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# CityPULSE

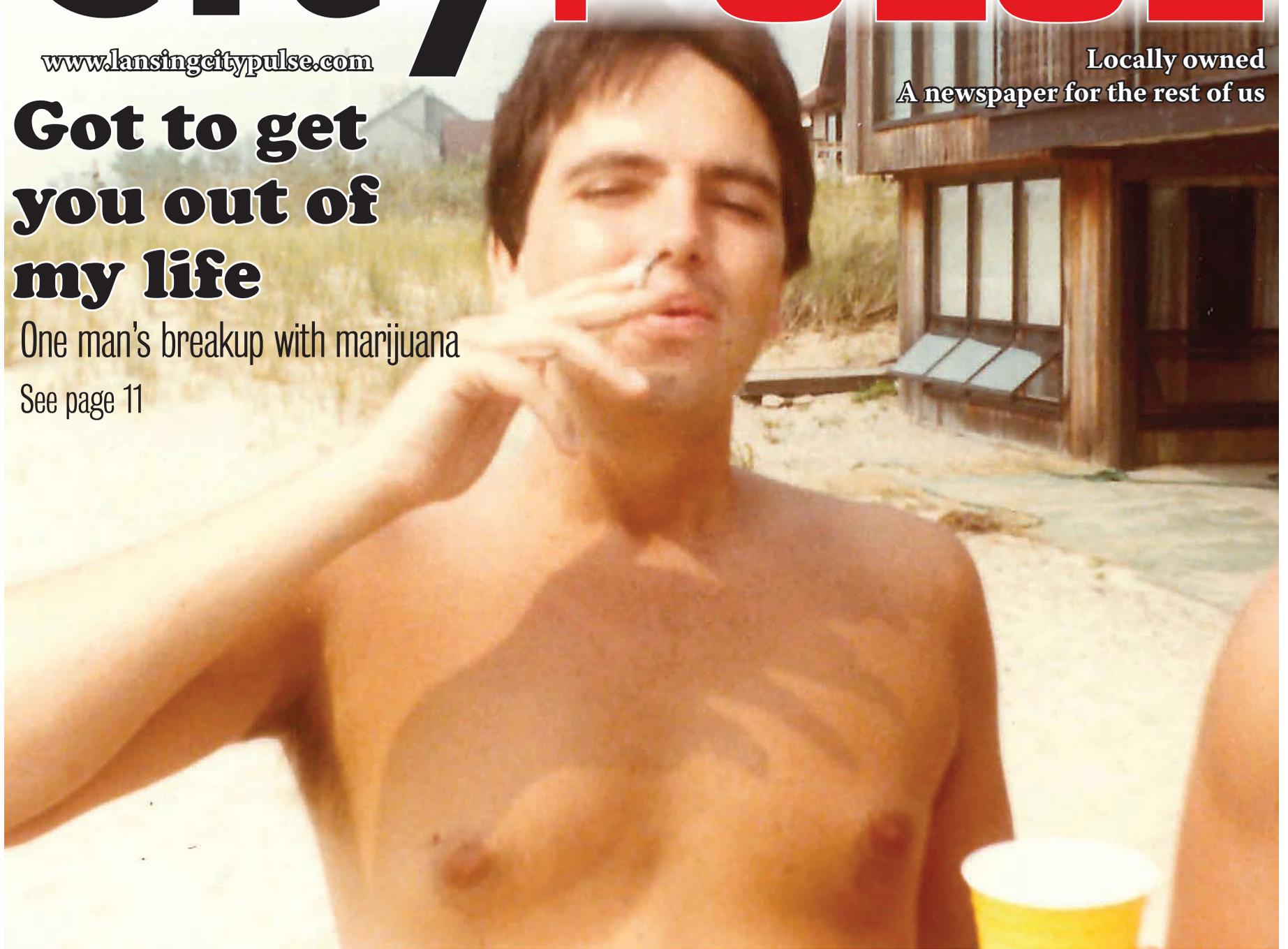
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## Got to get you out of my life

One man's breakup with marijuana

See page 11



Accident/Injury  
attorneys.

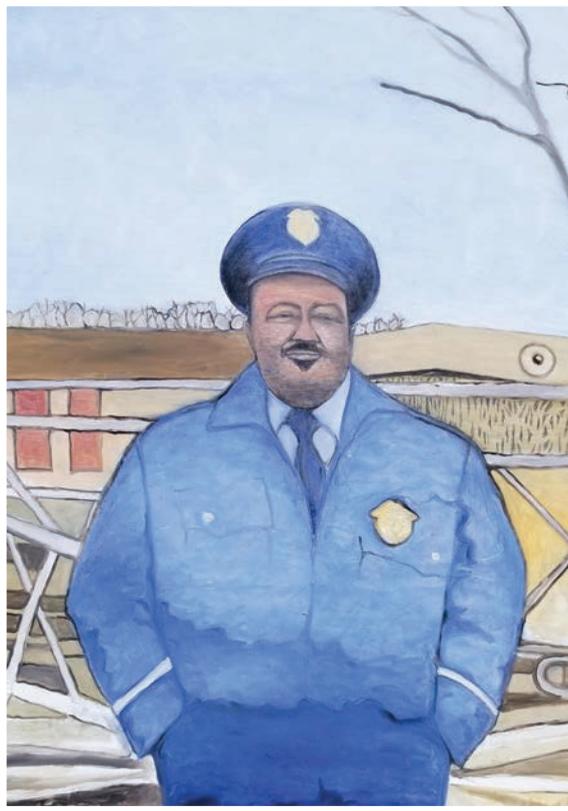
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Absolute Gallery is pleased to showcase Internationally recognized, local artist Julian VanDyke at

# ARTS NIGHT OUT



VanDyke is a renaissance man active in the Greater Lansing community through programs in our schools, as a muralist around town, an actor in the theater community, and an all-around great guy.

He recently exhibited in the 2019 Miami Red Dot Art Exhibition, where he gained an international following for his work.



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# *Favorite Things*

## Chad Cottom of Spin Bicycle Shop and his Kona Honzo Mountain Bike



My favorite thing is this Kona Honzo CR Trail DL Mountain Bike. That's quite a mouthful. I've owned dozens of bikes, and this bike is probably the most fun of all the bikes I've ever owned. It's nimble and it's predictable and it's balanced and it's comfortable. It's just got a really lively personality and it puts a smile on your face every time you ride it. Plus, it's beautiful. There's nothing in the shape and design that isn't intentionally functional and as a result it looks really cool.

It matches my riding personality. I'm an old BMX dog. The style of riding I developed when I was a young kid was this BMX stunt type riding — dirt jumping, jumping over cars, all this silly stuff. This bike is designed to be ridden in that kind of aggressive manner, like a grownup version of BMX riding. It can handle big hits, big jumps, big drops. At the same time, it's light enough and fast enough to be ridden as a competition race bike. It's a very unique mix of qualities you don't generally find in one bike.

This bike has been to all of the cool trails in lower Michigan — Pinckney, Grand Rapids, Chelsea, all over the place. It's been ridden up in Traverse

City in a race called Iceman that goes from Kalkaska to Traverse City.

And don't forget Lansing. We have five trails here that are part of the Michigan Mountain Bike Association. There's Anderson Park by the Woldumar Nature Center. At the West Lansing trail system off of Sheffield and Hunter's Ridge, there are three parks along the river — Fine Park, Fulton Park and Hunter's Ridge, five miles of trail, all of it connected, within the city limits. It's amazing, a gem that people don't realize is there. There are three other local parks that are part of the MBA: Burchfield Park south of town, Sleepy Hollow and Ingham Conservation District south of Mason. Oh yeah, there's Bennett Park near Charlotte and there's a brand new trail, Fox Park, near Potterville, that they just cut. A lot of trails, all within half an hour of here.

I ride this thing very aggressively and to its full potential — to my full potential, anyway. But I don't take it out and subject it to mud and salt and stuff, only because I want it to stay nice.

*(Edited and condensed by Lawrence Cosentino.)*

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# CityPULSE

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**The BIG DUMB WAR CYCLE**

- 1 HAWKS ITCH FOR BATTLE**  
IT WILL BE A SPLENDID LITTLE WAR!
- 2 9/11 FALSELY INVOKED**  
I'M SURE THEY HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE HIJACKERS.
- 3 BOOSTERS OF PREVIOUS WAR ALL OVER TV**  
BOMBS AWAY!
- 4 MILLIONS PROTEST AROUND THE WORLD AND ARE IGNORED**  
THIS WAR IS BUNK TOO
- 5 PATRIOTISM OF OPPOSITION QUESTIONED**  
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS YOU TRAITOR
- 6 WAR A BLOODY DISASTER WITHOUT END**  
WHO COULD HAVE KNOWN?
- 7 CONVENTIONAL WISDOM FORMS THAT WAR WAS A MISTAKE, BUT NO ONE HELD ACCOUNTABLE**  
HOW'D WE GET INTO THAT MESS?  
BEATS ME!

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Lake Michigan Film Fest showcases Midwest talent



**PAGE 19**

Curious findings at the Curious Book Shop



**PAGE 25**

Midtown Brewing Co. unleashes a beast of a burger



**Cover Art**

Courtesy of Mike Stratton

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

OUR TOP STORY: THE ASSASSINATION OF THE VERY BAD MAN WHO DID VERY BAD THINGS!

PRESIDENT TRUMP SAYS THE BAD MAN WAS PLANNING AN IMMINENT ATTACK ON OUR NATION! AND WHAT POSSIBLE REASON WOULD WE HAVE TO DOUBT HIM?

JOINING US FOR ADDITIONAL PERSPECTIVE ARE OUR FREQUENT COMMENTATORS, THE WISHY-WASHY MODERATE AND THE RIGHT-WING NUT JOB! GENTLEMEN, WHAT SAY YOU?

WELL, THE BAD MAN WAS DEFINITELY VERY BAD! BUT THIS DOES SEEM LIKE A DANGEROUS COURSE OF ACTION, THOUGH REASONABLE PEOPLE CAN ALWAYS DISAGREE--

WHY DO YOU HATE THE TROOPS WITH SUCH BURNING INTENSITY?

I-- WAIT, WHAT?

WE ARE AT WAR, OR AT LEAST WE PROBABLY WILL BE SOON! AND WHEN AMERICA IS AT WAR, YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO CRITICIZE OUR PRESIDENT, DONALD J. TRUMP! IN FACT, YOU MUST NOW WORSHIP HIM AS AN INFALLIBLE LIVING GOD!

IT'S IN THE CONSTITUTION!

I--I DON'T THINK--

ZIP IT, YOU FLAG-HATING MORON! YOU'RE EITHER WITH US OR AGAINST US! YOU FILTHY, DECADENT FIFTH COLUMNISTS IN YOUR COASTAL ENCLAVES HAVE TO SHUT UP NOW! THAT IS JUST HOW THIS WORKS!

BY THE WAY, WHERE'S YOUR FLAG PIN?

MY--MY WHAT--?

WELL, THANK YOU BOTH FOR YOUR FASCINATING VIEWPOINTS! COMING UP NEXT: SHOULD IMPEACHMENT BE WITHDRAWN AND NEVER SPOKEN OF AGAIN?

ER--I DON'T SEE WHY--

WHAT PART OF ZIP IT DO YOU NOT COMPREHEND?

GOD, I HAVEN'T FELT THIS ALIVE SINCE 2003!

TOM TOMORROW © 2020

# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Toward a better Betz

In the November 2019 city elections this newspaper proudly endorsed newcomer Brandon Betz for the First Ward seat on the Lansing City Council, replacing two-term Councilmember Jody



Betz

Washington. His victory promises to bring a fresh voice to the city's legislative body and rebalances the group's informal alliances in a way that tempers Carol Wood's seemingly perpetual stranglehold over Council affairs.

Our support for Betz, however, doesn't mean we will refrain from critical commentary as he assumes his new role in city governance. We haven't shied away from critiques of incumbents Patricia Spitzley and Adam Hussain, who also earned our endorsement. We won't pull our punches with Betz, either.

Toward that end, we were disappointed that one of Betz's first public statements after winning the election lacked the graciousness we hope to hear from any victorious candidate. His comment that Jody Washington "has no say in what goes on in the city of Lansing anymore" was unnecessarily harsh and should have been followed with a humble apology. While it can be hard for a candidate to take off his or her combat boots after a rough-and-tumble campaign, it is almost always advisable to move forward with a modicum of respect for one's vanquished opponent.

We're also put off by some of Betz's post-election statements regarding the city's use of economic incentives, particularly his characterization on Facebook that incentives "line the pockets of the rich, powerful, and politically well connected." It is one thing to critically examine the use of incentives as part of the city's development toolkit; we expect that from Betz and welcome it. It is another thing to rhetorically villainize the people and companies who play a key role in driving the city's growth, which in turn creates economic opportunity for Lansing residents.

Developers are not the enemy of progress. Painting them as the evil handmaidens of rapacious capitalism serves no discernable interest and sends the message that the city's leadership is hostile toward potential investors. We encourage Betz to tone down such rhetoric and work toward developing collaborative, respectful relationships with those who are willing to open their pocketbooks and drive new growth in Lansing.

### The CP Edit

#### Opinion

Betz's animus toward economic incentives is well known, but we are not convinced it is well founded. Tax incentives are often used by local governments to facilitate the redevelopment of contaminated properties and blighted buildings. Economic development tools like the Brownfield TIF and the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act (OPRA) were created precisely to level the financial playing field between greenfield sites on the urban periphery and industrial legacy sites in the urban core. The latter are inherently more expensive to develop than the former for obvious reasons: Removing toxic soil or underground fuel storage tanks from a prospective building site, for example, is an added expense that tilts the investment calculus toward suburban sites.

In case after case, Lansing's leaders have granted tax incentives to spur the rehabilitation of the city's most debilitated structures and toxic sites because redeveloping the properties would not otherwise have happened. The most obvious example is the Ottawa Power Station/Accident Fund project. In the absence of substantial economic incentives, the financial barriers to transforming the gargantuan structure into Class A office space were simply insurmountable. On a much smaller scale, incentives have played a crucial role in the redevelopment of numerous other buildings across the city.

Betz and others argue unpersuasively

that these projects would have happened anyway and that developers seek incentives merely to line their pockets with excessive profits. These assertions are ideologically driven hyperbole. While it is true that factors like labor availability, infrastructure and quality of life are primary drivers of business location decisions, the rehabilitation of blighted and contaminated structures within a community has everything to do with the financial viability of tackling an old building in the urban core rather than building a new one elsewhere. Economic incentives are a primary factor in that equation.

It's also important to note that incentives are not paid by the city's earn-and-file taxpayers, but from the new incremental tax revenues generated by the project itself, which are paid by the developers. The brownfield incentive, for example, captures this stream of new taxes to reimburse the developer for the costs of environmental remediation, which is a public good in and of itself. Betz and others claim that the city is losing tax revenues by granting incentives is based on the flawed assumption that the projects would have happened anyway. In fact, in nearly every case, the city has gained tax revenues (both property and income) as well as ancillary benefits that include temporary and permanent jobs, blight removal and neighborhood stabilization.

We say all of this to remind Councilman Betz and his colleagues that incentives can and should continue to play a vital role in sustaining Lansing's economic resurgence. We encourage our newest Council member to temper his anti-incentive fervor and give a fair shake to redevelopment proposals that seek the city's assistance. To do otherwise is to risk stalling the measurable, meaningful progress the city has made over the past decade.

Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com). Please limit them to 250 words.

## SORE OF THE WEEK



### 1609 N. Larch St.

This Lansing Board of Water & Light substation has sat vacant for more than a decade, but residents likely won't have to watch it decay for much longer. Instead, they'll be able to come inside and buy a bag of marijuana.

The three-story brick building might not have any windows — or much going inside at all — but leaseholder Chris Williams has big plans for renovations (or possible demolition) as he looks to give the north side its first one-stop, marijuana microbusiness capable of growing up to 150 plants for Michigan's recreational pot market.

Under state law, marijuana microbusinesses can grow and sell the flower directly, or process it into concentrates, edibles or other infused products. While they can't sell directly to other dispensaries, they can effectively supply their own demand from a single location. Think of them as craft breweries for weed.

Just off the overpass where Larch Street splits from Cedar Street, the 5,600-square-foot building was built in 1936 and is mostly surrounded by industrial space. BWL sold it back in 2018. Williams signed his lease in December. And barring a licensing delay, plans call for the recreational pot shop to open sometime this year.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

"Eyesore of the Week" is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call it in at 517-999-6715.

# Police reports reveal alleged Grindr killer's checkered past

## Prosecutor: Christmas killing among 'most horrific' in decades

*(The following story contains graphic details about a recent homicide investigation.)*

A menacing silence surrounds Mark Latunski's hillside home in the backwoods of Shiawassee County.

Investigators cleared the scene several days ago, leaving behind only a thin, yellow line of police tape around the rural property. The eerie brick abode sits vacant. But the air is still thick with the sinister notions of what county Prosecuting Attorney Deanna Finnegan labeled as the "most horrific" local homicide in recent decades.

"I've been doing this for over 30 years, and I've never seen anything quite like it," Finnegan added. "It's absolutely the most horrific homicide case I've ever dealt with."

According to his lawyers, Latunski, 50, of Morrice, plans to plead insanity next week in 66th District Court after being charged with open murder and mutilation of a body in the death of Kevin Bacon, a 25-year-old member of the LGBTQ community, college student and hairstylist from Swartz Creek. The death occurred either Christmas Eve or early Christmas day, according to authorities.

They said they discovered Bacon's mutilated corpse hanging upside down in the basement of Latunski's home on the 700-block of W. Tyrrell Road outside the village of Morrice. His throat had been slit. Both of his testicles had been removed. And Latunski told authorities that he had eaten them before investigators arrived.



Bacon

Bacon had reportedly met Latunski on the popular gay hookup site Grindr on Christmas Eve. But when he didn't return home for breakfast on Christmas morning, his family called the police to report he was missing.

Michigan State Police troopers eventually spotted Bacon's car at a Family Dollar in Clayton Township. His phone, wallet and some clothing were found inside. Days later, on Dec. 28, the investigation led authorities inside Latunski's home, where police said Bacon's mangled body was suspended by a rope in the basement.

It's still unclear what exactly led investigators to Latunski. Dave Kaiser, MSP's public information officer, couldn't elaborate much as the investigation and criminal proceedings continue. But recently released police reports indicate local authorities were all too familiar with Latunski, his home and his checkered mental health history.

Records show county sheriff's depu-



Latunski

ties visited the home of Latunski's now ex-wife in July 2013 for a welfare check. She then told authorities that she and Latunski — who had recently been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia — were going through a messy divorce and that he hadn't been taking his prescribed medications.

Deputies had one of their first encounters with Latunski a few months later, on Aug. 26, 2013, when they were dispatched to check on the welfare of his children. Police reports alleged that Latunski had been ignoring a custody arrangement for his children and kept hold of them well beyond the time allotted under a court order.

"Well, they will have to find me in contempt then," Latunski reportedly told deputies at the time.

The following day, the kids were nowhere to be found. Deputies were again dispatched to Latunski's home, but they later discovered he and the children had left town to stay at a hotel and visit a waterpark in Dundee. Police eventually found Latunski, took custody of the children and turned them back over to his ex-wife, records show.

That's when the police reports start to take a turn toward the stranger side.

On Sept. 3, 2013, Latunski reportedly visited the MSP post in Lansing — giving officers a fake name and a fake birthdate and telling authorities that he had "killed" Latunski "with a stroke of a pen." Deputies later stopped by his home for a welfare check and discovered cryptic notes scattered across the kitchen, reports state.

Some referenced "being cursed and breaking the cycle," reports state. They also found references to Latunski's newfound alias: William Gregory Dean. Eventually, they found Latunski next

door at his vacant father's home, lying on his back and unresponsive. After some prodding by skeptical deputies, he eventually sprang to life.

Latunski told authorities he was a "protected person" and that he wanted to know "the truth," according to police reports. He had also told authorities that he and his children were being "poisoned" by a bladder tank filled with lead that his brother somehow maliciously attached to the side of his house, according to reports.

Deputies brought Latunski to a hospital for treatment, but by then, Finnegan was ready to nail custodial kidnapping charges for his unauthorized and extended vacation in Dundee with his children in August. He was arrested at Owosso Memorial Healthcare on Sept. 19, 2013, and criminally charged in the weeks that followed.

That criminal case continued for nearly 18 months while Latunski's lawyers requested multiple psychiatric examinations to find whether he was mentally fit to stand trial. Records show Latunski was twice found incompetent but continued to undergo court-ordered treatment and testing during 2014 and 2015.

In the meantime, sheriff's deputies again responded to Tyrrell Road on Sept. 14, 2014. An unidentified person listed in police reports was reportedly found naked in Grand Rapids, looking to contact Latunski. Police reports note they were taken to a Grand Rapids hospital. Latunski couldn't be found. The case was closed.

On Sept. 18, Latunski's boss had called sheriff's deputies to report that Latunski hadn't shown up for work in the past four days. Latunski couldn't be located during that investigation either. The call was cleared. And a few months later, in January 2015, a psychiatrist was starting to feel differently about Latunski's mental health.

A doctor's note filed into court records states that Latunski had made "adequate progress" in therapy and was able to address the "powerful emotions and distress" from his recent divorce. His sense of "paranoia and anger" had subsided enough for him to function — and to be held liable for the alleged custodial kidnapping incident.

Although the charges could've ultimately sent Latunski to prison for up to a year if convicted, prosecutors decided to give up the case by February.



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Kevin Bacon was found murdered in the basement of this home on Tyrrell Road near Morrice, in Shiawassee County. The owner, Greg Latunski is under arrest.

# ‘Leaving it better than we found it’

## City Council President Peter Spadafore outlines vision for Lansing

Growing up, Peter Spadafore wanted to be president of the United States. But he'll have to settle for the Lansing City Council — at least for now. Besides, at 34, he's still not quite old enough to take on the Oval Office anyway.

“I enjoy what I get to do every day,” Spadafore said in an interview Monday, ahead of the vote by City Council that night making him president for the new year. “Work is not a job for me. I feel what we're doing on City Council is a service. Service is what gets me going. I want to serve the people around me the best I can with the skills I was given. That's really what gets me out of bed every morning. That, and an Alexa alarm clock.”

Two years into his first term on the City Council, Spadafore was unanimously elected without competition. After a year as vice president, Spadafore took the gavel from Councilwoman Carol Wood — who has served as president for the last two years and plans to leave the Council at the end of her current term, her sixth.

Spadafore plans to focus the Council on the city's budget, edge down unfunded pension liabilities and foster a more robust dialogue between the community and its elected leaders.

“It's going to be a different dynam-



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Peter Spadafore, in his office at the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators, as he prepares to take over as Lansing City Council president. He was approved, 8-0, Monday night.

ic because I'm a different person,” Spadafore said. “I've learned a lot from Councilwoman Wood, but my presidency, I think, is going to be a little bit more casual. I'm a much more relaxed person. I enjoy a little bit of humor. I think I'll also bring a little more to the floor for discussion.”

Spadafore lives off Moores River Drive with his husband, Daniel, and their black lab, Sadie. After growing up in Delta Township and working as the “breadstick guy” at Fazoli's, he graduated Waverly High School in 2003 and later earned a degree in social relations and policy from Michigan State University's James Madison College.

After a failed bid for county commissioner in 2008, Spadafore was elected to the Lansing School Board in 2011. He served six years there, three as its president, before eventually turning to city politics in 2017. His day job is as a lobbyist and associate executive director for the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators.

During his free time, Spadafore likes to mosey around downtown, Old Town and REO Town. He also likes biking along the River Trail, checking emails at Strange Matter Coffee and ordering food from Tannin, Meat BBQ and Pablo's. He's a bit of homebody, but Spadafore said he'll occasionally

grabs drinks at Stober's or Moriarty's.

“I'm much more likely to enjoy sitting at home,” he added. “Surprisingly, I'm an introvert. Small talk is not my strong suit. I do go to neighborhood events, but it always takes me a few minutes to warm up to the idea of putting myself out there. I do enjoy it, but it's definitely my default to shrink to the back. I'm working on it.”

While Spadafore's first passion was in education, those skills have transferred well to city governance. He said his time on the Council has been challenging as he attempts to balance the priorities of Lansing's 116,000 residents — as an at-large member, he represents the entire city — but he has enjoyed helping build a consensus among his colleagues and a long-term vision for Lansing.

“This is home,” Spadafore said. “My family has been here for over 100 years. To me, this is about leaving the city in a better position than how I found it when I was elected. I'd like my family and the people around me to want to call this place home. The only way to do that is to continually improve by leaving it better than we found it.”

Among Spadafore's top focus areas for 2020: A Council more directly involved with outlining the city's annual budget. He said he wants to help to identify specific line items and their associated costs upfront rather than depend entirely on Mayor Andy Schor's administration to single-handedly set Lansing's financial agenda.

He also wants to view city spend-

**See Council, Page 8**

## Murder

from page 6

Finnegan said the charges were dismissed at the request of Latunski's ex-wife, who no longer wanted to see her ex-husband face the legal consequences of his alleged criminal activity.

“Things had apparently been going OK,” Finnegan added. “She just wanted him to play by the rules and the case was dismissed at her request.” She said Latunski was warned the charges would be refiled “if he did anything stupid.”

But Latunski's encounters with law enforcement didn't stop there. Records show Latunski had repeatedly failed to pay child support and that by 2019, his

ex-wife had sought to cut off his custodial rights to his children altogether. Records also charted Latunski's worsening mental state, including a rough bout with severe depression.

About a month before Bacon's disappearance, deputies were again called to Tyrrell Road after a neighbor reported a younger man scrambling away from Latunski's home wearing only a leather kilt. Kaiser said the man had been chained inside Latunski's basement but entirely by choice. No criminal charges were filed against anyone.

“We showed up to do our investigation and what we found was that he was there consensually,” Kaiser added. “He had not been assaulted. There was no unwanted behavior and he didn't want to do a police report. Apparently there had been some type of boundary issues

going on there at the time. It didn't go anywhere.”

The kilt was returned to Latunski. The other man was able to leave the home. The scene was again cleared without incident. And about a month later, authorities were back — this time to find Bacon's body and to make an arrest. Latunski's two felony charges carry the potential to sentence him to life in prison, if he's convicted.

At an arraignment hearing this month, Latunski told a judge his true name was “Edgar Thomas Hill.” Doug Corwin, Shiawassee County's public defender and one of Latunski's court-appointed attorneys, pointed to that statement as added evidence of his legal insanity. He plans to argue that as part of a defense as the case proceeds.

“I can tell you that we'll be filing for a

forensic examination,” he said. “We will be filing an insanity defense.”

A massive procession followed Bacon's body from his funeral to a local cemetery on Friday afternoon. YouTube celebrity Jeffree Star donated \$20,000 to his funeral expenses. In the meantime, Latunski remains inside the Shiawassee County Jail without bail. He's due back in the courtroom for a hearing later this week.

Kaiser said authorities have not linked any additional crimes to Latunski, but they are searching for additional information about the night of Bacon's disappearance or about any prior dealings with Latunski. Those with any information to share can confidentially contact authorities at (877) 616-4677, Kaiser added.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

# 2020 may well travel a familiar road

It's all about fixing the damn roads. Again. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's popular 2018 gubernatorial campaign returns in 2020's opening months as the big-ticket item.

The 45-cent-a-gallon tax increase is out. Potentially, expanded bonding options are in.

Whitmer will let us all know for sure by her Jan. 29 State of the State address if and how she's looking at raising \$2.5 billion a year for roads.

But as we look ahead in this column toward what we can expect from Lansing in 2020, what's underneath the hood of Whitmer Road Funding 2.0 is less important than whom she's willing to share the road with.

The landing strip is there for the Democratic governor and the Republican-led Legislature as it heads toward a presidential election. It's just very thin and not very long.

— **Road Funding** The popular chatter in town has Whitmer's team exploring bonding for roads. For a fiscally conservative Republican, the only thing likely less appealing



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

than raising gas taxes is borrowing money for infrastructure through bonding. Particularly for this crew of lawmakers.

Michigan pays \$160 million every year for John Engler's road bonding adventures of the 1990s. The roads he repaired need to be fixed again, but we're all still paying the debt service. Going well above the \$1 billion the governor could legally bond through the State Transportation Commission isn't the Legislature's first, second or third option.

House, Senate and administration officials made some headway on this issue last year. A compromise could include Speaker Lee Chatfield's push to have all gas tax go to the roads and Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey's drive to bond out a portion of the teacher pension payments would still need to be in the mix.

A complicating factor is Southeast Michigan legislators like Sen. Pete Lucido, who insist that driver registration fees be spent in the county where collected. Big-county lawmakers like Lucido like that a lot because it means more money for them. Northern Michigan lawmakers — who include Chatfield — don't.

The closer the calendar gets to Nov. 3, 2020, the more likely a sustainable road-funding plan is kicked to lame duck, where a concrete deadline helps chase away politics.

— **Expungement reform** The new conservative Republican sees fiscal sense in keeping people out of prison. If that means wiping away criminal records to give former inmates a better shot at getting a job, so be it.

The House already took a step in this direction in 2019. As long as victims' rights are addressed, the Senate could follow through with something that could be sent to the governor this year.

— **Michigan Reconnect** The governor's plan to pay community college or skill trades training for non-traditional students is any easy sell for Republicans, even if it means the end of the Snyder-era GoingPro program.

Bringing back money for the Pure Michigan tourism campaign could be the Republicans' return ask since the constituents of the Northern Michigan lawmakers saw a financial bump from the ads.

— **Southeast Michigan transit** Nothing pisses off a rural Oakland County taxpayer more than the thought of paying an extra millage for "empty buses" that serve the county's urban area. Still, the Michigan business community that cuts checks to the Republican leadership caucuses want a coordinated Michigan transit system

badly.

This makes it likely the Legislature will pass a plan that allows Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw counties to ask their voters to support a millage for a coordinated regional transit system, something that's been hanging around since Bill Milliken.

— **Red Meat** No legislative session before an election is complete without some votes to excite the majority's base. This year, Right to Life has collected signatures for an initiated law to end what are known in the medical field as Dilation and Evacuation (D&E) abortions but is being sold as "dismemberment abortions."

Once the secretary of state verifies enough signatures were collected, the House and Senate will pass the initiated law without Whitmer's signature in about 10 minutes. Whether it will stand up in the courts will be the more compelling question.

Finally, look for a resolution or law clearing the way for "Second Amendment Sanctuary Counties." Inspired by a situation in Virginia, the idea is that county sheriffs could refuse to enforce any state-enacted strict gun-control law.

An enormous social media push has been ignited on this, giving conservative Republicans in rural areas fertile ground to score big political points.

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

## Council

from page 7

ing through the lens of its ballooning unfunded pension liabilities. In 2006, Lansing's unfunded pensions and post-employment benefits tallied to about 13.5% or \$25 million of the city's \$184 million revenue. In the last budget cycle, that figure climbed to about 22% of the city's annual revenue.

"That's going to require some tough decisions," Spadafore said. "Right now, everything seems OK. We're actually doing all right. We're not great, but we're not near bankruptcy. When budgets get tight, that's going to become a more pressing issue. It's not immediate, but we need to start thinking long-term on those issues."

Spadafore is also seeking additional

community input and to fundamentally streamline the way the city handles its "customer service" experience, he said. He suggested a single hub for residents to interact with several city departments and services rather than scattering them across multiple different floors and offices at City Hall.

He also paints himself as a consensus builder on the Council deis.

"I like to hear all ideas, and that could cause me some trouble in the future," Spadafore added. "Some folks have said that 5-3 decisions are good. I don't believe that's the case in most instances. I think it's more important to strike a compromise. I might not always agree with everyone, but nobody should ever feel like I'm not listening."

Spadafore also said he'd like to implement a more judicious review of tax incentives for future development. He doesn't want any more Brownfield plans to be approved for existing

green spaces — like the former Red Cedar Golf Course. Instead, any tax incentives need to be based almost exclusively on the community benefit, he said.

"The City Council needs to be more forceful in saying that we need something in it for the community," Spadafore said. "It's not just for the people who are going to live or work in those spaces, but development needs to provide a tangible benefit by way of something the community actually enjoys — not just a new building."

Additionally, Spadafore said he wants to bolster public transportation options for local residents and provide a more conducive environment for the medical and recreational marijuana market to flourish. While he doesn't want to amend the city's ordinance on weed just yet, he said he's open to the idea of reviewing it later this year.

"I do wish we would've responded more quickly to the recreational side

of things," Spadafore said. "It was a rushed experience toward the end, but I do think there's some merit to talking more about social clubs, more microbusinesses, social equity incentives and temporary licenses for events and other things like that."

Spadafore said he's pondered the idea of a mayoral bid in the past, but right now is more focused on his legislative duties on the City Council. He doesn't envision serving there for the next 30 years, but he said he has since decided to at least seek reelection next year.

"I want to make some changes, get some things in place in Lansing and evaluate my personal and professional life as that comes up," Spadafore said. "Right now, I really like what I do on the Council and during my day job. I would never tell you that anything is ever off the table. I just don't know where my life will take me just yet."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

# A blustering president could get a lot of people killed—again

## Second verse, same as the first/a little bit louder and a little bit worse.

I was 23 in the run-up to the Iraq invasion, part of a generation that had been shocked out of a brief era of unquestioned American hegemony by 9/11 and watched a country rally, drone-like, around a war in Afghanistan. No sooner had the Taliban been



JEFFREY C. BILLMAN

INFORMED DISSENT

dislodged than the administration turned its eyes toward a new target — a more dangerous target, we were told.

One with Weapons of Mass Destruction. Run by a Madman. An Axis of Evil. Act now or risk a “mushroom cloud,” President George W. Bush warned.

I was skeptical of the Bush administration’s eagerness for war. But I wasn’t yet jaded enough to think my government would manufacture a pretext for invasion. Besides, for the most part, neither the national media nor leading Democrats were challenging the president’s claims.

The Iraq War cured me of such naiveté.

But although Paul Wolfowitz and Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney and the like had fantasized about toppling Saddam Hussein for years, and although they’d been in and around the highest levels of government for decades, they hadn’t thought through what would happen after he was gone, when there was a power vacuum, the second- and third-order effects: the Iraqi civil war, the rise of the ISIS, the Syrian civil war, the refugee crisis, even, to some degree, Brexit. Iraq’s collapse strengthened Iran, which seeded Shia militias throughout the Middle East —including in Iraq — revved up its nuclear program, and, more recently, engaged in a proxy war against Saudi Arabia in Yemen.

For all their experience, Bush’s war planners thought we’d be “greeted as liberators.” Instead, we got endless war.

I won’t pretend to be an expert on Qassim Suleimani, the high-ranking Iranian general the U.S. assassinated

via drone strike in Baghdad Friday. Like most Americans, I’d never heard his name before he was killed. A New Yorker profile from 2013 portrays him as a powerful-yet-invisible behind-the-scenes operative in the Middle East, “assassinating rivals, arming allies, and, for most of a decade, directing a network of militant groups that killed hundreds of Americans in Iraq.”

Suleimani was targeted after Iranian-backed militias marched on the U.S. embassy in Baghdad last Tuesday. (No one was harmed.) That came in response to the American bombing of Kataib Hezbollah militia sites, which killed about two dozen people. That came in response to Kataib Hezbollah allegedly firing 31 missiles at an American base on Dec. 27, which killed an American contractor.

The context shouldn’t be ignored: President Trump is headed into a re-election year with lackluster approval numbers and facing an impeachment trial. The day he authorized the strike, evidence surfaced that Trump had personally directed the Office of Management and Budget to withhold Ukrainian aid while he was pressuring that country’s

president to investigate his political rival, even as the Pentagon worried that doing so was both illegal and contrary to America’s interests. You’d be forgiven for suspecting the dog is being wagged.

But I’m not sure that’s the case, because I’m not sure that much thought

went into it. Trump is nothing if not impulsive — and driven by an atavistic impulse to prove himself tougher than his predecessor. Obama negotiated with Iran; Trump killed its No. 2. Iran jabbed; Trump pulled out a sledgehammer. Trump views foreign policy as a dick-measuring contest; as long as he has to U.S. military to fight for him, he has no need for diplomacy.

But there’s a reason presidents Bush and Obama — who was never shy about hunting human beings with drones — declined to kill Suleimani when they had the chance, even though the government considered him a terrorist: No one knows what happens now.

In a statement, the Defense Department said it took out Suleimani to deter future violence. Administration officials then told the media, on background, that Trump acted to prevent unspecified imminent attacks. Vice President Mike Pence linked Suleimani to the 9/11 terrorists. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted a video that showed what he said were Iraqis “dancing in the street.”

Second verse, same as the first. In any event, that seems unlikely to be the final word.

Iran’s supreme leader vowed “forceful revenge.” The State Department told Americans to leave Iraq. Iraq’s prime minister condemned the assassination and labeled the strike a “flagrant violation of Iraqi sovereignty” that violat-

ed “the conditions for the presence of the American forces in Iraq.”

Say what you want about the Bush administration, but they were the A-team of the neoconservative movement. Yet they failed to see beyond the first move, even. Trump’s foreign policy crew, on the other hand, isn’t the A-team of anything. As important, Trump has strained the alliances he’d need to fight Iran, and it’s increasingly likely that Iraq will ask the U.S. to withdraw its 5,000 troops from the country. Complicating matters further, Trump’s never had a coherent strategy in Iran; he paints himself as a noninterventionist, yet everything his administration does points toward regime change.

So now, for the first time in his presidency, Donald Trump is about to face an honest-to-god foreign policy crisis — one that stands to get a lot of people killed. What are the chances that he’s thought through what happens after he waves his dick around?

As with Saddam Hussein 17 years ago, the question isn’t whether we could kill Suleimani. Nor is it whether he deserved to die. The question is whether assassinating him is worth the blood we’re about to spill — and whether we even paused to ask ourselves that.

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

### ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

Sealed bids marked **S/20/055, ABANDONED VEHICLES** will be accepted at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 1232 Haco Dr, Lansing MI. 48912 until but no later than, **1:00 PM**, local time in effect **WED. JAN. 15, 2020**. Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Stephanie Robinson, Buyer, at (517) 702-6197 or email: [stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com).

Vehicles may be inspected **WED. JAN. 15, 2020**, as follows:

SHROYER’S, 2740 EATON RAPIDS RD, LANSING MI. 48911	8:30 AM
PJ’S , 1425 RENSEN, LANSING MI	10:00 AM
NORTHSIDE TOWING, 226 RUSSELL, LANSING, MI 48906	10:45 AM
SWIFT TOWING, 3939 HOLT RD, HOLT MI	9:15 AM

#### Abandoned Vehicle Sale List JAN.15, 2020

NORTHSIDE		PJ’s		SHROYERS	
YEAR	MAKE	YEAR	MAKE	YEAR	MAKE
1999	SATURN	1992	FORD	2010	CHEV
2001	FORD	2006	CHEV	2015	CHRYSLER
2007	PONTIAC	1997	FORD	2002	MERCEDES
2018	MOPED	2002	FORD	2008	CHEV
2017	TRAILER	2011	GMC		
2002	TRAILER	2000	LINC	SWIFT	
2015	MAZDA	2007	CHEV	YEAR	MAKE
2011	GMC	2018	HYUND	2013	DODGE
2011	DODGE	1997	FORD	2009	CHEV
		2005	JEEP		
		2011	BUICK		
		2016	CHEV		
		2005	CHRYSLER		

Case No. 19-1UDC-0863  
Dept. No. 1  
IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CHURCHILL

PAMALA LYNN BENTON, Plaintiff,  
SCOTT CHRISTOPHER BENTON, Defendant.

**SUMMONS**  
**THE STATE OF NEVADA SENDS GREETINGS TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:** You are hereby **SUMMONED** and required to serve upon the plaintiff, PAMALA LYNN BENTON, whose address is 924 Brass Ring Road, Las Vegas, NV 89123, and **ANSWER** to the Complaint which is herewith served upon you, within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the date of service. In addition, you must file with the Clerk of this Court, whose address is shown below, a formal written answer to the complaint, along with the appropriate filing fees, in accordance with the rules of the Court. If you fail to do so, judgement by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. This action is brought to recover a judgement dissolving the contract of marriage existing between you and the Plaintiff. The filer certifies that this document does not contain the social security number of any person.

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Shellie Hooten  
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CP#20-002

# CityPULSE



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Do you know Jose Yanez? Isn't he cool? He is really good at being a personal financial planner. Jose, as it turns out, works with me. Same office and everything! Jose was kind enough to sit down with me the other day to answer some of the most important questions that our clients had about life insurance and retirement planning. Me: Should everyone retire?

Jose: Mentally, No. But physically, our bodies will one day say, "Enough is enough," or you have other passions that you would like to pursue. When that time comes, will you have put yourself in a positive financial position to maintain the lifestyle you have become accustomed to?

Me: Do you hurt or help people?

Jose: Initially, it might hurt to have the gut-wrenching conversation about personal finances, but overall, I feel I help and bring value to people's lives.

Me: Does everybody need life insurance?

Jose: No, unless others rely on your income to live after you are gone. That being said, we all need some level of insurance whether it's life, disability, or long-term care. Everyone's situation is different.

Me: Work for the man?

Jose: NO, I work for my clients.

Me: Are you a witch?

Jose: More like a wizard...haha

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### BOOKS

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Ok, quickly, grab your calendar! Don't have a calendar? Really? It's cool, we have some. Yeah, they're pretty nifty. It's not too surprising, I suppose, that we sell calendars — I mean we are a bookstore. We also have stickers, mugs, candy, gifts ... and books, too. Anyway, open your calendar to Feb. 1. If you have a planner, please check to see if 7 p.m. is free. It's free? Perfect! You will not want to miss Rabbi Michael Lerner present his new book, "Revolutionary Love," at Congregation Kehillat Israel, 2014 Forest Road, Lansing.

Lerner is an internationally renowned social theorist, theologian and psychotherapist. He is the founder and publisher of Tikkun magazine, one of the most respected intellectual/cultural magazines in the Jewish world.

He is considered a national leader of the antiwar movement of the '60s and chairs the Berkeley chapter of Students for a Democratic Society. Lerner was described by J. Edgar Hoover as "one of the most dangerous criminals in America." In the 21st century, he helped to organize The Network of Spiritual Progressives, an international political and social justice movement based in the United States. Of course, no presentation about social equity is complete without books, and we got books. We love bringing books! So, if you are ever looking for books for an event, a class or a library, we would love to be there for you, too.



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### JEWELRY

#### A New Year and a Look Back

Here we are, a new year, a new decade, and a time for reflection on the way our lives change. As I age, I tend to reflect on a lifetime rather than days or weeks. That greater span provides a far more grand vision.

In my youth, we would turn on the TV and wait for it to warm up before we could watch. The anticipation was overwhelming, as was often our patience. Eventually the device would come to life, although once in a while it was necessary to fine tune or to adjust vertical or horizontal hold, resulting in more waiting until I could experience the most amazing things.

We live in an extraordinary new world of technology, convenience and speed. When evening arrives, we turn on the TV. It bounds to life immediately. I click on the app for my subscription service, and wait for it to load. Occasionally it is necessary to enter my user ID, which I have to look up because I have fifty different ones. More waiting. Eventually, after significant expense of patience, I can watch the most amazing things.

"The more things change, the more they remain the same." A phrase translated from the French author Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr. Beauty, kindness, family, love; they too remain the same. We are truly blessed.



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# Breaking up with pot: When the going gets weird

(Mike Stratton is a local psychotherapist. His new book, *"The Little Green Book: A guide to breaking up with marijuana,"* is a combination of a memoir and self-help guide for those who may be struggling with a dependency on marijuana. Stratton is not anti-pot, but he is aware from personal experience that it can be a problem for some users, as this excerpt shows. Stratton is also host of the long-running jazz show *"The Vinyl Side of Midnight"* on Sunday nights on WLNZ at 89.7 FM.)



Photo by Linda Vail  
Stratton

By MIKE STRATTON

*"When the going gets weird, the weird go pro."*

~ Hunter S. Thompson, *"Fear and Loathing at The Super Bowl"*

My family has what I sometimes call "The Irish Condition," a long history of generations of problem drinkers or out-and-out alcoholics.

I was aware of this right from the start.

Born into an Irish-Catholic middle-class family in the smack dab middle of the 1950s, in Lansing, I was the third of four kids. Middle, middle, middle.

Beyond all the middling, I found great comfort and solace in both music and books. I was a little bit precocious in both areas, and I thank my sister Linda for introducing me to books like *"Manchild in the Promised Land"* and *"The Autobiography of Malcolm X"* by the time I was 12. Other titles such as *"Flowers For Algernon"* and *"One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest"* were sprinkled among the series I sought out as a young boy: *"Tarzan," "Doc Savage"* and *"The Hardy Boys."* I gobbled them up while listening to the records my brother Tom brought home, anything and

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**"I was a better self after drinking. More confident, better dancer, the girls looked better, I looked better."**

---

everything by the Beatles.

Drinking was such a norm in my family that I never questioned it. Cocktails after work and late into the evening seemed to be what grownups did. My parents' socializing always included a great deal of alcohol consumption. Most nights I thought nothing of it. But some nights the monsters came out. Mom and Dad could get into horrifically ugly verbal arguments that could go on into the wee hours of the morning. They'd say terrible things to each other. And I always had a sense that drinking had a lot to do with their transformation from loving, reasonable people into the pathetic, hateful creatures they often became after downing several Scotches.

Meanwhile, compounding my parents' drinking was my Dad's depression. He was, at times, suicidal. One day, as he prepared for a car trip across the state, Mom came into my bedroom and started throwing clothes into my suitcase.

"Your father's going to kill himself. You have to stop him."

I was 13.

Next thing I was in the car with Dad and surrounded by a deadly silence as we whipped down the highway. Miles passed before I could muster the courage to say, "So, you're going to kill yourself?" My first interpretation as a therapist.

His response? "Your mother is an alcoholic."

He didn't kill himself.

My parents lived into their late 70s and died of natural causes. All the drama of my childhood receded as they aged, and at the end of their lives I knew they'd had an enduringly deep love for each other. But it sure wasn't easy.

Music and books really kept me sane through some tense days at home.

When my high school years arrived, I had a new friend, Renaldo, who had eclectic musical tastes; he introduced me to the likes of Frank Zappa and Captain Beefheart.

I started to buy records by Led Zepelin and Jimi Hendrix, which led me next to the blues, and then jazz. Jazz became a lifelong mistress.

And on the heels of jazz blossomed my interest in girls.

As early as first grade I thought maybe I



(Top to bottom) School pictures: The author in 1st grade at Holy Cross Elementary at age 6; his 8th grade graduation photo from when he attended St. Gerard Catholic School; and his senior picture from Lansing Central Catholic High School.

# weird

from page 11

should be a priest, but then realized that I certainly could not be a priest because priests didn't marry, and I already had a first-grade crush on lovely, raven-haired Roberta.

By the time I got to high school, my obsession with girls had peaked. Yet I was also painfully shy. In those days and in my school, guys and girls didn't mix as easily as teens seem to mix today. But at school dances you could ask a girl to dance, and if she said yes, you could even touch her.

If the "yes" was elation, the "no" was crushing.

A friend of mine encouraged me to get a couple of cheap bottles of wine from a store he knew didn't card buyers. Andrew was Greek and could pass for 18 (which was buying age back during the era of the Vietnam War). We'd go into the store, pick out a couple of fruity flavors and be on our way, chugging the bottle and then whisking into the dance.

I was a better self after drinking. More confident, better dancer, the girls looked better, I looked better. If I got a "no" after asking a girl to dance, it didn't bother me, I'd just go on to the next one.

It got to the point where I would drink before every school dance. And after a couple of bad experiences with drinking too much, I started to make rules for myself. By the time I got to college, I thought I'd better restrict myself to no more than three drinks an evening.

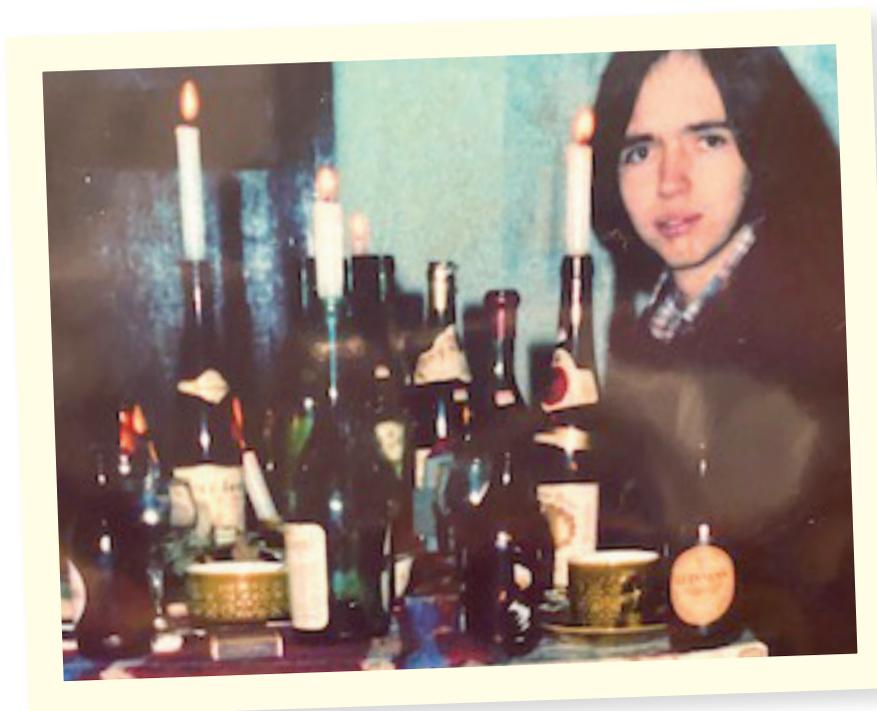
Sometimes I broke that rule. It didn't occur to me at the time that even feeling like I had to make rules for my drinking was probably a bad sign.

I didn't smoke marijuana in high school. I was aware of it, but it wasn't around or as prevalent as it would become even a year later, when it suddenly flooded the school I had attended.

The first time I smoked, my younger brother initiated it. We were listening to Neil Young's "Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere" (foreshadowing!), and I kept waiting for something different to occur. Nothing did. I didn't feel anything, and I didn't know if I was doing it right.

Sometime later I was out with friends and one of them had a couple of joints. We smoked one and then went to see a science fiction film in the theater. The movie was "Zardoz," starring Sean Connery. So I must have been 19 years old. After we left the theater, we smoked the other joint and drove around town. My hometown had mysteriously shifted into a kind of science fiction landscape. Everything looked different. And I couldn't stop laughing.

We got the munchies so we decided to stop at a donut shop downtown. As I pulled in (yes, I was the driver), I noticed three police cars in the parking lot. The little donut shop was loaded with cops! My friends kept saying, "Don't act suspicious," but I realized that as I floated into the store the police would immediately know what was up. So I went back to the car, then drove around the block and picked up my buddies after they came out. I was super paranoid.



"I was 20 when this picture was taken at the shank of a dinner party in Ireland in 1975."

I'd already experienced so many of the side effects of weed: the euphoria, the depersonalization, the stimulation of humor, creativity, paranoia, hunger.

I went to college and considered majoring in political science or history — basically shooting

for a pre-law degree. After my heart broke in the first semester (unrequited love), I read a primer on Freud, then

another primer on Jung. Next I took a psychology class and the rest actually is history.

Here were answers, I thought, that explained myself and everyone and everything else. College was intellectually exhilarating. I was still reading for pleasure, between all the assigned readings and texts. I declared a psychology major and accrued enough credits for an English minor. And since I enjoyed reading novels so much, I started to think about writing them.

Always appreciative of the aesthetic, I also stumbled into a love of art. I took a class in art history and sat in a dark room with other students, watching dozens of slides the professor would project onto the screen while he described a new way of looking at history and culture and politics and religion. Through the prism of art. College was the best. I made a few friends and then found a girl who wouldn't break my heart.

After I went out with her once, she had a joint and suggested we smoke it before we made out. As much as I liked making out, making out on weed was even better, and I wanted to get high before every make-out session. Which eventually led to sex.

I still loved to read, and I still loved music. And getting high seemed to help in both of those areas, as well. I felt like I could understand existential philosophy after smoking. I also felt a better connection with the later period of John Coltrane. In other words, avant-garde music made sense.

I didn't start using marijuana on a regular basis until I was almost done with college.

I experienced the benefits many users say they get from pot. I felt like it helped me open those "Doors of Perception" that Aldous Huxley wrote about. And so many of my creative heroes used drugs: Charlie Parker, Hunter S. Thompson and Jack Kerouac. The Beatles.

Many people find pot beneficial. And I did too. Up to a point.

I tried to keep enough marijuana on hand that I could smoke it whenever I'd see my girlfriend, who had graduated and was living on the other side of the state. I only saw her once or twice a month.

One evening I was walking with a friend back to our house off campus. It was a beautiful fall day and the leaves were falling. I had just finished up my shift working at the college library, a job I loved because it allowed me to be around books and once I finished my work I could study and get paid for it.

I asked my friend what we should do that evening.

"Let's get high!" he suggested.

"But we got high yesterday," I said. "You can't get high two days in a row."

"Yes, you can," he said.

And that was that. Thus started a string of days that ran into years of getting high every day.

I had only a few weeks before I finished my final class, an independent study on existential psychology, and left campus. Once again, I'd be living with my parents and my brother in Lansing. I was still dating Sue, the girl I'd been dating through most of college. It was a long-distance relationship, an hour and a half drive from where I was living. I was happy when Sue told me she'd applied for a teaching job in Lansing.

I got a job at a local psychiatric hospital, working the midnight shift. I thought about Ken Kesey, the author of "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest," going through early experiments with LSD with the Army during the day and then working on a psych unit at night, writing his great novel.

The day I interviewed, the head nurse took me back into the "locked unit." She took out a heavy

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**"Many people find pot beneficial.  
And I did too. Up to a point."**

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# weird

from page 12

set of keys, which it turned out every employee had, and led me into a room that was more like a glorified closet. Hanging on the wall were leather belts and cuffs — restraints to be used on patients if they attempted to hurt themselves or others. Or became unruly. Restraining the patients would be part of what I did in my job as a psych tech.

Unlike Kesey, I hadn't used LSD (yet), but I started smoking prodigious amounts of weed. Usually moving through an ounce every week to 10 days. It was a stressful job, and the night shift made it an extra twist of crazy, reporting for work at 11 p.m. and punching out at 7:30 a.m. Night became day and day was night, and I lost all sense of when it was necessary to be straight for work. I started to smoke before work and after. Surprisingly (now), I was never confronted or written up for this behavior. It was 1977 and maybe people were just uninformed about marijuana. Or maybe the rest of the staff was using something, too.

My parents went to the desert for the winter, and my brother and I lived in their home for the few months while they were gone. He worked the day shift for a car dealership. Eventually a spot opened on the day shift for me. I was excited to start working with increased staff, around the therapists and getting a chance to interact with patients when they were involved in activities.

The night before my first day shift, my brother came home from a night out. He said he assumed I was asleep, since I would have to be awake around 6 a.m. to make my 7 a.m. start time. But to his surprise, I was still awake at 1 a.m. Watching TV and smoking a joint.

"Tom," I said, taking another toke, "you've got to watch this. Tommy Lasorda's on Tom Snyder."

He told me he had to get to bed and that I should too, since I had to be up so early. He said that as he went to sleep he could still hear me toking up. "Toke, toke, toke ..." (Just say that out loud while inhaling and you'll get the idea of the sound of toking).

The next morning, he got up at 7 a.m. and thought I must have left already for work. When he walked by my room, he saw me spread out on the bed, totally zonked out.

"Mike! You've got to get up!!"

Oh, shit! I got up and went downstairs right away while my brother jumped in the shower.

As he headed downstairs he assumed I had gotten dressed and ran out the door for work. As he reached the bottom of the stairs he could hear, "Toke, toke, toke ..." the telltale sound of me drawing in smoke before heading out the door.

That's how much marijuana had become a necessity for me, and how it had affected, even



Photo by Renaldo Migaldi

"In the parking lot of my wedding reception in 1977 with a spliff in each hand."

eclipsed, my best judgment.

The psych ward job was a profound experience. I saw psychosis up close, as well as all sorts of other psychological suffering. I developed a sense of what was and was not helpful to people. I made some good friendships among the staff and gained some very valuable training.

Because Sue was moving to Lansing, I asked her if she'd marry me. She said "yes." I was 22 and Sue was 24 years old. Some of my friends thought I was too young and too wild to get married. I recognized I partied quite a bit, but I thought it would all work out.

I'd intended to work "in the field" for a few months or maybe a year, and then enter graduate school so I could start practicing therapy.

That period stretched into two years. Then three. And four. Finally, at five years out of undergrad, working at the psych hospital, I applied to get into graduate school.

This illustrates a couple of very important points. For one, I believe people who have an issue with marijuana don't experience the kind of dev-

astation many other addicts experience. Instead, heavy marijuana users just hit the PAUSE button in their lives. It's just hard to get any traction, to follow through on your goals, to get motivated, have initiative, and get stuff done.

The other point is something else I was experiencing: Even though I had been a big fan of reading, I had gotten to the point that I read less and less. I had also stopped enjoying reading. This was connected to my short-term memory, which was shot.

I'd get to the end of a page in a novel and realize I didn't remember a word of what I'd just read. I knew if I couldn't read, there was no way I could do graduate school.

Reading wasn't the only place memory problems showed up. I'd walk into a room only to wonder, "What did I come in here for?" or I'd be in the middle of telling someone a story, usually joint in hand, and then stop and ask, "What were we talking about?" I was baked.

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# weird

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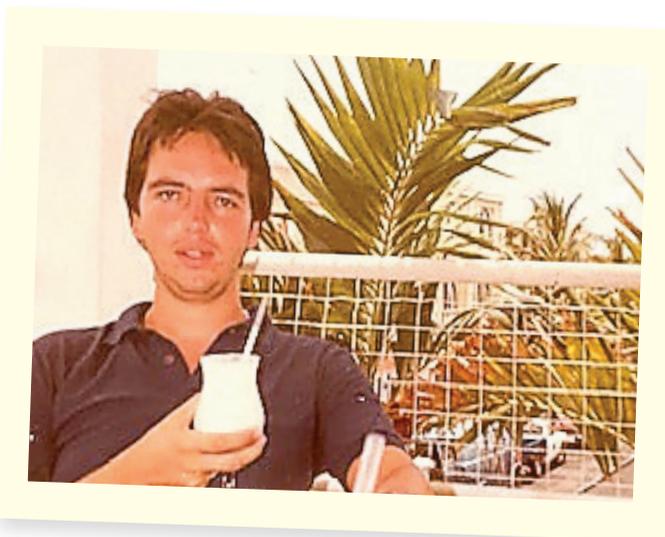
Even though my wife had been one of the first people I'd gotten high with, she soon stopped, especially since she had started teaching. She'd still have some drinks, but marijuana didn't fit her perception of what a schoolteacher should be. I kept the degree of my using hidden, as best I could. Even though we sometimes struggled financially, I always found money for grass.

When I was 26 years old I was accepted into the Masters of Social Work program at Michigan State University. I had it together enough to recognize that I had to quit smoking pot. When I did, just as I started graduate school, there was an overwhelming craving to keep smoking. What to do? Alcohol. I did alcohol, which soon became a substitute: first a quart of beer a night, which rapidly became two, then four to six 12 oz. beers. I was consuming an impressive amount of beer. All the empty cans were evidence of my growing habit. My wife noticed. The amount escalated. Hard liquor made sense: You could fit a 6-pack's worth of alcohol in one tumbler.

Weirdly, I functioned well enough on alcohol to get through two years of graduate school. It didn't seem to affect my memory the same way marijuana did. On the other hand, my drinking escalated rapidly. I wasn't adhering to the rules I'd made myself as an undergrad. And now I was glorifying drinking, the same way I had with marijuana.

I started to work in an outpatient clinic, an HMO in Lansing. My interests tended toward the psychodynamic approaches of Freud and Jung but pulled even stronger in the direction of a new way of thinking and treating people: systemic and strength-based work. The emphasis was on positives, instead of negatives, and suggestions that we view the individual in a larger context, being pulled by forces from larger structures around them, such as their families.

I attended trainings by Salvador Minuchin and invested in three years of intensive post-graduate study with Family Therapy Associates in Ann Arbor, undergoing live supervision by Charles Fishman, who coauthored a seminal text in family therapy, "Family Therapy Techniques," and was a senior trainer at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic. Being exposed to this level of expertise



A typical cocktail in St. Croix in 1983.

and getting personalized feedback assisted me in becoming a competent therapist.

Ironically, at the same time, I was drinking more than ever, and once I was out of school I felt like it was probably OK to start smoking pot again.

There are a couple of concepts I want to introduce here. First, the idea that many therapists tend to work in their own wounds. That is, they become "The Wounded Healer," a concept explored by Carl Jung.

Shamanism was another role, developed by Native Americans, a healer of body and spirit who had often been wounded with the same afflictions he or she was attempting to heal.

Naturally, I became interested in substance abuse work.

Once, at the clinic where I was working, the secretaries responsible for placing people with our group of therapists wished to get a better idea of who should work with whom. So they asked us if we'd make a list of our specialties.

The next staff meeting we had a handout of the list, each therapist's name, beside which was a listing of their interests or specialties. They might as

well have asked us to describe ourselves and our lives.

My specialties were families, couples, individuals and substance abuse.

The depressed, anxious therapist was working with depression and anxiety. The borderline therapist was working with borderlines. And so on.

If that wasn't enough of a clue, my drinking had also intensified.

One night I couldn't get to sleep. I thought that if I got up (at 2 a.m.) and had a stiff drink it might help me drift off. So I did and started watching music videos on a new channel called MTV. The first Scotch went down so smoothly, I had another. Then another. Suddenly it was 5 a.m. and I realized I was having a hell of a party and was supposed to be at work in two hours.

Sleepless, drunk, I showered and headed to work. I found the schedule of a colleague who was the primary substance abuse expert, and I wrote my name in his schedule. He came out of his office, saw my name, and laughed.

Taking him aside, I said, "No, I really need to see you."

Tom (same name as my brother) was a short guy just a few years older than I. Puffy faced, he was a chain smoker and probably drank 10 cups of coffee a day at work. He was not in recovery himself, which seemed to be a rarity in those days. A great many therapists and counselors who worked in the substance abuse field did so following their

own recovery. Wounded healers.

Tom took me into his office and asked me what was up. I told him I was worried about my drinking (mentioning

"I'd have the thought, 'I don't know what I was looking for, but this isn't it.' I hadn't learned yet the distinction between craving and using."

nothing about marijuana).

Tom asked me a bunch of questions. Did I have a family history for alcoholism? How much was I drinking? Did I sometimes drink more than I intended? Did I try to stop or cut down, but was unsuccessful? (Yes, too much, yes, yes.)

At the end of his questions he looked at me and said, simply, "You've got it."

Hearing that you're an alcoholic is bad news. It's

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# wEiRd

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news I've had to deliver to so many people since that day.

He went on to explain that I should probably quit drinking. But I was early enough in the process that I might try to control my drinking. And maybe I should just switch to pot.

I didn't tell him I'd switched to alcohol from pot in the first place because I was smoking like a chimney. I didn't tell him that.

I focused on the idea that I might control my drinking.

## ASHES, ASHES, WE ALL FALL DOWN

The next seven years I spent trying to control my relationship with substances. We'd break up and get back together. We'd only see each other on weekends. We'd only go on vacation together. We would be inseparable. We'd do trial separations.

In the field, they call what happened next "the downward spiral." Efforts to control my use, to slow down, to stop, varying my practices. What if I only drank beer? What if I only smoked marijuana? What if, what if, what if...

All the while, my tolerance was increasing, and I was getting ever more deeply lost in the fog of addiction.

Addiction is a funny thing. The first person you need to lie to is yourself. And the lie needs to be convincing. The relationship with your substances of choice must be protected. And that protection takes the form of "denial." And the building blocks of denial? Justification. Minimization. Rationalization.

I had the brilliant idea that if I bought marijuana in larger quantities, I could sell half of it to friends and keep the other half for myself. I'd be smoking for free. I invested in a quarter pound of pot, four nice fat happy ounces, with the intent of keeping two and selling two.

A month later I was out of pot again. I'd smoked it all myself.

There would be occasions when it got "dry"; there was no weed to be had. So I'd substitute with whatever I could get. I bought a little wedge of hashish and was smoking it in a small wooden pipe. Big-time users always have several items of pot paraphernalia. I kept what was left wrapped in aluminum foil.

The next day I returned from work and looked for the hash. It had disappeared. I looked around frantically and asked Sue if she'd seen it.

"That little piece of aluminum? I threw it out. It was trash, wasn't it?"

I realized that the trash hadn't gone to the curb yet. It was in a bag in the basement. Within moments I was crouched on the basement floor, pawing through the garbage, looking for that

crumb of hashish wrapped in aluminum.

Then I heard Sue's voice from the stairs.

"I wish you could see yourself." That's what she said.

Sometimes I would blame my use on Sue. If only she'd change, be more understanding, and so on. At one point she got into therapy herself. I was so gratified that maybe she'd change. After a few sessions I asked what she talked about in her therapy.

"You," she said.

"And how much you drink and smoke marijuana." That wasn't the answer I'd hoped to hear.

Maintaining the supply was a necessity. I would have to hit up different sources. One friend started to call me "Stratus-outta-potus" when I'd call him. For a time I was purchasing my pot from a shoe salesman. I'd got to the mall on Fridays after work, walk

into the store, and he'd tell me that he had an order for me, and I'd walk out of the store with a bag of ganja inside a shoe box.

But sometimes I couldn't find any pot. There would be dead-end calls, or maybe "try me next week" and then, "call again on Thursday." At the end of these stretches there would be all this anticipation. I'd finally score, get it home and roll it up and take that first hit. And then, disappointment. After all that build up, I was just high again. I'd have the thought, "I don't know what I was looking for, but this isn't it." I hadn't learned yet the distinction between craving and using.

I've heard we desire our partner most when they aren't present. This was true of my relationship with marijuana. I most longed for it when it was gone.

Addiction is the condition of desire, standing in the presence of absence that leads to the absence of presence. It is the condition of craving. Dopamine is associated with learning, learning to associate pleasure with use of the substance. The learning, it turns out, is important. Addiction can and is learned and habituated.

We can reduce the thing to bubbles and atoms and molecules and electrical impulses, but then where is the poetry? The sheer experience of sensuality while using? The smell of the flower top being broken up, how it clings to you like the funk of sex, the aroma clinging to your fingers. Light



Stratton celebrating the Detroit Tigers' 1984 World Series victory.

the match and the quick hit of sulfur on the nostrils. Lucifer's doorbell. The space the smoke takes in your lungs, and more, how it feels to expand once there, chasing the hit with a little more oxygen to hold it down, letting it flood blood vessels, feeling the hit take and give, the lung's reluctant exhale, the smoke tainted brown with what tolls internal passages have to pay. The light fuzziness of the high itself, the shift in senses and cognition, things brought in and out of focus at once. To me this recollection can still conjure a light craving, remembering my distant lover.

Like I said, often when I'd take that first hit after an absence there was a feeling of disappointment. The craving was the thing, not the thing itself. Isn't that interesting?

The weird disconnect was that even as my addictions progressed, so did my career. I no longer used before work. I was gaining a good reputation as a therapist. No one knew what went on after work, except maybe Sue.

Nothing is all good or all bad. In spite of our struggles as a couple, Sue and I decided to have a child. Maggie was conceived in love and was born in 1983, after we had been married six years. Since we both worked full time, there were periods when Maggie was in my care, and some of those times I was intoxicated. I never dropped her or stuck a pin in her while changing diapers, but I was impaired. I wasn't as available emotionally as I should have been. And there were even times I drove after using marijuana or drinking. I hate admitting it, but there it is. My addictions eclipsed my best judgment as a parent. My daughter today says she doesn't remember any of that, and I'm not sure I believe her. I remember it. And I regret it.

There was nothing dramatic about my descent. No arrests. No car crashes. Just coming home from a long day of seeing clients, taking that first drink and then a joint, and then another, and then another, deep into the night after my wife and daughter had gone to bed, which started to happen earlier and earlier.

My addiction played a kind of hide-and-seek with me. Sometimes it was invisible. It was, weird-

# wEiQD

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ly enough, in the middle of the night that I'd see it most clearly. At 1 a.m., at 2 a.m., I'd get the insight.

"This isn't right."

"I'm in trouble."

"I can't stop."

One of my friends in the field of substance abuse would sometimes appear in a TV commercial around 1 a.m., telling people to call the hospital where he worked if they wanted help.

At times I thought I needed to tape-record myself, imploring myself to get help because I knew the daytime guy would ignore the 1 a.m. guy who needed so much help. Like Jekyll and Hyde.

But I never did.

Eventually, I did get help. And here is how it happened.

## JOINING THE NARRATIVE COMMUNITY

Carl Jung suggests that sometimes events align in a way that seems beyond coincidence. He calls this "synchronicity." The universe seems to be opening for a new possibility

to emerge. I think we also call these moments "miracles."

I had been in therapy for a while, completely underplaying my drinking and marijuana use (I usually kept a joint rolled in the ashtray of my car for a post-session smoke while driving home.) During one of my forays into sobriety, I ran into my therapist by chance at a social event. He remarked how good I looked, and I told him I hadn't had anything to drink for months. He said he didn't realize that had been an issue, but I told him that it had.

Now, a few years later, I was desperate and needed therapy again. I was taking a shower and thinking about what I was going to tell him about my drinking. Because I was drinking again. Drinking like a fish. And smoking. Like a chimney.

I knew I would have to lie to him.

Or come clean.

And I couldn't do that.

A rare moment of clarity occurred. I knew if I saw a client in the same conundrum that was spinning in my head, I would know she or he were alcoholic. In that moment, I knew I was an alcoholic.

By now I was out of the shower, overwhelmed, drying myself off and crying. I fell to my knees and prayed to a god in whom I no longer believed. Maybe my Catholic upbringing had finally kicked in. "God help me please. I'm an alcoholic. I don't know what

to do."

I finished drying myself and started to get dressed when the phone rang.

It was my sister. We were going to pick up our brother and his family from the airport the next day, and she wanted to figure out who would drive. But in the middle of our conversation she detected a tightness in my voice.

"Is something wrong?" she asked.

"I'm an alcoholic," I answered.

"I am, too," she said.

That conversation started a two-year process of someone else knowing, someone who got to 12-step recovery ahead of me. Someone checking in with me to see how it was going. And someone who offered to take me to my first meeting after my last spectacular, public and disgusting drunk.

My brother and I had decided to go to see a Detroit Lions football game. I bought the tickets and, almost at the last minute, we called Dad to see if he wanted to go. Of course, he did! He even offered to drive, since he'd just gotten a new car.

I was in a phase of trying to stop drinking. And I had stopped. For two weeks. I was hoping to smoke some pot with my brother on the way down to the game, but now that was out if we were going with Dad.

So we got to the game and I bought an extra ticket. I let Dad and Tom sit together and told them I'd come and look for them at halftime. I found my seat and since I was early, I decided to go and get something to eat before the game started. Standing in line I saw a life-sized picture of the coach holding a beer with the words DRINK RESPONSIBLY splashed across the poster.

I just saw DRINK.

I had a large beer and then another. And another, and another, and another.

Within an hour, I drank myself into a state of inebriation.

After halftime, my brother described how I presented myself to them at their seats. There was actually an open seat next to them. I could have sat with them all along. I was in a blackout so I have no memory of what I said. My brother said I was

funny. He also said I was politically incorrect. I may have been doing my Richard Pryor imitation. It's humiliating to try and imagine what I might have said.

But I didn't know what got a hold of me. Sometimes I'd just start binge drinking like that, for what seemed no apparent reason.

It's not like I'm without insight. The prodigal son ... who does Dad prefer ... brotherhood rivalry ... all of those dynamics were at play. But the bottom line was that my drinking was out of control, as it was so often those days, but this time it was public. There were witnesses. On the way home, I passed out in the car. Dad's new car. And I woke up barfing. I barfed a couple of more times on that long drive back from Pontiac to Lansing.

When we pulled into my brother's home, I spilled out onto the lawn. My little nephew asked what was wrong with me; my brother quickly covered. "He just ate too many hot dogs."

But my sister was there, too. The one who had told me she was an alcoholic too. The one who had been going to 12-step meetings for the past two years.

I staggered home, which was about a mile away. Still drunk and humiliated. Hard to believe I could get that drunk and sick on only 120 ounces or so of beer. But I had. At the end of the alcoholic cycle, tolerance begins to go down, not up, as your liver starts to quit.

I was lying on the kitchen floor, pathetically telling my wife that I was an alcoholic. She wasn't disagreeing. Then my sister walked in. She asked if I was ready to go to a meeting.

I told her I wanted to take a shower first.

Not now, she said, but in the morning. Then she left.

That night was so horrible. I got sick another time or two.

Even worse: I felt a despair I had never felt. The dark night of the soul.

How would I live without alcohol?

I knew I had to find a way, but life certainly wouldn't be any fun anymore.

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019, AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers  
Trustees: Broughton, Harris, McKenzie, Bankson  
MEMBERS ABSENT: None.  
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

#### ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.  
Minutes of the meeting held on November 12, 2019 approved.  
Agenda approved.  
Approved final development review, FDR-19-03.  
Approved Downtown Development Authority 2019 budget amendments.  
Approved Downtown Development Authority 2020 budget.  
Approved Memorandum of Understanding with the Garden Project of the Greater Lansing Food Bank in its substantial form.  
Rejected Ballot Initiative Language.  
Authorized contact person for MERS Retiree Health Funding Vehicle.  
Approved MERS Retiree Health Funding Vehicle Uniform Resolution effective 12/1/19.  
Approved budget amendment.  
Approved wage increase for non-union employees.  
Approved wages for elected officials.  
Adopted MERS Defined Benefit Plan Amendment, authorized Clerk to sign.  
Adopted Resolution 19-21: Construction Board of Appeals Appointments.  
Approved used car lot license for Rightway Automotive Credit.  
Approved Claims.  
Executive Session held to discuss pending litigation and labor negotiations.  
Board returned to regular session.  
Authorized Assessor and Attorney to execute agreement with Michigan Tax Tribunal.  
Authorized Clerk and Supervisor to sign POLC Appendix 3 amendment.

Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

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# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## East Lansing launches new film festival

By **AUDREY MATUSZ**

From love quarrels and battles with addiction to a small town-guy searching for love, Michigan filmmakers know their material better than anyone.

An abundance of regional talent and good movies has bumped the

### Lake Michigan Film Festival

Thursday, Jan. 9 to  
Saturday, Jan. 11  
Various start times  
\$5

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ELFF.com

Lake Michigan Film Festival, running from Jan. 9 to Jan. 11, to a new level, from a competition to a full-on festival. In past years, the East Lansing Film Festival honored regional filmmakers in its Lake Michigan Film Competition, a selection of short films shot by Midwestern talent, with festival honors determined by audience vote.

For 10 years, rounding out the ELFF program with locally cultivated flicks was not difficult, according to LMFF Director Karl Millisor. However, the smaller titles often got buried in the heavy stock of nationally acclaimed features that packed the larger festival.

This year, for the first time, the competition will get festival treatment — a three-day showcase featuring 34 short films and five features. “We are in the process of turning the Lake Michigan Film Competition into its own film festival,” Millisor said. “The films just keep getting better and better.” All screenings will take place in the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, with simultaneous programming in two theaters. Daily admission is \$5 per feature film or block of short films. Saturday, the showings will end at 8 p.m., followed by a party and award ceremony at El Azteco restaurant at 255 Ann St., East Lansing.

Dark dramas told in less than 30 minutes are a fixture in the lineup this year, as well as full-length features. Thursday, the festival opens with “Foster Boy,” a 114-minute courtroom drama that delves into corruption and abuse in the foster care system. Saturday, Director Colton Fromhart will present “Burnt,” a five-minute suspense film about two



Courtesy/A&D Films

A still from “Eugene,” a short film written, shot and edited by seven creatives based in Bay City. The film will screen Friday at 6 p.m. as part of the Lake Michigan Film Festival.

agents who visit an underground doctor. The bite-sized drama made in Clinton, Michigan was runner-up for North America in Light This Location, an international film competition with an emphasis on cinematography.

Another notable Michigan-made film is “Eugene,” which will be screened in the short film block Friday at 6 p.m. The independent production was written, shot and edited in Bay City by a crew of film fanatics that have operated a local film festival for 15 years.

“We’ve been running the film festival for so long that we wanted to make our own film,” said Don Hessell, the director of “Eugene” and the Hell’s Half Mile Film and Music Festival. “As organizers of a film festival, we’ve watched thousands of films and they can start to feel

the same. We wanted to do something fresh and new that was exciting to us, and that’s what we did with Eugene.”

Hessell described “Eugene” as an “absurdist comedy” exploring the peripheries of unconventional storytelling. The short film follows a man and his dog as they search for acceptance in a cold town with varying success. The film is short in cinéma vérité style with a cast full of non-actors and shots of daily life in Bay City, while also toying with layers of perceived reality.

The short film was made by 30 Bay City residents, including a core team of seven filmmakers, and was edited in four days. Hessell and his team wrote roles with their friends in mind.

“The films you are going to see at the East Lansing film festival, you aren’t



### Lake Michigan Film Festival Schedule

Thursday, Jan. 9

6:30 p.m. — “Foster Boy”  
Directed by Youssef Delara

Friday, Jan. 10 (Theater A)

6 p.m. — **Shorts program 1**  
(92 minutes)  
8 p.m. — **Short Documentaries** (86 minutes)

Friday, Jan. 10 (Theater B)

6 p.m. — “My Secret is My Story” (71 minutes)  
7:15 p.m. — “A Wonderful Day”  
(29 minutes)

Saturday, Jan. 11 (Theater A)

3 p.m. — **Shorts program 2**  
(87 minutes)  
6 p.m. — **Shorts program 3**  
(92 minutes)

Saturday, Jan. 11 (Theater B)

1 p.m. — **Law in Cinema panel**  
3 p.m. — **Love Immortal**  
(104 minutes)  
6 p.m. — **Short program 4**  
(92 minutes)

going to see anywhere else,” Hessell said. “Especially with the shorts. The great thing is if you don’t like one film, it’s over before you know it.”

# 2020 theater predictions: a year of music, variety and female clout

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Contemplating the lineup of 2020 plays remaining this Pulsar season, there is much to get excited about. One reason is because some splashy musicals are on the way. I predict they will all make a splash at the box office.

In February, the MSU Department of Theatre offers the popular, two-sided, "Into the Woods." In May, Starlight Dinner Theatre tackles the showy "Guys and Dolls." Also in May, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. is presenting the complex musical "Fun Home."

In June, Owosso Community Players showcases the Mel Brooks and Tomas Meehan classic, "The Producers." June is also when Riverwalk Theatre has the colorful "Shrek the Musical."

I predict — with the variety of plays coming up — there will be something for everyone.

Riverwalk Theatre has the silly, two cops, three crooks and eight doors, "Unnecessary Farce," starting Feb. 6. Lansing Community College Performing Arts has Sam Shepard's intense drama, "True West" the last two weekends of February. In March, The Curtainless Theatre takes us to Rome in 44 B.C. for "The Tragedy of Julius Caesar." Celebrating Christmas a little earlier this year, the SDT transports us to King Henry II's medieval Christmas in "The Lion in winter."

PCT scored "Cost of Living," a 2018



David Lorne, 2015/Owosso Community Players

Pulitzer Prize winner for drama, for its March play. It's about two couples, with one of each pair being disabled. I predict the production of the emotional play will have a profound effect on those who see it.

Ixion Theatre's March show, "The Skeleton Crew," is about workers fearing unemployment — much like last year's "Sweat" at Riverwalk. But since it's written by Dominique Morisseau — author of last year's "Sunset Baby" at LCC — I predict "The Skeleton Crew" will be a grittier production.

Many of the upcoming area plays have a focus on gender roles. I predict some standout female performances will shine through.

Starting Jan. 16, PCT presents "Gloria," which features a plum role for an actress. This play is not to be confused with the titular 1980 Gena Rowlands movie. This "Gloria" focuses on a woman who violently reacts to the toxicity of her co-workers' actions in a heated debate over who can cover the death of a popular celebrity. I predict the staged gun violence will be difficult to sit through.

Starting at the same time, Riverwalk's "Boy Gets Girl" isn't any ordinary love story. In it, Theresa Bedell is a successful New York City reporter whose life is upended by a disturbed admirer.

From Feb. 7 to March 1,

Williamston Theatre has "900 Miles to International Falls." In this futuristic drama, Tanya Freeman is the resilient mother who refuses to give up her son to the chaos. Starting April 3, WT has "The Mortal Hosts." In the dramedy, two strong female characters (and a more docile male) are survivors of a Book of Revelations-like disaster.

In March, Riverwalk has "A Hotel on Marvin Gardens." It's a sardonic comedy about American greed using a Monopoly game as a metaphor for the interplay of its characters. The ring leader of the fiscal debacle is none other than a powerful female, KC.

In April, MSU has the gender bending "Marian, or the True Tale of Robin Hood."

The same actress playing Lady Marian will portray Robin, and not all the Merry Men are played by men.

OCP's April production is "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," a comedy about five bridesmaids in the same attire who get in touch with their real feelings.

WT's May offering is a dark comedy about tornado survivors called "Alabaster." The play has four cast members and they are all female. Like many of the season's plays, "Alabaster" is about the power of women.

Finally, I predict the Pulsar judges will have a hard time narrowing down the best of 2020.

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## Red Cedar Grill calls it quits, Zynda BBQ steps in

BY AUDREY MATUSZ

Owner Michael Luther announced last week on Facebook he sold Red Cedar Grill, a fixture in Williamston's dining scene for 25 years. While long-time customers mourn the loss of their favorite gathering spot, Luther said the change in ownership is "all-around positive."

Red Cedar Grill, at 150 E. Grand River Ave., will be replaced by Zynda BBQ and Smoke Shack. Tuesday, Owner Nikki Zynda posted on Facebook announcing the family-owned food truck purchased the business.

"The previous owner Mike has been great to work with through the process. We are renovating and

hope to reopen in May," read Zynda's Facebook post.

Zynda BBQ has built a strong reputation for barbecued meats in the parking lot of Tom's Liquor Store in East Lansing. The Williamston location will be its first brick and mortar.

"A lot of people have been apologizing and it's like, 'No, we wanted this to happen,'" he said. "I guess I can say this, the buyer is a local person which I think is great."

The final day of operation of Red Cedar Grill is Thursday (Jan. 9). Luther owned the restaurant for seven years. In 2016, he opened Bridge Street Social, a cocktail bar in DeWitt



Audrey Matusz/City Pulse

Michael Luther owned Red Cedar Grill for seven years.

See Red Cedar, Page 19

# Meet Curious Book Shop's official in-house artist

Bookstore finds new venture in custom Poe posters

BY AUDREY MATUSZ

Have a design in mind featuring characters from your favorite graphic novel? For the past three years, Curious Books in East Lansing has designed custom posters (and tattoos) for customers, thanks to Jesse Chesting.

Chesting, 21, has worked as a clerk at Curious Book Shop for three years while studying pre-med at Michigan State University. Sitting at the register, she would keep herself busy filling in her elaborate sketches with watercolors. Once the secret got out to store owner Ray Walsh that she was an artist, he asked her to make signs

for the store.

**Curious Book Shop**  
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sun. Noon to 5 p.m.  
307 E. Grand River Ave.,  
East Lansing  
(517) 332-0112  
curiousbooks.com

Then one day a customer came in looking for posters from a new book release and

one thing led to another.

“Ray wanted more posters, but didn’t know where to find them, and my manager suggested I make them,” said Chesting. “They let me sell them and they just take 20% of the commission. Usually, for artists, it’s the other way around and the store keeps 80.”

Around the holidays, interesting requests start to pour in. This year, Chesting designed a tattoo for a customer (for free) and repurposed a battered Steven King novel cover into a bookmark.

“A woman came in for Christmas and wanted Edgar Allen Poe posters, so we were like, ‘Why not?’” Chesting said.

The commission resulted in three



Audrey Matusz/City Pulse

Artist Jesse Chesting stands next to her original “Poe” inspired illustrations, which are available for sale at Curious Book Shop.

posters inspired by Poe’s legacy. The locally owned bookstore is selling copies of her original “Poe” designs.

As the designated in-house artist, Chesting often gets inquiries from customers about her life plans.

“People would ask about my major and what I’m doing with my life and I was like, ‘Why am I science major?’”

she said. “I used to do an internship at General Motors for automotive design and I don’t know why I didn’t stick with that.”

After this spring, she is transferring from MSU to study design with a focus on mechanics.

“My parents used to own a design business. They would design parts

and products for people out of their house and they never told me until this year,” said Chesting, clearly still bemused by the discovery.

In the upcoming weeks, Curious Book Shop will begin selling a series of Chesting’s “Alice in Wonderland” themed posters. She said they will sell for about \$10 each.

## Red Cedar

from page 18

offering modern American fare, with his business partner, Justin King.

For several years, “Chef Mike,” as he’s called in the kitchen, hopped between Williamston and DeWitt, filling in gaps and concocting new cuisines. However, after adding another coal into the fire with King

— a future Spanish wine bar on Lansing’s east side called Bar Mitena — Luther was reaching his capacity.

“About a year ago, we made a decision.” Luther said. “Because of Bar Mitena and Bridge Street, it made more sense for me to refocus my energy and align myself with Justin than doing this other thing.”

Since making the announcement on Facebook that the business was sold, Luther said the restaurant has been “stupid busy.”

Items on the menu that have been flying out the kitchen include the

drunken salmon, marinated in bourbon honey and ginger, as well as its-locally famous carrot cake. The cake, according to Luther, takes almost 24 hours to prepare between the baking, cooling and icing. Those who plan on making a last-minute stop for cake are encouraged to call in ahead of time to avoid disappointment.

Red Cedar Grill’s Facebook page was flooded with comments from supporters mourning the loss. One Facebook user commented, “This is sad news. I grew up in Williamston, and this restaurant was special to

me. I worked there in the ‘90s.”

Luther said reactions from patrons have been mostly positive.

“We’ve had people tell us this was one of their favorite places to bring their family and a go-to celebration spot,” Luther said.

In September, Luther said he had “enough staffing issues” at the grill that developing Bar Mitena was put on hold. He added that he hopes to officially open the wine bar in “the first half of 2020.”

# A little big city explored in 'A City Saunter Story'

Local photographer speaks on two books documenting her three-year project

By **BILL CASTANIER**

In 2010, photographer Ariniko O'Meara decided to go for a walk in her hometown. Three years later, she was still walking — all 537 miles of Lansing's streets.

Living in a city still reeling from an ugly recession, O'Meara said she had become a "cheerleader" for Lansing.

**"City Saunter" with Ariniko O'Meara**

Thursday, Jan. 16  
7 p.m.  
Library of Michigan  
702 W. Kalamazoo St.,  
Lansing  
(517) 335-1477  
michigan.gov/library  
ofmichigan

She made it her personal mission to learn more about her hometown and took to the streets, camera in hand, to seek out hidden treasures tucked inside Lansing's changing neighborhoods.

"I figured if I was going to be a cheerleader, I needed to see all of Lansing," she said.

O'Meara will join the Historical Society of Greater Lansing Jan. 16 at the Library of Michigan for a presentation on her two books about a nearly three-year saunter in Lansing. In addition to showing photos from her trip, she will reflect on some of the more interesting experiences and people she encountered along the way.

Using her photographic and writing skills, she published two books last year with the help of a successful Kickstarter campaign. The books are an inspirational look at what she calls her "little big city." Her memoir of the walk, "A City Saunter Story: A Three Year Walking Quest to Discover the Wholeness of Lansing," details her walk on a more emotional level while her companion photographic book, "The City Saunter Project: A Photographic & Journalistic Quest to Discover the Wholeness of Lansing, Michigan" showcases her photographic skills with more than 200 images.

She began her series of strolls Oct. 1, 2010 to the State Capitol with "perfect skies," she wrote in her blog titled, "City Saunter." O'Meara was born in Lansing and grew up on the city's Northside. So, it was natural for one of her early walks to be in her old stomping grounds.

In her blog for Oct. 10, 2010, she marked the birthday of her younger brother, who died in an auto accident



when he was 17. She visited the site of the car crash and took pictures to pair with her reflection. He would've turned 39.

She readily admits in the blog that when she began her first walk, she did not plan out her routes. Eventually, O'Meara used a computer program to track and plan her routes. Toward the end of the quest, she was able to use a new "smart" phone for navigation and tracking her steps.

However, no technological device could remedy her the foot aches and sore limbs from those first walks.

"There were times I didn't think I could do it. I could barely walk 20 minutes when I first started," she said, adding that in the beginning of the project she was recovering from a major surgery and 50-pound weight gain.

She finished her last day, Oct. 4, 2013, of hiking the city streets with a 29-mile jaunt. Along the way, she had worn out seven pairs of shoes, lost 15 pounds and got to know terrific people who call Lansing home.

On her walks, she was often accompanied by neighbors and fans, many of whom she met through #lovelansing, a

Facebook group for residents to share positive testimonials. During her commute, she made it a point to stop at small mom and pop stores for coffee and to chat with customers.

O'Meara said parts of Lansing weren't the easiest to walk in since there were no sidewalks on numerous streets. (Delta River Drive, Waverly Road, Tecumseh River Road and Aurelius Road, to name a few).

"Aurelius was the most dangerous," she said.

In winter, she observed that the city's snow shoveling ordinance is often ignored, and specifically called out large apartment complexes and commercial properties. She was complimentary about homeowners who keep their sidewalks clear.

O'Meara said you get to see the city in a different light when you walk it.

"In cars and on bikes you are going too fast to appreciate it. By the end of my walk, I was looking people in the eye and saying 'Hi,'" she said.

Walking much of the city alone, she realized the potential danger, but she said there were no close calls. She was diligent to get her walks in before school got out.

Of the thousands of photographs she took, her favorite is of the State Capitol during the annual Silver Bells celebration.

In assessing her walk, O'Meara said one thing she could've done without were the dead-end streets — although she grew up on one. Because of the Grand River and I496 expressway, Lansing is blessed with scores of dead-end streets.

But at the end of some of those streets, she discovered some gems. For example, she stumbled upon the Grand River at the end of a long walk down

Summit Street. On Lansing's north end, she rediscovered Jones Lake, one of the city's few bodies of water.

She also came away with what she thinks is an answer to one of her most perplexing questions: Why does one neighborhood prosper while the one right next to it flounders?

"It really comes down to a neighborhood group or one person who organizes the neighborhood," she said. "It's easy to be a cheerleader for Old Town, the Stadium District and REO Town, but we need cheerleaders everywhere."

In her books, she profiles some of Lansing's other "cheerleaders," such as filmmaker Michael McCallum.

O'Meara makes the point that the best way to get to know Lansing is to walk it, starting with your own neighborhood.

## 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* by David Benioff, 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.

**50% OFF**  
**CALENDARS**  
All sales final.

**75% OFF**  
**HOLIDAY ITEMS**  
All sales final.

SchulerBooks.com / Event  
Meridian Mall • Okemos

### Curious Book Shop

307 E. Grand River \* East Lansing  
Mon - Sat 10-7 pm, Sun 12-5  
We validate parking!  
www.curiousbooks.com



**Great used books for everyone!**  
(and a few new ones too!)

### Archives Book Shop

519 W. Grand River \* East Lansing  
332-8444 \* Free parking  
Mon - Sat 11-6 pm, Sun 12-5 pm  
thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com

# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, January 8

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**Free Photography Clinic** -Mini seminars. 6-9 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa, Lansing. MMPPhotoclub.com.

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

**Plant-Based Surf & Turf** - Learn to create vegan-friendly fare. 6:30-7:30 p.m. AlIve, 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. myalIve.com.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Bookworms at the Broad** - Bring eyes, ears, and imaginations! 10-11 a.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing.

**Family Storytime (Ages up to 6)** - 11:15 a.m. CADL-Webberville, 115 N. Main St. cadl.org

**Kids Reading to Dogs (Age 6 & up)** - 4-5 p.m. CADL - Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St.

**Pizza & Pages (Grade 3 & up)**- To register call 517-347-2021. 4:30-5:30 p.m. CADL-Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd.

**Youth Philosophy Group (Age 7 & up)** -Enjoy stories followed by discussion. 4-5 p.m. CADL-South, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

### EVENTS

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. with Justin Deason performing at 5 p.m. 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

**Community Night: Ritual Etiquette** - do's and don'ts of Wiccan and pagan ritual. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-657-5800.

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

**Line Dancing** - 1-1:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

**Tanya Liabenow at Allen Neighborhood Center** - Join us for coffee and conversation! 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 1611 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing.

### ARTS

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

**Sorry, I'm Not Leaving Exhibition** - by Britta Urness. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington, Ste. 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

### MUSIC

**Rachel Frederiksen, Bassoon** - free. 6 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

## Thursday, January 9

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**English Country Dance** - All dances taught. 7-9:30 p.m. Snyder-Phillips Hall, MSU, 362 Bogue St, East Lansing. 517-321-3070.

**Strength & Balance (Adults)** - Improve your posture, strength and balance. 2:30-3:30 p.m. CADL-Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Rd. cadl.org

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

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

### EVENTS

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

**Capital Area Audubon Society** - 7-9 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope Rd., Lansing. 517-303-5742. capitalareaaudubon.org.

**Drop-in LEGO Club (Age 4 & up)** - 3:15-4:30 p.m. CADL-Webberville, 115 N. Main St. cadl.org

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



## Matt Bliton Band album release party at UrbanBeat

Matt Bliton Band is a mid-Michigan-based folk, blues jam band fronted by acclaimed singer/songwriter Matt Bliton. The concert at UrbanBeat is a celebration marking the group's third album entitled "Out of the Woods."

The band draws influence from acts such as Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m., \$15 door Taylor, Bob Dylan, Neil Young and The Eagles.

The band released its first album, "Solid Ground, Endless Sky" in 2013, followed by "New Morning" in 2015. This third album, "Out of the Woods", fuses blues rock with rock and roll with grooves borrowed from basso nova, Latin and folk rock. The album, which was recorded with Ryan Wert at Elm Street Recording, also features Rick Seguin on harmo-

nies, Mark Thompson on trumpet, Gary Clavette on sax, Mark Kieme on flute and sax, Joshua Dunigan and Ty Forquer on percussion.

The band has been featured at local music and performance festivals including BluesFest, Renegade Theatre Festival and Pumpstock Festival of American Roots Music. The single "Bus Called America" received a 2018 international songwriting award.

"We are always excited to get a chance to play our music for our families, friends and fans," Bliton said. "We are really looking forward to the release of our third album, and hope everyone has as much fun listening to it, as we did making it."

For more information on Matt Bliton and the Matt Bliton Band, visit [www.mattbliton.com](http://www.mattbliton.com).

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

### ARTS

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

### MUSIC

**Stefania Neumann, Flute** - Free. 6 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

## Friday, January 10

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Adult Technology Help (Adults)** - Sign up for a slot by calling 517-694-9351. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. CADL-Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 N. Aurelius Rd.

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

**Ballroom Dancing Begins** - Learn the basic steps and fundamentals. 6:30-7:30 p.m. AlIve, 800 W Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. myalIve.com.

**Beginning Drawing** - It's never too late to learn to draw! 1-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

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

### EVENTS

**Howl at the Moon:** Dogs on leash welcome. 7-8 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

**Midwest iHemp Expo** - 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-483-7400. midwestihempexpo.com.

**Monthly Game Night** - 7-10 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-657-5800.

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

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

### ARTS

**Arts Night Out** - Live music, demos, exhibits, affordable art & more! 5-7 p.m. Arts Council of Greater Lansing, 1208 Turner St, Lansing.

**BeauTIEful Launch Party** - 6-8 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Claude Johnson-Perry Exhibition and Opening Reception** - 5-8 p.m. Arts Council of Greater Lansing, 1208 Turner St, Lansing.

### MUSIC

**Connie Kaldor and Garnet Rogers** - 7:30-9:30 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing.

See Out on the town, Page 24

## FRIDAY, JAN. 10 >> ARTS NIGHT OUT! MUSIC JAM AT ELDERLY INSTRUMENTS



Browse Elderly Instruments' museum-like showroom while feeding your ears with homegrown talent. Dewey Longuski, Nashville Songwriters' Association International Chapter Coordinator, will host the open mic. Each performer gets 15 minutes. Slots are filled on a first come first serve basis.

**5 to 8 p.m., Free**  
**1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing**  
**(517) 372-7880**  
**elderly.com**

# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"You Turned Up"—I'm just following directions.**  
by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Coat of arms inscription
- 6 Dir. from NYC to Seattle
- 9 Sibillant sound
- 13 In the vicinity of
- 14 "The Beatles at Stadium" (music documentary)
- 15 Minimal amount
- 16 ?keep a kaenS
- 19 Collapsible shelter
- 20 Paleozoic and Cenozoic, e.g.
- 21 What baby shampoo avoids
- 22 Hybrid citrus from Jamaica
- 24 Propped open
- 26 ?loot s'tsruicuaM
- 30 "\_\_\_ a Rainbow" (Rolling Stones tune)
- 34 \_\_\_ apso (dog breed)
- 35 Prescriptions, briefly
- 37 "Mixed-ish" network
- 38 "You've Got Mail" ISP
- 39 With 49-Across, Pretsis s'anereS
- 42 Blazers' org.
- 43 Unhealthy
- 44 High or low cards
- 45 "Li'l" guy in the comics
- 47 Take five
- 49 See 39-Across
- 52 "\_\_\_ be surprised"
- 54 "... \_\_\_ it seems"
- 55 Birch of "Ghost World"
- 58 "Flashdance" director Adrian
- 60 Paintball mark
- 64 ?rekrowoc

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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16					17			18			
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47		48		49		50	51				
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64				65				66			
67				68				69			
70				71				72			

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s'rotcudnoC</li> <li>67 Precious metal sources</li> <li>68 "Eat, ___, Love"</li> <li>69 ___-Whirl (amusement park ride)</li> <li>70 Second to ___</li> <li>71 Wood used to make baseball bats</li> <li>72 Fabled tale-teller</li> </ul> | <p><b>Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Beer ingredient</li> <li>2 Symphony orchestra woodwind</li> <li>3 "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" character</li> <li>4 Onomatopoeic name for motorized rickshaws</li> <li>5 First N.L. player to hit 500 home runs</li> <li>6 "Hold up!"</li> <li>7 Company's bottom line</li> <li>8 When doubled, a guitar effect</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 Job opening fillers</li> <li>10 Only state name starting with two vowels</li> <li>11 Head the cast</li> <li>12 Reports</li> <li>14 Feature of a font</li> <li>17 Assist</li> <li>18 Sched. guess</li> <li>23 Tropical fruit with pink flesh</li> <li>25 Baby Yoda, eventually (one presumes)</li> <li>26 Prime minister between Major and Brown</li> <li>27 "Head Like ___" (Nine Inch Nails song)</li> <li>28 They may be recorded for quality and training purposes</li> <li>29 "Hello, ___ Be Going!" (Phil Collins album)</li> <li>31 Barbera's animation partner</li> <li>32 Diminished</li> <li>33 Do a haunted house job</li> <li>36 Catches</li> <li>40 Raw silk shade</li> <li>41 Annoying ones</li> <li>46 "Two-bite" bakery item, maybe</li> <li>48 Actor Gibson of "2 Fast 2 Furious"</li> <li>50 "The Daily Show" correspondent Chieng</li> <li>51 Neighbor of Nev.</li> <li>53 Rafter's need</li> <li>55 Disney movie about computers</li> <li>56 Lifesaver, maybe</li> <li>57 Subway fixture</li> <li>59 "I know"</li> <li>61 Wiggly tankful</li> <li>62 "Dallas Buyers Club" Oscar winner Jared</li> <li>63 Sandy golf hazard</li> <li>65 Hotel offering</li> <li>66 "Give ___ go!"</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|

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Answers Page 24

## SUDOKU

## Beginner

3	8			1				
			3	6	5			
9		5						
	7	4	8				3	
	9				6	8	5	
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### 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 24

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Jan. 8 - Jan. 14, 2020

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** When comedian John Cleese was 61, his mother died. She was 101. Cleese testifies, "Just towards the end, as she began to run out of energy, she did actually stop trying to tell me what to do most of the time." I bet you'll experience a similar phenomenon in 2020—only bigger and better. Fewer people will try to tell you what to do than at any previous time of your life. As a result, you'll be freer to be yourself exactly as you want to be. You'll have unprecedented power to express your uniqueness.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Renowned Taurus philosopher Bertrand Russell was sent to jail in 1918 because of his pacifism and anti-war activism. He liked being there. "I found prison in many ways quite agreeable," he said. "I had no engagements, no difficult decisions to make, no fear of callers, no interruptions to my work. I read enormously; I wrote a book." The book he produced, "Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy", is today regarded as a classic. In 2020, I would love to see you Tauruses cave out an equally luxurious sabbatical without having to go through the inconvenience of being incarcerated. I'm confident you can do this.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** It's common to feel attracted to people because of the way they look and dress and carry themselves. But here's the problem: If you pursue an actual connection with someone whose appearance you like, there's no guarantee it will turn out to be interesting and meaningful. That's because the most important factor in becoming close to someone is not their cute face or body or style, but rather their ability to converse with you in ways you find interesting. And that's a relatively rare phenomenon. As philosopher Mortimer Adler observed, "Love without conversation is impossible." I bring these thoughts to your attention, Gemini, because I believe that in 2020 you could have some of the best conversations you've ever had—and as a result experience the richest intimacy.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Mystic poet Rumi told us the kind of person he was attracted to. "I want a trouble-maker for a lover," he wrote. "Blood spiller, blood drinker, a heart of flame, who quarrels with the sky and fights with fate, who burns like fire on the rushing sea." In response to that testimony, I say, "Boo! Ugh! Yuck!" I say "To hell with being in an intimate relationship with a trouble-maker who fights with fate and quarrels with the sky." I can't imagine any bond that would be more unpleasant and serve me worse. What about you, Cancerian? Do you find Rumi's definition glamorous and romantic? I hope not. If you do, I advise you to consider changing your mind. 2020 will be an excellent time to be precise in articulating the kinds of alliances that are healthy for you. They shouldn't resemble Rumi's description. (Rumi translation by Zara Houshmand.)

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** The 18th-century comic novel "Tristram Shandy" is still being translated, adapted, and published today. Its popularity persists. Likewise, the 18th-century novel "Moll Flanders", which features a rowdy, eccentric heroine who was unusual for her era, has had modern incarnations in TV, film, and radio. Then there's the 19th-century satirical novel "Vanity Fair". It's considered a classic even now, and appears on lists of best-loved books. The authors of these three books had one thing in common: They had to pay to have their books published. No authority in the book business had any faith in them. You may have similar challenges in 2020, Leo—and rise to the occasion with equally good results. Believe in yourself!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** I'll present two possible scenarios that could unfold for you in 2020. Which scenario actually occurs will depend on how willing you are to transform yourself. Scenario #1. Love is awake, and you're asleep. Love is ready for you but you're not ready for love. Love is hard to recognize because you think it still looks like it did in the past. Love changed its name, and you didn't notice. Scenario #2. Love is awake and you're waking up. Love is ready for you and you're

making yourself ready for love. Love is older and wiser now, and you recognize its new guise. Love changed its name, and you found out. (Thanks to Sarah and Phil Kaye for the inspiration for this horoscope.)

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Renowned Greek sculptor Praxiteles created some famous and beloved statues in the fourth century B.C. One of his pieces, showing the gods Hermes and Dionysus, was displayed inside the Temple of Hera in Olympia. But a few centuries later an earthquake demolished the Temple and buried the statue. There it remained until 1877, when archaeologists dug it out of the rubble. I foresee a metaphorically equivalent recovery in your life, Libra—especially if you're willing to excavate an old mess or investigate a debris field or explore a faded ruin.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Over a period of 74 years, the Scorpio philosopher and author Voltaire (1694-1778) wrote so many letters to so many people that they were eventually published in a series of 98 books, plus nine additional volumes of appendixes and indexes. I would love to see you communicate that abundantly and meticulously in 2020, Scorpio. The cosmic rhythms will tend to bring you good fortune if you do.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Picasso was one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century. He was also the richest. At the end of his life, experts estimate his worth was as much as \$250 million, equivalent to \$1.3 billion today. But in his earlier adulthood, while Picasso was turning himself into a genius and creating his early masterpieces, he lived and worked in a small, seedy, unheated room with no running water and a toilet he shared with twenty people. If there will be ever in your life be a semblance of Picasso's financial transformation, Sagittarius, I'm guessing it would begin this year.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Let's get 2020 started with a proper send-off. According to my reading of the astrological omens, the coming months will bring you opportunities to achieve a host of liberations. Among the things from which you could be at least partially emancipated: stale old suffering; shrunken expectations; people who don't appreciate you for who you really are; and beliefs and theories that don't serve you any more. (There may be others!) Here's an inspirational maxim, courtesy of poet Mary Oliver: "Said the river: imagine everything you can imagine, then keep on going."

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** In a poem titled "The Mess-iah," spiritual teacher Jeff Foster counsels us, "Fall in love with the mess of your life. . . the wild, uncontrollable, unplanned, unexpected moments of existence. Dignify the mess with your loving attention, your gratitude. Because if you love the mess enough, you will become a Mess-iah." I bring this to your attention, Aquarius, because I suspect you'll have a better chance to ascend to the role of Mess-iah in the coming weeks and months than you have had in many years.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Comedian John Cleese believes that "sometimes we hang onto people or relationships long after they've ceased to be of any use to either of you." That's why he has chosen to live in such a way that his web of alliances is constantly evolving. "I'm always meeting new people," he says, "and my list of friends seems to change quite a bit." According to my analysis of the astrological omens, Pisces, 2020 will be a propitious year for you to experiment with Cleese's approach. You'll have the chance to meet a greater number of interesting new people in the coming months than you have in a long time. (And don't be afraid to phase out connections that have become a drain.)

# TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

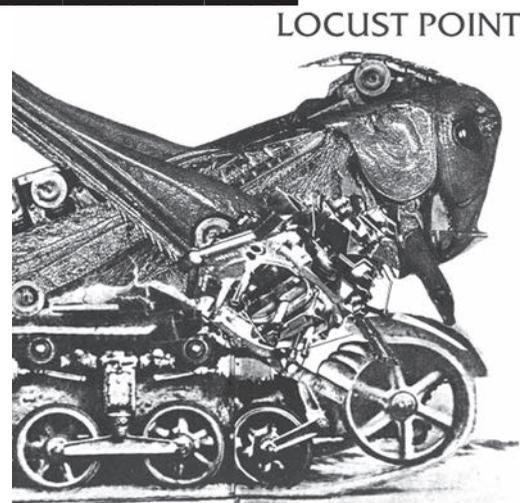
BY RICH TUPICA

Saturday, Jan. 11

Q&A: PHIL LYNCH OF LOCUST POINT Q&A



Locust Point, (L to R): Albert LaRose (bass) and Dave Peterman (drums) and Phil "Doc" Lynch (guitar, vocals).



Locust Point's 2018 debut, self-titled LP. Hear the tracks live at Oigs Fest, Saturday at Mac's Bar

## Locals shred at fourth annual Oigs Fest

Saturday, Jan. 11 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$13, \$10 adv., 3 p.m.

Oigs Fest 4: Return of the Oigs! is an all-ages, all-day hard-rock and metal blowout at Mac's Bar featuring a lengthy roster of heavy hitters. This year's lineup includes Recorruptor, From Blue To Gray, Burial Party, Locust Point, Throne, Iron Mountain, Hokori, Teething, Pan, Hordes, Grave Moth and Wormfoot.

Phil "Doc" Lynch, vocalist and guitarist of Locust Point, chatted with City Pulse about his power trio, which also comprises Albert LaRose (bass) and Dave Peterman (drums, vocals, guitar). Sample the band's debut 2019 LP at [locustpoint.bandcamp.com](http://locustpoint.bandcamp.com).

### How did Locust Point first get together?

Dave Peterman and I got together in late 2016 with the intention of just doing a studio project after a long period of musical inactivity for both of us. My only goal was to get songs and ideas down

on tape and to not slap a label on it until we had gone through that process and figured out what exactly we had. It came together pretty fast, and when Brad van Staveren was putting together his first Oigs Fest lineup, he found out what we were up to and asked us to play. We got a live lineup together, and it's grown from there. We've played the previous three Oigs Fests, so it's become a tradition for us. It's really just a big hangout with a lot of great bands, drunken camaraderie and no drama or agendas.

### Locust Point's debut LP seems to draw from classic rock and punk rock. What bands motivated you guys the most?

It's riff driven, punk-y, working class rock 'n' roll with a lot of hooks. We've all played in metal bands before, so that element bleeds through, too. Musically our album draws from groups like Thin Lizzy,

'70s-era Aerosmith and ZZ Top. There's some Motörhead and Guns N' Roses in there, too. Beyond that, I hear some '80s punk like Black Flag and Agent Orange — even some '90s bands like Alice in Chains, Soundgarden and Nirvana. All that '90s stuff was rock 'n' roll too, they just called it "grunge" because everyone looked like auto mechanics and loggers back then.

### Who writes the songs?

We demo them on our own, send them to each other and teach them to each other as we practice. It may get more collaborative in the future, but I've always dug bands like Hüsker Dü and later-era Beatles — where you can go through the record and identify "this is a Bob Mould song, this is a Grant Hart song" or "this is John, but that's a Paul song."

### The vocals for sure have a Phil Lynott-esque vibe, but what inspired the lyrics?

The day-to-day drudgery of living and working in a city that's only nice about four months out of the year and the bad habits that spring up around that kind of malaise. It's about music being one of the only healthy outlets for that kind of stuff. Playing music with your friends is definitely worth getting up in the morning for when you don't have a lot else to look forward to.

### With 2020 upon us, what does Locust Point have planned for the year?

Definitely a new album. We're aiming for late spring/summer at the earliest I think. It's 100% written, but we really want to take our time and make it good because the material just deserves that attention. I'd love to play more shows afterwards as we didn't get to play quite as much as I wanted in support of our first record.



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

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave..	Trivia Night: Always Sunny 10PM	GTG Silktail 8PM	Karaoke 9PM	Dark Arts DJs 9PM
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.				Double Shot 9PM
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River, East Lansing	North of Five 8PM	Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM	
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Old School - DJ Jalese 8:30PM	Avon Bomb 9PM	Avon Bomb 9PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Karaoke		Starfarm 8:30PM	Starfarm 8:30PM
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee			Live Music with Olivia Mainville 8PM	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.				Homegrown Throwdown 2020 7PM
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			V*A*S*E 8PM	The Rock and Roll Bad Guys 3PM
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot, East Lansing			The New Rule 7PM	The New Rule 7PM
Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington			Appleseed Collective 8PM	
Spiral, 1247 Center St.		Rent Tribute Show 9PM		Kiki Saturdays 9PM
Urban Beat, 1213 Turner St.				Matt Bliton Band Release Party 7:30PM
Unicorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing	Open Mic 9:30PM		Live Music with Frog & The Beeftones 9PM	Olivia & The Aquatic Troupe 8PM
Wildlife Pub, 6380 Drumeller Rd., Bath			Open Mic 7:30PM	

From Page 21

## Saturday, January 11

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

### EVENTS

**Environmental Stewardship Work Day** - volunteer for natural area work days. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

**Grand Opening Celebration of the Science On a Sphere Gallery** - 11 a.m.-2 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W Circle Dr, East Lansing.

**Midwest iHemp Expo** - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-483-7400. midwestihempexpo.com.

**MSU Polo at the Pavilion** - 3-5 p.m. MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-5566.

**Owl Prowl at GCBS** - 5-6:30 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing. michiganadubon.org.

**Pokémon Party (Age 8 & up)** - 1-3 p.m. CADL-Downtown, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. cadl.org

**Psychic Fair Fundraiser** - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

**Super Saturdays at the Michigan History Museum** - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing. 517-420-1342.

### ARTS

**AECT Studio Class!** - Year three of our Studio Class! 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All-of-Us Express

Children's Theatre, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing.

**Mount Hope Quilters** - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Custom Quilts, 676 Okemos Rd., Okemos..

**SHREK Audition** - Adult Fiona and Shrek only - 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

### MUSIC

**Brittany Giles, Bassoon** - Free. 4 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

**Many Cultures, Many (Unusual) Instruments with Brian Kruschwitz of Yurtfolk** - 10-11:30 a.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing.

**Old-time String Band Fiddle Tunes Repertoire with Mike and Mary Ross** - 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington, Lansing. 517-372-7880. elderly.com.

## Sunday, January 12

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

### EVENTS

**Making Treats for Wildlife** - Create edible treats. 2-3 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

### ARTS

**SHREK Audition Adult Fiona and Shrek only** - 2-3:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

**The Sound Around** - 2-4 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

### MUSIC

**Keaton Garrett, Saxophone** - Free. 6 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing.

events.msu.edu.

## Monday, January 13

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

**Group Dance Class** - Beginning Nightclub 2 step. 8:15-9:05 p.m. The MAC, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

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

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Battle of the Books Kick-off:** Grand Ledge District Library and Delta Township Library! - 6:30-7:30 p.m. 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing.

**Read to a Dog (Ages 6-8)** - 4-5 p.m. CADL-Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing.

### EVENTS

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

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

### MUSIC

**Gillian Riesen, voice** - Free. 6 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

## Tuesday, January 14.

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

**Powered by Plants** - A plant-based diet is proving to be an ideal choice. 6:30-8 p.m. Allve, 800 W Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. myalive.com.

**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

**Ekphrastic Poetry with Dennis Hinrichsen** - 6-8 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

**The Poetry Room Open Mic:** 7pm doors 7:45 showtime. Signup list at door. 7-9:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

**Tuesday Book Group (Adults)**- Call or stop in for titles. 1-2 p.m. Foster Branch, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. cadl.org

### EVENTS

**Capital Area Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Support Group** - 7-8:30 p.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd, Okemos. 231-403-1395. chronicpainpartners.com.

**Death Cafe** - Speaking casually about death is taboo in many cultures, but death is part of life, and when we talk about it, we help normalize it. 12:30-2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

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

**Drop-in Minute to Win It Challenge Series (Ages 9-14)** Stop by to complete some challenges. 3:15-4 p.m. CADL-Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Rd. #1. cadl.org

**Prime Time Crime Time** - Featuring movies of the 60s and 70s. 1-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

### ARTS

**2020 MLK Jr. Holiday Art Contest Reception** - 5-7 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Mixed Media: Adult** - 6:30-8 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

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

## SATURDAY, JAN. 11 >> GUIDED WINTER TREE HIKE AT WOLDUMAR NATURE CENTER



Get your weekend off to a healthy and informed start with this winter walk. A naturalist from the nature center will guide participants through the park's extensive forest.

**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**\$5 single, \$10 couple**  
**5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing**  
**(517) 322-0030**  
**woldumar.org**

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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## SATURDAY, JAN. 11 >> COLD MOON AT THE AVENUE



DJ group Obsidian Nacht, with special guest Sin Eater, spin synth wave, darkwave, '80s, goth, industrial, dark techno all night. Feast your eyes on sinister visuals and step into your much cooler, leather-wearing alter ego.

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

## SUNDAY, JAN. 12 >> CARDBOARD PROPHETS PICNIC IN REUTTER PARK



Everyone is invited to this cookout. Gravity Smokehouse & BBQ in Holt will touch down in Lansing to feed those looking for a hot meal. Volunteers can show up at the event ready to serve.

**2 to 4 p.m., Free**  
**400 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing**  
**(517) 712-0008**  
**cardboardprophets.org**

# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### 'Red Eye Rye' is a liquefied forest

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

It's a pale ale that isn't really pale. It has a hearty, reddish color. Despite being brewed in west Lansing, the "Red Eye Rye" has more of an old-world taste.

It's the signature craft beer at the EagleMonk Pub

#### EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

Tues-Sunday, various hours  
4906 W. Mt Hope Hwy, Lansing  
(517) 708-7350  
eaglemonkbrewing.com

and Brewery. Brew master Dan Buonodono, creates concoctions that justify "craft" labels. For the "Red Eye Rye," he uses British pale malt, caramel malt and generous amounts of rye malt. The rye flavor is appealingly obvious.



Centennial hops and Northern Brewer hops are added. The first is known for its floral and lemon notes; the second for hints of pine and mint.

The result is a beer with a robust taste without heaviness. The "Red Eye Rye" is substantial enough to sip and savor on its own — or as an accompaniment to EagleMonk's tasty homemade pizzas or paninis.

My \$5 glass was filled and was noticeably cold. The "Red Eye Rye" came with a slight crown of bubbly foam.

I like that the mix of ingredients

with such varied characteristics make a blend that excites the nose and taste buds. Subtle smacks of sweetness and fruitiness are contrasted with suggestions of nuttiness, and an almost forest-like flavor. I especially appreciated the "Red Eye Rye's" delightful and lingering taste.

Its 34 IBUs, which stands for International Bitterness Units, is more than a New Belgium Fat Tire and less than a Sierra Nevada Pale Ale. With a balanced malt and hops mix, any bitterness is well masked.

The ale has a full kick to go with its full taste. The "Red Eye Rye" might be the perfect brew to serve on a "Red Eye" flight for those ready for some shuteye.



Audrey Matusz/City Pulse

The "Red Eye Rye" is a robust, malt medley.

### Meet the enemy of your New Year's Resolution

By AUDREY MATUSZ

If your 2020 diet resolutions are already off to a tragic start, you are not alone. As of Jan. 1, I made a personal commitment

#### Midtown Brewing Co.

Sun.-Mon. various hours  
402 S. Washington Sq, Lansing  
(517) 977-1349

to cut out red meat (really meat in general, but I know my weakness) and French fries. If you are a person with a will easily compromised by juicy patties decked in jalapenos, fresh greens and onions inside a ciabatta bun, I suggest you stop reading.

First, this review can't go on until I give Midtown Brewing Co. a salute for its smoked chicken wings (\$12). They are the perfect balance of crisp, juice

and meat. I ordered the orange chili sauce on the side and let me just say, Panda Express could never. The aroma of orange peels is apparent but not offensive.

For my entree, it was less my flesh-eating ways that got the best of me. The intrigue of a palette daring enough to add jalapenos to a peanut butter and bacon jam sandwich seemed sinful. When I read the dish ingredients, I

envisioned a tall, sloppy sandwich with slices of stripped bacon hanging off the sides and giant jalapenos poking out from the iceberg lettuce. Clearly, I forgot where I was.

Midtown Brewing Co. is so Lansing. It plays off the idea of being a ritzy, downtown hang with basic, modern American fare (where burgers are considered a food group), but just when you want to roast them and the Ryan

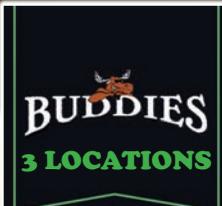
Gosling movie playing at the bar, you are silenced by its unabashed authenticity. From the menu, I prepared myself for the dry, overly doctored blocks of salt stuffed between buns served by chain burger joints. What I got was masterfully prepared patty and well-tempered experimentation.

The Midtown Monster (\$15) is something serious and can be easily shared (unless your guest is a fry fiend, in which case, order an appetizer). If you heard, you heard correctly: Midtown Brewing Co. is the realest.



Audrey Matusz/City Pulse

Midtown Brewing Co.'s Midtown Monster.



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

Okemos • 1937 W Grand River Ave • (517) 347-0443  
Monday - Saturday: 11am to 2am • Sunday: 9am to 1am



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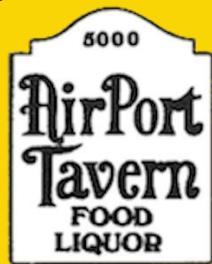
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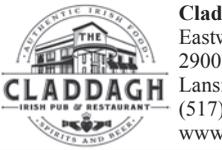
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 <p><b>Meat Southern BBQ</b> 1224 Turner Rd. Lansing, MI 48906 (517) 580-4400 meatbbq.com</p>	<p><b>WE BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES GREAT BBQ.</b> Award winning BBQ. Ribs, French fry bar, chili, sides including BBQ pit baked beans, mac n' cheese. 18 rotating taps of craft, Michigan made beers. Craft cocktails. We cater, too!</p>
 <p><b>Delhi Cafe Family Restaurant</b> 4625 Willoughby Rd. Holt, MI 48842 (517) 694-8655</p>	<p><b>COME JOIN THE FAMILY! COMFORT FOOD FROM GENERATIONS!</b> A great meeting place for family and friends. Relax with a glass of wine and try our daily lunch/dinner specials, soups, salads, Greek plates and more. Breakfast Saturday &amp; Sundays. Friendly staff. Visit us and continue the tradition!</p>
 <p><b>Cask &amp; Co.</b> 3415 E. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 580-3750 www.caskandcompany.com</p>	<p><b>A LOCAL SPOT FOR LUNCH, DINNER AND DRINKS.</b> A dining experience that is like no other. Featuring a fresh lunch buffet for a quick bite, an extensive dinner menu and happy hour specials, too! Screens to watch your favorite sporting events with your favorite people. Michigan craft brews abound here as well.</p>
 <p><b>Eastside Fish Fry</b> 2417 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 993-5988 eastsidefishfry.com</p>	<p><b>GUY FIERI APPROVED!</b> We were featured on Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. Our fried home-style classics and fresh seafood are some of the best to be found in Lansing. We've got the classics: fried chicken buckets, chicken wings, exotic fare, like frog legs and alligator tails and fresh seafood. Desserts, too!</p>
 <p><b>Buddies Holt</b> 2040 Aurelius Rd, Ste 12 Holt, MI 48842 (517) 699-3670 www.buddiesbars.com</p>	<p><b>DISCOVER YOUR NEW FAVORITE SPOT!</b> Traditional classics and great drinks. Burgers, Mexican entrees, pizza and appetizers. Five versions of loaded tots and Buddies Bowls you can't get anywhere else. Locally owned and operated for over 20 years.</p>
 <p><b>Airport Tavern</b> 5000 N. Grand River Ave. Lansing, MI 48906 (517) 321-3852 FB: @AirportTavernandSteakhouse</p>	<p><b>FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS,</b> Airport Tavern &amp; Steakhouse has been a staple of Lansing's community. Full bar, prime rib weekends, daily lunch and dinner specials. Ribs, steak, burgers and salads are all crowd pleasers at this neighborhood establishment.</p>
 <p><b>Claddagh Irish Pub</b> Eastwood Towne Center 2900 Town Centre Blvd. Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 484-2523 www.claddaghirishpubs.com</p>	<p><b>MONDAYS - BUY ONE GET ONE FREE FISH &amp; CHIPS</b> with the purchase of 2 drinks. ALL DAY Mondays. Happy Hour - Monday-Friday 3-6PM with "Half Off" Pub Bites and deals on house wines, pints and cocktails. Themed Trivia Thursdays at 7:30PM</p>

DIRECTORY LISTINGS | PAID ADVERTISEMENTS



# ARTS NIGHT OUT

**JAN. 10**

Absolute Gallery

Arts Council of Greater Lansing

Bad Annie's Sweary Goods

Clark Hill PLC

Katalyst Gallery

The Neighborhood Empowerment Center

Old Town General Store

And More!

## Arts Night Out 2020

Arts Night Out returns to Old Town Lansing on January 10, 2020 from 5-8pm! Experience a variety of unique venues — from one block to the next — alive with music, art, demos and a whole lot more. Come explore, meet the artists, wine and dine. Arts Night Out has something for everyone!

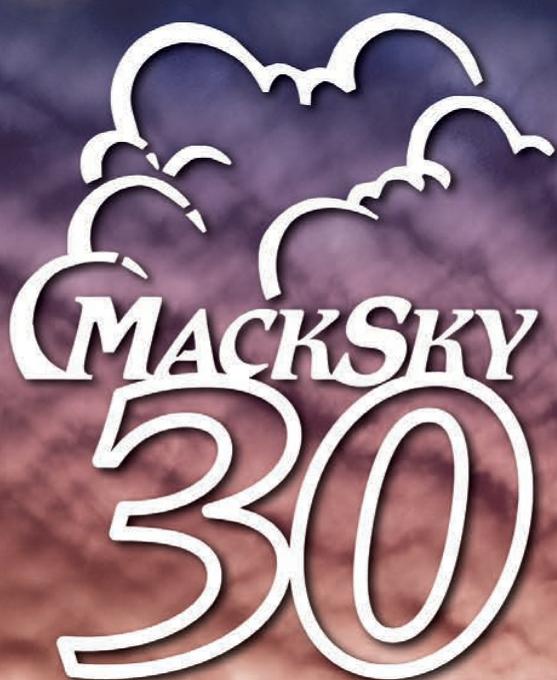
**#MyArtsNightOut**



**For more information, visit**  
**MyArtsNightOut.com**

**THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING**

# MACKEREL SKY'S 30th ANNIVERSARY



**See you Jan. 25 for  
our final day of  
inventory and  
display sale!**



*Thanks to all who helped  
celebrate our excellent  
run of 30 years  
with an even crazier  
Holiday Season!*

*On Saturday, January 25, from 10-5, we will be  
open to sell the last few items of inventory  
as well as all of our display units,  
shelving, acrylic display risers, plate stands,  
baskets, Christmas trees, decorations,  
some track lighting, all of our pedestal system,  
wall shelving, pegboards, etc.*

211 M.A.C. Avenue, East Lansing, Michigan

[info@mackerelsky.com](mailto:info@mackerelsky.com)

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