

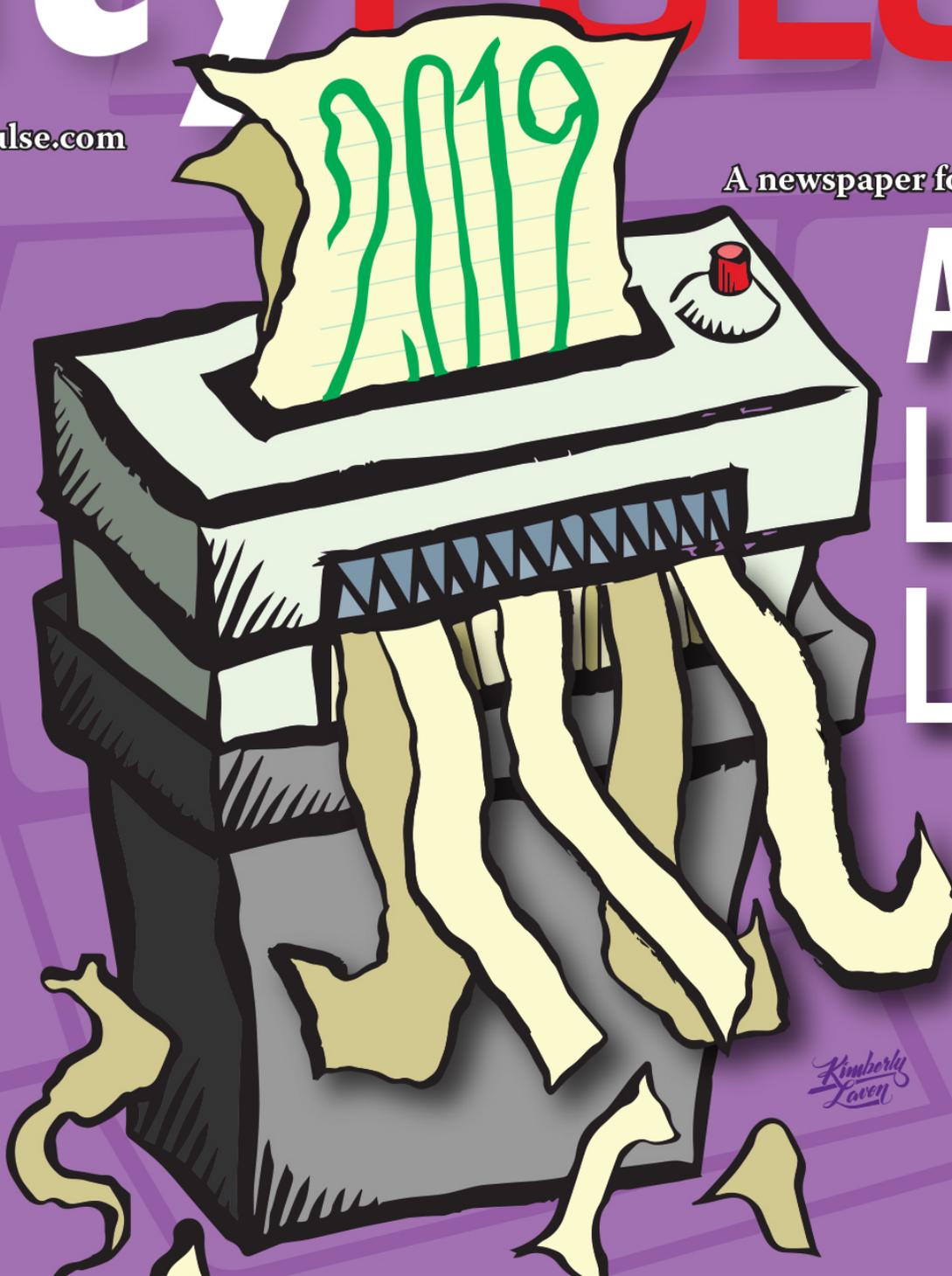
Dec. 26, 2019 - Jan. 1, 2020

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A LAST LOOK

*Kimberly
Laven*

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

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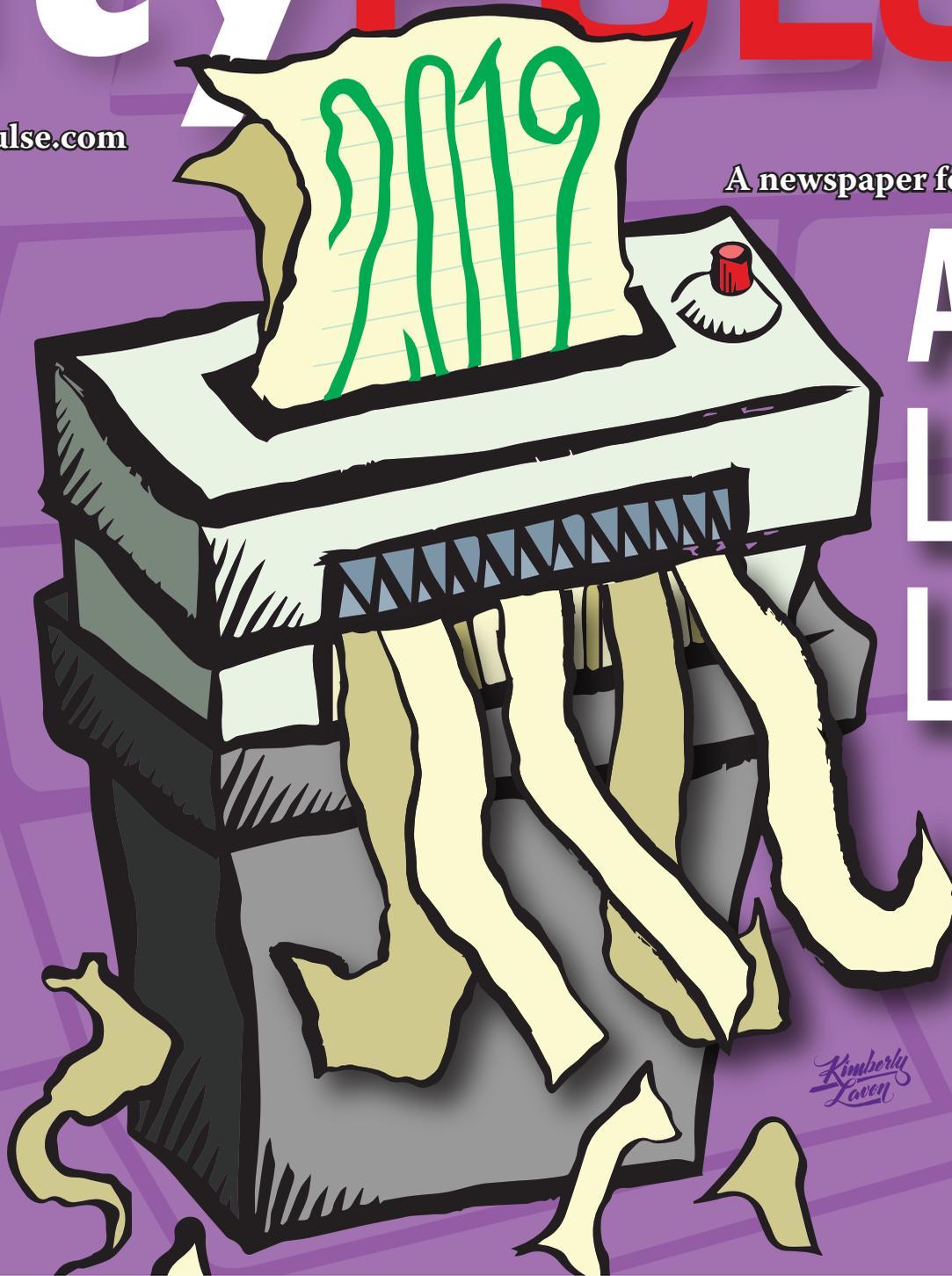
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Favorite Things

Three Favorite 'Favorite Things' from 2019

Rose Cooper and her motorcycle.

Cooper picked her motorcycle, Winwoo, as her favorite thing back in March. She's widely known



(but perhaps not by name) in Lansing circles for loudly belting out various song verses as she cruises about local streets, usually down Michigan Avenue, through REO Town and along the backstreets of East Lansing. Singing is only a byproduct of Cooper's freedom, she said, but riding on her motorcycle is when she's able to truly express joy.

"I've ridden with the president of Michigan State University on my bike. I've also taken international students from all around the world on my bike. The caveat is people have to sing with me. I've had the president of the university tell me she didn't sing, but it was my bike and my rules. Once you start singing, it is fun and anyone who notices you only notices you for two seconds. When you learn to let go, there is such freedom in that."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and her Mackinac Bridge token.

Whitmer in February shared her love for the Mackinac Bridge, which she labeled as "a great symbol" for the state of Michigan. Her 61-year-old commemorative coin depicts the bridge on one side and features a quote from Gov. Mennen "Soapy" Williams on the reverse. "Built by the will of a great people upon foundations of Michigan's faith in her future," it reads. Building bridges, Whitmer said, is a staple of her leadership style.



"At the top of the bridge is the most magnificent view of the upper and lower peninsulas. Where two

great lakes meet is one of the most unique places in the world with the abundance of fresh water, beauty of our geography and our land. ... This is when I really got interested in when it was built, how it was built and the stories around it. Bridging the Straits of Mackinac was a phenomenal feat. It is something we should really be proud of.

"People didn't think they could build the bridge — They even called it 'Soapy's folly.' It is something not many Michiganders even know about. But they worked together and did it. It connected our people and strengthened our economy. In a time when there is so much talk about dividing us building walls, building bridges together is a much better frame of mind and philosophy of what we need to do."

Dennis Hinrichsen and the Lansing River Trail.

Local poet laureate Dennis Hinrichsen couldn't pick a tangible object



as his favorite thing. Instead, in March, he talked to City Pulse about his experiences strolling the Lansing River Trail, listening to music and thinking about writing. After moving here 17 years ago, the trail has developed into a special place to develop his craft.

"I needed a creative space where this energy could be reversed and I could get a lot of work done. For me, it is a real tangible thing: I like the energy between the dam, power plant and the bridges. It is a really nice quiet part of the trail there. Once I'm on the river trail, I see all of Lansing's layers. ... I loved the idea that if you wear yourself in to the city, the city will wear itself back into you. It was also fun to walk into the craziness sometimes on the trail. I saw a whole different Lansing, drug deals and a deeper look at what the rhythms are of the Lansing area."

(Have a suggestion for Favorite Things? Email publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-5061.)

Enter to win 2 tickets to the
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**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1259**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by adding Section 404.13 to provide for the issuance of annual and temporary 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. street parking permits to City Of Lansing Residents; and to provide for permit applications, limitations, and fees.

Effective date: **March 1, 2020**

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#19-375

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lansing Planning Board will hold two public hearings to consider the proposed Form-Based Code (FBC) in its entirety. The public hearings will be held on the following dates and times at the Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St. (NW corner of W. Maple and N. Pine Streets), Lansing, Michigan:

**Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. and
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.,**

The FBC project is a multi-year effort to incorporate placemaking into the zoning ordinance. This proposal would replace the existing Zoning Ordinance with a combined form based and land use approach to zoning which more effectively implements the recommendations of the Design Lansing Comprehensive Plan.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend one or both public hearings. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on city business days if received before 5 p.m., Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at the Lansing Planning Office, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Suite D-1, Lansing, MI 48933-1236. For more information, call Bill Rieske at 517-483-4091.

CP#19-374

CityPULSE

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The year in the arts scene of Greater Lansing

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A jazz family Christmas celebration

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Wintertime cocktails for the long nights ahead

**PAGE
17**



**Cover
Art**

By Kimberly Lavon

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5061
or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com
CLASSIFIEDS: (517) 999-6704**

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Audrey Matusz
audrey@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

EVENTS EDITOR/OFFICE MANAGER • Suzi Smith
suzi@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704

PRODUCTION MANAGER • Skyler Ashley
production@lansingcitypulse.com

(517) 999-5066

Composition • Abby Sumbler

STAFF WRITERS • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065

Kyle Kaminski • kyle@lansingcitypulse.com
(517) 999-6710

**SALES EXECUTIVE
Lee Purdy • lee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064**

Contributors: Andy Balaskovitz, Justin Bilicki, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Tom Helma, Gabrielle Lawrence Johnson, Terry Link, Kyle Melinn, Mark Nixon, Dennis Preston, Carrie Sampson, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tupica, Ute Von Der Heyden, David Winkelstern, Paul Wozniak

**Distribution manager:
Garrett Clinard • (517) 999-6704**

Delivery drivers: Garrett Clinard, Dave Fisher, Dale Gartner, Jack Sova, Gavin Smith

Interns: Matthew Stine • stinem47@gmail.com

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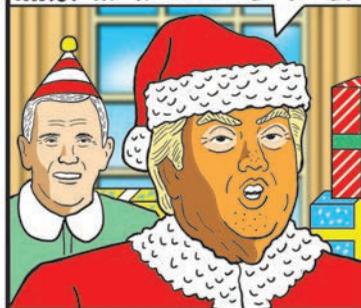
THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HELLO BOYS AND GIRLS! IT'S ME--
SANTA TRUMP! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE WONDERING AS CHRISTMAS APPROACHES--HOW COULD THE DO-NOTHING DEMOCRATS HAVE IMPEACHED A PRESIDENT WHO IS DOING SO GREAT? JUST BECAUSE I MADE A PERFECT PHONE CALL?



OR MAYBE YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE THIS CHRISTMAS WEEK--LIKE THOSE TOILETS YOU HAVE TO FLUSH TEN TIMES! OR THE DISHWASHERS THAT DON'T WORK UNLESS YOU PUSH THE BUTTON OVER AND OVER AGAIN! THAT'S WHAT MRS. SANTA TRUMP TELLS ME!



BUT WE CAN'T FORGET THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS--HOW SANTA TRUMP WILL CRUSH HIS ENEMIES LIKE THE VERMIN THEY ARE! I'M NOT MAD THOUGH, I'M LAUGHING ACTUALLY! HO, HO, HO!!



THANKS TO ME, YOU CAN SAY "MERRY CHRISTMAS" AGAIN! BUT WE CAN DO EVEN BETTER! THE OTHER DAY, A BIG STRONG MAN CAME UP TO ME CRYING AND SAID, "SIR, IN MY FAMILY WE SAY MERRY TRUMPMAS!" AND THIS IS WHAT MANY PEOPLE WANT TO CALL IT NOW! THAT IS JUST WHAT I HEARD!



DON'T FORGET, THERE ARE MANY FINE TRUMP-BRANDED ORNAMENTS FOR YOUR TRUMPMAS TREE, FOR SALE IN THE ONLINE TRUMP STORE! I'M NOT USING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY FOR PERSONAL PROFIT--I'M USING IT TO SPREAD TRUMPMAS JOY!



WELL, TIME TO OPEN THESE PRESENTS, WHICH ARE OF COURSE FOR ME! HOPEFULLY YOUR PARENTS GOT YOU SOMETHING, BECAUSE THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT MY JOB!

AND REMEMBER, IT'S TRUMPMAS NOW! SAY IT OR I'LL PUT YOU IN CAGES! HAVE A MERRY TRUMPMAS!



Tom Tomorrow ©2019

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

City Pulse now at Speedway throughout Greater Lansing

Speedway convenience stores are carrying City Pulse beginning with this issue.

“We’re very grateful to Speedway for agreeing to give space to City Pulse,” said Berl Schwartz, editor and publisher of City Pulse. “This will be a boon to our readers as far as making it easier to find us.”

The paper is being delivered weekly

to all 26 Speedway locations in the Greater Lansing area. It will be available inside the stores. “If you don’t immediately spot it, please ask,” Schwartz said. “It’s there, but it is not in the same location in every store.”

Speedway LLC is the second largest company - owned and operated con-



venience-store chain in the United States, with more than 2,700 locations in 21 states. Speedway is a subsidiary of Marathon Petroleum Corp.

City Pulse initiated discussions with Speedway after the Kroger Co. banned free publications in September.

“We are delighted that Speedway

has agreed to help make up the gap in distribution that has resulted from Kroger’s decision,” Schwartz said. “For our orphaned Kroger readers, Speedway’s 26 locations offers a convenient place to us pick us up. We thank Speedway for stepping up.”

Schwartz said another big announcement of new locations will be made in the near future.

Rotary Park

Lansing has a lot of parks, but the city’s newest gem



is not a green, tree-filled oasis, like the others. Rotary Park, the new urban hangout on the Grand River just north of the Lansing Center, may be small, but it was a smash hit when it opened in late summer, and it may be a game-changer for the city.

At the heart of the park is a stepped-up concrete embankment, smack at river’s edge, where people can sit and contemplate the water. There are plentiful tables, chairs, benches, a fireplace and a “forest of lights” greeting strollers at the park’s north end.

Social media posts made fun of the park’s sand “beach,” with no place to

actually swim, as the city’s biggest cat litter box, but so what? Kids love to bulldoze and romp in the sand, and grownups love to lounge on lawn chairs and watch the sun set over the grand Ottawa Power Station. The crowds strolling through the park in the brief few weeks of warm weather after it opened was exactly the mix its designers envisioned: MSU students, curious Lansingites from all sides of town, international visitors and locals from low-income downtown apartments who welcomed a new place to bring their kids. Many ventured downtown for the first time in years.

The Capital Region Community Foundation, the lead donor and prime mover of the privately funded, \$1.8 million project, enlisted top urban planning experts to make the most of a small but crucial patch of urban riverfront. Leveraging existing assets was key. The park wraps neatly around the



20-foot-tall, \$225,000 sculpture “Inspiration,” a gift for the city’s 2011 sesquicentennial. The riverfront was a compromise location for the sculpture, and the graceful steel loop looked a bit lost in the floodplain, but Rotary Park’s design gives it new pride of place while absorbing it into the surrounding play

scape. The play of light on the sculpture, from the nearby “Forest of Lights” and from the city itself, gives it a striking night presence. The park also makes a nice hub for the newly repaved and extended Lansing River Trail system, a close runner-up for 2019 Eye Candy of the Year.

NoCa Lofts in East Lansing

When we wrote about last year’s “Eyesore of



the Year” — SkyVue Apartments near Frandor — we threw some shade on big developments like The Hub that are changing downtown East Lansing from the quaint, two-story college town of old into a towering metropolis. Perhaps we were a bit hasty. Now that these projects are finished or close to completion, the skyline has an exciting visual appeal, and the “instant city” that is taking shape makes a convincing, coherent case for vertical urban density.

The sprawling wasteland north of MSU is another matter. Architects

have begun to buzz about, of all places, Chandler Crossing, the vast matrix of apartment houses north of MSU. In the parking lot of a strip mall stands what may be the most misguided post-post-modernist building yet to appear in greater Lansing. NoCa Lofts (for North of Campus) consists of two very large blocks of “luxury” student apartments, sliced into segments by narrow green openings resembling vertical, ground-to-roof air ducts. The mega-ducts appear to draw prospective tenants directly out of the air, like HVAC intakes, thus eliminating the need for conventional doorways. The blocks end in massive blank walls of corrugated metal with absurdly tiny windows. There is devilry in the



details as well. There must have been two competing designs for the decorative balcony railings, so they simply superimposed them over each other.

Someone must have thought it would be welcome to offer some colorful relief from the surrounding blight of Chandler Crossing, which is best

described as a vast matrix of identical grey and white condos that the developers apparently made sand castle style, by pressing a 3-story-high plastic mold into a post-apocalyptic beach made of fly ash and cigarette butts. The lesson here is an oft-repeated one: be careful what you wish for.

2019 in Review: What made news this year?

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

1 Development booms

Cranes have been swinging in the skyline over Greater Lansing all year long. So many, it's hard to keep count.

Over the last year, developer **Pat Gillespie** announced — and started — plans for the first hotel that Lansing has seen built in more than 30 years. It'll open next year, in a complex in the 600 block of East Michigan Avenue that also comprises retail — featuring Meijer's **Capital City Market** — and loft-style apartments.

More apartments (and a lot of student housing) have also popped up all across downtown East Lansing. The **Center City District** building downtown includes senior and mixed-market housing to complement retail space below. The **Hub**, a 10-story mixed-use building on the corner of Grand River Avenue and Bogue Street, opened earlier this year. Plans are also underway to expand down Bogue with another 14-story, 720-unit apartment building.

Okemos' downtown is headed toward upcoming commercial revitalization too; some of it is already in the works. Another developer wants to restart plans at the historic Bethlehem **Temple Building** in Old Town — this time with \$9 million in renovations to include plenty of space for retail shops, offices and more loft apartments.

McLaren Greater Lansing is chipping away at a \$450 million hospital on the edge of Michigan State University. **Eastern High School** moved a few blocks east, having turned over the keys to the 101-year-old building to **Sparrow Health System**, which has not said yet what it will do with it. And the former **Red Cedar Golf Course** is being shaped into more apartments and commercial space by the hands of developers **Joel Ferguson** and **Frank Cass**.

In Windsor Township, cannabis titan **Green Peak Innovations** continues to expand its massive growing facilities while competitors circle in on other vacant industrial space throughout Greater Lansing. Extensive renovations at **Oliver Towers** are nearly finished downtown. **Metro Place Apartments** will soon fill in the space at the old YMCA site.

It's a catchphrase so overused that even Mayor Andy Schor is starting to find alternatives, but Lansing's time truly is now. The bustle of development in the region easily solidified itself as the No. 1 story of 2019.

2 Slotkin votes to impeach

U.S. Rep. **Elissa Slotkin**, D-Holly, who represents Ingham County, capped off the year by helping secure President **Donald Trump's** impeachment on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Last week's vote, which split along party lines, charged Trump with abuse of power and obstruction of justice over alleged coercion of a foreign government.

Slotkin's politically competitive district was previously held by a Republican for nearly 20 years and carries a 56% GOP political base.

Slotkin publicly defended her decision to support impeachment. The first-term Democrat told a raucous town hall meeting at Oakland University — in the heart of the Republican end of her district — that based on her intelligence experience, she was comfortable with making the hard decision when “the security of the country is at stake.”

“I made this decision out of principle, and I will stick with that decision regardless of what this does to me politically because this is bigger than politics,” Slotkin told the crowd, later adding that impeachment — the legislative equivalent of an indictment — was put into the Constitution because “nobody is above the law.”

3 Election upsets in Lansing, East Lansing

Challenger **Brandon Betz** defeated two-term Lansing City Councilwoman **Jody Washington** in November, setting the stage for a progressive shift at City Hall. His win showcased a newfound preference (largely from younger voters) for a left-facing future in the city's First Ward.

Only time will tell whether Betz' campaign promises — like more judicious use of tax incentives for developers and a more conducive market for marijuana — will match his performance as Councilman over the next four years. Erik Altmann was unseated.

In East Lansing, **Jessy Gregg** and **Lisa Babcock** have already taken their seats on City Council. **Mark Meadows** held on for another term, but his mayoral gavel was passed off to **Ruth Beier** shortly.

Babcock, an attorney, has been a sharp critic of the political scene. Gregg is an artist, owns a boutique fabric store and has long written important public service journalism for East Lansing Info. Both provide important perspectives to help ensure the city remains vibrant and the government stays transparent.

Together, it all points to an active — and newsworthy — year ahead as they get settled into their new positions.

4 Black teen's arrest prompts protests

Two officers at the **Lansing Police Department** faced reprimands — and sparked a citywide controversy — after video footage circulated that showed one of them repeatedly striking a teenage girl who resisted arrest in June. Both were placed on leave while protests formed and an investigation ensued into possible excessive use of force.

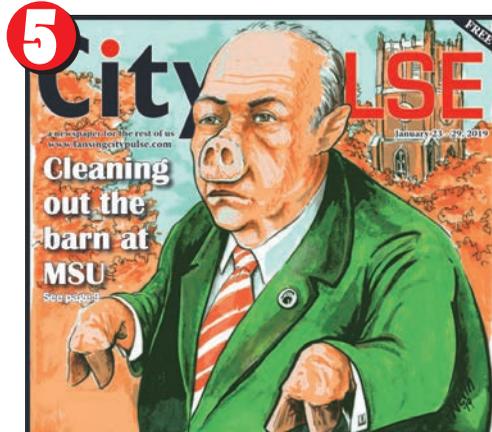
Meanwhile, crowds gathered at City Hall to demand wholesale changes at the Police Department in the wake of what many labeled as unnecessary police brutality aimed against the blacks. Some called for both officers to be fired. **Black Lives Matter** activists also sought police changess.

Both officers returned to duty after some extra training, but the incident prompted a directional shift within the department amid concerns over how officers should conduct themselves. Adjusted training protocols — particularly for how to peacefully deal with teenage suspects — remain a priority.

In August, **Daryl Green**, a 22-year veteran of the Lansing Police Department, took over as the city's newest police chief following **Michael Yankowski's** retirement. He's the second African-American to head the department and has talked openly but carefully about police matters and areas where the force can improve.

5 Engler resigns from MSU

After **John Engler** left Michigan State University in January, officials were set on crafting a renewed vision of healing and accountability. That mentality is still forming, but it's one many said would have been all but impossible under the leadership of the bullheaded former



2019

from page 5

governor with a penchant for saying the wrong thing.

Engler's brief and highly criticized tenure, amid possibly the darkest period in the university's history, was marred by distrust. He once suggested Nassar survivors might be "enjoying" the media spotlight. He also claimed some of them had spoken out for financial gain. Students were blindsided by his appointment. Engler's missteps largely overshadowed any benefits brought to campus — and many celebrated his departure.

"Good riddance," Progress Michigan Director **Lonnie Scott** said. "It's too bad Michigan had to suffer more than once with the insufferable lack of leadership that is John Engler. It has always been clear Engler was unfit for such a critical position at a critical time for the university. This was long overdue."

6 Sparrow Hospital fails inspection

The Joint Commission, a national accrediting organization, issued a preliminary denial of Sparrow Hospital's certification after an unannounced safety inspection revealed scores of deficiencies surrounding patient care. After the hospital was dinged for more than 90 concerns, hospital officials quickly started work to correct any outstanding issues — at times bribing staff with candy to meet certain hospital safety standards.

After City Pulse broke news of the report, hundreds of copies of the newspaper that contained the article disappeared from Sparrow-owned facilities without explanation. By July, after several more inspections and three months of limbo, the hospital prevailed and is once again in full compliance with the Joint Commission.

7 Lansing Fire Dept. faces bias suit

In January, a lawsuit filed by black firefighter **Michael Lynn Jr.** against the Lansing Fire Department alleged a pattern of racial discrimination and retaliation within its ranks. Lynn said that in 2016 he found a banana on the windshield of his assigned firetruck in an incident he labeled as deliberate discrimination.

The controversy intensified after the department announced a newly hired class of firefighters that failed to include a single woman or African American. That contrasted with the hiring record between 2014 and 2016 when 22 of the 56 firefighters hired had identified as minorities, meaning anything other than white men.

City officials — including Mayor **Andy Schor** — were roundly disappointed by the lack of diversity in the latest hiring round. They've since pledged to bolster diversity within the department through expanded hiring techniques, including a renewed focus on attracting diverse candidates from Lansing's local high schools.

This year also saw the hiring of Fire Chief **Michael Mackey**. He said racial tensions can be eased, at least in part, by being "open, transparent, honest, broad-minded and really bringing in people from various backgrounds." Meanwhile, Lynn said his lawsuit against the department will continue into 2020.

8 Recreational weed wins approval

It's been another big year for marijuana in Michigan.

Some experts are pointing to Lansing as the next big boomtown for the marijuana industry as prescription pot continues to provide lucrative business opportunities and entrepreneurs set their sights on recreational sales.

One year after marijuana was legalized for adult use, recreational storefronts remain limited to Ann Arbor and a few other towns in southeastern Michigan. But Lansing, with its wealth of vacant industrial space and aspirations for a progressive-leaning government, could be poised to become a major player in the weed scene.

The Lansing City Council amended the city's ordinance on marijuana in October to allow for up to 28 recreational marijuana retailers. Some, like incoming Councilman Brandon Betz, would like to see that limit increased to 50 as officials look to bolster business and put Lansing at the forefront of the industry.

Council also allowed for four microbusinesses that can grow and sell up to 150 pot plants on site, in addition to up to 75 commercial-scale growers. More than 100 growing licenses have been approved or conditionally approved to date. And four marijuana "social clubs" could also eventually open for onsite consumption.

"I don't see marijuana as a one-time thing," said Mayor Andy Schor. "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."

9 Soccer team comes and goes

Maybe Lansing's local baseball stadium wasn't the best place to watch a soccer game. Maybe tickets for the inaugural season of the Lansing Ignite were just too pricey at \$15-22. Maybe it was because one of the players called a heckler a "faggot" at an away game. Who knows? But Lansing's professional soccer days are over.

Lansing Ignite — the city's first and only professional soccer team — wrapped up its inaugural season earlier this year. Then it pulled the plug on the franchise. The team generated a lot of buzz in the city but still reeled in fewer than 2,800 fans per game. And that's a lot fewer than the 4,400 average for the Lugnugs.

Lansing punched above its weight to land the Ignite franchise, gaining a professional soccer team even as Michigan's largest metro areas — Detroit and Grand Rapids — went without. And while the fans who turned out for games seemed passionate about the sport, it just seems there weren't enough of them to go around.

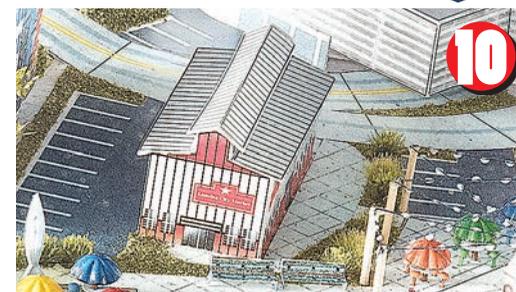
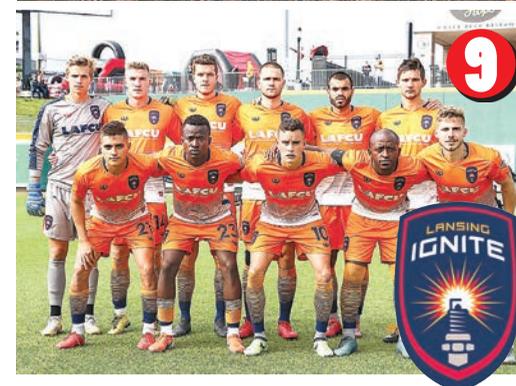
It might've used a lot of city subsidies (at least \$200,000 a year just for sod conversion) but sometimes not every risk proves to be worth the reward. Like Council Vice President **Peter Spadafore** said shortly before the team's demise: "It shows we are a community that's not afraid to try new things. ... Lansing's time is now, right?"

10 City Market building empties

After a lengthy dispute with **Waterfront Bar & Grill**, the city of Lansing is finally ready to trudge forward with plans to revive the former Lansing City Market building. But in the meantime, it still sits vacant on the riverside.

The **Michigan Supreme Court** in September refused to take an appeal from Waterfront, ending a contentious, 16-month legal battle between the bar and the **Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority**. They've since moved out, clearing the way for new development, but no concrete plans have formed.

City officials are still mulling development potential, including the possibility of a brewery. Mayor Andy Schor said he plans to lease the market for private event space while his administration works to find a permanent use. Waterfront hasn't yet reopened in Lansing, but its owners have long discussed the possibility of a new location.



The match is over at the Capitol

Who won 2019?

You ever watch one of those boxing matches where the combatants spend much of their time dancing around the ring and jabbing into the other person's gloves?

Then, out of the blue, someone unloads an upper cut that kind hits the opponent, but not square in the face. The boxer stumbles around for a second, leans into the ropes, but bounces back for more dancing, more jabbing?

When it's all over, each boxer is bouncing around. Each one thinks he's won because it's really not that clear. Everyone's looking at the judges to hear for a winner.



POLITICS

Yeah, I guess that's like a lot of boxing matches, isn't it?

That was 2019 in the state Capitol with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer feeling out her new authority with a couple of Republican legislative leaders who were trying out their first go at running a majority caucus.

So, let's go through the year in rounds:

First Round: Whitmer reshuffles the Department of Environmental Quality and calls it the Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy. In the process, she scraps three environmental oversight committees Republicans and former Gov. Snyder threw into the department for business interests.

Republican leaders rejected

the move. Whitmer revised her reorganization without removing the committees. Everyone's happy.

Winner: Republican Legislature.

Second Round: Republican legislative leaders dust off their old advice and consent powers to run Whitmer's cabinet and other high-level appointees through confirmation interviews.

Good background research was done. Good questions were asked. The appointees did well in their interviews. Advice and Consent Committee Chairman Pete Lucido couldn't find anything wrong with any of them. All Whitmer appointees took office without issue.

Winner: Whitmer.

Third Round: Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey and House Speaker Lee Chatfield made lowering auto insurance their No. 1 priority. Their solution was giving drivers the option of not buying the personal injury unlimited lifetime benefit, among other things.

Whitmer's allies at the Michigan Association of Justice didn't like it. But the final law included mandatory rate rollbacks. Who can be against that?

Winner: Republican Legislature

Fourth Round: Republicans politely declined raising gasoline taxes 45 cents to fix Michigan's highways and freeways as Whitmer proposed. The Republicans played the "Waiting for Godot" card, promising much of the year to uncork a road funding plan that never came.

Chatfield's idea of taking sales tax off gasoline and then raising gas taxes for roads by an equivalent amount had promise. It fell apart right about the time folks wanted to know how they were going to replace the lost funding for schools and local governments.

Paying the nation's highest taxes on a gallon of gas doesn't sound great, but

something is better than nothing.

Winner: Whitmer.

Fifth Round: Whitmer based her entire Fiscal Year 2020 budget on the gas tax increase passing. When that fell apart, so did any other real alternative to raise additional money for K-12 schools, universities, local governments and other programs.

Whitmer's threw a haymaker with her \$947 million line-item veto cuts and \$550 million in administrative board transfers, but it was more of a glancing blow, as opposed to a direct hit.

Once everyone got done posturing and started getting serious on putting together a budget, the spending was what Whitmer the status quo, and the elimination of a bunch of boutique programs that most folks weren't sad to see go away.

Also, the lawmakers agreed to put into law a requirement that they must present budgets to the governor by July 1 going forward.

Winner: Whitmer.

Sixth Round: Mixed into the fifth round was this back-and-forth about the future of the State Administrative Board's power to move around money within department budgets without legislative approval.

Shirkey insisted on legislative oversight, which he got. Lawmakers will now need a head's-up before the Ad Board starts moving around money. Allegedly, a provision stuck into the budget gives lawmakers the power to reject future objectional transfers. Whether that's for real may be something a court decides later.

Winner: Republican Legislature.

I guess that makes 2019 a 3-3 draw? Well, at least the feeling-out process is out of the way.

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

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE WATER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS TO THE ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE EAST LANSING-MERIDIAN WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the East Lansing-Meridian Water and Sewer Authority (the "Authority") intends to issue bonds in an amount of not to exceed \$6,000,000 (the "Bonds"). The Bonds may be issued in one or more series.

The bonds shall be issued for the purpose of defraying the cost to design, purchase, acquire, install and construct improvements to the Authority's water system, including but not limited to improvements to the Authority's water plant and facilities including but not limited to replacement and upgrading of HVAC equipment and components and any related appurtenances; pipe paint evaluation and application; and Water Treatment Plant filter additions and controls; as well as all work, and equipment necessary and incidental to these improvements and such other water treatment plant improvements the Authority shall determine to make and to pay the costs of issuing the bonds and capitalized interest, if any.

The bonds of this issue shall mature within the maximum terms permitted by law with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law payable over not more than thirty (30) years from the date of issuance of the Bonds. The bonds shall be issued pursuant to Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The principal of and interest on the bonds shall be payable from the net revenues derived from the operation of the Water System.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

The bonds will be issued, without submitting such a question to a vote of the electors, unless within 45 days after the date of publication of this notice a petition requesting a referendum upon such question, signed by not less than 10% or 15,000 of the registered electors residing within the boundaries of the Authority, whichever is the lesser, shall have been filed with the undersigned Secretary. In the event that such a petition is filed, the bonds will not be issued unless and until the issuance thereof shall have been approved by the vote of a majority of the electors within the Authority qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

This Notice is published pursuant to the requirements of Section 33 of Act 94 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1933, as amended.

Charles Peterson, Board Secretary

CP#19-370

CITY OF LANSING 2020 Meeting Schedule

Except as otherwise noted, all meetings will be on Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall.

Monday, January 6, 2020	Monday, June 22, 2020
Monday, January 13, 2020	Monday, July 13, 2020
Monday, January 27, 2020	Monday, July 27, 2020
Monday, February 10, 2020	Monday, August 10, 2020
Monday, February 24, 2020	Monday, August 24, 2020
Monday, March 16, 2020	Monday, August 31, 2020
Monday, March 23, 2020	Monday, September 14, 2020
Monday, April 13, 2020	Monday, September 21, 2020
Monday, April 27, 2020	Monday, October 12, 2020
Monday, May 04, 2020	Monday, October 26, 2020
Monday, May 11, 2020	Monday, November 9, 2020
Monday, May 18, 2020	Monday, November 30, 2020
Monday, June 08, 2020	Monday, December 14, 2020

To be added to the email list to receive alerts when the City Council Agendas and approved minutes are available on the web, please visit www.lansingmi.gov/clerk or contact the City Clerk's Office at 517-483-4131.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#19-376

The grinch who ate the Constitution

Bill Barr might be a bigger threat to America than the man who appointed him

One of Donald Trump's few substantive defenses against the allegations that brought about his impeachment last week is that he



JEFFREY C. BILLMAN

INFORMED OPINION

didn't try to extort an investigation into Joe Biden and a crackpot DNC server conspiracy theory for his own political benefit, but rather, he sought "a favor" for the good of the country.

The evidence for this, the president and his defenders say, is in the not-quite-a-transcript the White House released of the July 25 call between Trump and then-newly elected Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Zelensky thanks the U.S. for pressuring Russia through sanctions, then expresses interest in buying more missiles.

And Trump, of course, replies: "I would like you to do us a favor though because our country has been through a lot and Ukraine knows a lot about it. [...] There are a lot of things that went on, the whole situation. I think you're surrounding yourself with some of the same people. I would like to have the Attorney General call you or your people and I would like you to get to the bottom of it."

Zelensky mentions that one of his assistants had spoken to Rudy Giuliani, the president's personal lawyer. Trump says, "I will ask him to call you along with the Attorney General."

In Trump's telling, that he referenced Attorney General William Barr shows that he was concerned about corruption in Ukraine.

Put aside that this runs contrary to every known fact about Donald Trump. Instead, focus on how casually Trump lumps in the attorney general of the United States with his lawyer, who'd spent the better part of a year in Ukraine trying to manufacture a sham investigation into the Bidens—and who, incidentally, is reportedly under federal investigation.

In Trump's mind, they're exactly the same. They're his guys. That

should be a red flag.

The attorney general is not the president's lawyer. The attorney general is — in theory — the lawyer for the American people, whose fidelity is to the country and the Constitution.

Trump doesn't see it that way, however. So a year ago, Trump forced out his first AG, Jeff Sessions — the first U.S. senator to endorse his presidential campaign — because he deemed Sessions insufficiently loyal during Russiagate. For his second AG nominee, Trump wasn't taking any chances.

Bill Barr believes in the unitary executive theory — put simply, the president is essentially above the law and has total control of the government's law enforcement system. Barr was also willing to play lackey.

So, for instance, when the Mueller report came in, Barr dashed off a letter to Congress saying — deceptively, it turned out — that Trump had been cleared of wrongdoing, obscuring Mueller's findings that the president had repeatedly obstructed justice and that he was only not charged with a crime because he Department of Justice policy forbade it.

And when, with Trump staring down impeachment earlier this month, the DOJ's inspector general released a long-awaited report demolishing Trump's batshit claims about a Deep State vendetta against his presidential campaign, Barr sent out an unprecedented statement contradicting his department's IG. If nothing else, he's a company man.

More troubling was his speech to the Federalist Society in November, in which he

leaned into his role as a partisan actor, accusing anyone to the left of Attila the Hun of "undermining [the] rule of law" and Congress of — as a "pursuit of choice" — "drown[ing] the Executive Branch with 'oversight' demands for testimony and documents."

These are not co-equal branches, Barr believes. If the president finds congressional oversight annoying, he should ignore it.

Also, progressives — what with their "civil rights" and other such nonsense — are snowflakes, while conservatives are grounded in reason and as such at a political disadvantage.

"In any age," Barr opined, "the so-called progressives treat politics as their religion... Conservatives, on the other hand, do not seek an earthly paradise. ... Conservatives tend to have more scruple over their political tactics and rarely feel that the ends justify the means."

Obviously, Bill Barr has never heard the name Mitch McConnell or watched C-SPAN in the last decade or so.

But gaslighting — or, more charitably, being obtuse — isn't what bothers me most about Barr; that's par for the course in the modern GOP.

It's this: Earlier this month, Barr

told a roomful of cops that "the American people have to focus on something else, which is the sacrifice and the service that is given by our law enforcement officers. And they have to start showing, more than they do, the respect and support that law enforcement deserves. ... [If] communities don't give that support and respect, they might find themselves without the police protection they need."

In other words, show your cops love — i.e., don't protest if they beat up or shoot a person of color — or, well, you just never know, do you?

This is an attorney general, of course, who has criticized local district attorneys in Philadelphia and St. Louis for calling for police accountability and demanded zero tolerance for "resisting police."

To recap, then: Trump should be able to do whatever he wants. Trump should have unchecked control over the law enforcement apparatus. Law enforcement should be able to do whatever it wants. Resisters? Zero tolerance. Protesters? It'd be a shame if something happened to them.

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

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER**

In the Matter of: Willow Creek Drain

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, composed of Paulette Hatchett, John Leonard, Cheryl Risner and Dennis Williams (Alternate), will meet on **Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mason City Hall, 201 West Ash Street, Mason, MI 48854** to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated November 20, 2019 for the cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, extending, improving, relocating along a highway, providing structures, mechanical devices and pumping equipment, adding lands, and adding branches and a relief drain are necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare of the City of Mason, Vevay Township and Aurelius Township, in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and you are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Ingham within ten (10) days of the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the project. A landowner or party of interest to property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: December 16, 2019

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
Phone: (517) 676-8395

CP#19-372

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
INGHAM COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT
FAMILY DIVISION**

**NOTICE OF HEARING
FILE NO. 19-1533-GA**

In the matter of Patricia Ioma Conklin.
Attention to Sheila Marie Johnson, daughter of Patricia Ioma Conklin.
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 01/16/2020 at 1:30 PM, at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Dunnington for the following purpose(s):

Hearing to appoint a guardian

If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

Date 12/18/2019
Gene Mellen
5303 S. Cedar St.
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 763-1210

CP#19-373

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

A year of placemaking, site activation and hope

A recap of Lansing's arts and culture scene

By **AUDREY MATUSZ**

Of all the years for me to have joined the local arts and culture media circuit, I feel as though 2019 was the perfect fit. Since writing my first article for City Pulse in April, I've had the pleasure of meeting locals who are investing in the city's future with a goal for inclusivity and progress. This year, there were many moments when I felt inspired by the city's work. Here are a handful of moments that will stick with me for years to come.

Ozay Moore and **Dustin Hunt** have a string of identifiers attached to their names — musician, painter, entrepreneur and break dancer among them — but Lansing will always remember when this duo teamed up to launch **Below the Stacks**, the city's inaugural mural festival.

For a week in September, residents witnessed blasts of color being restored to Lansing's fading corridors. The festival resulted in eight activated sites reimaged by internationally revered talent. Now, the north side of the Centennial Building, located at one of the most overlooked corners of downtown Lansing, bears a Sanskrit message in electric orange and cobalt blue, written by **Imagine**, a Nepali muralist.

Peeping over a vacant building formerly occupied by Rum Runners in the Stadium District is an ethereal portrait of a smiling woman painted by **Royyal Dogg**, who has been dubbed Korea's most famous graffiti artist by totallycoolpix.com and threads on Reddit. My personal favorite installation rests along Oakland Avenue and depicts a roaring pink lion conceptualized by Mexican-born artist **W3rc**, which I interpreted as an homage to his ancestors and their resilience.

Lansing's arts community celebrated a lot of firsts this year, but we also mourned the loss of the Three Stacks Music Festival. Hosted by Fusion Shows, the all-day spectacle in REO Town had to bow out this year following a successful inaugural run. Fortunately, Lansing had a summer

bustling with sonic entertainment thanks to Lansing 5:01's Dam Jam and Common Ground, which pulled off Vegas-based EDM trailblazer Zedd as a headliner.

In May, **Ixion Theatre Ensemble** closed their 2019 season with "Hope," a collection of vignettes featuring eight original plays. The performance marked the directorial debut of **Rose Cooper**, 56, who is well-known in Lansing for riding her majestic Harley-Davidson through town while belting out Prince and gospel tunes. The production was infused with an authenticity befitting Cooper's multifaceted work as actress, poet and, now, director. **Allie Costa**, an LA-based playwright, debuted her script "Low Light" as part of the collection, which chronicled a conversation between two veterans on military service, racism and immigration. In an interview with the City Pulse, Cooper said directing the production made her think back on her personal growth, from a suicidal 16-year-old girl to a local figure of positivity, as "the epitome of hope."

Nine years ago, spectators might have scoffed at the idea of a film festival in Lansing taking root. Since then, co-directors **Jason Gabriel** and **Dom Cochran** have grown the **Capital City Film Festival** into the largest music and film festival in the state, according to Cochran. This year, the festival extended over two weeks and featured over 150 film screenings and 100 musical acts at 11 different participating venues. The music side of the festival was developed through a new partnership with **Stoopfest**, a house show music festival that takes over Lansing's eastside neighborhood during the last full week of April. The collaboration led to a merging of generations and interests, and undoubtedly inspired residents to watch the Lansing art scene more closely. Other great collaborations made by the festival was a schedule of films curated by the **Women of Color Initiatives** of Michigan State University and a pop-up exhibit designed by **Crystal Gause**,



Parios Williams/Below the Stacks

Child learns how to use aerosol paint in the Cadillac Room parking lot in REO Town, which served as the headquarters for Below the Stacks.

a former resident of Lansing's east side. Gause invited several Detroit and Columbus artists, including **BLVK ICE**, for a pop-up art-music showcase called "House of More" at the **Robin Theatre**.

Strokes of genius brushed MSU's art galleries many times this year, but my favorite lectures came from visiting artists **Qais Assali** and **Jackie Sumell**. Assali is a Palestinian-born documentarian and graphic designer, while Sumell is a conceptual artist and radical gardener who works with prisoners to replenish impoverished areas across the United States. As part of Assali's U.S. tour, he spent time in New Palestine, Ohio, and Dearborn. Both cities served as sites for exploration of Western civilization's fears and desire toward Arabic culture which culminated in an exhibit at the MSU Union Gallery. Sumell's presentation at the Broad Art Museum included letters written between her and **Herman Wallace** of the Angola 3, who served 41 years in solitary confinement at the Louisiana State Penitentiary. Sumell also promoted a fundraiser for her

latest project called, "The Prisoner's Apothecary," which included a national network of neighborhood gardens for residents to pick from and turn into tinctures, salves and soaps.

Reflecting on the year, the biggest buzzwords to come out of the **Arts Council of Greater Lansing** and Mayor Andy Schor's Arts and Culture Commission were "place making," "public art" and "accessibility," which were exemplified in exhibits such as the Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center's ARTpath and the inception of Rotary Park. However, in early December a beacon of hope for Lansing's art scene came from the mayor's arts commission when it accepted a national consultant's report on the benefits and feasibility of building a \$45 million performing arts center downtown. The plan calls for a 1,400-seat music hall, and a 200-seat performing lab, studio and classroom. While this conservative budget will not allot for high-rise cathedral ceilings decked out in chandeliers, it could disrupt a pattern of big-time talent passing up the capital city.

NEW YEAR'S EVENTS

Dec. 28 >> Masquerade at Michigan Princess

Listen to poetry readings of Maya Angelou and Rudyard Kipling. A portion of the proceeds will go to Women's Center of Greater Lansing. Tickets include dinner and are available on eventbrite.com

7 p.m. to 11 p.m., \$41-46, 3004 W. Main St., Lansing, facebook.com/PrincessRiverboat, (517) 627-2154

Dec. 28 >> Drippy New Year Celebration at Mac's Bar

Enter the new year drippin' the best way Lansing knows how. Performances include hip-hop and rap sets from Impeccable Skillz, Reckless and NinaFay.

8 p.m. to 2 a.m., 18+, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, macsbar.com, (517) 484-6795

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

Back by popular demand, dinner starts at 8 p.m. Salsa lessons for those who wish to partake will be offered after dinner.

7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., 1213 Turner St., Lansing, urbanbeatevens.com, (517) 331-8440

Dec. 31 >> NYE Avenue Street Fair 20/20 Free at The Avenue Café

DJ Ruckus will be spinning all night while oodles of ramen, bao and rice bowls keep the party moving. Toast at midnight with "Barbara Walters" and Miller High Lite.

9 p.m. to 2 a.m., 21+, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, (517) 492-7403, avenuecafelansing.com

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Dec. 31 >> NYE Contra & Square Dancing at DeWitt Community Center

The Ten Pound Fiddle asks you to bring a dish to share for the potluck at 6:30 p.m. before the dancing begins. 7:30 p.m. marks the beginning of the New dancer lessons, followed by the Contra Dance Party at 8 p.m. The evening will conclude with a midnight nonalcoholic toast and "Auld Lang Syne". Members of Ten Pound Fiddle may enter for \$15. Children are free.

6:30 p.m. to midnight, \$18 general, \$8 students, 16101 Brook Road, Lansing, (517) 337-7744, tenpoundfiddle.org

Dec. 31 >> Balldropper New Year's Eve Party at Lansing Brewing Co.

No cover for this "balldropper" celebration. Live music from The Devil Elvis Show kicks off at 9 p.m.

8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., 21+, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing, (517) 371-2600

Dec. 31 >> New Year's Eve Jazz at Moriarty's Pub

The weekly jazz nights aren't stopping for anyone. The New Year's Eve extravaganza will feature vocalist Tiffany Gridiron, as well as Jim Alfredson (organ), Larry Barris (guitar) and host Jeff Shoup (drums).

7 p.m. to midnight, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, (517) 485-5287, moriartyspublansing.com

Dec. 31 >> Spiral New Year's Eve 2020

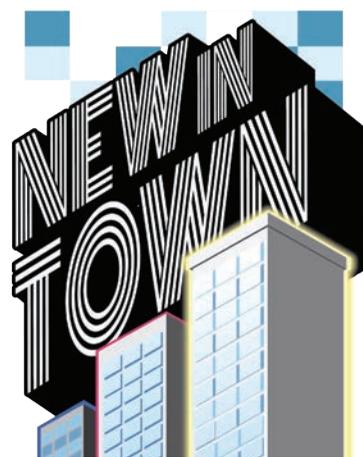
Dress in your favorite club kid gear and step out for the new year. The regular cast of performances, gogos, shot queens plus a photo booth will be on-site. The evening will be hosted by Asio Aviance.

\$10 entry for 21+, \$15 under 21. 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., 1247 Center St., Lansing, (517) 371-3221, spiraldancebar.com

Dec. 31 >> Bring on the Roaring '20s at The Exchange

Hosted by the Smooth Daddy Band, this evening calls for the slickest of attire to commemorate the nostalgic times of abundance. Making reservations is recommended.

8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., 314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, (517) 319-4500, Lansingexchange.com



Year in Review

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The year 2019 was an optimistic one for businesses covered in the pages of City Pulse. Of the 36 covered by "New In Town," only two didn't make through the end of the year.

The most visible trend was the tidal wave of CBD products. **Family Video** went viral for bluntly advertising its CBD products on its signs, and **Quality Dairy** also jumped into the market. That's without mentioning that basically every gas station in the state has a rack of CBD-infused gummies or energy shots. Adding to the dog pile are several shops you can visit that specialize exclusively in CBD-infused products. With the opening of **Delta Wellness** in October and **Nature's Kyoor** just a few weeks ago, Lansing can probably expect more to come. Is it a disposable fad? The new year will act as the judge.

A well-known space at 2418 E. Michigan Ave., former home of Fish & Chips and its spinning sign, experienced a musical chair routine as Lee Lee's Coney Island shuttered in May and was replaced by **Amanecer Mexicano** in October, which triumphantly debuted with a Mariachi band greeting customers. Down the street, Italian eatery **Tannin** finally opened in the former Tabooli location.

This year offered no doubt that food trucks will continue to be a staple in Lansing. Some of the new ones that hit the streets include **Bangos**, **Everything is Cheesecake**, **Veg-N Food Truck** and **Habana Delights**. StreetKitchen evolved into **The People's Kitchen** and **Pancho's Taqueria** and **Smoke N' Pig** opened brick-and-mortar spaces of their own.

Lansing's quirky REO Town continued to expand; the neighborhood saw the **REO Town Marketplace** provide a home for several unique businesses and consignment shops such as **Odd Nod Art Supply**. REO Town also gained **Sleepwalker Spirits**, **NAILD** and the **Rusty Mug**.

Downtown Lansing found a new chicken wing place in **Mo-Wings**, and Lugnuts fans have a reliable spot for giant, thin-crust pizza slices at **Good Slice** right across the street from the stadium. Both places have late night hours, providing some much needed support toward finding a place to eat downtown during hours that go beyond 9 to 5.

Okemos dived headfirst into the bizarre ax-throwing fad, as **High Caliber Karting & Entertainment** took over the former Younkers space at the Meridian Mall. Over at the Lansing Mall, **Tequila Cowboy** shut down and was replaced by another concert venue, **OverDrive**.

But to be hopeful for what's new cannot come without lamenting what's gone, and Lansing is losing some spaces with serious history between their walls. East Lansing's **Mackerel Sky** is calling it quits, after criticizing the suffocating construction of a student-housing complex for driving away the business necessary for its survival. The Frandor **Sears** is on its deathbed, the original **Biggby** is moving out, **Houlihan's** was bum-rushed out of the Lansing Mall in a U-Haul truck, **Velocipede Peddler** called it a day and **Roma Bakery** also said goodbye.

Dec. 31 >> New Year's Bash at Green Door Bar & Grill

Ring in the new year with Grady Hall and the Disciples of Funk. The evening will include a Champagne split, party favors and a countdown. The party will ride on until 2:30 a.m. First come, first serve on seating.

7 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, greendoorlive.com, (517) 482-6376

Dec. 31 >> NYE 2020 at Stober's Bar

Bottles of Champagne will be available all day for \$20 each.

11 a.m. to 2 a.m., 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, (517) 487-4464

Dec. 31 >> Invasion Band Live at Capital Prime

Motown, Funk and Prince all in one night at one of Lansing's top joints.

8:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing, (517) 377-7463, capitalprimelansing.com

It started with the harps

Jazz, classical heaven came to Earth in 2019

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The jazz and classical music lovers of greater Lansing started out on Cloud Nine in 2019, and it only went up from there.

Thanks mainly to the burgeoning **MSU College of Music**, a relentless run of symphonic and chamber performances, brilliant guest artists, jazz combos of every size and flavor and unusual hybrid events filled the year with delight and stimulation. With apologies to the inevitable omissions, here are just a few of the highlights.

A big clue that music heaven was in the works came at the beginning of the year. Two of the world's most formidable warriors of the harp, jazz harpist **Brandee Younger** and classical harpist **Yolanda Kondonassis**, performed

gorgeous and substantial new music in January with the **MSU Professors of Jazz** and the **Lansing Symphony**, respectively.

The two-harp salvo established a growing trend of concerts, both jazz and classical, that featured younger artists and newer music. The Chicago-based ensemble **Eighth Blackbird** burned through a stunning set of modern music April 10, culminating in a hypnotic, incendiary performance of maverick composer Julius Eastman's stunning parable of the Civil Rights movement and the ragged glory of human persistence, "Stay on It." The **Imani Winds** brought an eclectic, engaging brand of new music to MSU the week of Nov. 3, culminating in a bracing recital at the Wharton Center. MSU's innovative **Musique 21** was in top form all year.

The established classics were, of course, not neglected.

The Lansing Symphony, with guest soloists and choral forces, lifted Mahler's epic "Resurrection" Symphony to the rafters in a transcendent night Nov. 2. To kick off its 90th season Sept. 21, the symphony went in a completely different direction and joined forces with one of its biggest guest artists ever, Broadway and TV megastar **Audra MacDonald**.

Three jazz festivals filled the air with beautiful sounds over the summer — the **East Lansing Summer Solstice Festival** in June and the **Lansing JazzFest** and **Phil Denny's Smooth Jazz Fete** in August. If I had to pick one standout moment, it would be trumpeter **Etienne Charles'** energized romp through the music of his latest hit CD, "Carnival: Sound of a People." Charles' is becoming a national star, and it was a thrill to see him bring his own young band back to East Lansing.

All the MSU Professors of Jazz seemed to go into creative overdrive this year. They hosted a series of guest artists, such as drummer **Kenny Washington**

and trumpeter **Tanya Darby**, in addition to pursuing their own diverse creative projects.

Charles wasn't the only professor to strike gold with a national chart-topping CD. Guitarist **Randy Napoleon**, bassist **Rodney Whitaker**, trombonist **Michael Dease**, saxophonist **Diego Rivera** and pianist **Xavier Davis** all released nationally acclaimed albums with a variety of styles and approaches and some strong statements to make. Davis' "Rise Up Detroit" combined a jazz combo and string quartet in a new and quietly shattering way; Whitaker is in the middle of a run of five diverse CDs celebrating his 50th birthday. All year, the jazz professors and their students popped up at MSU and around town in various delightful combinations, even as they toured the world and kept up with their duties at MSU. It was a grand scene indeed when the — brought the professors to Lansing's riverfront Sept. 10, the same night Rotary Park opened to the public, as the sun set and crowds thronged the city's resurgent riverfront.

Singing praise for a season of drama and artistic set design

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Looking back at the area's 2019 theater season, it was hard to pick out just one notable aspect.

This season's Pulsar contenders, up to now, included seven ensembles — many with especially potent casts. **Riverwalk Theatre's** "A Piece of My Heart" and "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown," **Ixion Theatre's** "The Wolves," **Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s** "The Humans," **Over The Ledge**

Theatre Co.'s "Summer Retreat" and "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" and **Starlight Dinner Theatre's** "Something's Afoot" all had notably congruous casts.

The sonic season pointed to the area's stock of gifted singers, dancers and talented musicians. There were seven strong musical performances. Riverwalk had "Pippin" and "Charlie Brown," and **Owosso Community Players** featured "Cabaret" and "Matilda." OTL had the "Trailer Park Musical," Starlight's "Something's Afoot" and PCT offered "Bright Star."

This season, many female leads took to the center stage. Of seven compelling actors in "A Piece of My Heart," only one was male. "The Wolves" had an all-female cast of 10, plus director **Jacquelyn Marks** and assistant director **Sadonna Croff**. Seven of 21 plays staged this season had women as directors.

Williamston Theatre's "The Safe House," written by Lansing's own **Kristine Thatcher**, spotlighted **Karen Sheridan's** powerful performance as an aging grandmother. Ixion's, one-woman show, "Apples in Winter," showcased **Paige Tufford**, who believably played a grieving mother of an incarcerated son.

Miah Nash's "Nina" and Ny 'kieria **Blocker's** "Nina Simone" were unforgettable in **Lansing Community**

College Performing Arts' "Sunset Baby," written by **Dominique Morisseau**, an American playwright and 2018 recipient of the MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant." **Rachael Steffens'** confident acting and Scottish accent helped make LCC's "Belle Moral" a play to remember. And seventh-grader **Alexis Bruner** often stole the show as Matilda Wormwood with her sophisticated singing and acting in OCP's "Matilda."

The season has also seen spectacular scenic designs. OCP is known for lavish sets, "Cabaret" and "Matilda" among them. The multi-story creations, dungeons and a library built by designers **Dirk Rennick** and **Dan Wenzlick** were remarkable.

"Cabaret's" settings stretched beyond Owosso's Lebowsky Center stage. Some audience members were seated onstage and the main floor was surrounded by cast placements. "Matilda" included floor-to-ceiling, letter "blocks," a retro living room, and drop-down jail bars.

PCT's ambitious "Bright Star" used the entire Temple House Fellowship Auditorium space. Substantial set pieces designed by Director **Chad Swan-Badgero** flowed on and off the massive floor. Different homes and offices, a bar, a library and more were simulated by wood pieces on wheels. **Tracy Smith** and **Geoff Stauffer**

designed PCT an astounding two-story set for "The Humans" featuring an authentic, spiral staircase.

LCC's "Sunset Baby" had a detailed and impressive apartment setting by **Robert Fernholz**, rare for a black box. For the one-man "A Christmas Carol" at Williamston Theatre, **Kirk A. Domer** designed a massive wireless-radio-with-curtains backdrop.

Bartley Bauer's classy set design for LCC's "Belle Moral" was multifaceted, realistically old-fashioned and complex. So was **Michael Gault's** design for MSU Department of Theatre's "Frankenstein," but with a stylishly eerie look.

Even smaller enterprises managed amazing sets. For "Trailer Park," **Joseph Dickson**, **Mary Job**, **Jeff Miller**, **Miranda Hartmann**, **Brian Farnham** and **Adam Carlson** combined talents to construct a realistic trailer with exposed interior, park dressings that cleverly masked the band and a trailer that opened to reveal a gaudy strip club.

Starlight upped their game with its set for "Something's Afoot." The sophisticated **Jim Lorenz** design featured a stairway, booby-traps everywhere and a large vase that swallowed **Colleen Bethea's**, "Lettie."

The Pulsar season is far from over, yet it's clear there are already award-worthy shows.

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Top books by Michigan authors of 2019

Tis the season for amending with thy father, unlearning social norms and activism

By **BILL CASTANIER**

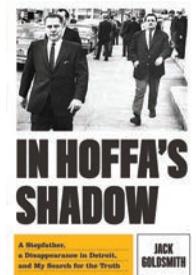
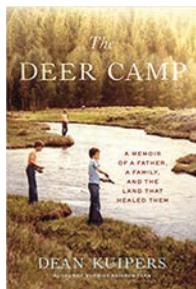
It's been more than 40 years since **Philip Caputo** wrote "A Rumor of War," one of the first and most memorable Vietnam memoirs. That and his second book, "Indian Country," set in the hard-scrabble Upper Peninsula, delve deeply into the heads of Vietnam veterans who returned with raw emotions and PTSD.

His newest book, "**Hunter's Moon**," revisits the Vietnam War and its impact on the American male. Set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the book is a series of interconnected short stories tied together by a veteran, who is also a brew pub owner and hunting guide. In the book, the woods take on a life of their own as the men find solace in them with friends who still seek healing for their fragile minds.

When it comes to writing about the woods, men and the healing power of nature, author **Dean Kuipers** bares his family's soul in his new book "**The Deer Camp: A Memoir of a Father, a Family and the Land That Healed Them**" as he and his brothers reunite with their estranged father.

After a lifetime of being at odds with their father, the three boys reunite around a deer camp their father purchased with the idea of getting back into the boy's life. It works despite their conflicting opinions about how to restore an old farm into a natural habitat area.

Next, on the Michigan reading list, is not a tell-all, since no one knows everything about the life and times of labor organizer Jimmy Hoffa. However, author **Jack Goldsmith**, who is the stepson of Hoffa's son Charles "Chuckie" O'Brien, does just about that in his new book, "**In Hoffa's Shadow**." O'Brien was Hoffa's shadow, not only traveling everywhere with him, but providing the link Hoffa needed with the mob. He was also thought by some to have been involved



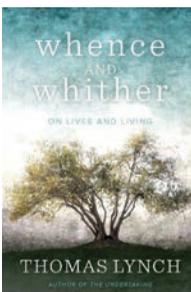
in the disappearance of Hoffa in 1975 from the Machus Red Fox in Birmingham, Michigan. I think after reading the book you will have your own take on Chuckie's role in Hoffa's life and death.

Goldsmith is an interesting character, who after being raised by Chuckie deserts him for a legal career, not wanting to be held back by his stepfather's shadowy past. Some 20 years later, after Goldsmith leaves his job in government, the two reunite. And after long talks, he begins to see Chuckie in a different light and begins reinvestigating the Hoffa kidnapping.

He also finds his own conservative values shaken when he learns more about the illegal surveillance by the government of Hoffa. Since many of names and places in this book relate to Michigan, local readers will especially be pulled into the book's orbit.

Thomas Lynch, Michigan's home-grown bard and practitioner of the dismal trade, has a new collection called "**Whence and Whither: On Lives and Living**" of his work including previously published material along with some new stuff. His fans and newcomers will love this collection, which shows him at his best — which is very good. Lynch is a storyteller extraordinaire, and his story "The Black Glacier," of his on-site observations of the funeral of Irish Poet Seamus Heaney, is the best example of this. His first-person reflections will chill you and warm your heart at the same time.

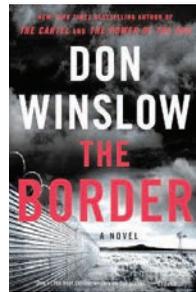
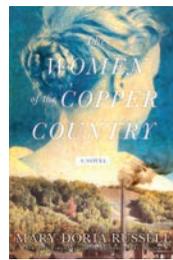
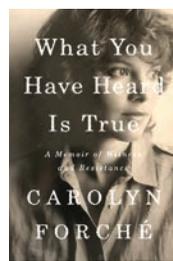
Carolyn Forché, who is a Georgetown University professor and MSU graduate, has finally got her due. The poet's mem-



oir, "**What You Have Heard is True: A Memoir of Witness and Resistance**," was named the National Book Award Winner for the non-fiction category. The book provides insight into the poet's lifetime of commitment to social justice on an international level.

The sad story called the "1913 Massacre," by folk singer Woodie Guthrie and covered by Dylan, has been told and retold by authors for the last 100 years, but **Mary Doria Russell** has given it some new twists in her book "**The Women of Copper Country**." Russell keeps her sights on the strike through the eyes of Annie Clemenc, the strike's organizer, who carried the nickname "Big Annie" since she rose over 6 feet. In this work of historical fiction, Russell deftly takes us to the tragic denouement at a Christmas party when 73 partiers, mostly children, are trampled to death when trying to escape a second story hall after someone yells "fire."

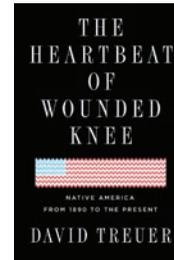
Don Winslow knows more about the drug trade than any of the drug cartel's kingpins. He's spent nearly a lifetime researching the drug trade and it shows in his new book this year, "**The Border**," the final book in his crime-thriller trilogy. For those who want to read more by this leader in crime thrillers, start with "The



Life and Times of Bobby Z" which he wrote on the train while commuting to his job as a private investigator.

To round off the list, **David Treuer**'s "**The Heartbreak of Wounded Knee**" featuring the winning of the west, colonialism and the decimation of American Indians and their will to survive as some of the major themes. Publishers Weekly described the book as "a compelling counter narrative to popular U.S. history.

That's all folks.



SCHULER BOOKS

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.

SCHULER BOOK CLUB
January 15 • 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 *City of Thieves*, from the critically acclaimed author of *The 25th Hour* and *When the Nines Roll Over* and co-creator of the HBO series *Game of Thrones*, a captivating novel about war, courage, survival—and a remarkable friendship that ripples across a lifetime.

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YEAR-END clearance Sale

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.

Thursday, December 26

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Ice Age - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Zumba - Want to lose weight and have fun too? 6:30-7:30 p.m. Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. 517-882-2838.

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.

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

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

ARTS

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

Sunrises & Smokestacks - ongoing. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing.

Friday, December 27

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Crack the Code! - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-

485-8116. impression5.org.

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.

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

Open Swim at Goldfish Okemos - Holiday Break Fun! 12-1:30 p.m. 5135 Times Square Dr., Okemos.

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

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

Saturday, December 28

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Hooping 101 - Adult Class - 2-3 p.m. Cedar Street Art Collective, 1701 S. Cedar St., Lansing. 517-402-2497.

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

EVENTS

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

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

Dancing Queen Masquerade Ball 2019 - 7-11 p.m. Michigan Princess, 3004 W. Main St, Lansing.

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

ARTS

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

Sunday, December 29

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 & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing.

ARTS

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

Monday, December 30

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

MRA Social Equity Education and Outreach Session: East Lansing - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

Potato Chip Science - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

EVENTS

Break for Fun: Minecraft - 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Game Night at the Fledge - 7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka, Lansing. 517-203-9287.

Open Swim at Goldfish Okemos--Holiday Break Fun! - 12-1:30 p.m. Goldfish Swim School of Okemos, 5135 Times Square Dr., Okemos.

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

Tuesday, December 31

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Break For Fun: Learn to Play MAGIC & Table Top Games - Instruction and supervised play. 1-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

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

Zumba - Want to lose weight and have fun too? 6:30-7:30 p.m. Federated Polish Home, 1030 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. 517-882-2838.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

EVENTS

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

New Year's Eve Contra and Square Dance - Potluck supper 6:30pm, New dancer intro at 7:30. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. Valley Farms Community Center, 16101 Brook Road, Lansing. lgmaa.org.

New Year's Eve Salsa Party at UrbanBeat - We are doing it again! Thanks to many requests, we are bringing in 2020 at UrbanBeat with Salsa music, Cuban food, and a cash bar. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing.

Noon Year's Eve Party at Goldfish Okemos! - 12:15-2:15 p.m. Goldfish Swim School of Okemos, 5135 Times Square Dr., Okemos.

NYE Avenue Street Fair 20/20 Free! Street food from Ruckus Ramen! "Barbara Walters" will be handling the countdown! 9 p.m.-2 a.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing.

Wednesday, January 1

EVENTS

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

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

Peace & Nonviolence In a Time of Climate Crisis: Call to Conscience; Call to Action - Prayer Service for Peace. 1-2:30 p.m. St. Therese of Lisieux Catholic Church, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. 517-487-3749.



FRIDAY, DEC. 27 >> STAN BUDZYNSKI & 3rd DEGREE at Moriarty's Pub



The local blues heroes are ready to jam once again at the neighborhood pub. This quintet is versed in Motown, Classic Rock and "a bit of everything else," according to their Facebook page.

9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 485-5287
moriartyspublansing.com

THURSDAY, DEC. 26 >> LEARN517: FORM AND FUNCTION IN MICHIGAN ARCHITECTURE



Explore the theme of architecture through the lens of Michigan history. Learn about notable Michigan structures designed with certain functions in mind. The presentation will be followed by a bridge engineering challenge to apply strategies from the presentation.

1:30 to 3 p.m., \$4 adults, \$5 students
Michigan History Center
702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
(517) 335-2573
archives@michigan.gov

THURSDAY, DEC. 26 >> MAN VS. WILD HOLIDAY AT MAC'S BAR



Your New Year's resolutions for fitness and improved quality of life starts here. Sober up and sweat it out at this free holiday hangover show with upbeat house and techno pulsing all night thanks to DJ Ruckus, Csick and Kontakt.

10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 484-6795
macsbar.com

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Alphabet Run"--the quick part of the song.
by Matt Jones

- Across**
- 1 Tres ___ cake
 - 7 Dangerous reptiles
 - 11 Indicted Giuliani associate Parnas
 - 14 Breathe out
 - 15 Monument Valley state
 - 16 Windows file extension
 - 17 100% correct
 - 18 It may be an acquired taste
 - 20 Comment about a loud blockbuster after thinking it was a Chaplin movie?
 - 22 "___ Tu" (1974 hit song)
 - 23 Shoe bottom
 - 24 "Nailed It!" host Nicole
 - 26 Mountain suffix
 - 27 Permit
 - 29 "Beefy" Trogdor feature
 - 31 Academic URL ender
 - 32 Fake device
 - 34 "Where did ___ leave off?"
 - 36 Phrase you won't hear from me or other solvers?
 - 39 Winding
 - 41 Den-izens?
 - 42 Planned Airbnb event in 2020
 - 43 Throw in
 - 46 "A Dream Within a Dream" writer
 - 47 "Charlie's Angels" director, 2000
 - 50 "That ___ funny"
 - 52 Island with Pearl Harbor

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59												60		
61							62					63		
64							65					66		

- 54 Country singer McCann
- 55 Like the most lenient newspaper ever?
- 59 Word before band or papers
- 60 2001 A.L. MVP Suzuki
- 61 Pint at a pub
- 62 Service rank
- 63 Home-___ (local athlete)
- 64 "That's it"
- 65 Steering wheel adjunct
- 66 Finely decorated
- 54 Country singer maybe
- 8 "A Streetcar Named Desire" shout
- 9 Four-time Masters champion
- 10 It's between the knee and the ankle
- 11 2020, for one
- 12 Goes beyond
- 13 "Oy ___!"
- 19 Summer cookout leftover
- 21 Aperture setting on a camera
- 25 9-to-5 grind
- 27 "Threepenny Opera" star Lotte
- 28 "Baudolino" author Umberto
- 30 Creator of Piglet and Pooh
- 32 Driver's license agcy.
- 33 "The King and I" star Brynner
- 35 "___ Miserables"
- 36 Hematite and pyrite
- 37 Close, as a jacket
- 38 Exhibit site
- 39 10% of MXX
- 40 High-end
- 44 Two-ended tile
- 45 De Niro's wife in "Meet the Parents"
- 47 Smallest possible quantities
- 48 Bordeaux red wine
- 49 Aplenty
- 51 "American Chopper" network
- 53 Hulkamania figure
- 54 "Mean Girls" actress Lindsay
- 56 "Trouble's in store"
- 57 "Mambo King" Puente
- 58 "Happy Birthday" writer
- 59 Indy 500 month

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Answers Page 20

SUDOKU

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

Intermediate

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 20

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Dec. 26 - Dec. 31, 2019

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Nazi Germany invaded and occupied Denmark during World War II. In 1943, Hitler ordered all Danish Jews to be arrested—a first step in his plan to send them to concentration camps. But the Danish resistance movement leapt into action and smuggled virtually all of them to safety via fishing boats bound for Sweden. As a result, 8,000+ Danish Jews survived the Holocaust. You may not have the opportunity to do anything quite as heroic in 2020, Aries. But I expect you will have chances to express a high order of practical idealism that could be among your noblest and most valiant efforts ever. Draw inspiration from the Danish resistance.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): When she was 31, Taurus writer Charlotte Brontë finished writing her novel *Jane Eyre*. She guessed it would have a better chance of getting published if its author was thought to be a man. So she adopted the masculine pen name of Currer Bell and sent the manuscript unsolicited to a London publisher. Less than eight weeks later, her new book was in print. It quickly became a commercial success. I propose that we make Brontë one of your role models for 2020, Taurus. May she inspire you to be audacious in expressing yourself and confident in seeking the help you need to reach your goals. May she embolden you, too, to use ingenious stratagems to support your righteous cause.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): 2020 can and should be a lyrically healing year for you. Here's what I mean: Beauty and grace will be curative. The "medicine" you need will come to you via poetic and mellifluous experiences. With this in mind, I encourage you to seek out encounters with the following remedies. 1. Truth Whimsies 2. Curiosity Breakthroughs 3. Delight Gambles 4. Sacred Amusements 4. Redemptive Synchronicities 5. Surprise Ripenings 6. Gleeful Discoveries 7. Epiphany Adventures 8. Enchantment Games 9. Elegance Eruptions 10. Intimacy Angels 11. Playful Salvation 12. Luminosity Spells

CANCER (June 21–July 22): "There are years that ask questions and years that answer," wrote author Zora Neale Hurston. According to my astrological analysis, Cancerian, 2020 is likely to be one of those years that asks questions, while 2021 will be a time when you'll get rich and meaningful answers to the queries you'll pose in 2020. To ensure that this plan works out for your maximum benefit, it's essential that you formulate provocative questions in the coming months. At first, it's fine if you generate too many. As the year progresses, you can whittle them down to the most ultimate and important questions. Get started!

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): The Roman Emperor Vespasian (9–79 AD) supervised the restoration of the Temple of Peace, the Temple of Claudius, and the Theater of Marcellus. He also built a huge statue of Apollo and the amphitheater now known as the Colosseum, whose magnificent ruins are still a major tourist attraction. Vespasian also created a less majestic but quite practical wonder: Rome's first public urinals. In accordance with astrological omens, I invite you Leos to be stimulated by his example in 2020. Be your usual magnificent self as you generate both inspiring beauty and earthy, pragmatic improvements.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): When Virgo author Mary Shelley was 18 years old, she had a disconcerting dream-like vision about a mad chemist who created a weird human-like creature out of non-living matter. She set about to write a book based on her mirage. At age 20, she published "Frankenstein", a novel that would ultimately wield a huge cultural influence and become a seminal work in the "science fiction" genre. I propose we make Shelley one of your role models for 2020. Why? Because I suspect that you, too, will have the power to transform a challenging event or influence into an important asset. You'll be able to generate or attract a new source of energy by responding creatively to experiences that initially provoke anxiety.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Libra-born mystic poet Rumi (1207–1273) wrote that he searched for holy sustenance and divine inspiration in temples, churches, and mosques—but couldn't find them there. The good news? Because of his disappointment, he was motivated to go on an inner quest—and ultimately found holy sustenance and divine inspiration in his own heart. I've got a strong feeling that you'll have similar experiences in 2020, Libra. Not on every occasion, but much of the time, you will discover the treasure you need and long for not in the outside world but rather in your own depths.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Among his many accomplishments, Scorpio rapper Drake is an inventive rhymers. In his song "Diplomatic Immunity," he rhymes "sacred temple" with "stencil." Brilliant! Other rhymes: "statistics" with "ballistics"; "Treaty of Versailles" with "no cease and desist in I"; and—my favorite—"Al Jazeera" (the Qatar-based news source) with "Shakira" (the Colombian singer). According to my analysis of the astrological omens in 2020, many of you Scorpios will have Drake-style skill at mixing and blending seemingly disparate elements. I bet you'll also be good at connecting influences that belong together but have never been able to combine before.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): Sagittarian poet Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926) embodied a trait that many astrology textbooks suggest is common to the Sagittarian tribe: wanderlust. He was born in Prague but traveled widely throughout Europe and Russia. If there were a Guinness World Records' category for "Time Spent as a Houseguest," Rilke might hold it. There was a four-year period when he lived at fifty different addresses. I'm going to be bold here and hypothesize that 2020 will NOT be one of those years when you would benefit from being like Rilke. In fact, I hope you'll seek out more stability and security than usual.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Fifteenth-century Italian metalworker Lorenzo Ghiberti worked for 28 years to turn the Doors of the Florence Baptistry into a massive work of art. He used bronze to create numerous scenes from the Bible. His fellow artist Michelangelo was so impressed that he said Ghiberti's doors could have served as "The Gates of Paradise." I offer Ghiberti as inspiration for your life in 2020, Capricorn. I think you'll be capable of beginning a masterwork that could take quite some time to complete and serve as your very own "gate to paradise": in other words, an engaging project and delightful accomplishment that will make you feel your life is eminently meaningful and worthwhile.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): You're wise to cultivate a degree of skepticism and even contrariness. Like all of us, your abilities to say NO to detrimental influences and to criticize bad things are key to your mental health. On the other hand, it's a smart idea to keep checking yourself for irrelevant, gratuitous skepticism and contrariness. You have a sacred duty to maintain just the amount you need, but no more—even as you foster a vigorous reservoir of receptivity, optimism, and generosity. And guess what? 2020 will be an excellent time to make this one of your cornerstone habits.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) finished writing "The Divine Comedy" in 1320. Today it's considered one of the supreme literary accomplishments in the Italian language and a classic of world literature. But no one ever read the entire work in the English language until 1802, when it was translated for the first time. Let's invoke this as a metaphor for your life in the coming months, Pisces. According to my visions, a resource or influence that has previously been inaccessible to you will finally arrive in a form you can understand and use. Some wisdom that has been untranslatable or unreadable will at last be available.

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Sunday, December 29

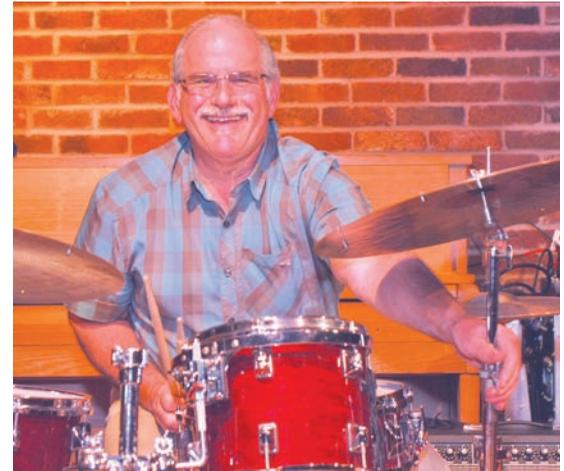
VIVA JAZZ PERFORMS 'A FAMILY CHRISTMAS' CONCERT AT URBANBEAT



Lauren Rongo (flute) and Arlene McDaniel (piano)



Adam Rongo (sax)



Ian Levine (drums)

Lauren Rongo looks back on decades of jazz

Sunday, Dec. 29 @ UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. FREE, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat, a budding hot spot for live jazz music, hosts Viva Jazz. The group comprises Lauren Rongo (flute), her son Adam Rongo (sax), Terry Newman (bass), Arlene McDaniel (piano) and Ian Levine (drums).

At the Sunday event, the band will play a traditional concert, including some holiday songs, for the first hour followed by an open-jam session. Viva Jazz will close out the evening with a 15-minute set. The event is free, but the band accepts tips and donations.

Lauren Rongo, Viva Jazz cofounder and veteran of Michigan's jazz scene, has performed everywhere from the Brooklyn Philharmonic to Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's Pub. Flute in hand, she's also been a part of many groups and orchestras over the years, including stints in Midland Symphony, Bay City Players and plenty of gigging with outfits like Nova Jazz and Shenanigans.

On top of that, she also earned a music degree from Michigan State University and

later studied under an acclaimed flutist, the late Harold Bennett of the New York Metropolitan Opera.

"Although I already had a degree from MSU, Mr. Bennett practically started me all over," she said. "He changed my tone, my hand position, my technique and my overall playing. He was the greatest flute teacher for me."

Her latest project, Viva Jazz, offers up traditional jazz, played with a roster of her long-time collaborators.

"The band was put together because we have known each other for many moons," she said. "The mission was that I want a chance to perform with my son, and this band is like family. My bandmates Arlene and Ian used to come and hear my late husband, Tony Rongo, and I play at the Stonehouse years ago in East Lansing.

"Our bassist Terry played with Nova Jazz, our group back then, on many gigs back in the early 1980s," she added. "But I let go

of the name Nova Jazz after Tony passed in 2007. I did not play jazz for many years after he passed."

After a few years of mourning, she moved back to Lansing and formed Shenanigans, an Irish-folk duo she fronted with her second husband, David Gander. Sadly, over the summer, she also lost Gander.

"David passed away this summer in June," Rongo said. "I will not be playing Irish for a long time—just like when I let go of jazz. I just cannot play it right now."

Even with another tragic loss, Lauren Rongo is keeping busy with music, and performing with family and friends has been therapeutic. Not to mention, they're all seasoned players.

Her son Adam Rongo, who has a master's in jazz studies from Michigan State University, is traveling from his current residence in Chicago to play sax this holiday show in Old Town, Lansing. While he's gigged all across New York City at prestigious clubs,

as both a sideman and bandleader, he is now a second-year law student at Northwestern Law School.

"We play together when we can," she said. "It's tough to get jazz gigs that pay. Arlene, Terry, Ian, and my son were all willing to do this for tips because we really love to play together."

Looking back to what first encouraged her to put down the violin and accordion and pick up a flute, Lauren Rongo said it was a chance occurrence during junior high in the early '60s that set her path in life.

"In seventh grade there was a talent show. I won it playing 'The Clarinet Polka' on the piano-accordion," she recalled. "But the person all the kids liked best was Fran Farley. She was a cheerleader and played the flute. I thought, 'Maybe if I play the flute, I'll be pretty and popular like Fran. That is why I chose the flute! Yeesh — it's such a dumb reason. But then I fell in love with the flute. It's like extension of my arm.'"



Upcoming show? Contact Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

DESTINATION	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NEW YEARS EVE
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave..	All Request Cocktail Party 9PM	Karaoke 9PM	GTG Bermuda Snohawk Free 9PM	NYE Avenue Street Fair 9PM
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.			Barefoot Blonde 9PM	
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River, East Lansing		Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM	
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Smooth Daddy 9:30PM	Smooth Daddy 9:30PM	Smooth Daddy 9PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Karaoke	Double Shot 9:30PM	Full House 9:30PM	Grady Hall & Disciples of Funk 9:30PM
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee		Live Music w/Crooked Root 8PM	Live Music w/Atomic Annie 8PM	The Devil Elvis Show 9PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		The Hav Knots 8PM		Top Shelf & DJ Butcher 9PM
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Gilysé 5PM/Drippy New Years Celebration 8PM	NEON NYE 9PM
Reno's North, 16460 S. US 27 Hwy.				The New Rule 8PM
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw		The New Rule 9PM	The New Rule 9PM	
Spiral, 1247 Center St.				Club Kid New Years 2020 9PM
Unicorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing		Live Music with the Band Medusa 9PM	Live Music with Off the Ledge 9PM	New Years Eve with 7th Hour
Urban Beat, 1213 Turner Rd.				Salsa Party with Orquesta Ritmo 8PM
Wildlife Pub, 6380 Drumeller Rd., Bath			Open Mic 7:30PM	

FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Seasonal cocktails to keep you warm and fuzzy

By **AUDREY MATUSZ**

With the turn of the season, many of Lansing's eateries are whipping out updated drink menus inspired by Michigan berries, nutty flavor palettes and sweet spices. Say what you will about Lansing's food, but our drink game is solid. Before you curse the falling ice from the sky turning into gray sludge on the streets of a post-industrial city, sample some of the following cheery concoctions:

B2 Macchiato (\$7) - Beggar's Banquet

Ingredients: Espresso vodka, horchata cinnamon liqueur and cold brew coffee with a dash of cinnamon.

A macchiato is an espresso with a helping of frothy steamed milk, which sounds kind of boring to be honest. This drink is the opposite. Beggar's Banquet's spin on the drink gives it a jolly jolt of sugar and spice, making it a great post-holiday treat for the coffee snob.

The Grinch (\$7) - Beggar's Banquet

Ingredients: Bailey, Crème de Menthe, Vodka. Topped with whipped cream, chocolate sauce and a cherry.

This little devil packs enough punch to ruin a family holiday dinner. Its menacing components are masked with a pastel green hue and adorable



B2 Macchiato



The Grinch



The Canadien



Spiced Pear

toppings, but do not be fooled, this drink is a delight from top to bottom, starting with the heavy cream and cherry on top.

The Canadien (\$10) - Zoobie's

Ingredients: Bourbon, maple syrup, black walnut bitters, lemon and an ice ball.

Named after an ethnic group who trace their ancestry to French colonizers who settled in Canada in the 17th century, this drink is equally a mouthful. An acquired taste for sure. In the mixture I sampled, the lemon hit first, followed by some nutty after taste.

Spiced Pear (\$9) - Zoobie's

Ingredients: Pear vodka, cinnamon simple syrup and ginger beer.

The best version of a Moscow mule



Blackberry Mint Margarita



Uncle Buck

I've ever had. Not overly sweet and fresh. Other versions of Zoobie's mules include the "Mackintosh" with lemon and apple brandy, the "Cranmary" and "Berrysado," comprising blueberry and maple flavors.

Blackberry Mint Margarita \$9 - Punk Taco

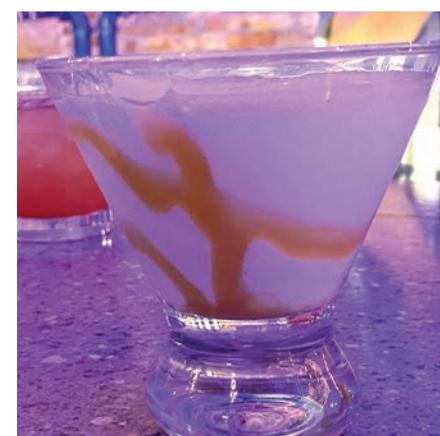
Ingredients: lemon juice, blackberry syrup, fresh mint and tequila

Blackberries are a tart fruit, but this drink tasted like liquified Sour Patch Kid gummies. This winterized margarita is undoubtedly refreshing and the spiced, sugar rim was delightful. I left the American taqueria berry merry indeed.

Uncle Buck \$10 - The Grid

Ingredients: Rye whiskey, strawberry syrup with rhubarb bitters and ginger beer.

This fuchsia potion is bubbly and refreshing. The blackberry garnish was a nice touch, but left me wishing for one or two more juicy morsels.



Grandpa Joe

Grandpa Joe \$9 - The Grid

Ingredients: Caramel swirl, vodka, butterscotch schnapps and cream.

Good luck winning Pacman with this sweet-faced devil by your side. For one, you won't want to put it down. Secondly, this creamy villain is liable to play mind games. It comes in a short-stem, triangle glass lined on the inside with stripes of caramel.

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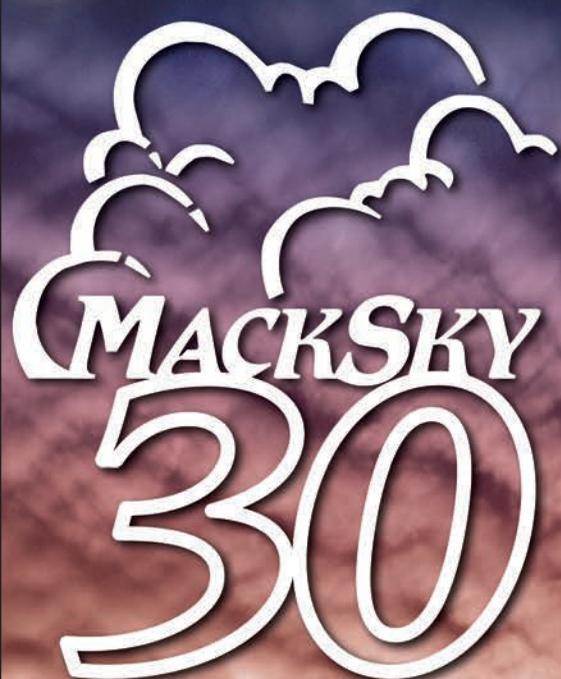
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