivation licenses remain available. More than 100 growing facilities are approved or conditionally approved. No limit exists

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on processors or secure transport companies.

Swope said the elimination of the

Medical Marijuana Commission — a board formerly tasked with handling appeals from those who were denied licenses — should also help streamline the city's licensing process. Swope and his staff will have oversight of the entire selection process and handle those appeals entirely in-house.

Meanwhile, officials at the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs are standing by, waiting to dole out more recreational marijuana licenses wherever local municipalities have approved their operation.

"A few weeks of a missed opportunity

isn't really my concern when there will be years of opportunity ahead. I'm more interested in making sure we get it done right and we're able to support this," Schor added. "I think it's great if we can supply the needed product, give them space for it and ensure the sustainability of the industry."

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

December 18, 2019

CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
316 N. CAPITOL AVE.
LANSING, MI 48933
(517) 483-4040
CONTACT: DONALD KULHANEK, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS: These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Lansing, MI.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about January 20, 2020, the City of Lansing, MI will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383), as amended, to undertake a project known as the SW Lansing Town Square Arts Impact Project.

The City of Lansing, MI is in the process of working with the Southwest Action Group (SWAG) to implement a public facilities project that includes the installation of art that was procured through a separate grant source at 3418 Pleasant Grove Road, Lansing, MI, more specifically known as the Southwest Lansing Town Square Arts Impact Project. This property is zoned "F" Commercial and not located in the floodplain. It currently contains .117 acres of land consisting of asphalt paved parking and grassy area. The City of Lansing is proposing a Public Improvements project which focusing on a Neighborhood facility specific to the Southwest Lansing community. The proposal consists of creation of a town square that includes landscaping activities. The abovementioned art will be installed at this town square location. Since there is some groundbreaking activity and the site is located in close proximity to existing and/or former gas stations, laundromats, etc., an environmental assessment was conducted. The proposed use consist of tree planting/landscaping and the erection of the artwork in this distressed area on Lansing's south side. In efforts to ensure that this property is thoroughly evaluated for environmental review concerns, the City of Lansing is preparing an Environmental Assessment. A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment has been completed by TriTerra, 1375 S. Washington Ave., Suite 300, Lansing, MI 48910.

In accordance with the City of Lansing's Citizen Participation Plan, the proposed changes constitute a substantial amendment to the 2018 Annual Action Plan because the City is altering the approved activity for public improvement activities to include/expand neighborhood facilities. The substantial amendment requires a 30-day comment period. The comment period for the amendment will commence at 8:00 a.m. on December 19, 2019 and expire at 5:00 p.m. on January 20, 2020.

from that activity and transferring into neighborhood facilities new activity public improvements – neighborhood facilities for a specific project in Southwest Lansing.

Proposed Amendment

Activity 1: Single Family Owner Occupied: Existing Funding amount: \$1,720,151 Proposed funding amount: \$1,620,151 for Activity #1 reduction of \$100,000 to form new activity

New Proposed Activity 13: Public Improvements – Neighborhood facilities – Specific project in Southwest Lansing to Creation/Expansion of Public Improvements/Facilities to include Neighborhood Facilities

The proposal consists of creation of a town square that includes landscaping activities. The abovementioned art will be installed at this town square location. Since there is some groundbreaking activity and the site is located in close proximity to existing and/or former gas stations, laundromats, etc., an environmental assessment was conducted. The proposed use consist of tree planting/landscaping and the erection of the artwork in this distressed area on Lansing's south side. In efforts to ensure that this property is thoroughly evaluated for environmental review concerns, the City of Lansing is preparing an Environmental Assessment. A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment has been completed by TriTerra, 1375 S. Washington Ave., Suite 300, Lansing, MI 48910.

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Lansing, MI has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol, where the record is available for review and may be examined or copied M-F 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to: Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner, City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol, Lansing, MI 48933, doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov or at City Clerk Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave, Capital Area District Library, 400 S. Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI.. All comments received by 5:00 p.m., January 20, 2020 will be considered by the City of Lansing Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development prior to authorizing submission to HUD of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Lansing certifies to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that Andy Schor in his capacity as Mayor, City of Lansing consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Lansing to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Lansing, MI's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Mayor, City of Lansing; (b) the City of Lansing, MI has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226. Potential objectors should contact HUD at (313) 226-7900 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Andy Schor, Mayor, City of Lansing, MI

Existing Projects for City of Lansing Annual Action Plan FY18

#	Project Name
1	Single Family Owner Occupied Rehab Program Public Improvements
2	CDBG Rental Rehab Program/Weatherization
3	Acquisition
4	Public Services
5	Economic Development
6	Downpayment Assistance
7	New Construction/HOME Rehab
8	HOMELESS SVS - EMERGENCY SHELTER-STREET OUTREACH-HOMELESS PREVENTION- HMIS-ADMIN
9	CDBG General Administration
10	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) set-aside 15%
11	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating - limited to 5%
12	HOME General Administration - limited to 10%

Proposed New Activity for City of Lansing Annual Action Plan FY18

#	Project Name
13	Public Improvements- Neighborhood Facilities –Southwest Lansing Town Square Art Project

The City of Lansing is proposing to revise activity #1 by separating public improvements to create a separate activity which will include neighborhood facilities and all factors associated with this specific project, as highlighted below and transfer/reduce the funds allocated for Activity # 1 – Single-Family Owner Occupied rehabilitation activities /Public improvements by \$100,000

NOTICE OF LETTING OF DRAIN CONTRACT

Ingham County Drain Commissioner
Patrick E. Lindemann

RED CEDAR RIVER LOGJAM REMOVALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that I, Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, will receive sealed construction bids on **Friday, January 3, 2020**, at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office located at 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854, until 2:00 p.m. Bids will be opened and publicly announced at 2:00 p.m. for the removal of logjams from the Red Cedar River designated as the "RED CEDAR RIVER LOGJAM REMOVALS", located in the City of Williamston and Williamstown Township in said County. Bids must be delivered to 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, MI 48854 within the timeframe listed above in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

The proposed work is pursuant to Section 196a of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended. The Work will be let in one (1) Contract and includes removal of logjams from the Red Cedar River between Putnam Street in the City of Williamston and Meridian Road in Williamtown Township, Ingham County, Michigan.

Payment for the above items and appurtenances will be based on the measured quantities.

Bidding Documents are on file, and may be examined at the following locations after **Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.** local time: Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, located at 707 Buhl Street, Mason, Michigan, 48854 AND LSG Engineers & Surveyors, 3135 Pinetree Road, Suite D, Lansing, Michigan 48911, (517) 393-2902.

Bidding Documents may only be obtained after **Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.** local time, at the office of LSG Engineers & Surveyors, 3135 Pinetree Road, Suite D, Lansing, Michigan 48911, (Alan Boyer 517-393-2902 x225), upon payment of a \$35.00 non-refundable deposit. An additional non-refundable charge of \$10.00 will be required for sending out these Bidding Documents. Electronic copies of Bidding Documents may be obtained free of charge at <https://www.lsg-es.com/bidding.html>. An access code from LSG Engineers & Surveyors is required to download "**FOR BID**" contract documents.

Bids will only be accepted from Plan Holders of Record who have attended the mandatory pre-bid conference (see below). In order to be a Plan Holder of Record, Bidding Documents MUST BE OBTAINED from the Issuing Office.

A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on **Friday, December 27, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854. Representatives of the Drain Commissioner and Engineer will be present at the pre-bid conference. Prospective bidders are required to attend and participate in the conference. All bidders must sign in by name of attendee, business represented, and email address.

The Engineer will transmit any Addenda the Engineer considers necessary in response to questions arising at the conference to all Plan Holders of Record. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.

The Contract will be let in accordance with the Contract Documents now on file in the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and available to interested parties. Bids will be made and received in accordance with these documents.

Bidders shall comply with the Ingham County Board of Commissioners policies regarding the payment of Prevailing Wages, and Equal Opportunity/Non-discrimination, as set forth in Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolutions #02-263 and #02-283, respectively.

The Contract will be made with the lowest responsible Bidder giving adequate security for the performance of the work. I reserve the right to reject any and all bids, and to adjourn such bid letting to such time and place as I shall publicly announce.

The date for the Substantial Completion of such Contract is **March 31, 2020**, with Final Completion by **May 31, 2020**.

The terms of payment are contained in the contract specifications. Any responsible person wanting to bid on the above-mentioned work will be required to deposit bid security in the amount specified in the Bidding Documents as a guarantee that he/she/they will enter into a contract and furnish the required bonds as prescribed by the contract specifications and applicable law. All bids shall remain open for 120 days after the day of the bid opening, but I reserve the right at my sole discretion to release any bid and bid security before that date.

Proceedings conducted at the pre-bid conference and bid opening are subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact Patrick E. Lindemann, the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, at (517) 676-8395, or through the Michigan Relay Center at 7-1-1 (TDD) at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled event to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

This notice is given pursuant to Section 154 of the Michigan Drain Code of 1956, as amended.

Dated: December 12, 2019

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854

CP#19-365

Overnight Parking 101

Lansing is cracking down on overnight parking. Here's what you'll need to know to avoid a ticket.

The Lansing City Council voted Monday to beef up a city parking ordinance that bans parking from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m.

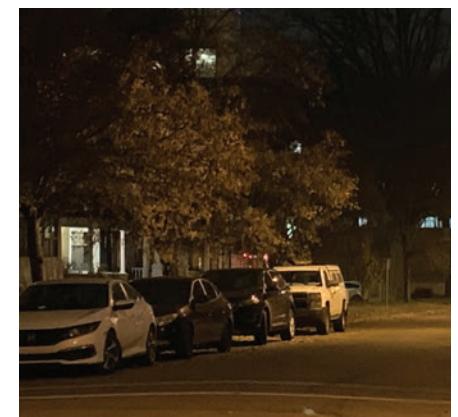
The Council approved amendments 7-1, with Fourth Ward Councilman Brian Jackson opposed. He argued that the fee is too high for newly created overnight parking permits.

The new rules are slated to go into effect on March 1, 2020. And here's everything you'll need to know:

- Annual permits will be available to local residents for \$125. By March, those who park on city streets between 2-5 a.m. without them should expect to receive tickets. The fine would remain at \$25 (or \$35 during a snow emergency).

- A limit of one annual permit will be available per individual city address. As long as those residents maintain their own address or unit number, those living in split-level homes, multi-family housing, downtown lofts and other apartments will each be eligible to receive an overnight parking permit.

- Only residents who demonstrate a need for the extra space will be eligible for permits. Junk-filled garages and commercial vehicles parked at home will not be an adequate justification, officials said, but sole discre-



tion over parking permit applications still rests with the city's office of parking services.

- Permits will not be issued for recreational vehicles, trailers, boats or vehicles with more than two axles.

- Two temporary permits — for overnight guests, for example — could also be issued for any given address within the same 72-hour period. Those will be made available for \$10 a night for a maximum of three nights. It's still largely unclear how quickly residents will be able to access those parking passes.

- A plan to offer discounted rates to low-income residents is still "under discussion," but no decisions have yet been made, officials said. As it stands, all residents regardless of income will be asked to pay the flat \$125 annual rate should they apply and eventually receive the right to park overnight.

- The proposed permits would also only serve as a waiver for the city's 2-5 a.m. parking restrictions and would carry no additional parking benefits or exceptions to usual meter fees and other fines and costs.

- Residents would still be required to vacate streets for snow plowing or other emergency situations as mandated by city officials or else risk automatic revocation of their annual permits without notice.

- A permit will also not guarantee or reserve the rights to any particular parking space. Officials said the goal is for residents to park within reasonable proximity to their registered address, but the ordinance doesn't appear to specifically limit that distance or restrict where permit holders can park overnight.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

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Slotkin makes her road to reelection a little tougher

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin said she figured the protesters would come. They did.

Chanting and heckling and yelling and verbally fighting with one another in the back of an Oakland University conference room, a few dozen pro-Trump protesters did their best to throw the freshman House member off her game at Monday's town hall. It didn't work.

Hours after Slotkin, who represents Ingham County, publicly announced she'd be supporting the President Donald Trump's impeachment, the Democrat said she felt she had an obligation to face her constituents and explain her vote. That's what she did at Oakland University.

Even as the voice of Oakland



POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

University student Troy Coffin of Slotkin's hometown of Holly cut through the crowd.

"You're not from Holly! You went to Cranbrook! Nobody in Holly likes you!"

At least five uniformed OU police officers stood guard to protect personal safety, but they were never called to clear the room or haul anyone away. Slotkin never asked the protesters to be quiet. She talked over them, almost as if they were on the other end of thick pane of glass.

She acknowledged them a few times. Once, she told them that they'd might want to pay attention to her answers to pointed questions on the Trump impeachment, especially the ones that sounded like they came straight out of a strident Republican's mouth. Few



did.

At one point, self-described Democratic socialist Louie Fanelli, an OU student, decided to engage with Coffin and, moments later, Deborah Day of Howell. Things devolved into shouting into each other's face. Several news reports included a picture of the exchange in their town hall coverage.

As media cameras circled the two like kids watching playground children fight, Slotkin kept talking about government testing water for PFAS – synthetic chemicals that pose health issues — as if the protesters were typical background noise.

Slotkin's handling of the situation was not like other Michigan members of Congress new and old.

Earlier in the fall, U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens engaged with protesters during her town hall. She was captured on the local FOX affiliate film shouting at them, "This is why the NRA has got to go!"

Nobody overheard Slotkin saying anything inflammatory toward the crowd. This wasn't like former U.S. Rep. David Trott in 2017 when a protester said he heard Trott speak in a hot mic during a town hall that the protesters trying to shoot him down were "unamerican."

Slotkin kept her cool.

"We had people say, 'Why are you

See Slotkin, Page 10

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Scott Stewart, for the property located at 540 Charles Street, to replace two windows due to broken counter-balance pulley assemblies.
2. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from GTW Investment Properties, LLC, for the property located at 710 Grove Street, to demolish the structure in order to construct a 3-story sorority house.
3. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Brian & Courtney, LLC, for the property at 604 Forest Street, to replace the windows with high quality Andersen windows.
4. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Kevin Hagan, LLC, for the property at 605 Charles Street, to replace siding on the north, east, and south sides with pre-painted white fiber cement siding to match the existing reveal.
5. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from John L. Noud, for the property at 533 Grove Street, to demolish the damaged and deteriorated garage.
6. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Carrie Cargill, for the property at 142 University Drive, to construct a second-floor addition on the back of the house, replace windows on the front porch, and re-side the house to match the garage.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#19-368

RFP/20/057 BOND AND TAX COUNSEL SERVICES as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **JAN. 3, 2019** at which time they opened. Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or shelbi.frayer@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#19-366

CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 1476

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 20-3 – DEFINITIONS – OF ARTICLE 1 – IN GENERAL, SECTION 20-31 – HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION ESTABLISHED; MEMBERSHIP; MEETINGS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE – OF ARTICLE 2 – ORGANIZATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICTS, SECTION 20-63 – REVIEW PROCESS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS – OF ARTICLE 3 – CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS, REVIEW PROCEDURES, FEES AND INSPECTIONS, AND 20-101 – ESTABLISHED; APPLICABILITY – OF ARTICLE 4 – PRESERVATION GUIDELINES – OF CHAPTER 20 – HISTORIC PRESRVATION – OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO ALLOW FOR SOLAR PANELS AND TO SET THE STANDARD FOR SETTING QUORUM.

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1476 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at the regular meeting of the Council held on December 3, 2019 and will become effective immediately upon the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1476

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Ordinance 1476 amends Sections 20-3, 20-31, 20-63, and 20-101 of the Code of the City of East Lansing by modifying the definition of "Preservation Guidelines" to include "East Lansing Guidelines for Work in Historic Districts", modifying the standard for setting a quorum of the Historic District Commission, clarifying the standards for decisions of the Historic District Commission, and allowing for, regulating, and defining solar energy technologies in historic districts.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1476 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#19-369

Slotkin

from page 9

doing this? Why are you going up when you know there's going to be shouting and controversy? Just put

out your op-ed and leave it at that," she said.

Then, she said she remembered the spring of 2017 when then-U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, wasn't making himself publicly available to discuss his opinion on repealing the Affordable Care Act.

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF LANSING'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 7/1/2018 – 6/30/2019 FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

The City of Lansing is making a substantial amendment to its 2018 Action Plan 7/1/2018 – 6/30/2019 to amendment to its 2018 Action Plan (7/1/2018 – 6/30/2019) to include neighborhood facilities under public improvements as a separate activity. Currently, public improvement activities are merged with Single Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation activities and include: general street, sidewalk, water/sewer improvements, including assistance to income eligible owner-occupants or those in CDBG-eligible areas for special assessments related to new improvements, includes improvements to neighborhood parks, recreational facilities; public neighborhood, medical and community facilities in CDBG priority areas. Since this activity is not identified in the City of Lansing's FY 2018 Action Plan, an amendment is required to allow citizens an opportunity to comment on the changes.

The City of Lansing is proposing to revise activity #1 by separating public improvements to create a separate activity which will include neighborhood facilities and all factors associated with this specific project, as highlighted below and transfer/reduce the funds allocated for Activity # 1 – Single-Family Owner Occupied rehabilitation activities /Public improvements by \$100,000 from that activity and transferring into neighborhood facilities new activity public improvements – neighborhood facilities for a specific project in Southwest Lansing.

Existing Projects for Annual Action Plan FY18

#	Project Name
1	Single Family Owner Occupied Rehab Program Public Improvements
2	CDBG Rental Rehab Program/Weatherization
3	Acquisition
4	Public Services
5	Economic Development
6	Downpayment Assistance
7	New Construction/HOME Construction
8	HOMELESS SVS - EMERGENCY SHELTER-STREET OUTREACH-HOMELESS PREVENTION-HMIS-ADMIN
9	CDBG General Administration
10	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) set-aside 15%
11	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating - limited to 5%
12	Home General Administration - limited to 10%

Proposed Amendment

Activity 1: Single Family Owner Occupied: Existing Funding amount: \$1,720,151 Proposed funding amount: \$1,620,151 for Activity #1 reduction of \$100,000 to for new activity

New Proposed Activity 13: Public Improvements – Neighborhood facilities – Specific project in Southwest Lansing to Creation/Expansion of Public Improvements/Facilities to include Neighborhood Facilities

The proposal consists of creation of a town square that includes landscaping activities. The abovementioned art will be installed at this town square location. Since there is some groundbreaking activity and the site is located in close proximity to existing and/or former gas stations, laundromats, etc., an environmental assessment was conducted. The proposed use consist of tree planting/landscaping and the erection of the artwork in this distressed area on Lansing's south side. In efforts to ensure that this property is thoroughly evaluated for environmental review concerns, the City of Lansing is preparing an Environmental Assessment. A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment has been completed by TriTerra, 1375 S. Washington Ave., Suite 300, Lansing, MI 48910.

The City of Lansing followed its Citizen Participation Plan in term of developing the substantial amendment which requires a 30-day comment period. The comment period for the amendment will commence at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2019 and expire at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 2020.

Copies of the substantial amendment are available for review at the City Clerk's office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave.; the Capital Area District Library, 401 South Capitol; the Department of Economic Development and Planning, Development Office, 316 N. Capitol, Suite D-2, Lansing, MI or on the City of Lansing's website at: www.lansingmi.gov/development

The proposed substantial amendment and a summary of the comments received will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) no later than January 25, 2020.

For further information regarding this notice or if you have comments, please contact: Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner, City of Lansing, Michigan, City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 North Capitol, Suite D-1, Lansing Michigan 48933-1236. doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov or (517) 483-4063.

CP#19-363

"I remember criticizing my then-Member of Congress because he wouldn't meet in a truly open town hall," Slotkin said. "He wouldn't have an event that let people express their will. And I can't criticize other people for being afraid to be in front of their constituents and not do it myself. I have to be available That's my job. I'm going to continue to do that, even if there are protesters."

Talking to the press after the town hall, Slotkin said she saw the continuous outbursts from the back of the room as the exception and not the norm. She saw plenty of President Trump supporters in the crowd respectfully listening to what she had to say.

Among those listening was state Rep. Matt Maddock. His wife, Meshawn Maddock, is the head of

the Michigan Trump Republicans.

"I'm actually kind of excited about her vote because I think it's going to cost her this next election," Maddock said. "I think

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM PUBLICATION OF NOTICE FILE NO. 15-50-GM

In the matter of Amelia Rose Petrie.
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Dawn Hall, Anthony Atkins whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: One or more annual reports are being filed with the Ingham County Probate Court.

12/13/19
Laura Marie Petrie
927 S. Barnes St.
Mason, MI 48854
(517) 969-3149

CP#19-371

we're going to have an opportunity to impeach Congressman Slotkin on Nov. 3. She has exposed herself, and I think the District will vote replace her."

Slotkin conceded that the cards coming into her office are running a little over 50/50 in support of the president.

Phillip Reid, treasurer of the Oakland County Democratic Party, agreed that Slotkin made her reelection chances a little tougher, but the way she presented her argument Monday may have helped cushion the blow.

National, regional and local media made the story about Slotkin and not her stumbling when her feet were held to the fire.

"I think her view is why she was elected to Congress. It's country over party, which has been her professional careers. The Ukrainian situation is a threat to national security. I don't think it's something she could take a pass on," he said. "Her whole career has been standing up to power. She has said she's going to do what is right and that's been her entire career."

(Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS is at melinnky@gmail.com.)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider a site plan application from WREL, LLC for the properties at 3118 and 3126 West Road to allow for the construction of a one-story 20,382 square foot office building. The subject properties are located in the RA, Residential Agriculture, and B-5, Community Retail Sales Business, zoning districts.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a lot split application from Kathleen S. Edsall for the property at 920 Narcissus Drive to split the lot into two lots. The subject property is located in the R2, Medium Density Residential zoning district.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1480 an application to rezone Albert Avenue right-of-way (area not zoned) and City Parking Lot #4 (parcel #33-20-01-13-229-011, zoned C, Community Facilities) to B3, City Center Commercial District.

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

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#19-367

How to botch an impeachment

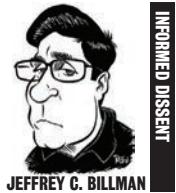
Democrats are rushing for no good reason

This week, for the third time in its 230-year history, the U.S. House of Representatives will impeach a president of the United States. President Donald Trump will be impeached for abusing his office and obstructing Congress, narrow charges that avoid myriad corrupt acts. It will vote to do so almost entirely along party lines.

One side will come armed with hundreds of pages of reports detailing Trump's efforts to extort a foreign government to announce an investigation into his rival. The other side will pound the table and regurgitate the talking points and conspiracy theories that originate in the air pocket between Sean Hannity's ears. (The New York Times will run a story about how both sides are living in "different impeachment realities," never bothering to point out that one of those realities should come with padded walls. Journalism!)

This will happen a week before Christmas. Then Congress will adjourn, and Trump will have several unchallenged weeks to rage-tweet and call into servile Fox News programs to whine about the WITCH HUNT! and WHERE'S THE WHISTLEBLOWER? and signal-boost whatever fart noises Rudy Giuliani makes when he opens his mouth about the Real Ukrainian Corruption. Then, in January, the Senate trial will take one of two tracks, both of which end at the same preordained destination, as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has admitted.

Track 1, which McConnell prefers, is a quick, pointless trial, without witnesses or documents, just a summary from the House, followed by a rebuttal from the White House, followed by a pro forma vote. Wham-bam-thank-you, ma'am, an acquittal. But it only takes four Republicans to break with McConnell to get Track 2, which is what Trump apparently (thinks he) wants. On Sunday, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer asked McConnell to hold, well, an actual trial, under the same rules as the Clinton two decades



JEFFREY C. BILLMAN

ago, with witnesses and subpoenas and evidence. For McConnell (and Trump's lawyers), the danger lies not in Trump's removal but in both giving Democrats another audience to make their case—this time with additional witnesses such as John Bolton and Mick Mulvaney—and in allowing Trump's die-hards to chase wackadoodle conspiracies about Joe Biden and the DNC server on a national stage.

Still, Track 2 could present Democrats with a headache. The five-week trial Schumer proposes will sideline senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders (as well as Amy Klobuchar and Cory Booker) ahead of the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary, while giving Republicans a platform to level corruption allegations at Joe Biden that, even if baseless, could leave a mark.

I suspect McConnell prefers Track 1 because it would make impeachment look petty, inconsequential, and thoroughly partisan. House Democrats spent the last week feeding that narrative.

An hour after Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the House Judiciary Committee would move ahead on impeachment, she held a second press conference to announce that Democrats had reached an agreement with the White House on the United States-Canada-Mexico Agreement, a marginal rewrite of NAFTA that the White House has nonetheless heralded as—I kid you not—the greatest trade agreement ever crafted.

Democrats then gave a man they say "blatantly abused his office and endangered our national security" a \$738 billion military budget, including the farcical Space Force. And Democrats are about to pass a budget that preserves the status quo on the idiotic border wall, Trump's inhumane migrant policies, and all of the other shameful things the administration is doing. Rather than fight the man they're calling a clear and present danger, Democrats are forfeiting their leverage to prove to "swing voters" that they can work with the president despite their differences. Bipartisanship! Or something. I'm sure whatever consultant told them that rolling over made for

a good strategy had a convincing PowerPoint.

And now they'll send his impeachment to the Senate for a show trial, after which Trump will claim vindication.

If they're so inclined, Democrats seem to have a few options. For starters, they don't have to present the articles of impeachment to the Senate right away. They could hang on to them until they've negotiated a fair trial process, or until the Democratic primary has worked itself out, or, as former Nixon White House counsel John Dean has suggested, indefinitely—letting the impeachment hang over Trump's head while the House continues to investigate.

There's a lot of ground left uncovered: obstruction of justice from the Mueller investigation, the illicit payment to Stormy Daniels, God-knows-what in the financial records the president is desperate to hide. There's value in grinding it out, even though there's also some indication that the impeachment fight has marginally helped Trump's numbers. Trump is still a historically unpopular president, and the public is on the Democrats' side: A Fox News poll found that 54 percent of registered voters support impeaching him (and 50 percent support removing him, too). There's really no reason to give Trump's cronies control of the narrative when they've admitted their complicity—and when Trump's inevitable acquittal will only embolden him ahead of the 2020 election. The better alternative would have been to plug away while Trump dangled on the line, burning with the impotent fury of a septuagenarian man-baby.

Would have been.

Slamming the brakes now, after first refusing to impeach Trump following the Mueller report and then rushing ahead over the Ukraine affair, will only look like weakness. The only play now is to hold off until McConnell agrees to hold a legitimate trial, then lose in the most respectable way possible, hoping the American public sees the Republican Party for the soulless, amoral cult of personality it's become.

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



AN IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE CITY OF LANSING

Snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall (Subsection A).

Ice and snow may not be put in the right-of-way (street or sidewalk) so as to impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

Violation notice may be left at property if sidewalk is not clear.

Notice will act as reminder and give an additional 24 hours to clear snow and ice (Subsection B).

If you do not clear your public sidewalk or if the snow/ice are in the right-of-way, the City may clear it at the owners expense (minimum \$149) (Subsection C).

PLEASE KEEP YOUR SIDEWALK PASSABLE

**Lansing Public Service Department
(517) 483-4455
lansingmi.gov/wintersidewalks**

LOVE, AVOIDANCE AND POTATOES

A buffet of advice on talking politics during the holidays

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Easter dinner at former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero's house didn't go well this year. Bernero, a Democrat, and his conservative father-in-law got into politics and the needle went into the red zone.

It was the second holiday dinner in a row to go south because of politics. The subject was banished from the table.

But Bernero hopes Christmas will be different.

Dropping politics at the dinner table would a loss, in Bernero's view. He was a champion high school debater, but he made his rhetorical bones at the family table, an invaluable safe space and proving ground for testing diverse views.

"Picture a table full of Italians," Bernero said. "I remember older relatives who praised Mussolini. Sometimes it would almost get to fisticuffs, but then it's 'Sit down, have some vino.'"

Pasta and table talk, al dente, fortified Bernero into one of the most vigorous debaters on the planet. He's argued before a national audience with no less hostile an opponent than Fox News' Tucker Carlson.

So he's not giving up. This Christmas, he plans to try a trick he learned from a psychologist who recently appeared on his podcast. "You set ground rules," he explained. "You pass a potato around and speak for one minute. While you're holding the potato, nobody interrupts you. My daughter Virginia loves the idea."

The parliamentary potato sounds like a long shot, but people are



grasping for any way to get through Christmas 2019 without making a scene. Herewith is a sampling of strategies from a variety of Lansing voices, ranging from "deep listening" and unconditional love to pouring gasoline on the fire or simply cutting people off. We will conclude with a Dickensian benediction from a man who managed to escape his lifelong bubble of fear and anger — Ebenezer Scrooge himself, "Christmas Carol" actor Aral Gribble.

DANCE WITH IT

When it comes to bringing up hot-button issues at the holiday table, Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing is not an avoider. He leans in, with relish.

"You start out by talking about religion," Schertzing said, in a perversely cheerful tone. "Warm it up with religion. I'm a recovering Catholic. Talk about pedophile priests. That makes talking about politics a breeze. If you're going to put difficult topics out

there, you might as well put several of them out."

He's not fazed in the least by Christmas 2019, even though the family dinner will include one brother who is more conservative than the other three "by far."

"You dance with it the way you've always danced," Schertzing said. "This isn't new stuff."

Schertzing's current family dynamics echo those of the older generation. His dad was a liberal Democrat and his uncle, his dad's older brother, was a conservative Republican.

"The 1968 election had my family talking politics," Schertzing said. "And 1972 and on and on. This is just a refinement of the sport."

Astrologer Lynn Crandall couldn't disagree more.

She has two words for anyone who is thinking of bringing up politics at the holiday table.

"Just don't," she said. "I honestly can't see any way you can possibly do it under the current circumstances."

She rigorously avoids confrontation with certain members of her family.

"They know how I feel, and I know how they feel, and we don't get into it," she said. "There's no reason to bring it up, because nobody is going to change anybody's mind. I feel like once we get on the subject I'm probably going to lose them."

She does not share Schertzing's view that today's polarized climate is the same old same old.

"This is like nothing I've ever seen before," she said.

"Our family is Irish, so fighting and arguing about everything is normal, but not in this climate."

Crandall, a Democrat, was married for over 10 years to a state official who identified as a Republican, in the mold of moderate Gov. William Milliken, who died this year.

"We laughed about it then," she said. "It was a great topic at parties, but I don't think you could do it today."

"For years, I've had all kinds of friends in town who worked for Republican state senators and reps," she said. "We used to laugh about it."

Politics

from page 12

She was delighted when a Republican friend invited her to California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's inauguration.

"Now it's so polarized people can't just agree to disagree anymore," she said. "Honestly, I don't know how we're going to work our way out of this."

Longtime Lansing bar owner Linda Stober thinks she has a time-tested answer.

"The holidays are a good time to take a vacation from your own personal opinion," she said. "People are drowning in their opinions. It's so stressful. When you're around people you love and respect, maybe you can discipline yourself."

She learned the art from working 33 years at Stober's, a Lansing institution. At home, a drink or two can push her slightly off course, but patient listening is her preferred style.

"I was always sober behind the bar, and I could just let people talk and talk and it just wouldn't bother me," she said. "I tried to place my ego in the corner and give somebody else a chance to speak up."

She was recently inspired by a head nurse at Sparrow Hospital who tried not to even form any strong political opinions, for fear they might encroach on the quality of her caregiving.

"It's a great time to be quiet and just listen," Stober said. "Discipline yourself to be kind."

The Rev. Linda Stephan, pastor of the LGBTQ-friendly Williamston United Methodist Church takes this principle even further, into a realm she calls "deep listening."

"What I hear from people who have been in politics a long time is how much more difficult it's become for people who disagree with each other to have a dinner together, to have a relationship outside of those disagreements," she said. "That friction is dividing us in ways that it wasn't 20, 30 years ago. Finding our way back to that starts at the dinner table, doesn't it?"

Stephan said that she and her father have "very different" political views. But in the past 20 years, she's come to realize that she got a lot of her passion from him.

"He's learned that, too," she



"I would rather be alone than in the company of people whose beliefs I find abhorrent."

- Craig Mitchell Smith

said. "He has accepted that his adult daughter learned a lot from him, and strayed, in some ways." She laughed.

"And that's OK."

Stephan has plenty of sad experience in dealing with family divisions. The Methodist church may be heading for a schism over the church's ban on performing same-sex unions and appointing of openly gay ministers. Williamston United is open and welcoming to LGBTQ people.

The issue is likely to come to a head at the national church's general conference in May. At the family table or a national conference, the dilemma is the same: How do you hold on to your principles and stay together at the same table?

"If you think of the United Methodist Church as a big family, talking about politics, there's going to be a lot of hurt feelings again," she said. "It could be a stalemate, an agreement to splinter in some way, it could be a lot of things."

But Stephan takes deep listening only so far. There comes a point where you not only disagree strongly with the other people in your "family" but actually feel unsafe in their company. It's a feeling more and more LGBTQ people have come to acknowledge, going so far as organizing "friendsgiving" like the LGBTQ-friendly Salus Center's Dec. 1 meal.

Stephan will keep her LGBTQ parishioners in mind as the Methodists try to work out their differences.

"We have to keep in mind the safety of the people at the center of the dispute, and the importance of that group," Stephan said.

THE 'GREAT WINNOWING'

The problem with any table talk strategy is that it works with some people but not with others.

Jamie Schriner-Hooper, longtime

Old Town booster and economic development poobah, takes multiple tacks over the holidays.

She's had some surprisingly productive talks with her boyfriend's 15-year-old son at family gatherings. They've made headway with each other about racial equity, gun rights and other topics they disagree on.

"We actually have had some good political discussions and we have come to some levels of agreement," she said. "He is very interested in guns, but we've both agreed that there should be controls in place for people who have had a history of domestic violence, or if they have had a PPO against them, that they should not have a gun."

But there are different rules of engagement for her mother's side of the family.

"We've all agreed that for the sake of family harmony, and we only get to see each other a couple of times a year, that it's just best that we don't breach that subject," she said.

Poet Ruelaine Stokes has a two-step strategy for talking about politics with family.

"One — avoid it if possible," she

See Politics, Page 14

Politics

from page 13

said. "Be kind, lovely, funny, charming. If it comes up, find a diplomatic way to say, 'I totally disagree with you but I love you.' State your position but at the same time, affirm your relationship and your respect for the other person."

That strategy has the advantage of leaving the ball in the other person's court. What are they going to say — stop loving me?

Nevertheless, Stokes said she has "lost relationships" because of the current political polarization.

"I don't know if I've lost them forever, but most of my relatives are pretty far to the right," she said. "I have a good many Trump relatives. I've de-friended people on Facebook but I try in person to be kind and open and in the moment."

If kindness, love and good will strike you as misplaced in view of the enormities of the Trump era, glass artist Craig Mitchell Smith is your man.

Mitchell even has a name for the shrinkage his circle of family and friends has undergone in the last two years: "The Great Winnowing."

"The current political situation has winnowed out people that I realized I don't have enough in common with to have in my life," Mitchell said. "I've found I have friends who were anti-Semitic that I didn't know about. This has exposed people."

Mitchell is content to let the process take its course, no matter how many winnow-ees are left by the wayside.

"I would rather be alone than in the company of people whose beliefs I find abhorrent," he said. "I feel pretty good about it, actually. It saves on gifts."

Smith's brittle wit suits an artist who works with shards of glass, but he makes "The Winnowing" sound more drastic than it is. When pressed, he said he's only cut off "about 10 percent" of his friends and family. No reconciliations have taken place yet.

"I have forged a kinship on values. The people who are still around are the good guys."

But there is one part of his life where avoidance comes in very handy.

"I have a lot of wealthy clients, and I don't go near politics with them," he said.



LOVE AND FEAR

With his actor's training, it's natural for Aral Gribble to put himself

in the shoes of all kinds of people, including people whose views are antithetical to his.

"There's a couple of hot button

issues that are so important to people, like abortion," Gribble said. "When you have somebody who is willing to fill the courts with judges who will protect unborn babies, it's hard for them not to vote for Trump and feel that they're finally winning, that this is pre-ordained by a higher power. How do you debate somebody who thinks God ordained Donald Trump?"

To prepare for his spectacular one-man turn in "A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show" at Williamston Theatre, Gribble read the original story by Charles Dickens. Scrooge struck him as the ultimate example of a hardened ideologue stuck in a bubble.

In current terms, Scrooge is a man of business, a "maker," who sees himself as oppressed and beleaguered by the demands of needy "takers." It takes a series of supernatural interventions to pull him out of his bubble and show him a deeper truth.

It's not hard to imagine a present-day Ghost of Christmas Past whisking a virulently anti-immigration version of Scrooge to U.S. border camps to witness the separation of children from parents — although the chances of a change of heart in modern times, even with a trio of terrifying ghosts on the job, is subject to serious doubt.

To Gribble, dismissing Scrooge and his ilk as evil would be too easy, especially for an actor whose job is to empathize with the characters he plays.

"Scrooge's life was filled with fear," Gribble said. "Fear of not having enough money. Fear of not succeeding, of letting people take advantage of him."

Empathizing with a Scrooge makes for great drama, but it's trickier in real life, where the stakes are real. Gribble is sticking with it, though.

"If you want to dive in over the holidays and talk about politics and about the impeachment, then the overarching theme of your conversation, just like 'Christmas Carol,' has to be loving each other — that you care about the people you are talking with," Gribble said. "That's why you're having this conversation, not to prove your point, but you're talking to them because you love them."

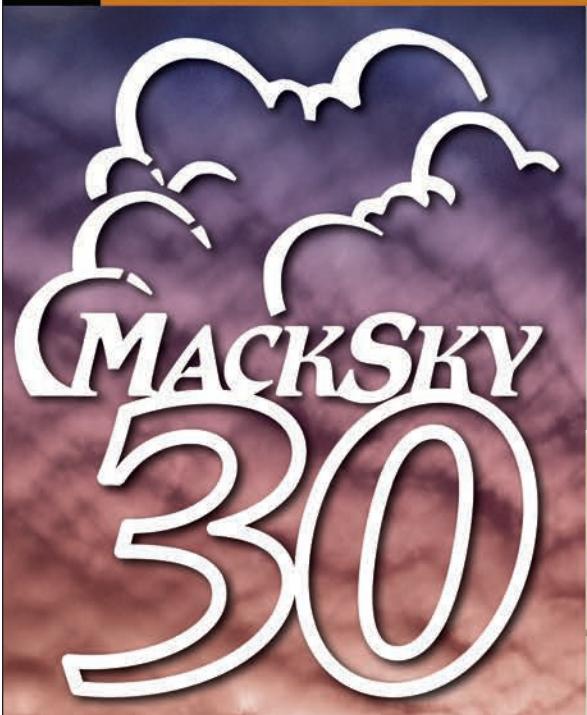
Photo illustrations by Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Page 12: Donald Trump. Page 13: Nancy Pelosi. Page 14: William Barr and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

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Saturday 10-5, Sunday Noon-4
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Closed Dec. 25 (Dec. 31st is our last day)



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Lansing is getting into the festive spirit. More and more elaborate Christmas displays are cropping up around town.

Still shopping for holiday gifts? Check out these local options

By ELLEN DOWLING and AUDREY MATUSZ

We get it, shopping is a hassle. Plus, what do you even get a 14-year-old cousin who speaks in memes and acronyms half the time? This list of last-minute gifts serves the local shopper, who would rather put money into the hands of neighbors instead of corporations, while maintaining their reputation as "most hip" in the family unit. You're welcome.

The Entertainer

Ken Foster, a retired General Motors machinist, has found a beautiful way to repurpose scraps of wood that would go to waste in his shop. Foster, with the help of his grandson, Adam, turns scraps of wood into beautifully made cutting boards in the shape of the state of Michigan. The cutting boards are sold at Old Town General Store and range from \$22.99 to \$49.99. The store is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and will be closed on Christmas.

Old Town General Store

408 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing
Monday-Sunday, various hours
(517) 487-6847
oldtown-generalstore.com

The Socialite

Polka Dot Boutique holds a variety of unique fashion, jewelry and accessories. Additionally, they hold a line of West Third Brand fragrances. The brand, founded in Austin, Texas, handcrafts a minimalist blend of earthy scents. Shop manager, Andrea Bartlett, suggests the Marche' de Tabac and Amber Wood. The shop sells 1/3-ounce bottles for \$25 and 2-ounce bottles for \$40. They will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas Day.

Polka Dots Boutique

Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Sunday noon to 5 p.m.
1207 Turner Road, Lansing
(517) 267-1479
Polkadotboutique.com

The Entrepreneur

Face it, you aren't going to get your Gen Z relative off their phone at dinner, but you can at least help them turn their habit into commerce. We recommend stopping by the Camera Shop and stocking up on accessible video production tools, such as the AXIS phone stabilizer (\$50) or a camera-phone LED light mount (\$15.99). If your loved one has surpassed iPhone blogging and is building a studio, we recommend helping them invest with an LED



ring light (\$170) and a Sirui tripod (\$100). The shop will be open on Christmas Eve from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Camera Shop

6006 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing
Monday-Saturday, various hours
(517) 272-0027
lansingcamera.com

The Birdwatcher

Summit Comics & Games is a family-owned business that holds a longstanding history in the Lansing area. Their recommendation for holiday shoppers is a game called Wingspan. Designed by Elizabeth Hargrave, with art by Natalia Rojas, Ana Maria Martinez Jaramillo and Beth Sobel, the game is a card-driven, engine-building board game. Each player is a researcher, bird watcher, ornithologist and collector – on a mission to discover and attract the best birds to the players' network of wildlife preserves. The game is \$54.99 and the expansion pack is \$24.99. Their hours change to 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve and will be closed Christmas Day.

Summit Comics & Games
216 Washington Square, Lansing
Monday-Sunday, various hours
(517) 485-2369
summitlansing.com

Something for your smart mouth niece

Mackerel Sky has a variety of tastefully made gifts. The owners proudly sell a variety of handmade goods created by local artists. Among the engaging displays are handmade ceramic coffee mugs, created by Crazy Cat Lady Ceramics in Isla La Motte, Vermont. The mugs feature portraits of cats, as well as Bernie Sanders and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, all adorned by flowers. The mugs are \$52 each, located on the gallery's "Resistance Display." Mackerel Sky Gallery will be open on Christmas Eve from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on New Year's Eve. On New Year's Day, the store will be closing its doors preeminently.

Mackerel Sky Gallery of Contemporary Art
211 MAC Ave., East Lansing
Monday-Sunday, various hours
(517) 351-2211
mackerelsky.com

No green necks please

Mad Eagle is an eclectic boutique that has been in mid-Michigan for over 20 years. Located at 301 M.A.C. Ave., the store carries original Clever Clover designs, and exclusive line of pristine sterling silver necklaces created by local artists. The shop offers necklaces for any occasion, person or passion ranging from \$25-60. The shop will have shortened hours on Christmas Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day.

Mad Eagle
301 MAC Ave., East Lansing

See Gifts, Page 17

Gifts

from page 16

Monday-Sun, various hours

(517) 333-3998

madeagle.com

All-Natural Neal

Kathaleen Parker owns Soulful Earth Herbals in REO Town. Parker has been working on perfecting herbal blends that replace the harsh chemicals found in soaps, lotions, cleansers and shampoos. The delightfully scented shop offers themed gift boxes such as the; Body Box, Face Box, Apothecary Box, Hand/Foot Box, a Baby Box and a build-your-own-box option. Boxes vary from \$45 to \$65 and are perfect for the naturalistic person in one's life. The shop will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Soulful Earth Herbals

1131 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(517) 316-0547

soulfulearthherbals.com

CBD Sweetie

On the topic of all-natural products in REO Town, Sweetheart Essentials, located inside REO Town Marketplace, sells homemade CBD aromatherapy products. The ethereal shop has beautifully packaged soaking salt (\$10), bath bombs (\$8) and CBD massage candles (\$18). The need for a cannabinoid candle sprinkled with glitter and crystals seems excessive, but with a little time on the internet you'll see that these are special candles, that upon being heated up, can be used as massage oil. Not sure what happens when the oils dry up again, but if you want to write a review on your hot times you know where to send it. Sweetheart as well as a few other shops will be open on Sundays leading up to Christmas from noon to 3 p.m.

Sweetheart Essentials

1027 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

Wednesday-Saturday, various times

(517) 402-5983

sweet_essentials on Facebook

Green Goddess

Bowls of Jade plant, Echeveria elegans, fascinated haworthia and mammillaria fill the vintage wooden tables of Where The Wild Things Bloom, a plant shop in Old Town across the street from Preuss' Pets. These succulents are stunning in their plastic holders, but in case you want to take it to the next level, the dainty shop has terrarium-building tools. Trim and slip the plants into the shop's collection of glass orifices, such as lab glassware by J. Bond,

a retired scientist from Williamston. The shop will be open tentatively on Christmas Eve and closed Christmas Day.

Where The Wild Things Bloom

523 E Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing

Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

(517) 253-8519

wildthingsbloom.com

DIY Bedroom pop star

Got a brother that never leaves his room, regardless of who is coming over for dinner? He may be suffering from the early stages of chronic beat making, with no outlet to release the creative soundscapes trapped in his mind. Music Manor has used and brand-new DJ and USB controllers, speakers and microphones under \$200 waiting to be put in the hands of a music connoisseur. The longtime go-to for Lansing musicians also has startup kits for the aspiring podcaster. Guitar, bass and ukele lessons are available for \$20 per half-hour.

Music Manor

3333 S. Cedar St., Lansing

Monday-Saturday, various hours

(517) 393-5995

music-manor.com

Sucré in the city

Despite a car running into the building last weekend, Don Pancho's market is still alive and well. This place is great for last-minute stocking stuffers

for the person with an adventurous sweet tooth. Surprise them with Pingünos instead of Oreos or freshly baked and frosted cortadillos. Stop by the frozen treats near the cashier and stock up on Mi Michoacana ice cream bars (\$3.49) made in Kalamazoo. Our favorites included Pistachio con nuez and Walnut.

Don Pancho market

2120 S. Cedar St., Lansing

Monday-Sunday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

(517) 374-0044

facebook.com/donpanchomarket

Something for your ink'd up cousin

You know, the tatted-up relative who has hardly spoken a word since his/her eighth-grade. Give them a T-shirt, notebook or clutch screen printed by ALT. Printing Co. that does all the talking for them. Merchandise ranges from \$5-\$30.

ALT Printing Co.

1139 Washington Ave., Lansing

Tuesday-Saturday, various hours

(517) 388-3558

linktr.ee/altprintingco



Photos by Skyler Ashley/City Pulse
More Christmas decorations put up around East Lansing and Lansing, including a spectacular "Star Wars" display.

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Founders of new artist showcase reflect on 2019

By AUDREY MATUSZ

On a Wednesday night in Lansing, one has a greater chance of seeing a horde of stray plastic bags tumbling toward the Capitol building than a line of patrons waiting to get inside a music venue. That was until the minds behind The Artists Umbrella, a monthly variety show, developed a formula that induces residents to pause Netflix and show out for local talent. Their secret recipe is unlike any other, with a dose of experimental art, group hugs and Rhianna's potent chart-toppers.

For the past seven months, the Artist Umbrella has brought in a busload of freethinkers, movers and storytellers to perform at the Loft in downtown Lansing. Co-founders Brandon Navin and Jeremy Hurt were line cooks at IHop when they discovered their mutual histories fronting bands and composing verses. In the first couple of runs at the Loft, the Umbrella served as an open mic geared toward lyrical readings but quickly grew into a fully loaded artist showcase.

"When we first started, one of the things I used to say was, 'If you have an ant farm that you love, we want to see your ant farm,'" Navin said with a laugh. "We've moved past that now. It's grown into this thing where we have a responsibility to our audience to vet talent."

Leave it to Lansing creatives to see the value in putting a punk rock band and belly dancer on the same stage. Navin described the format as "kind of cabaret and vaudeville-esque." A night under the Umbrella opens with an open mic at 6:30 p.m., followed by a scheduled lineup of creatives ranging from poets to belly dancers — the Habibi Dancers, specifically. The Habibi Dancers are one of the many returning acts among the monthly barrage of talent.

"We make people feel comfortable and we provide them with that safe space to share and they see that when they attend shows," Hurt said. "Eventually they want to be a bigger part of



Audrey Matusz/City Pulse

(Left to Right) Brandon Navin, Allison Spooner and Jeremy Hurt are the brain children behind The Artist's Umbrella, a monthly, Wednesday night art showcase.

that."

Today (Dec. 18), Artist Umbrella listed Vincie D as its first featured band, along with speed painters, a professional hula hooper and fiction readings. Navin throws in his larger-than-life energy by introducing performers and conducting the audience in sing-a-longs. Hurt takes the lead on networking and keeps the lineup fresh. Past shows have featured out-of-towners such as rapper Vaughn Lambo and poet Kirei from Flint as well as drag champion Aaliyah Tealheart from Kalamazoo.

After a few successful shows, Navin approached Allison Spooner, an avid fiction writer, after she gave a reading at a poetry event that moved him to tears. Spooner, whose background is in public relations, serves as marketing director.

As a trio, the group promotes

"transparency" and fostering a "safe space" at their shows, Navin said. He added that the goal of Artist Umbrella is to cultivate a supportive creative community, which to him looks like a family — group hugs included.

"We started kicking off the event doing some sort of rendition of 'Umbrella' by Rhianna, and we encourage people to hug and it works," Navin said. After some initial resistance, people are coming around to the hugging. "I came up with the idea and people were like, 'Yeah, that's cool Brandon,'" he said. His factoids on hugs reducing blood pressure and cortisol, a stress hormone, are often lost on people. "But people are doing it. It's about creating that energy in the room. This is not a competition."

When asked what has been the most rewarding aspect of launching the showcase, he shared stories of au-

dience members who left a show inspired to create.

"A local guy came to one of our shows and his girlfriend messaged me the next day and said that he had been suffering from mad depression and she usually has to drag him out of bed. When she woke up that morning at 5:30 a.m., he was sitting at the computer writing."

Spooner said after attending one Artist Umbrella show, she was hooked by the hosts' infectious energy and felt obligated to join the movement of outspoken creatives.

"Lansing can get a bad rap and you hear people say, 'There is nothing to do here,' and I was a part of that when I first started living here. But with Brandon's loud mouth and Jeremy's passion, it puts it out there. There is an underground network of artists here and we are trying to bring it out."

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New CBD retailer pops up on Saginaw Highway

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Nature's Kyoor, a new shop selling its own in-house and locally outsourced CBD goods, has opened up on Saginaw Highway near the Lansing Mall.

Co-owner Kenneth Kareckas said the mission of Nature's Kyoor is to help people out by providing alternative, natural medicine that is non-intoxicating. If you weren't already in the loop, CBD is all the rage across the United States. It's a legal alternative to THC that does not get you high but is said to offer the same stress and pain relief that can be provided by THC. Kareckas said his customers



Nature's Kyoor

4218 W. Saginaw Highway,
Lansing
CLOSED Sunday
Monday-Friday,
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
facebook.com/
www.natureskyoor.co
(517) 928-0053

often use CBD-infused products to reduce anxiety and alleviate nagging joint or back pain.

"CBD does a lot — it depends what you're having problems with. It relieves pain, it relieves anxiety and it helps people sleep. It does wonders for all sorts of stuff," Kareckas said.

Before the shop's official opening earlier this month, Nature's Kyoor began as an online retailer that handled all of its sales digitally. Difficulties arose when making the push for a brick-and-mortar space, as many vacant spaces in strip malls had neighboring stores already selling CBD products, and several property owners were deterred by the thought of CBD itself; erroneously confusing Nature's Kyoor for a provisioning center or a head shop.

"They thought we were selling products that get you high, not realizing it's only for medical purposes. It's hard," Kareckas said. "When we finally found a building, the place was completely



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Nicole and Kenneth Kareckas of Nature's Kyoor

destroyed. It took us two months to remodel it."

Nature's Kyoor, like many CBD shops, has a large variety of goods that

are infused with CBD. One glance at the shelves and shoppers are greeted with options ranging from gummy bears to coffee. In this day and age, there's not a single product that doesn't have a CBD incarnation out there waiting to be discovered. Kareckas said his most popular product is Nature's Kyoor's range of topical CBD creams.

"You just rub it on like any other lotion. The CBD gets in your system and targets the pain," Kareckas said.

Kareckas said the advantage of shopping at a store like Nature's Kyoor for CBD goods, rather than a gas station or convenience store, is the authenticity and quality of the CBD being used.

"A lot of people don't know what they're getting. A lot of companies market hemp seed oil as the same thing as CBD — people see it and mistake it for CBD," Kareckas said. "There's a lot of stuff out there that isn't actual CBD. We only make stuff with the best quality products you can buy."

Biggby 'Store No. 1' says final goodbyes

By AUDREY MATUSZ

After 24 years of service, Biggby's original location is closing. But before you get too choked up, its new home awaits right across the street on the first floor of the 300 Grand Apartments, located at 300 W. Grand River Ave.

The coffee outlet on 270 W. Grand River Ave. will close Friday (Dec. 20). To honor the memories made by customers, the company announced two photo contests. The first contest winner was Logan Wood, a recent graduate of Michigan State University, who won for her exterior shot of the building amid the pink clouds of dawn. She said she took the photo last week after stopping by the café during her morning commute to work. Her winning photograph, which earned her \$20 gift card, and will be prominently displayed at the new location.

"I'm looking forward to the new place being fast and modern, but I will miss the old place too because it was cozy," said Wood.

A second photo contest was announced Monday as well. Fans can submit interior shots of the original

shop for a chance to win a \$20 Biggby gift card. The submission process is not centralized. The company is collecting submissions via the "Biggby Coffee 517 (Grand River Avenue)" Facebook page or dropping off photos at its office located at 2501 Coolidge Road Suite 302, East Lansing. The winner will be announced Thursday (Dec. 19).

The new coffee shop is expected to open "around the new year" and will feature a large meeting table with built-in electrical outlets, according to General Manager Rebekah Butcko. Butcko said the new apartment-version of Biggby will also feature a drive thru window — a modern staple for the chain coffeehouse.

"Back when Bob Fish founded Biggby, he would never have fathomed that people would want a coffee drive-thru. He didn't even know if there would be enough coffee lovers to sustain a company like Biggby in East Lansing," Butcko said.

The new location will also have a "nice, fresh feel," Butcko said. Fathy Shetiah, the co-owner of Biggby on 270 W. Grand River Ave said the old Biggby location was getting difficult to



Courtesy photo

The winning shot from Biggby's first photo contest commemorating "Store No. 1" by recent MSU grad, Logan Wood. The second contest ends Thursday (Dec. 19).

maintain and an update was needed. He added that he and his brother have been in conversation with DTN Management Co., the owners of 300 Grand Apartments, about moving in for about five years.

Since opening in fall of 2016, DTN has been looking to find businesses to lease space inside the high-rise student residence. The Shetiah brothers will be the first retailers in the apartment buildings.

Mohamed Shetiah bought the location from the CEO and founder of Biggby Coffee, nearly 20 years ago. The brothers collectively own 25 coffee outlets in Michigan and Ohio.

Fathy Shetiah, who graduated from Michigan State University in 1999 with a degree in marketing, said coffee house culture has changed a great deal since his college days.

"I absolutely love the concept of Biggby," he said. "Back then in my day, coffee shops were very different and I think Biggby has reenergized the coffee industry, especially here in Lansing."

As for the former location, Brian Holland, the chief financial officer for DTN, said they have started negotiating a contract with Mohamed Shetiah to purchase the building.

"I have no idea what we will do with the building," Holland said.

The Midwest's tragic bootleg king in 'The Ghosts of Eden Park'

By BILL CASTANIER

George Remus was one of the leading entrepreneurs in the underground operations of Prohibition, controlling almost 30% of illegal liquor distribution in the United States from his home in Cincinnati.

The bootlegger was also a pharmacist, lawyer and a murderer.

Remus was a teetotaler and never let any of his product pass his lips, but he was fully engaged in the lavish lifestyle it brought him.

At his Cincinnati mansion, he and his spouse, Imogene, hosted resplendent parties said to have inspired F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby." Gatsby wouldn't have been able to hold a candle to Remus. At a 1921 New Year's Eve party, he and Imogene lavished guests with presents. Each woman drove home in a brand-new Pontiac. The men were given diamond stickpins.

As a pharmacist, Remus manipulated loopholes in the dry laws to his benefit. As a lawyer, he represented himself in court as the defendant after killing Imogene in a nasty love triangle in 1927.

He was not a good judge of men. While in prison serving time for a prohibition violation, he asks Imogene to flirt with revenue agent Franklin L. Dodge Jr. to get his sentence shortened. Dodge was originally from Lansing and son of a two-term Michigan Legislator. Imogene followed her husband's orders with a passion, and Dodge used Imogene's power of attorney to steal Remus' immense wealth, estimated at \$40 million.

Best-selling author and historian Karen Abbott retells this outlandish story in her book "The Ghosts of Eden Park: The Bootleg King, the Women Who Pursued Him and the Murder That Shocked Jazz-Age America."

Abbott is a talented writer with titles such as "Sin in the Second City," "American Rose," and "Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy."

The author said she learned about Remus from the HBO five-season-long series "The Boardwalk Empire,"

which included a Cincinnati bootlegger, modeled after a character much like Remus. In the series, Remus refers to himself in the third person, something he did in real-life.

"I usually get my ideas from musty archives and libraries," Abbott said.

"And the real-life story of Remus is much more interesting than the TV series," she said.

She said what makes the book so compelling is the dialogue is adapted from a 5,500-page transcript of Remus' murder trial.

"It adds a cinematic style to the book," Abbott said.

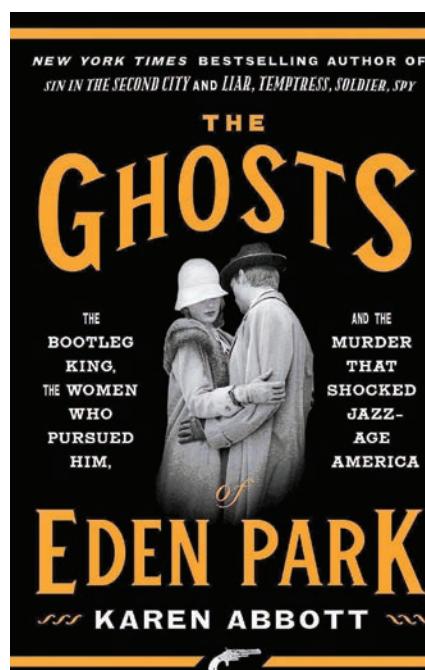
Abbott found the transcript while researching the murder trial at the Yale Archives. The transcript survives because the prosecutor was Yale graduate Charles Taft, the son of President William Howard Taft.

Abbott said the transcript of the six-weeklong trial was a real find. She spent four months reading and summarizing its contents.

"My summary was 85,000 words, almost the length of the book," she said.

She was also able to access the declassified FBI files on Dodge in the National Archives, and the Library of Congress contained a treasure trove on Mabel Walker Willebrandt, the assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted Prohibition cases from 1921 to 1929. As the highest-ranking woman in government, she plays a major role in Abbott's book. Both Willebrandt and Remus were prominently featured in Ken Burns' documentary "Prohibition." Called a "firebrand" by the opposition, she office prosecuted more than 48,000 cases in one year.

Abbott turned her extensive research into a colorful, engaging and



in-depth look at the behind-the-scenes life of a major bootlegger. One thing that makes it an enjoyable read is the colorful macho language so typical of the times. In describing Dodge, Remus says, "I am his master, physically."

"I really benefited from the transcript," she said.

Willebrandt, a dogged prosecutor, made a big mistake when she picked Dodge as her "ace investigator" in Remus' case. Remus and Dodge first met while the agent was working undercover in the same prison where Remus was serving time.

There are some clever legal arguments made during the trial on how a man claiming insanity can defend himself. Nevertheless, Remus comes out of the trial guilty of murder by reason of insanity giving him an opening for early release. After

serving only six months, psychiatrists deemed him sane and he was released. Dodge ultimately served three years for perjury. Following his release, Dodge returned to Lansing, where he went to work for the newly-minted Liquor Control Commission.

Today, the murder, which took place near the gazebo in Cincinnati's Eden Park, is remembered annually at ghost walks. It's said the ghost of Imogene still walks the grounds. The boyhood home of Dodge Jr., The Turner-Dodge Mansion in Lansing, has been restored and is open to the public.

SCHULER BOOKS

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. This month we are reading *The Shadow of the Wind*.

2ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE STORYTIME

December 24 • 11am

We've made our lists, decorated the tree, and finished almost all of the shopping. Come and settle in with your family for our 2nd annual Christmas Eve storytime and craft!

KID'S STORY TIME

Saturdays • 11am

Jump into the pages of our favorite books! We will sing songs, make a craft and go on a new adventure.

25% OFF HOLIDAY MERCHANDISE

Save on holiday books, gifts, decor, CDs and DVDs, cards, and wrapping paper. Shop early for best selection. All sales final.

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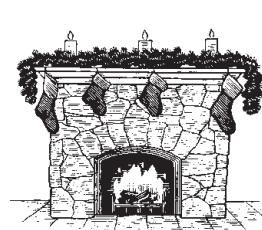
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curiousbooks.com



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20% Off

Gift Certificates and
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*The stockings were hung by the chimney with care
knowing a book would fit perfect in there!*

SchulerBooks.com /Event
Meridian Mall • Okemos

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 18

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 Program - 3:45-5 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

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.

Holiday Storytime (Ages 10-6) - 10-11 a.m. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster, Lansing.

Rock n' Read Storytime - 10:30-11 a.m. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

EVENTS

8th Annual Festival of Trees - Hosted by The Friends of Turner-Dodge House and Lansing Parks and Rec. Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. with Rick Hansel performing at 5 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Geeks Who Drink Weekly Pub Trivia - 8 p.m. HopCat, 300 Grove St., East Lansing.

FRIDAY, DEC. 20 >> CULTURE CLASH AT THE AVENUE CAFÉ



This hip-hop night will take your favorite holiday jams to the next level with music selections and masterful mixing by EssBe and Y'z Council. The showcase aims to highlight different genres and art. Old-school hip-hop soul, Kwaj, will take the stage to share his lyrical wisdom and calculated flow.

9 p.m. to 12 a.m., Free, 21+
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 492-7403
avenuecafelansing.com

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

Lansing Area National Ataxia Foundation Support Group - 1-2 p.m. Delta Twp. Center, 4538 Elizabeth Rd., #302, Lansing. 517-993-7655. naflansing.wordpress.com

Lansing Codes: The Grid is opening up early so folks can cowork in their space! 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The Grid, 226 E. Grand River Ave, Lansing.

Line Dancing - for fun, exercise, and staying involved. 1-2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

ARTS

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

Sunrises & Smokestacks - ongoing. Fenner Nature Center's inaugural exhibition. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing.

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

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

MUSIC

Camertone: International Chamber Soloists Concert Series - 7-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Thursday, December 19

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.

Zumba - fitness classes 6:30-7:30 p.m. Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. 517-882-2838.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

PJ Storytime (Sensory Friendly) - 6:30-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

EVENTS

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

8th Annual Festival of Trees - Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing.



Shades of Motherhood: Perinatal Mood & Anxiety Support at Willow Tree Family

Since the late '80s, studies on postpartum depression have raised awareness of a seemingly invisible global

Shades of Motherhood

Thursday, Dec. 26, 1 to 2:30 p.m., 3333 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Ste 101, Lansing. (586) 806-9832. facebook.com/WillowTreeFamily

new mothers will experience, at a minimum, the "baby blues," according to the American Pregnancy Association. Many of these women will go on to experience more severe bouts of

depression, as well as anxiety and guilt.

Shade of Motherhood is a Lansing-based support group led by a licensed social worker specializing in mothers with newborns. The group is designed to support moms who are facing postpartum depression, postpartum anxiety, or baby blues. Topics are based on the needs of the group and focus on adjusting to changing expectations and motherhood. The event is free and available on a drop-in basis. For questions, please contact Kersten Kimmerly at kerstenkimmerly1@gmail.com

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Sensory Friendly Storytime (Age 2 & up) - 9:30-10:30 a.m. CADL Holt - Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. cadl.org

EVENTS

2019 Holiday Lights - Stadium Style! - 5:30 p.m. Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-483-7400.

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

8th Annual Festival of Trees - Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing.

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

Ice Age Movie Night - 5:30-8:30 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116.

Lansing Personal Injury Attorneys Meetup - 10-11 a.m. The Cadillac Room, 1115 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-798-6175. attorneykennugent.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.

ARTS

A Holiday Cabaret - 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700.

DIY Holiday Ornaments (All ages) - 4-6 p.m. See Out on the town, Page 25

Friday, December 20

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.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Color
Changers"--
hue new?
by Matt Jones

Across

1 "The Italian Job" actor ___ Def

4 "Birdman" actress Watts

9 Callow

14 Money used just before the euro was introduced

15 Daily Planet reporter Jimmy

16 Bassoon relatives

17 Decorations that may change colors

19 Couldn't avoid it

20 "What We Do in the Shadows" nourishment

21 Parisian waters

23 Place a wager

24 Affirmative responses

25 Tourist draw with seasonally changing colors

28 "Così fan ___" (Mozart opera)

30 Purpose

31 Like early-in-the-year forecasts, maybe

32 Words after "easy"

35 Channel where you could clearly watch "Doctor Who"?

37 Mammals that completely change color depending on the time of year

40 New York county near Pennsylvania

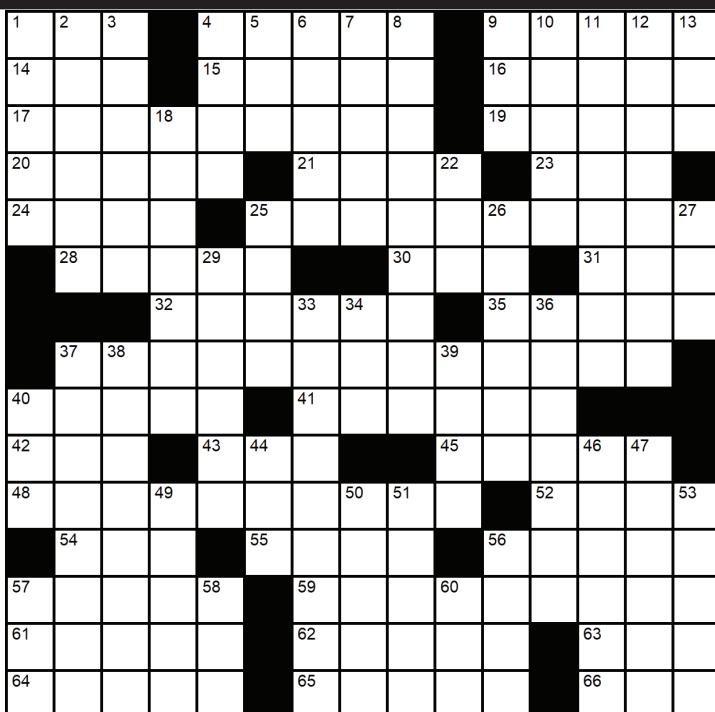
41 At a bargain

42 Insurance co. rep.

43 Pai ___ poker (casino game)

45 Marketer of Nutrilite vitamins

48 Lizards notable for



changing colors

52 Bed frame piece

54 Prefix with pod or cycle

55 Bowed, to a violist

56 Designer cologne since 1994

57 Other song on a 45

59 Color-changing jewelry popular in the '70s

61 Peanut butter cup inventor H.B.

62 "Take it back!"

63 Note after fa

64 "The defense ___"

65 Quizzes

66 ___ scale of one to ten

Down

1 Toast eponym

2 Cougar's cousin

3 It starts with a few digits filled in already

4 Domino's ad character,

once

5 "Solve for x" subj.

6 "Straight Outta Compton" costar ___ Jackson Jr.

7 Something forged

8 Winterizes, in a way

9 Classic Japanese drama

10 Addis ___, Ethiopia

11 Flash drive or mouse, e.g.

12 Assistants for pet projects?

13 That, in Lima

18 Reward poster

subject, perhaps

22 Super Bowl played at

Dolphin Stadium

25 Professionals' charges

26 Prepare, as a mummy

27 Barrett once of Pink Floyd

29 Hauler's charge

33 Non-slip bathroom

surface

34 Hydroxide, e.g.

36 Cold beer, in dated slang

37 Do touristy stuff

38 Document certifiers

39 "Witness" actor Lukas

40 Tic-___-toe

44 Suffix with pay or Cray

46 King in "The Tempest"

47 Capital of Myanmar until 2006 (formerly known as Rangoon)

49 In the ___ of (amongst)

50 ___, all ye faithful ...

51 "High" times?

53 Company behind the Cybertruck

56 Bulky old PC screens

57 "It's cold!"

58 Suffix after employ

60 Part of e.g.?

Answers Page 25

Beginner**TO PLAY**

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

Answers on page 25

Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

Dec. 18 - Dec. 24, 2019

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The English word "hubris" means prideful, exaggerated self-assurance. In the HBO TV series "Rome," the ancient Roman politician and general Mark Antony says to his boss Julius Caesar, "I'm glad you're so confident. Some would call it hubris." Caesar has a snappy comeback: "It's only hubris if I fail." I'm tempted to dare you to use you that as one of your mottoes in 2020, Aries. I have a rather expansive vision of your capacity to accomplish great things during the coming months. And I also think that one key to your triumphs and breakthroughs will be your determination to cultivate a well-honed aplomb, even audacity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): For years I've lived in a house bordering a wetland, and I've come to love that ecosystem more than any other. While communing with reeds and herons and muddy water, my favorite poet has been Taurus-born Lorine Niedecker, who wrote about marshes with supreme artistry. Until the age of 60, her poetic output was less than abundant because she had to earn a meager living by cleaning hospital floors. Then, due to a fortuitous shift in circumstances, she was able to leave that job and devote more time to what she loved most and did best. With Niedecker's breakthrough as our inspiration, I propose that we do all we can, you and I, as we conspire to make 2020 the year you devote more time to the activity that you love most and do best.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the English language, the prefix "re" comes at the beginning of many words with potent transformational meaning: reinvent; redeem; rediscover; release; relieve; redesign; resurrect; rearrange; reconstruct; reform; reanimate; reawaken; regain. I hope you'll put words like those at the top of your priority list in 2020. If you hope to take maximum advantage of the cosmic currents, it'll be a year of revival, realignment, and restoration.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I won't be surprised if you're enamored and amorous more than usual in 2020. I suspect you will experience delight and enchantment at an elevated rate. The intensity and depth of the feelings that flow through you may break all your previous records. Is that going to be a problem? I suppose it could be if you worry that the profuse flows of tenderness and affection will render you weak and vulnerable. But if you're willing and eager to interpret your extra sensitivity as a superpower, that's probably what it will be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Does the word "spirit" mean anything to you? Or are you numb to it? Has it come to seem virtually meaningless—a foggy abstraction used carelessly by millions of people to express sentimental beliefs and avoid clear thinking? In accordance with astrological omens, I'll ask you to create a sturdier and more vigorous definition of "spirit" for your practical use in 2020. For instance, you might decide that "spirit" refers to the life force that launches you out of bed each morning and motivates you to keep transforming yourself into the ever-more beautiful soul you want to become.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There are people who take the heart out of you, and there are people who put it back," wrote author Charles de Lint. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, your heart will encounter far more of the latter than the former types of people in 2020. There may be one wrangler who tries to take the heart out of you, but there will be an array of nurturers who will strive to keep the heart in you—as well as boosters and builders who will add even more heart.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Composer Igor Stravinsky was born a Russian citizen, but later in life became a French citizen, and still later took on American citizenship. If you have had any similar predilections, Libra, I'm guessing they won't be in play during 2020. My prediction is that you will develop a more robust sense of where you belong than ever before. Any uncertainties you'd had about where your true power spot lies will

dissipate. Questions you've harbored about the nature of home will be answered. With flair and satisfaction, you'll resolve long-running riddles about home and community.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Friendship is a very taxing and arduous form of leisure activity," wrote philosopher and educator Mortimer Adler. He was exaggerating a bit for comic effect, but he was basically correct. We all must mobilize a great deal of intelligence and hard work to initiate new friendships and maintain existing friendships. But I have some very good news about how these activities will play out for you in 2020, Scorpio. I expect that your knack for practicing the art of friendship will be at an all-time high. I also believe that your close alliances will be especially gratifying and useful for you. You'll be well-rewarded for your skill and care at cultivating rapport.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In 1933, Sagittarian artist Diego Rivera was commissioned to paint a huge mural in one of the famous Rockefeller buildings in New York City. His patrons didn't realize he was planning to include a controversial portrait of former Soviet Communist leader Vladimir Lenin. When the deed was done, they ordered him to remove it. When he refused, they ushered him out and destroyed the whole mural. As a result, Rivera also lost another commission to create art at the Chicago World's Fair. In any other year, Sagittarius, I might encourage you to be as idealistic as Rivera. I'd invite you to place artistic integrity over financial considerations. But I'm less inclined to advise that in 2020. I think it may serve you to be unusually pragmatic. At least consider leaving Lenin out of your murals.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "People mistake their limitations for high standards," wrote Capricorn author Jean Toomer. In my astrological opinion, it's crucial that you avoid doing that in 2020. Why? First, I'm quite sure that you will have considerable power to shed and transcend at least some of your limitations. For best results, you can't afford to deceive yourself into thinking that those limitations are high standards. Secondly, Capricorn, you will have good reasons and a substantial ability to raise your standards higher than they've ever been. So you definitely don't want to confuse high standards with limitations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Historians once thought that 14th-century Englishmen were the first humans to track the rhythms of the planet Jupiter using the complicated mathematics known as calculus. But in 2015, researchers discovered that Babylonians had done it 1400 years before the Englishmen. Why was Jupiter's behavior so important to those ancient people? They were astrologers! They believed the planet's movements were correlated with practical events on earth, like the weather, river levels, and grain harvests. I think that this correction in the origin story of tracking Jupiter's rhythms will be a useful metaphor for you in 2020. It's likely you will come to understand your past in ways that are different from what you've believed up until now. Your old tales will change.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): China produces the most apples in the world. The United States is second. That wasn't always true. When Europeans first reached the shores of the New World, crab apple was the only apple species that grew natively. But the invaders planted other varieties that they brought with them. They also imported the key to all future proliferation: honeybees, champion pollinators, which were previously absent from the land that many indigenous people called Turtle Island. I see 2020 as a time for you to accomplish the equivalent, in your own sphere, of getting the pollination you need. What are the fertilizing influences that will help you accomplish your goals?

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S
MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

Saturday, Dec. 21

Q&A: RACHEL CURTIS TALKS 'AMERICAN IDOL,' NEW SINGLES



Lansing-based singer-songwriter Rachel Curtis headlines Saturday at Mac's Bar. Opening are Creature of One and James Gardin. (photo by Erica Spencer)



The Rachel Curtis Band comprises (L to R): Tyler Tesla (bass, keys), Rachel Curtis (vocals, acoustic guitar), Danny Lindstrom (drums) and Jason Marr (electric guitar). (Photo by Eric Palmer)

Lansing-based singer-songwriter headlines Mac's Bar

Saturday, Dec. 21 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12, \$10 adv., 7 p.m.

Since her professional starting point in 2014, Lansing-based songwriter Rachel Curtis has kept busy gigging across the state, even venturing to Nashville and Chicago. Along the way, she's warmed up stages for the likes of Gladys Knight and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. Last year, she even auditioned on "American Idol"—although a bout of food poisoning ended her journey on the hit show. Since then, Curtis has stayed busier than ever, releasing her "Senses" EP in 2018, and a series of wistful, catchy pop-rock singles throughout 2019. Fans of Heart, Florence & The Machine or Kacey Musgraves might want to visit rachelcurtismusic.com.

Curtis closes out her busy year with a headlining set at Mac's Bar. Openers are James Gardin and Creature of One.

You're playing Mac's and showcasing your new singles, including "Adam & Eve," what inspired that song?

"Adam & Eve" was inspired by a couple friends of mine that are sisters. Their grand-

father was in a nursing home struggling with dementia and was no longer able to recognize his wife. His wife passed away and that very day the family gathered at the nursing home, they all saw him talking up as if his wife's ghost was above him. He replied with "It's our time already?" A week after his wife, he also passed away. The song is about his wife calling him home. The imagery of heaven in the song is a biblical reference to the Garden of Eden, a place before the apple incident — a place of peace and where he can remember her again.

Later this month, you're releasing "Blue." What's the story behind that single?

I grew up hearing the old wedding saying — that a bride needs "something new, something borrowed and something blue." This song is about finding that something blue in the man I married, in his eyes and the aura of blue that surrounds him. Like a blue mood ring means relaxation and calm, I

found that in him.

"Intertwine" was released back in August, where did that single come from?

It's about the joy of waking up to the person you love every morning and wanting that moment to last forever. It's about having an unconditional love that intertwines two souls together and was also inspired by my marriage.

Relationships are reoccurring in your words, but "Dandelions" seems a bit different.

I wrote that song after a long car ride in the spring. I saw a huge field of dandelions and it brought back memories of when I was a kid. I used to make a wish on them and my dad got mad because he didn't want the weed to spread throughout his lawn. In the song, dandelions are a metaphor for people who are having a hard time fitting in. People might think you're a weed, but this song encourages people to use that power

and spread your uniqueness to others in an inspiring way. The song is an anthem for people not fitting into the social norm.

Looking back, what sticks out most about your 2018 "American Idol" experience?

I grew up watching the show and singing along with my hairbrush in hand. I'm so grateful to have been chosen out of around 45,000 auditioners to sing in front of Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan. I feel blessed they sent me and only 160 others to Hollywood with the same dream as mine. My favorite memory would probably be walking onto the Dolby Theatre stage in Hollywood and standing on the American Idol emblem where so many inspirational singers have stood before me. I believe everything is for a reason and getting food poisoning in Hollywood seemed like bad timing, but I learned so much going through that stress. I wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café , 2021 E. Michigan Ave..	Trivia Night:Bad Santa 10PM	Open Mic Night: 8:30PM	AOTA Hip Hop DJs 9PM	DAOM Krampsnacht 9PM
Coach's Pub & Grill , 6201 Bishop Rd.				The New Rule 9PM
Crunchy's , 254 W. Grand River; East Lansing	Live with North of Five 8PM	Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM
The Exchange , 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Wednesday Vibes Eddie Bandz 9:30PM	Old School Thursdays DJ Jalese 8:30PM	The Cloudboppers 9:30PM	Medusa 9:30PM
Green Door , 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Karaoke	Soul Play 517 9:30PM	Holiday Extravanza 9:30PM
Lansing Brewing Co. , 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia with Sporcle 9PM		Live Music with Chris Canas 8PM	Live Music with Shelby & Jake 8PM
The Loft , 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Artist's Umbrella 6:30PM	Grobot 7:30PM	Cranberry Vampire Tour 8PM	Blackout Blacklight Party 9PM
Mac's Bar , 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Banned & Burned 6PM	Rachel Curtis 7PM
Robin Theatre , 1105 S. Washington				Heartland Klezmorim 7PM
Spiral , 1247 Center St.		Naughty or Nice Burlesque Show 9PM	Turn Up Fridays 9PM	Bad Santa Party 9PM
Unicorn , 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing	Open Mic 9:30PM		Live Music with FB2 9PM	Live Music with Capital Sundogs
Urban Beat , 1213 Turner Rd.	Camertone Concert Series 7PM		Khalia Cummings & The Corzo Effect 8PM	The Honey Badgers 8PM
Wildlife Pub , 6380 Drumeller Rd., Bath			Open Mic 7:30PM	
VFW 701 , 123 N. Rosemary St.			The New Rule 8PM	

**LIVE
AND
LOCAL**

Upcoming show? Contact
Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

From Page 22

CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

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

Holiday Cheer - 7-9 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

The Living Nativity Presented by Pennway Church of God - every 15 minutes. 7-9 p.m. 1101 E. Cavanaugh Rd, Lansing.

Mud & Mug - 7-10 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Saturday, December 21**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

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

Saturday Lotus Yoga - with instructor Autumn West! 10-11 a.m. Michigrain Distillery, 523 E Shiawassee St, Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Storytime & Cinnamon Rolls with Santa - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Alive, 800 W Lawrence Ave., Charlotte.

EVENTS

2019 Holiday Lights - Stadium Style! - 5:30 p.m. Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-483-7400.

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

8th Annual Festival of Trees - Turner-Dodge

SATURDAY, DEC. 21 >> LINE DANCING AT OVERDRIVE

In the shadows of Tequila Cowboy, Overdrive has two-stepped into the Lansing Mall to fill the void of live entertainment. Join Instructor Susan Phaner to learn how to kick, step and turnabout on Overdrive's smooth wooden floors while the newly installed sound system rattles your boots.

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., \$5/per person
5330 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing
(517) 331-2701
facebook.com/KickNStyle

SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 23

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION From Pg. 23								
MOS	NAOMI	NAIVE						
ECU	OLSEN	OBOES						
LED	LIGHTS	HAD TO						
BLOOD	EAUX	BET						
AOKS	FALL LEAVES							
TUTTE	AIM	ICY						
DOES IT	B B C H D							
SNOWSHOE	E H A R E S							
TIOGA	ON SALE							
AGT	GOW	AMWAY						
CHAMELEONS	SLAT							
TRI	ARCO CK ONE							
BSIDE	MOOD RINGS							
REESE	AM NOT SOL							
RESTS	TESTS ONA							

Holiday Cheer - 7-9 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

MUSIC

Christmas Concert - Free Christmas concert. 5 p.m. Antioch Church, 5430 S Washington, Lansing.

Spirit of Solstice Concert - 7:30 p.m. Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. 608-220-0196.

Sunday, December 22**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

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

EVENTS

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

8th Annual Festival of Trees - Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing.

ARTS

A Holiday Cabaret - 3 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700.

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.

Holiday Cheer - 3-5 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

The Williamston Theatre: A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show - 2 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St, Williamston.

MUSIC

Holiday Pops - Lansing Symphony Orchestra. 3 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. lansingsymphony.org.

Monday, December 23**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.

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

EVENTS

Game Night at the Fledge - board and card games. 7 pm to close. 1300 Eureka, Lansing.

Mission: Impossible - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

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

ARTS

Michigan Made | Holiday Art Exhibition and Sale - 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

Tuesday, December 24**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

Zumba - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. 517-882-2838.

EVENTS

8th Annual Festival of Trees - Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing.

MONDAY, DEC. 23 – TUESDAY, DEC. 24 >> MONDAY CHAOS SOFTBALL DAY AT COACH'S PUB AND GRILL

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



HE ATE



SHE ATE

English Inn

A meal fit for a lord

By MARK NIXON

There it stands, lording over rolling farmland from a manicured hilltop that slopes gently toward the Grand River.

To call the English Inn a gem doesn't suffice. In appearance, its scrupulous attention to detail is more fitting to be called the crown jewel of our community's dining spots.

If you haven't been there, my simple question is: Why not? As for me, well, I am blessed. The English Inn is practically our neighbor. We have been semi-regulars for more than 20 years, collecting personal connections along the way. Over the years, several of the wait staff have recognized Judy (aka Señora Nixon), who taught them Spanish at Eaton Rapids High School.

To be clear, my bias is baked in. I love this place, its history, its food. Please accept this review with that backdrop in mind.

My first piece of advice is before sitting down, decide where you want to sit. The main floor dining room is formal and ornate. We prefer the pub downstairs or, weather permitting, the outdoor terrace. A historical tidbit: This room used to be where Lansing's Catholic bishop said daily Mass.

History and scenery aside, the clincher is that the inn has steadily upped its culinary game. I've always thought the food was generally good if not great. Nowadays, some of the fare has my stomach pleading for more.

The homemade pasties have a crisp, flaky crust, whereas a few years ago the crust was underbaked and rather tough. This pastry is made with root vegetables including rutabaga, a sure sign you're getting a real Cornish pasty (\$12).

The lobster bisque (\$9) has always been good. These days, it's phenomenal, as if it had been prepared on the spot in a Maine seaside village. It is silky, rich and slightly infused with sherry.

For reasons I cannot fully comprehend, I gravitate toward the English Inn's appetizers and small plates. The French onion soup (\$8) has a sturdy beef broth topped with croutons and a caramelized Gruyere cheese. On a cold

winter night, this is my go-to dish.

The baked brie (\$12) is a fine accompaniment to any of the inn's soups. The brie is melted inside a puff pastry and comes with pureed blackberries called a coulis.

The coulis typifies what the English Inn's kitchen gets right — the little things. If you order the fish and chips (\$13), it comes — not with a run-of-the-mill tartar sauce — but a slightly tangy, house-made remoulade. The fig galette (\$10) gets a flavor boost from caramelized fennel. A seafood sandwich (\$14) is topped with a tarragon aioli.

If you haven't been to the English Inn and decide to go, take some time to stroll the grounds. The inn was built in 1927 by Oldsmobile President Irving Reuter. In the '40s, the mansion became home to the Catholic bishop of the Diocese of Lansing. That explains Mass being held in what is now the pub.

As the name suggests, the English Inn is indeed a bed & breakfast with rooms in the original building as well as newer, close-by cottages. And, of course, the setting makes it a destination for many celebrations, especially weddings.

Come May — or whenever spring decides it's here to stay — a table will be placed on the terrace with a sweeping view of the gardens, gazebo and the Grand River. Judy will order her favorite drink, a Churchill's Manhattan. I will drink in the daily scene of groundskeepers and serving staff scurrying about, busy keeping the English Inn a special place.

Shades of Downton Abbey ... Shall I ring for tea?

By GABRIELLE LAWRENCE

It was shortly before Little Lawrence #2 was born and Mr. She Ate and I decided to double down on our visit to the English Inn and book overnight accommodations.

After checking in, we headed to the formal dining room for dinner. We decided to start with the cheese plate, although I frequently like to have my cheese after my meal as opposed to before. I would have liked it if our server



Gabrielle Lawrence/City Pulse
A spread from English Inn.

had told us what the cheeses were when he dropped off the plate. I would also like to see something more highbrow than grocery store crackers on the plate. We had three cheese selections, a hard cheese that tasted similar to asiago, a spreadable cheese and a mild white cheese studded with blueberries. They were all fantastic, and my favorite was the hard cheese dipped in the honey drizzled on the plate.

We moved on to entrees, and I chose the filet mignon, which came with mashed potatoes and the daily vegetable, julienned red bell pepper and lima beans (\$36). The vegetables were cooked to a complete and utter mush.

Honestly, I'm not sure how I was even able to pick them up with my fork because they were so incredibly overcooked. The filet in red wine demi-glace reminded me of wedding reception food. It wasn't bad, but it certainly wasn't memorable and was the exact same meal that I've had at a hundred other weddings and events.

Mr. She Ate fared slightly better with the prime rib (\$31-33), just be-

cause I'm always intrigued to see Yorkshire pudding on the plate. A few moments after his visibly fatty slice of prime rib was presented to him, we overheard the owner advising another diner on how to order her prime rib. If she wanted a looser, more marbled piece, she should order from the chuck end. If she preferred a leaner variety, she should order from the loin end. It would have been wonderful for our server to explain that nuance to us and present the options.

Yorkshire pudding is one of those things that I find much more impressive than it deserves to be, based upon the level of effort needed to make it. Commonly called a popover, it is a type of roll typically prepared with prime rib because the prime rib drippings are poured, screaming hot, into the popover pan and essentially baste the dough as the roll bakes. This popover, curiously, was room temperature, and since I was the one most excited to see the English Inn's interpretation of the British classic I would have liked to see it at its most puffy, beautiful, almost too hot to touch peak, right when it comes out of the oven.

After an uninterrupted night of sleep, which we now remember fondly, we returned to the dining room for breakfast. We started with a fruit cup and an apple muffin, and Mr. She Ate prepared a bite of fruit only to find a thick layer of mold on the underside of his strawberry. I understand that the inn doesn't hold itself out to be a breakfast destination. In fact you must be an overnight guest in order to even eat breakfast, but this was an absolute disappointment. Our server brought a fresher fruit cup, but the obvious age and sliminess of the fruit meant that it went largely untouched.

Three breakfast selections piqued our interest, and as he quickly ordered the quiche I hemmed and hawed between a vegetable frittata and baked oatmeal. Our server, bless her, discov-

See She Ate, Page 27

She Ate

from Page 26

ered my conundrum and brought me both breakfasts. The wedges of quiche and frittata (essentially a crustless quiche) were fine but not remarkable, but the baked oatmeal was the best thing that I ate at the English Inn during our entire stay. It wasn't overly sweet, a pitfall of many breakfast offerings, and the oats retained their toothy texture as they swam in a pool of cream. It was divine.

I know that Lansing doesn't boast a huge number of fine dining restaurants, but it's important that we hold those that we do have to a higher stan-

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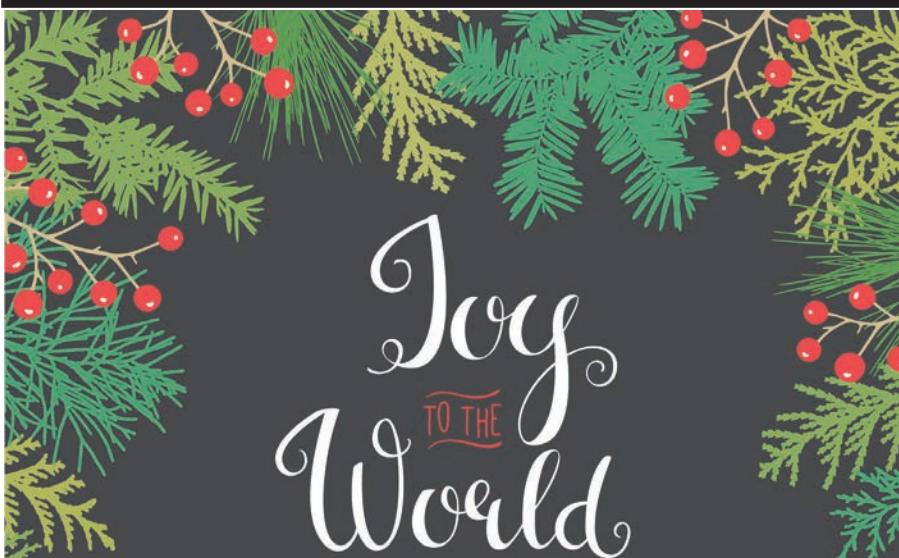
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