

CityPULSE

January 15 - 21, 2020

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blows his way to the top
See page 13



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Lindsay Lou



Friday, Feb. 21
Cheryl Wheeler



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Friday, March 6
Kyshona



Friday, March 13
The Steel Wheels



Friday, March 20
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Canadian Invasion IV



Friday, March 27
Joshua Davis



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and Seth Bernard



Friday, April 17
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Favorite Things

Britta Urness and her brass watering can



Britta Urness, 38, is a familiar face in the Lansing art world. She is a former academic adviser in the art department at Michigan State University and, in November, started on a new career path as a studio educator at the Broad Museum MSU Art Lab. Beyond that, her own artwork will be on display in a show called "Sorry, I'm Not Leaving," opens at 6 p.m. Friday (Jan. 17) at the Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

My favorite thing is a 1970s Ethan Allen brass watering can. Being brass, it tarnishes easily, but I recently shined it up by using ketchup, and it worked great. Very satisfying.

After my Great-grandma Emma passed away, it was something special I chose from her house. While other family members were attached to her paintings, candy dishes or quilts, I gravitated towards this practical brass beauty.

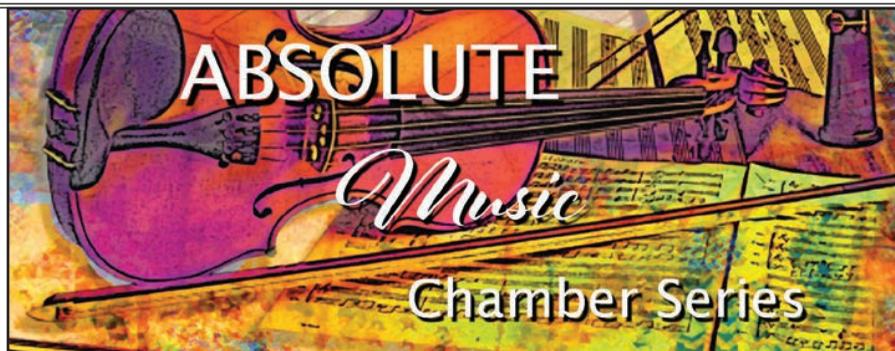
During the summers as a kid, I spent a lot of time at her house, having afternoon tea with her, learning to sew and reading pre-teen paperback books sprawled out on the floor. She had me do household chores for her and my favorite thing was water-

ing her plants. Using this can always felt delicate and proper, as if I were pretending to act grown-up with a house of my own. That, and watering the plants was much easier than peeling potatoes.

At an interactive art exhibit once, I was asked to draw what I'd grab from my house in a fire onto a postcard. I immediately thought of my brass watering can and took pleasure in drawing its shape. There's something about the graceful curve of the spout and the fact that it's sturdy and brass. Today, I used it to water a good collection of small plants that I keep in a set of McCoy pottery planters.

While you can easily buy a cheap plastic watering can at a dollar store, I take pride in having a special tool for the job. It's not the only thing I have of my grandma's, and it's certainly not the most valuable thing I own, but after my cats, I'd scramble to rescue this funny can due to the gentle memories and rituals I associate with it.

(This interview was edited and condensed by Rich Tupica. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email rich@lansingcitypulse.com.)



Thursday, January 23, 2020 • 7:30 PM

Claude Bolling - Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano

Richard Sherman, Flute Bijan Taghavi, Pianist

Rodney Whitaker, Bass Randy Gelispie, Drums

Music, Myth and Mystery

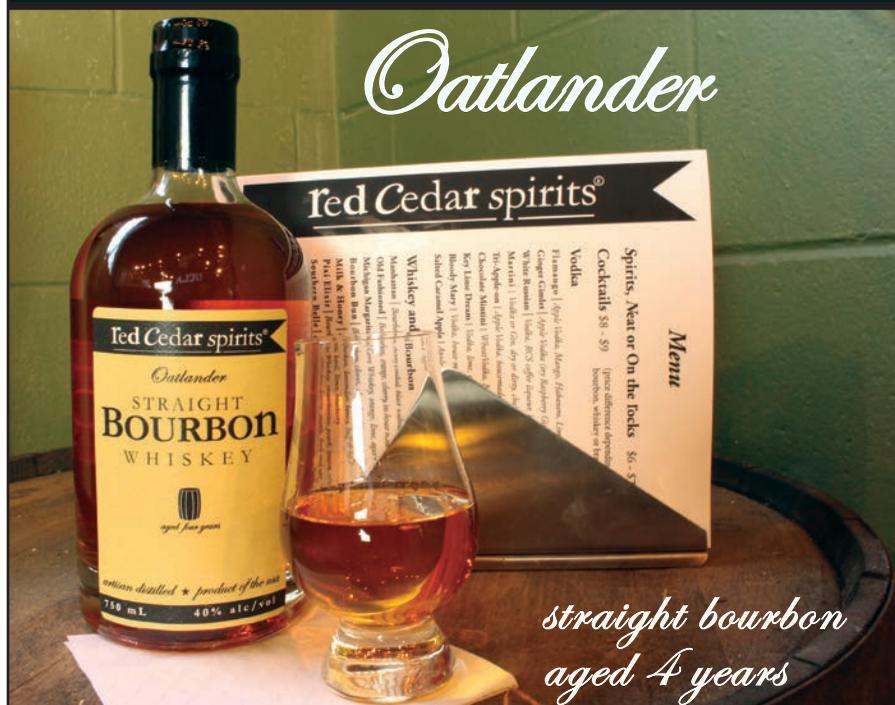
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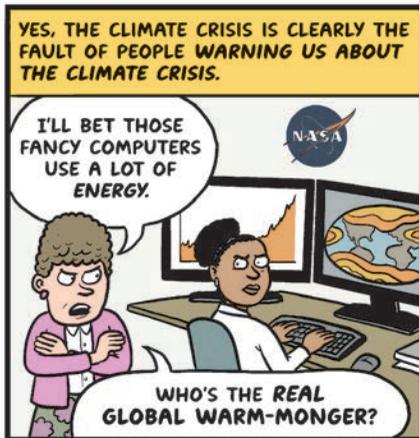
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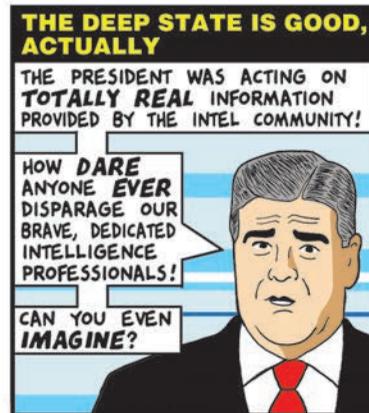


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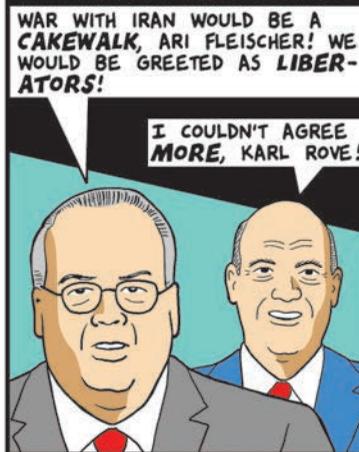
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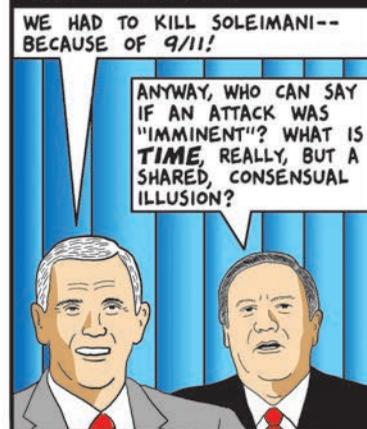
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Women in jazz will celebrate MLK Day

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Guy Yehuda ignites the Lansing Symphony Orchestra

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He Ate She Ate: Amanecer Mexicano

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

True love's kiss

In the children's fairy tale of yore, Snow White took an ill-advised bite from the evil queen's poison apple. The deathlike sleep induced by the toxic fruit could only be broken by the kiss of true love.

We offer the popular Disney parable as a metaphor for the City of East Lansing's ongoing legal skirmish with the Country Mill, a local apple orchard that unapologetically discriminates against the LGBTQ+ community by prohibiting same sex marriages at its farm in Charlotte. As a result, the city — the first in the nation to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation — contends that it can legally bar Country Mill from selling at the municipal farmers market.

As a new year unfolds, we hope and wish the Country Mill owners would set aside their litigious pursuits and do the right thing: Living up to the biblical exhortation to "love thy neighbor," the orchard owners could remedy the ill effects of their poisonous fruit by allowing the kiss of true love between same sex couples at their facility, just as they do for heterosexual couples.

While we are anything but biblical scholars, the Christian tome's familiar injunction "judge not, lest ye be judged" also comes to mind. It is here that the best nature of our secular and theistic spirits align, urging us to love one another without judgment. Would that the owners of the Country Mill embrace this truest expression of God's will with a simple gesture of tolerance for their fellow humans.

As practicing Catholics, they could draw inspiration from Pope Francis himself, who regularly calls upon his flock to show love toward the LGBTQ+ community. "Tell me," he once wrote, "when God looks at a gay person, does he endorse the existence of this person with love, or reject and condemn this person? We have to find a new balance; otherwise even the moral edifice of the church is likely to fall like a house of cards, losing the freshness and fragrance of the Gospel."

It seems unlikely that the Country Mill owners will take heed of the pope's admonition, so its lawsuit against the City of East Lansing alleging religious

discrimination will continue to churn through the federal court system. We are not lawyers and won't attempt to dissect the legal arguments on both sides, except to say that the case will likely turn on whether the city's regulatory actions exhibited hostility toward the family's religious beliefs rather than maintaining neutrality.

We prefer to reflect on the philosophical principles involved in the city's fight to protect its ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, a practice the Country Mill owners freely admit, defending their ban on same sex marriages as an exercise in religious freedom.

Yet, as others have observed, freedom is a two-way street. It is ironic, not to mention antithetical to common sense, that the Country Mill owners demand the city accommodate its discriminatory religious beliefs, while attempting to deny the city the right to enact and enforce its secular beliefs in the form of policies that prohibit discrimination.

The CP Edit

Opinion

Astute libertarians would likely invoke the "harm principle," as espoused by John Stuart Mill in his classic work "On Liberty." "The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will," Mill argued, "is to prevent harm to others." France's Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 1789 takes a similar tack, proclaiming that "liberty consists in the freedom to do everything which injures no one else; hence the exercise of the natural rights of each man has no limits except those which assure to the other members of the society the enjoyment of the same rights."

Applying this precept to the present



case, the right of the Country Mill owners to participate in a city-sponsored event, in violation of the city's anti-discrimination ordinance, can be viewed as injuring the rights of East Lansing residents to live in a community free from discrimination. Which, we ask, is the greater harm? That a single small business is denied the opportunity to sell a few apples at a public market? Or that a local government is denied the opportunity to protect its many residents from the toxic (and illegal) fruit of overt discrimination? The answer, to us, is obvious.

Just as there is no legal mandate that couples seeking to tie the knot must patronize the Country Mill, neither does the Country Mill deserve a legal mandate to sell products at the East Lansing farmers market. In the end, we suggest the Country Mill owners keep their bigotry and intolerance to themselves and sell their poison apples elsewhere.

Send letters to the editor
on this editorial or
any other topic to
letters@lansingcitypulse.com.
Please limit them
to 250 words.



Coffee Bar at Horrocks Farm Market 7420 W Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

Only Bill Simpson correctly identified this month's Eye for Design as the coffee bar at Horrocks Farm Market. Horrocks has grown exponentially since its opening in 1959. The store, which encompasses 70,000 square feet, has satellite locations in Grand Rapids and Battle Creek. The original store has become a destination in Delta Township where customers can enjoy complimentary coffee while shopping. And, it's constantly making improvements, like adding the café seating area that opened in 2018.

This month's Eye for Design (above) can be found at an indoor location in East Lansing, and it may not be what it first appears to be. (Look closely.) The first person to correctly identify this detail will receive a City Pulse Eye for Design mug. Send your answer to carriesampson@micourthistory.org.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



"Eye for Design" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eye candy of the Week and Eyesore of the Week.

Jackson Johnson's suspension rekindles diversity concerns

Public outcry and unanswered questions surround Lansing's Department of Human Relations and Community Services after its director, Joan Jackson Johnson, was abruptly placed on paid leave last week.

New questions are also being raised regarding diversity at City Hall as yet another African American department head is out of a job — at least temporarily — since Lansing Mayor Andy Schor took office in 2018. Some local community leaders are expressing frustration with Schor's track record amid the ongoing exodus.



Jackson Johnson

"A number of African Americans have been released from their duties under Mayor Schor," said educator Maxine Hankins Cain, who is black. "Why? Why have so many left? I think the job of mayor is to make sure the people who surround him are of a diverse population. These were competent and knowledgeable people."

Planning Director Bob Johnson and Human Resources Director Mary Riley weren't rehired after Schor took

Bernero questions diversity in Schor's City Hall

Former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero has made a point of doing something not easy for him: keeping his mouth shut, at least when it comes to his views on the performance of his successor, Andy Schor.

But Bernero broke the silence Tuesday in an interview with City Pulse when he was asked to comment on the suspension of Joan Jackson Johnson, whom he hired in 2006 to be the city's director of human resources.

"I have concerns about this mayor's commitment to diversity," Bernero said.

"As mayor, I was very sensitive about making sure there was inclusion from all parts of the city. I thought it was very important for any city — especially Lansing — to put down the welcome mat and set an example for the entire state. We are stronger together. It doesn't just happen. The talent is there, but you have to nurture, uplift and embrace it."

— KYLE KAMINSKI



Bernero

office. Fire Chief Randy Talifarro and Information Technology Director Collin Boyce left the city. Former Housing Commission Director Martell Armstrong, who did not report to Schor, resigned.

All of them are African American. And a majority have been replaced by white men under Schor's leadership.

"I am concerned," Cain added. "If you're a white male and you have not

surrounding yourself with a representative number of diverse people, that's a problem. I think those voices need to be heard and no mayor should ever be comfortable being surrounded by only people who look like him and who think like him."

Jackson Johnson — another black woman — remains on paid administrative leave after a recent forensic audit uncovered "issues with contracts" stemming from her department. Those findings have since been referred to the Michigan Attorney General's Office. In the meantime, prominent members of the African American community have rallied behind Jackson Johnson and criticized the handling of her recent suspension. Dozens voiced complaints Monday to the City Council.

"She didn't care if you were black, white. It didn't make any difference," said the Rev. Clyde Carnegie. "Male, female, it didn't bother her. She got her hands dirty. She rolled up her sleeves and she worked to help make Lansing great. We stand on her shoulders. And I say tonight, Joan, we love you. We're not going to leave you."

"If we're not supporting the people that are disenfranchised and at the bottom of our socioeconomic scale, our entire community is impacted," added retired Lansing teacher Cheryl Dudley. "What's being done to Jackson Johnson," she said, "is horrible. A price is always paid when we touch God's people doing God's work."

"There's a hole in this process," said

Kevin Brown, pastor at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. "There's a hole in the values of appreciation and respect that we claim, in the lens of love that allows us to see the difference between what is illegal and impractical. Sometimes the way you do things speaks louder than the words you say."

Details on the scope and nature of the financial audit at Jackson Johnson's department remain under wraps. Schor declined to comment on the alleged contract "issues" pending a formal investigation. Decisions to place employees on leave depend wholly on the circumstances, but Schor said it was "necessary" in this instance.

City officials also have yet to produce any financial records tied to Jackson Johnson's office or respond to an open records request for more information. It's also unclear what steps need to be taken before Jackson Johnson can return to her job.

But Schor sharply denied that racial motivations are involved in the situation.

"My administration has a very diverse cabinet and senior staff that I am proud of and represents all of Lansing," Schor said in a statement. "We have seen people leave and brought in new people. And we have maintained a very diverse and highly qualified senior staff that I am proud of. I am concerned about all residents of Lansing."

After Schor was elected, Riley was offered another job with the city but declined. Schor previously said he intended to offer Johnson another position but didn't have an opportunity. Talifarro and Boyce each resigned on their own accord, Schor said. And he said he placed no pressure on Armstrong to call it quits back in 2018.

Schor also touted the recent hiring of City Treasurer Judy Kehler, Chief Administrative Officer Nicholas Tate and Lansing Police Department Chief Daryl Green — all African Americans — under his administration. Others, like HR Director Linda Sanchez Gazella, a Latina, and Brian McGrain, who is gay, help fill out his diverse cabinet, he said.

"Since I announced I am running, I have always said that I will listen to all opinions and do what is best for the city of Lansing," Schor added. "That has not changed. I am very appreciative of the people who work for me."

But others — particularly those in Lansing's African American communi-



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

The Rev. Clyde Carnegie speaks to Lansing City Council in support of Joan Jackson Johnson on Monday night.

Sanders movement taking off in Michigan

This weekend's road trip to Iowa started with local Bernie Sanders organizer Kelly Collison and a few friends.

Now, the door knocking/canvassing team from Lansing is up to 10 people, three cars and two Airbnbs. It's kinda like this whole Sanders movement in early 2020.

Organizational events like the Jan. 9 gathering at the Sanctuary that gathered a handful of diehards back in 2016 are turning into gatherings of 30-some people. All of them want to knock doors, make phone calls or do whatever they can to help the Democratic presidential hopeful, who is surging in the weeks leading to the Iowa Caucuses.

The drive to elect Sanders, which seemed to stagnate for a while, is back and is growing.

"This is what I've been waiting for," said Collison. "I've been telling myself, 'Bernie, please don't peak, yet. Then his heart attack happened. He recovered and he didn't peak. Now he's peaking. Right before Iowa. This is perfect."



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

National outlets like The New York Times are feeling the surge. They're beginning to frame the race for the nomination in terms of a two-horse race between the U.S. senator from Vermont and former Vice President Joe Biden.

Volunteers like Marshall Clabeaux of Lansing are committed to the unabashed liberal four-square. Sanders won Michigan four years ago. They firmly believe it will happen again.

"Back in 2016," he said, referring to the presidential primary, when Sanders beat Hillary Clinton, "I walked 500 miles in the month leading up to the election. I got pneumonia knocking on tens of thousands of doors," Clabeaux said. "I'm willing to do it again."

The diverse collection of Sanders supporters doesn't need a lot of inspiration to run through a wall for Sanders. They certainly know what they're getting into.

"How many people here have the Bernie app?" Collison asked Thursday's group.

Nearly every hand went up. Yes, Bernie Sanders' campaign has an app. It has news, videos, volunteering opportunities, and other ways to connect with like-minded people who

want to "feel the Bern."

Volunteer Amanda Dolinski was amazed by the enthusiasm of an Upper Peninsula couple she called during the 2016 campaign.

"I said, 'Hi, I'm Amanda and I'm with the Bernie 2016 campaign,'" Dolinski recalled.

The person I was trying to reach was a woman's name and her husband answered the phone. As soon as I said I was with the Bernie campaign he said, 'Whoa! My wife has been waiting forever for this phone call! Let me get her.'

"You could hear him hustling through the house to get her," Dolinski continued. "When she got on the phone she was so excited to hear from the campaign. She wanted to know how she could volunteer. As we were hanging up the phone, she yelled, 'YAAAHOOOOO!'"

Yup, Bernie people are passionate birds. Speaking of birds, remember the bird that landed on Sanders' podium in Portland, Oregon, in 2016? Collison kicked off last Thursday's meeting by tossing around a stuffed pink New Zealand kiwi-like thing. You catch the kiwi, you say your name and why you support Bernie.

Volunteer Nikki Phan said she supports Sanders because of his antiwar, Medicare for All and erasing student debt positions.

Clabeaux said he liked where Bernie was on the Green New Deal.

Dolinski said she first saw Sanders on an ABC morning program with

George Stephanopoulos. Her eyes teared up.

"These were thoughts that I literally had forever, as long as I can remember," she said. "And to have a politician — a politician! — speak exactly what I've been thinking, it was like destiny."

Collison needed the kiwi, as it turned out. She didn't recognize about a third of the people who trickled in throughout the meeting. As far as she's concerned if they're for Bernie, they can't be all bad. Bernie backers are people who "care about people" and about "coming together."

When she and her partner had trouble with their house and they thought they'd lose it, she posted a Facebook message. Within a half hour, she raised \$1,500. Random people she didn't even know gave. All they knew was that she gave her time for Bernie and that's all that mattered.

So, at about the same time the Sanders team hires its first Michigan staff person, Collison is seeing the gradual increase in volunteers pick up.

"Bernie people are the best people," she said. "I hate to say that because there are others who are awesome, too, but Bernie people are the nicest people because we're fighting for people we don't even know. It's the most beautiful thing I've seen."

"It's the people that make this movement a huge inspiration to me."

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

Diversity

from page 6

ty — remain skeptical.

Former school administrator Eugene Cain, who is married to Maxine Hankins Cain, isn't convinced that Schor has the best interests of the African American community in mind. He labeled the revolving door of black leaders at City Hall as "questionable."

"The number of people of the same race being shown the door is troubling," Cain added. "This is where the mayor needs to come forward with answers, particularly for the African Americans in this community. I've come to the conclusion that people need to be judged by their answers, not their words. We need to see some action."

"If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck," he

added. "I can't say that he supports the African American community. People act on the basis of what they perceive is important. And for some reason, he saw fit to let some of these people go and the only real common denominator at play here is their ethnicity."

Barbara Roberts Mason was the first African-American woman in Michigan elected to statewide office, serving a record 24 years on Michigan's State Board of Education as a powerful voice for equality and justice. She also questioned the circumstances that led to the departure of so many black voices under Schor's leadership.

"It's one thing to have a diverse staff but another to have them in management positions. I don't know why they're leaving. Apparently they're not satisfied with what's been happening in the environment," Roberts Mason said. "Joan believes this is a witch hunt, and it sounds like it is. It sounds like someone is digging at it."

Meanwhile, the city has sent docu-

ments to the Michigan Attorney General's Office for a review that may determine whether a state criminal investigation ensues. No timeline has been established.

Jackson Johnson couldn't be reached for comment this week, but previously denied any financial wrongdoing.

"There is nothing financial going on," Jackson Johnson declared in an interview late last week. "I've been told there's a conflict of interest with my position in different organizations. I was working on that. After a while, you have to think they're on a witch hunt against me. I'm not sure I really understand anything."

Jackson Johnson suspects her departure was triggered by her long-time involvement with the nonprofit One Church One Family, a local charity that acquires grants and provides housing to those in need. She initially registered it with the state in 2008 and served as its chairwoman before she resigned in December 2019.

"I was told I couldn't be involved in both entities, but there was no financial impropriety going on," Jackson Johnson added. "I needed to divorce myself from that organization given its ties to the city, and I was working on that. I didn't want to dissolve the organization. We've been trying to find other people to take on these roles."

Records show One Church One Family received at least \$500,000 in federal grant funding in recent years, in addition to at least one \$10,000 grant from the city of Lansing. Jackson Johnson insisted that she never derived any personal financial gain from its operation, according to an affidavit filed with the City Clerk's office.

Jackson Johnson, a carryover from former Mayor Virg Bernero's administration, will still collect her \$129,289 annual salary while on leave. Meanwhile, Tate has been named interim director in order to maintain services.

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

CBD craze fuels market for Michigan hemp

Industry insiders prep for lucrative growing season

As the market for medical and recreational marijuana blossoms across Michigan in the wake of its newfound legal status, a lesser known (but arguably just as lucrative) side of the industry is starting to make some inroads.

A sold-out crowd filled the Lansing Center last weekend for the inaugural Midwest iHemp Expo. Organizers have since labeled it as one of the largest gatherings of industry insiders in the country following the first legal hemp harvest in Michigan since World War II. And the economic forecast calls only for rapid growth in 2020.

“Michigan has a strong manufacturing base and a strong agricultural base. We’re seeing some players coming to this market with innovative ideas that will really help the hemp industry grow,” said Dave Crabill, a hemp grower and the vice president of iHemp Michigan, an organization founded in 2018 to support the industry.

“It’s going to take some time, energy and creative thinking, but we’re confident that Michigan is going to be a major player in the hemp industry. I think we’re already starting to see that,” Crabill added. “We certainly have the enthusiasm, and we seem to have the right mindset to learn and share from one another to make it happen.”

Hemp — often labeled as the straight-laced cousin of the buzz-inducing marijuana plant — is a species of cannabis grown specifically for fiber and CBD rather than THC, the psychoactive component in weed that gets people high. Its industrial uses are constantly expanding to include paper, clothing, biofuels, plastics and more.

Michiganders since 1938 have been legally prohibited from growing hemp. That changed last year when it was removed from the list of federally controlled substances following the passage of the 2018 U.S. Farm Bill, subsequently legalizing its production and distribution and giving states the authority to regulate the market.

Unlike the marijuana industry, Michigan oversees hemp through its Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Officials are still awaiting a formalized ruleset from the federal government, but a research-based pilot program for farmers allowed growers and processors to get a jumpstart on

their crops last year.

State officials said up to 603 growers worked alongside 483 processors and handlers to harvest a total of about 18,000 square acres of indoor- and outdoor-grown hemp across Michigan last year. A report with additional statistics — including a total harvest weight — is expected to be released sometime in the spring, officials said.

Another 238 growing licenses have been issued as momentum builds for this year’s growing season. And some hemp insiders suggested the return on investment could exceed \$19,000 per acre amid a billion-dollar industry.

“Michigan is uniquely positioned to grow, process and manufacture industrial hemp as one of the nation’s most agriculturally diverse states,” said Agriculture Department spokeswoman Jennifer Holten. “This emerging crop not only creates new opportunities for our farming community, but also offers an avenue for new businesses to develop.”

Under state law, harvested hemp cannot exceed 0.3% THC or else it may need to be destroyed. And while its industrial uses can vary across the manufacturing marketplace, Michigan’s hemp industry has been booming for mostly one reason: CBD. It might not produce a high, but studies point to a broad spectrum of health benefits.

Recent clinical research suggests CBD can help treat anxiety, cognition and movement disorders and pain. And a little hemp oil goes a long way in its production. CBD’s comparatively simplistic production process also helps to explain why CBD gummies are lining shelves at more local businesses like Quality Dairy and Family Video.

“CBD is the shiny object in the room right now,” Crabill said. “It’s going to remain that way for the next couple of years, at least until we have a rich uncle set up some processing options for the fiber. Companies like Patagonia or LEGO would love to incorporate it in their products, but we’re just not prepared to process it.”

Crabill said a shortage of processors to match an enthusiastic army of hemp farmers in Michigan has somewhat stalled the rollout of the industry. State officials have long recognized the steep learning curve for everyone involved in the budding commodity, but remain optimistic about the future of statewide hemp production.

“Processing hemp fiber at scale



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

A vendor displays hemp products at the first Midwest iHemp Expo last weekend at Lansing Center

can be very capital intensive,” Crabill explained. “These people aren’t going to make money right away. We need tens of thousands of acres of hemp to satisfy even the most minor demands. It’ll happen, but it’s going to take a little more energy and arm-twisting in the marketplace to see it through.”

And Michigan’s established and aspiring hemp farmers and processors — many of whom crowded the Lansing Center over the weekend — are ready to push the industry forward. Agricultural technology continues to evolve. Processing techniques are always being explored. A newfound entrepreneurial spirit lingers in the air.

Fabio Rodi, founder of Vermont-based Icon Processors, is among those hoping to cash in on Michigan’s hemp market. His out-of-state processing facilities can handle about 2,000 pounds of hemp daily, but his company already has plans to expand north of Detroit to process up to 10,000 pounds of hemp a day.

“We expect that in Michigan and in the Midwest, there will be more farms growing hemp for CBD, but there’s also going to be a lot of people producing for the industrial side of the industry,” Rodi said. “Strategically, Michigan is in a unique position and we expect to see some big production for all of these different industries.”

Under state law, those growing, processing and handling hemp are required to pay annual licensing fees — up to

\$1,350 for processors — in exchange for Michigan’s regulatory greenlight to harvest their crops. As a caveat of the pilot program, those entrepreneurs are technically producing state “research” in order to make it all legal.

Growers and processors also need to identify their growing locations to state officials, but they’re exempt from public disclosure. And unlike the marijuana industry where cities and townships can opt out of the market, the right to grow hemp is ingrained into state law and cannot be superseded by any prohibitive local ordinances.

Still, a slowly dissipating stigma of “reefer madness” across the country has affected the hemp industry as well.

Crabill said because hemp (and CBD) were not commercially available in the U.S. during the last 80 years, it’ll take some extra time to educate both entrepreneurs and consumers about its potential uses and demonstrable health benefits. And the sooner people realize you can’t get high off hemp, the better, he said.

“It’s not just about money, it’s about health benefits for the consumer too,” Crabill said. “You hear these stories all the time, and they’re coming out more and more. People are using CBD as a way to deal with pain or anxiety or sleeplessness. It’s about education. For the last century, we’ve had this massive campaign to vilify cannabis. That’s a lot

Lansing City Council to target local slumlords

Spadafore to create tenants' rights panel

Deadbeat landlords be warned: The Lansing City Council is fed up with your neglected rental properties.

Lansing residents for years have voiced complaints to Council members over shoddy living conditions inside rental homes and apartments. Reports of rats, bed bugs, dysfunctional heaters, broken locks and more have made their way to City Hall. While code enforcement does its best, landlord accountability remains a concern.

Council President Peter Spadafore is determined to put an end to Lansing's pervasive slumlord reign.

Spadafore said he will soon announce plans to form the city's first Housing and Resident Safety Committee. The goal: reach out to residents, gauge the strength of Lansing's existing laws on housing and code enforcement and, if some landlords need to be held accountable, ready and arm the Council to hold their feet closer to the fire.

The committee will also be tasked with exploring additional protections for local homeowners as well.

"Some landlords and tenants have said they believe the city could be doing more and think our laws could be changed to better protect folks in the community living in rental properties," Spadafore said. "Ultimately, this is all about learning and finding out what changes might be needed to ensure greater resident safety in this city."

The ad-hoc committee hasn't yet been formed, but Spadafore said he



Betz



Spitzley

expects its members to meet with stakeholders, community members and city staff to ascertain strengths and weaknesses in rental enforcement. He'll also charge the committee with producing a recommendation on how to beef up local laws by August.

"There are some really bad landlords in this city who are not doing good by their duties to take care of their housing," said Councilman Brandon Betz. "It's really an issue with certain landlords, especially those who live out-of-state, but my goal is to make sure there are safe, great housing conditions for everyone living in Lansing."

Betz' election platform last year, when he defeated incumbent Jody Washington in the First Ward, was partially built on plans to reform housing laws and bolster protections for both tenants and homeowners in Lansing. He has since met with several dozen local residents and has been bouncing ideas off other Council members for the last few weeks. And the new committee is the launchpad for his plans.

"A lot of landlords are in compliance, but it appears that there are about 15 who live out of state, own

the majority of our housing stock and are causing the most problems," Betz said. "They don't have that personal pride in what Lansing looks like. To us, they're not even voters. They're giving other landlords a bad name."

U.S. Census data shows that about half of Lansing residents between 2014 and 2018 were renters, each paying a gross median rent of \$807. And last year, about 38% of Lansing rentals were found to be unsafe and lacked a certificate showing they passed inspection, according to records compiled last year by the Lansing State Journal.

And although last year's budget set aside some extra cash for code enforcement, more work can always be done.

"For me, we've got an issue," said Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley. "We've got an issue with landlords who aren't doing the right thing. We've seen this play out recently at Autumn Ridge. Clearly, we're doing everything we can do to help, but we're getting some pretty horrible pictures from residents about their living conditions."

Shoddy rental conditions in Lansing were put on full display last month when dozens of residents of Autumn Ridge were pink-tagged after their apartments fell out of compliance with city code. It was a clear warning to management: bring your properties up to snuff or else they'll need to be vacated. City officials said the issue might develop into a lawsuit against the apartment complex, but they don't want to put tenants on the street.

"I can't tell you how many calls I've had from people who are scared, thinking they're going to be evicted," Spitzley added. "They don't know their rights as tenants, and I think we need to do a better job reaching out to our residents. This rental problem needs some solutions, and it might take an ordinance to get things moving."

In addition to expanded education — like flyers that describe tenants' rights in the event of unsafe living

conditions with every lease agreement — Betz also wants landlords to have some financial skin in the game.

"On the tenant side, we have some of the least protections among cities across the country," Betz said. "I want to make sure there's an easier legal recourse. Maybe tenants can be allowed to take the money they would've paid in rent and fix these issues for themselves. Maybe code enforcement could do it for them and bill the landlord."

The city of Jackson passed an ordinance last year that requires landlords to repay costs associated with rehousing tenants that were evicted over unsafe living conditions. Officials said about a dozen residents have made use of the new law. The goal: put pressure on landlords to ensure their properties remain safe, or else they pay a price.

"The city had to vacate these apartments and was actually paying to put families in motels until another housing situation could be found," said a spokesman for the city of Jackson. "We weren't under any obligation to do that, but we didn't want to make these people homeless. This law ensured the taxpayers didn't foot the bill."

Deputy Lansing City Attorney Joe Abood questioned the legality of Jackson's ordinance and recommended that City Council hold off on passing any laws until the city of Jackson can be challenged on its ordinance in court. A spokesman for Jackson, however, said the ordinance has been working without a hitch for several months.

"We have a lot of tenants' rights within our ordinances," added Lansing Mayor Andy Schor. "I will certainly look at what is being proposed and go from there, but they do have rights. We alert them of their rights. We alert them when the building isn't up to code. We're already working with landlords to bring properties up to code."

Betz said he plans to gather more community input before moving forward with any proposed ordinances or changes to how the city handles code enforcement, with a goal of adding additional tenant protections by 2021.

"I don't want to punish people," Betz added. "I just want to make sure our tenants are safe."

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

Hemp

from page 8

of momentum to overcome and it's not going to happen overnight, but I think we can all get there."

While the 2018 U.S. Farm Bill authorized the commercial production of hemp, state regulators are still awaiting a finalized set of rules from the USDA on the establishment of a domestic hemp program.

In the meantime, the Agriculture Department will continue its pilot program into 2020 until formal changes can be made to state law.

Once statutory changes are passed by the legislature, the Agriculture Department will then submit Michigan's industrial hemp plan and — once that is approved — will provide added oversight of the state's commercial hemp program. The 2019 and 2020 seasons, in the meantime, serve as a massive, state-wide learning opportunities, state officials said.

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF INGHAM
NOTICE OF HEARING
File # 19-1194-GA, 19-1195-CA

In the matter of Carolyn Condell.

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 2/20/2020 at 2:30 p.m. at 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing MI 48933 before Judge Dunning for the following purpose: Contested Hearing for Guardian and Conservator.

Date: 1/13/2020
Taina Cummins
c/o Ingham County DHHS
5303 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48911
517-775-5450 CP#20-008

Campaign eyes protections for LGBTQ community

Gay leaders across Greater Lansing endorse petition drive

As a massive voter petition circulates across Michigan to bolster civil rights protections for the LGBTQ community, local gay leaders in Greater Lansing are standing lockstep against continued discrimination. And changes to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act might just be the only way to cement those safeguards into place.

“If we leave it at the status quo, with the way things have been going, you’re going to see more discrimination and more rights of these individuals being suppressed,” said Bryan Crenshaw, a gay man and chairman of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. “This will bring us all closer to total inclusivity.”

Last week, Fair and Equal Michigan, alongside dozens of prominent public officials and businesspeople, submitted petition language seeking to initiate legislation to amend the state’s civil rights law to clarify prohibitions on discriminatory practices to include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

The existing law prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on the basis of religion, race, sex, height, weight and marital status. The amendment aims to broaden that criteria to specifically prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including the transgender community.

Organizers need to collect about 340,000 signatures by May 27 to send the proposal to the state legislature. If lawmakers ignore or reject the chang-



Crenshaw



Schor



Beier



Spadafore



Swope

es, the language would head to the November ballot for voters to decide.

Although attempts to amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act have started and failed during nearly every legislative session since the statute was passed in 1976, organizers think shifting social perspectives and growing support from registered voters might be enough to finally level the playing field for the LGBTQ community.

“Each legislative cycle when the bills are introduced, they languish,” said Erin Knott, executive director of Equality Michigan. “Enough is enough. It’s time to break the log jam in Lansing and modernize our laws. We know it makes sense economically. It’s good for tourism. It’s good for Main Street. And it sends the message loud and clear that Michigan residents — including the LGBTQ community — are ready to be treated fairly.”

The honorary leadership committee behind the recent initiative includes former Republican State Rep. Mel Larsen, who cosponsored the Civil Rights Act back in 1973. Others include DTE Energy President Jerry Norcia, Apple CEO Tim Cook, DOW CEO Jim Fitterling and Consumers

Energy President Patti Pope.

Herman Miller CEO Andi Owen, Michigan AFL-CIO President Ron Bieber, Mark Bernstein of the Sam Bernstein Law Firm and Whirlpool Corp. Vice President Jeff Noel — among dozens of others — have also signed on to support the initiative. Lansing Mayor Andy Schor also serves on the leadership committee.

“Solidarity is for all of us,” Bieber said in a press release last week. “We stand against any form of discrimination in the workplace or in the community — no one should be fired or discriminated against because of who they are or who they love. We are dedicated to fighting for a Michigan that’s open and welcoming to all.”

Alongside Crenshaw, Lansing City Council President Peter Spadafore and East Lansing Mayor Ruth Beier — both members of the LGBTQ community — also voiced support for the amendments to the state law.

“Nobody should be denied public accommodations or be fired for who they love or who they are,” Spadafore said. “It’s long been my hope that legislators would follow Lansing’s lead and enshrine these rights into state law. That hasn’t happened. But we’re further along as a society, so hopefully hearts and minds have moved on this.”

“It’s necessary because right now, people of different sexual orientations can be legally discriminated against,” Beier added. “It’s amazing to me how quickly things have changed for the LGBTQ community within just the last 10 years. It’s clear we still have some room to grow, but I think we have the willpower to get there together.”

If the amendments pass through the legislature or the ballot, Michigan would become the 22nd state to specifically bolster protections for its LGBTQ residents. Movement on those civil rights amendments, however,

have long been stalled by Republican lawmakers — even with vocal support from former Gov. Rick Snyder.

House Speaker Lee Chatfield, for example, said last year that he didn’t plan to hold a vote on civil rights legislation, warning it would clash with religious freedoms.

“I don’t think religion should be in the practice of discriminating against people based on who they are,” argued Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope. “I wish the legislature would have acted on something in the last 30 years, but since that doesn’t seem to be happening, it makes sense to take this to the voters. Discrimination still happens.”

“The fact that it’s legal to discriminate against someone based on their gender identity or sexual orientation — particularly in 2020 — is just totally unacceptable,” added gay Ingham County Commissioner Ryan Sebolt. “Michigan cannot continue to be labeled as a state where discrimination is legal but yet it continues to happen.”

Fair and Equal Michigan is confident in its movement. Organizers, as part of the announcement, cited a survey of 600 registered voters that shows 77.5% were likely to support legislation to amend the civil rights law to add protections for LGBTQ people — including 75% of leaning GOP voters and 66% of strong Republican voters.

“History will remember this,” added Ryan Buck, a gay man and trustee for Lansing Community College. “At a certain point, people need to stand up for what’s right. I truly believe that history will remember folks that came out on the wrong side of this, who stood against this inclusion and who came out in support of equality for all.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI
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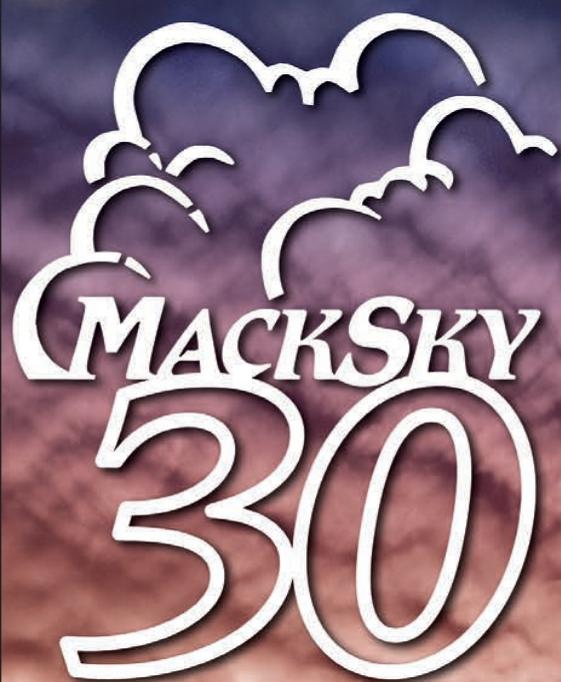
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A fight everyone lost

For a couple of hours last Tuesday night, I had the sinking feeling that the U.S. was about to embark on yet another generational conflict. Iran had



JEFFREY C. BILLMAN

INFORMED DISSENT

responded to President Trump's killing of its Quds commander, General Qassem Soleimani, by launching missiles and rockets at two American bases in Iraq. Days earlier, Trump had vowed on Twitter to "quickly & fully strike back, & perhaps in a disproportionate manner" if Iran did so. He said that the U.S. would target 52 sites — one for each of the 52 hostages Iran took four decades ago — including some that are "a very high level & important to Iran & the Iranian culture." (Targeting cultural sites is a war crime, but never mind that.)

Given the rhetoric — and Trump's pathological need to prove how much tougher he is than Barack Obama — it was difficult to see how the U.S. could back down. Missiles would be in the air soon, headed toward Tehran. Perhaps Iran would make good on its threat to level Dubai in response, or perhaps it would attack Israel. Lots of people would die. The worst-case scenario was about to play out on live television.

But it didn't.

Iran hit the brakes. Its retaliation was more for show than to cause harm. No one was killed. After the attack, Iran said it didn't intend any further action. It offered Trump an off-ramp.

The next morning, a slurring and snorting Trump took it. He said the Iranians backed down. He insisted (without evidence) that he had killed Soleimani to prevent an imminent attack. He patted himself on the back

for being tougher than Barack Obama. He repeatedly lied about Obama's nuclear deal with Iran. He promised to slap more sanctions on Iran. He urged NATO — the allies he's alienated — to get more involved. He urged Iran — the country he's antagonized — to negotiate a new nuclear deal, even though he withdrew from the last one.

It was an odd speech. The optics were unsettling, too. Trump sounded off, flat, heavy, exhausted. Maybe he hadn't slept well — mhe'd just bumbled his way to the precipice of a world crisis, after all. (To be fair, Senator Lindsey Graham thought it was Trump's "Tear Down This Wall," so your mileage may vary.)

Now that things have calmed down — for the time being, anyway — I've been trying to figure out what exactly the Iran standoff accomplished. What, in other words, was the point of stoking this fire?

I don't see how the affair benefited the U.S., unless you ascribe to Soleimani god-like superpowers. The Quds force has about 20,000 members; its leader's death won't affect operations. The idea that killing Suleimani disrupted an imminent attack is far-fetched at best. Instead, Trump felt pressured by the Republican hawks who will judge his impeachment trial and wanted to avenge a recent Iranian-backed militia action against the U.S. embassy in Baghdad.

In the process, the U.S. made itself even more of a pariah. The Iraqi parliament voted to expel American troops, and then the U.S. threatened to cut off Iraq's access to a New York Fed account holding oil revenue (after Trump had threatened to impose sanctions on a supposed ally). Protests

against the Iraqi and Iranian governments became protests against the American government. The Iranians bailed on their commitments to the Obama nuclear agreement. European allies grew increasingly frustrated. The region is no closer to peace today than it was before Soleimani was killed, nor is the U.S. any closer to a resolution with Iran.

America, it seemed, gained nothing except a dead adversary.

Trump, perhaps, gained a campaign talking point. But a USA Today poll found that, by a 2:1 margin, Americans thought Trump's decision had made the country less safe, and a majority thought his behavior toward Iran was "reckless." Maybe that's why his polling numbers remain low. In any event, Nancy Pelosi will transmit the articles of impeachment to the Senate this week, and this episode will fade into the background as Trump's trial begins.

That leaves Iran, which initially looked not too worse for wear. To much of the world, Trump was the beligerent; Iran — its atrocious human rights record aside — had played the grown-up. It had stopped things from spiraling out of control. And if Iraq did boot coalition forces, that would likely strengthen Iran's regional position. And while Trump could

levy more sanctions, there was only so much juice left in that squeeze.

But then the world learned — and Iran admitted after three days of denials — that a Ukrainian 737 that crashed outside of Tehran shortly after Iran's missile strike wasn't downed by mechanical failure but by an Iranian surface-to-air missile. On heightened alert, the Iranians — who, ineptly, hadn't shut down commercial flights — mistook the plane for an American counterattack and got trigger-happy.

Iran tried to blame American aggression for the 176 lost lives, many of them Iranian, but by Saturday, Iranians weren't having it. In Tehran, protesters were shouting, "Death to the dictator!" and "Death to liars!" according to videos posted to social media. Days before, the country's anger was pointed at the U.S. No longer.

In the end, this seems like a fight everyone lost.

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

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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HERE COME THE SUNS



DAVID COOPER RIDES HIS HORN FROM LANSING TO CHICAGO

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Anyone who loves what they do for a living is lucky, but David Cooper is in a league all his own. In the darkest time of year, you couldn't find a brighter beam of energy. The man is just lit.

In fall 2019, Cooper, a graduate of Grand Ledge High School and alumnus of the MSU Symphony, reached the very top of his profession at the tender age of 35. He was named principal horn of the Chicago Symphony, celebrated for decades as home of the world's greatest brass section.

Athletic and intense, Cooper is not an armchair music lover, or an armchair anything. He first heard the Chicago brass as a teenager, while snowboarding down a hillside, his iPod cranked to Mahler's planet-crushing Seventh Symphony.

Jazz gets him worked up, too.

"My first speeding ticket, I was listening to Charles Mingus," he said. "I was just so wrapped up in the bebop I got pulled over. I don't listen to Mingus and drive now."

He loves to tell skeptical Uber drivers why he loves classical music. He doesn't mind when they ask him what his "real" job is.

"Passion is contagious," Cooper said. "Every time I play a piece of music I feel like I know that composer. I know their joys, their sorrows, their stories, their loves. I'm sharing these emotions that are still current today, in sound. When you share your love of something, they might love it too, for the same reasons."

Over Thanksgiving weekend, Cooper came back to Lansing to spend time with his mother, Joan, who lives in the same house on St. Joseph Street where David grew up, and his brother, John. He reconnected with former teachers and old friends, basked in the old Spartan spirit and celebrated a grand new phase in his life over a raspberry scone at Strange Matter Coffee.

ENCHANTED FOREST

Two suns burn in the sky when we first glimpse Luke Skywalker at the start of the "Star Wars" saga. A noble French horn plays the hero's theme as he bounds into the frame, setting the tone for the epic to come.

That did it for little 4-year-old David Cooper. His glowing face and golden horn were forever paired, like the twin suns of Tatooine.

Grand Ledge native and MSU Symphony alumnus David Cooper, seen here in 2016 at an the Link & Pin gallery in Austin, Texas was named principal horn of the Chicago Symphony last fall.

Courtesy photo

See Cooper, Page 14

Cooper

from page 13

“Those John Williams horn solos — oh, God,” he sighed.

Cooper has had some head-spinning experiences at the top of the international music world. Before he came to Chicago last July, he was the first American to play principal horn in the Berlin Philharmonic. He even played “Star Wars” with the Fort Worth Symphony, conducted by Williams himself, in 2009.

Last month, The New York Times heralded his arrival in Chicago as part of a new era in the world’s most celebrated brass section.

It’s an intimidating resume, but the only important thing to know about Cooper is that he would happily play his horn in the vacuum of space.

He did something close to that in August 2016, on a camping and canoeing trip with his mother in the Boundary Waters between Canada and Minnesota.

His brother, John Cooper, a brass technician at Marshall Music, salvaged a junk beater horn for David to take along. He took out the valves, reducing it to a rustic “natural” horn.

With no valves to vary the notes, it’s almost impossible to get more than a lovesick elk’s mating call out of a natural horn.

Cooper piled into the car with his mom and drove through the Upper Peninsula, beyond Duluth to points northwest. He strapped the battered horn to his canoe with bungee cords, took it into the woods and played to the deer and thrushes every day to keep his chops in shape.

While portaging his canoe, Cooper ran into a woman who got excited when she spotted the horn. He gave her and her camping companions an impromptu concert: the enchanted forest music from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Cooper had no trouble coaxing Mendelssohn’s trilling, gossamer melodies out of his old beater. Valves? Who needs them?

“You can do all that stuff on the natural horn with your hands, changing pitches and stuff,” Cooper shrugged.

EYE OF SAURON

At 16, Cooper was already sitting in the first horn



Courtesy photo

Cooper at 15, jamming with his brother John at their house on St. Joseph Street.



Courtesy photo

Cooper was inspired by John Williams’ “Star Wars” music as a kid, and got to play it for Williams in Fort Worth.

chair at the MSU Symphony, surrounded by college students. “He beat everybody at the audition,” orchestra director Leon Gregorian recalled. “He was so damn good. He never made a mistake. I’m not exaggerating. And he enjoyed every moment of a rehearsal, which is unheard of. Just to see how much he enjoyed playing was really quite a sight.”

But Gregorian terrified Cooper at first.

“He has a very deep voice and this Armenian accent,” Cooper said. “I’ve heard since that he really doesn’t have the accent. He just put it on for rehearsals.”

There is a cruel vocabulary for screwing up on the horn. “You chip these notes,” Cooper said. “Horns are notorious for it. It goes ‘skee-yaa.’ The British call it splitting a note, the Europeans say ‘he kicked it.’” Cruder musicians call it a “clam.”

When he missed a note at MSU, the older players threw coins on the floor.

“Jeez, it was embarrassing,” he said. “It was like trial by fire. They were initiating me into the group. I learned real quick.”

But his experience at MSU steeled him for a lifetime of playing a painfully exposed instrument under the exacting eyes of the world’s top maestros.

“The one that was really scary was Jaap van Zweden,” Cooper said. The intimidating Dutch-born conductor, who was named music director of the New York Philharmonic last year, was the maestro of the Dallas Symphony during Cooper’s time there.

Even in still photographs, Van Zweden’s shaven head looms over the musicians like a glowering hunk of granite.

“He’s super-intense. He’s got these eyes that look through the whole orchestra,” Cooper said. “We used to call it the eye of Sauron. But Leon Gregorian taught me how to deal with conductors, how not to be afraid.”

“I just expected so much from him,” Gregorian said.

“More than anybody else.”

Joan Cooper compared her son to a “wild horse.” “Sometimes you give him free rein, but you also have to pull him in,” she said. She has seen conductors from Gregorian to Van Zweden to Chicago maestro Riccardo Muti take Cooper under their mighty wings.

“He was a kid you could teach,” Gregorian said. “He was not ashamed to say, ‘give me a little more time to prepare this’ and the next time he was perfect.”

Cooper got his work ethic from his dad, Kirby, a violinist who made his living as a landscaper and counted Gregorian among his clients.

“I saw my dad get up at 6 in the morning, go to work at 7 and get home at 7 every night,” Cooper said. “He rarely took a vacation. That’s the Midwestern work ethic. I knew that’s what you had to do just to make it.”

The horn component comes in part from Cooper’s grandmother, Marie Grasius, who studied the horn after seeing John Philip Sousa’s band in Brookings, South Dakota, around 1910. “It was unusual for a woman to take up the French horn,” Cooper said. When Cooper’s grandparents moved to East Lansing in 1953, Marie and her brother, Edward, both played in the Lansing Symphony.

David Cooper played his first note on the horn at the age of 4, in his grandmother’s attic. She dusted the horn off, polished the mouthpiece and handed it to him. He still remembers making that first sound.

After a brief flirtation with bass guitar, Cooper became a star horn player under Michael Kaufman, director of Grand Ledge High School bands from 1981 to 2008.

“We had all these farm kids in Grand Ledge,” Cooper said. “He would take the farm kids’ mentality and use that toward music. Mr. Kaufman made this amazing program out of a farm school, a farm community.”

Cooper also took life-changing lessons with Dale Bartlett, an unorthodox Lansing Symphony musician and MSU musicologist. They are still close.

Bartlett recalls Cooper bounding down the steps to his basement studio, eager for each new lesson.

“I’m not surprised he’s principal horn in Chicago,” Bartlett said. “He has the same joy in playing he always had.”

‘I LOVE IT’

It’s hard to believe that Cooper ever had a dark period, but he did, after his father died in a work accident in 2002.

“I was not in a place to play the horn anymore,” he said. “I was having trouble dealing with the grief and I needed to take a break from it. At 20, I stopped playing and I never thought I’d get back into it.”

He worked as a dishwasher and prep cook in the tiny town of Fort Townsend in Washington. He got a job with the nonprofit Americorps, working on a land trust project that protects farmland and natural habitat by buying easements.

A Jamaican forester lived on one of the easements, taking care of the forest.

“He reminded me so much of my dad,” he said. “We measured and classified all of these trees and I felt like I was honoring my dad.”

Cooper was a hairsbreadth away from going into forestry, but a part of him was missing the horn.

See Cooper, Page 15

Cooper

from page 14

“Imagine you’re missing an arm or a leg,” he said. “I had to get the horn back because it was the only way I could express myself.”

What he needed was a stack of music to learn and an audition to shoot for. He started with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and made it to the semi-final round. The near-miss gave him hope that the hiatus wouldn’t be fatal to his career.

He sent a resume to the Victoria Symphony in British Columbia, near Washington, not far from where many members of his family — his cousins, aunt and grandmother — lived.

He had a run of lucky breaks. The orchestra accepted his application, even though it was late. When Cooper showed up to board the ferry to Vancouver, the boat was full. There were 11 cars ahead of him, on standby.

“Because I was driving a Honda Civic, they squeezed me in,” he said.

At the next day’s audition, he played the best horn of his life.

“I couldn’t miss. I was in the zone. It was the weirdest thing.”

Impressed by the audition, the Vancouver maestro decided to overlook Cooper’s career detours and take a chance on a 22-year-old horn virtuoso.

It was his first job in a professional orchestra.

“I thought my playing days were over,” he said. He tells the story, not to go on about himself, but because he believes the lesson is important for anyone pursuing a goal, musical or otherwise. “I had to have this setback to realize — this isn’t for my mom, this isn’t for school, this isn’t for the conservatory, this isn’t even because I’m good at it,” he said. “It’s because I love it. This is all I want to do.”

MADE MAN

In 2018 and 2019, after successive stints at the Dallas Symphony and Berlin Philharmonic, Cooper auditioned for the Chicago job four times and almost hit another wall. He had already devoted about nine months of constant preparation to the Chicago auditions. The relentless buildup was taking a toll.

“When you put pressure on yourself like that, and you get to the day, it’s really easy to choke,” he said. “You just want it so bad.”

He soared through all of the music he prepared for the audition. Then came the sight-reading part, when players are handed a piece of music they’ve never seen before. It was an obscure piece of Italian opera, Bellini’s “Montagues and Capulets,” with a big horn solo.

The strange notes danced before his eyes like jumping beans.

At first, “I just crashed and burned,” he said. “I lost it.”

Then his mind went back to lessons he first learned

in Grand Ledge. “Mr. Kaufman made sure I did sight-reading in high school band, but I confess it’s not my strongest suit,” he said.

To prepare for the last audition, he doubled down on sight-reading. At the final audition, they gave him another piece of Italian opera. He nailed it.

Then the orchestra went on strike for seven weeks. He knew he was in the running, but there was no definitive word.

When the strike ended in late April, the first rehearsal was charged with a mix of celebration and lingering tension. Chicago Symphony maestro Riccardo Muti gave a conciliatory speech to the musicians. The first notes the orchestra played, after a seven-week hiatus, would come out of Cooper’s horn, as he led the horn quartet that opens Georges Bizet’s “Roma.”

It wasn’t Cooper’s only trial by fire. That same week, the orchestra played Igor Stravinsky’s “Firebird,” a spectacular showpiece that sets up its orgasmic climax with — you guessed it — a long horn solo.

Cooper longed to know how his trial-by-Firebird week was going, but he didn’t dare ask. He found out at intermission the next night.

A delegation of suits trundled backstage and informed him he was in. “Maestro Muti kissed me on both cheeks, like I’m a made man, like in ‘The Godfather,’” he said. “It was like, ‘You’re one of us.’ You can’t make that stuff up.”

Cooper grew up listening to recording of the Chicago

See Cooper, Page 16

Accurate Inspections

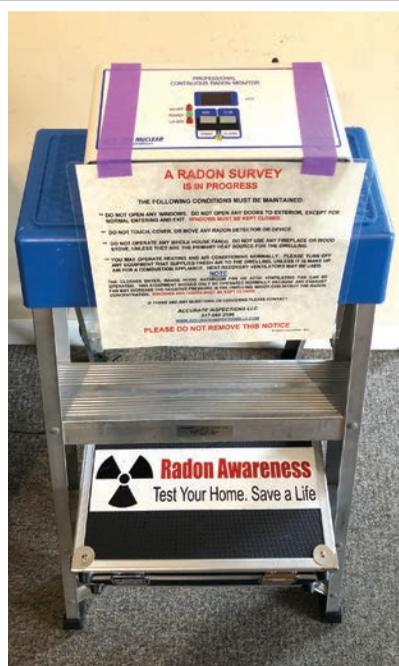
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Cooper

from page 15

Symphony in one of its serial heydays, with legendary maestro Sir Georg Solti.

Cooper's predecessor as principal horn, Dale Clevenger, was, and still is, his horn hero.

"The things he can do on the horn — the time he takes, the musical expressions, the risks. He'll draw a listener into the phrase and you're speechless."

All of these traits, and more, are blossoming in Cooper's own playing. He has bound his electric energy into a dark magnetic field of control to devastating effect.

Last summer, just after Cooper joined the symphony, extra horns were needed to amp up the finale of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony.

Clevenger, now in semi-retirement, rejoined the section as a sub.

"He sat next to me," Cooper said. "I remember thinking, 'How is this going to work? He's a legend.'"

By the third day, Cooper got over it and realized that they both had a job to do.

"I'd say, 'Mr. Clevenger, would you

please play this note for me?'" Cooper said. "He was assisting me, holding my notes so I could really play."

One of the musicians commented that seeing Cooper and Clevenger sitting next to each other was like seeing Captains Kirk and Picard sitting together in the Enterprise.

Clevenger told Cooper he felt as if he'd gained a son.

"This orchestra, the horn section, is the envy of the other sections," Cooper said. "They are the nicest people, they get along great, work great together, and they are the best horn section I've ever heard."

Cooper quickly found that they also eat constantly. Second horn Jim Smelser, who joined the orchestra in 2000, is another hero of Cooper's.

Early in his tenure, Cooper courted disaster by skipping dinner before the orchestra performed Verdi's "Aida," a long opera with two intermissions.

In the first intermission, Smelser walked by with a cheeseburger from McDonald's and observed Cooper's pallid condition.

Smelser went to the dressing room, opened his locker, produced a second cheeseburger and handed it to Cooper. Principal horn or not, things like that still put Cooper back in "gee whiz" mode.

"I thought, 'Holy smokes, Jim Smelser just gave me his cheeseburger,'" he said.

ANOTHER NUDGE

In spring 2017, David Cooper was in Baden-Baden, Germany, doing an Easter festival with the Berlin Philharmonic.

He stayed in an AirB&B in a fairly remote village. A rare feeling of melan-

choly came over him.

"For some reason, I felt like I needed to go outside and play the horn," he said.

He was missing his dad. He wandered into a thicket and played his favorite piece of chamber music, the Brahms horn trio.

Brahms wrote his unusual trio for his mother, Johanna, who had recently died. Her favorite instruments were the horn, violin and piano, so he wrote it for those three instruments, even though it's a rare combination.

"There's this eerie moment where it seems like his mother's spirit almost left the body," Cooper said. "The music ends with a celebration of his mother's life, with these horn calls: ba-duuum, ba-duuum, ba-duuum. It's joyous."

The music always brings Cooper close to his father.

"Every time I play it, that third movement reminds me of his spirit," Cooper said. "The last movement, for me, is a celebration of his life."

Cooper's father tended many flowerbeds, trees and bushes in greater Lansing, including Leon Gregorian's.

"David's father was a very musical person, although what he wanted to do and what he ended up doing are two different things," Gregorian said. "That happens sometimes. But what he could not accomplish — that came out in his son."

Two weeks into Cooper's stay at Baden-Baden, he decided to try a pilgrimage to Johannes Brahms' house,



Courtesy photo

Cooper's official Chicago Symphony portrait.

which was not far away.

He knocked twice. No answer. He knocked one last time

"I heard the doorknob start to move and this lady asked, 'What can I do for you?' in German," Cooper said.

He told her he was a musician and hoped to see Brahms' house.

"You're a musician?" she said. "Then you must come in."

The date happened to be March 27, the anniversary of Kirby Cooper's death.

The woman showed him Brahms' piano. He was stunned by the pictures lining the walls. A beardless Brahms? "He was smiling, he was with friends, like a normal guy!" Cooper marveled.

Among the framed items on the walls was a postcard from Brahms to his music publisher, with a melody scrawled on the back.

Cooper sight-read it to himself. It dawned on him that the haunting motif was from the horn trio — the melody he played on his first day in the village.

The woman pointed out the window and showed him the hill where Brahms used to walk and come up with his melodies.

"The exact place he came up with the melody for the horn trio," he said. "It was like a visit from my dad. Uncanny. Full circle."

Joan Cooper knows the feeling.

"When David was in the MSU Symphony, Kirby and I used to sit in the audience, and I'd keep nudging him in the ribs," she said. "Now I'm nudging him again."

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Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, February 13, 2020** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Nicholas Tesseris, for the property located at 515 Division Street, to enclose the side entry of the house.

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

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#20-005

ARTS & CULTURE

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Half of the story

MSU's King concert celebrates women in jazz

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The tangled tree of jazz, from its bitter roots to its heady blossoms, stands at the center of MSU's Sunday concerts celebrating the life of Martin Luther King.

In recent years, culturewide winds of gender equality have given the tree a much-needed shake. Sunday's annual King tribute concert will roll out some of the fruit, as MSU trombone professor Michael Dease leads Jazz Orchestra II in a set of arrangements by the leading women of jazz, past and present.

Among Sunday's guest performers are two brilliant young female instrumentalists: Robyn Smith, an award-winning Atlanta trombonist who plays everything from funk to jazz to classical music, and rising New York-based tenor saxophonist Nicole Glover.

"If you have only male players playing jazz, you only have half of the story," jazz studies director Rodney

Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest

MSU Jazz Orchestra II and guest artists
3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 19
MSU Auditorium
Fairchild Theatre
Free event; tickets
required
(517) 353-5340,
music.msu.edu

Whitaker said. "We wanted to feature female composers this year — Melba Liston, Mary Lou Williams and some other younger arrangers that are on the scene."

In Liston and Williams, Whitaker named two of the most underappreciated jazz musicians who ever lived. Liston was an incandescent trombonist and accomplished composer and arranger. Williams rivaled Duke Ellington in her incisive piano artistry and innovative compositions like her "Zodiac" suite.

The orchestra will also give voice to compositions by some of the foremost women in jazz today, including recent MSU graduate and bass trombonist Gina Benalcazar, who is now tearing up the East Coast jazz scene.

"She's playing with all the groups in New York. She's pretty busy," Whitaker said. "It's great that she's taking the time to write for the band."

The orchestra will also play music written by bassist-composer Jordyn Davis, the first African-American woman to get a bachelor's degree in composition from MSU.

Vocalist Tiffany Gridiron, who studied at MSU with Sunny Wilkinson and other jazz professors, will perform as well.

Sunday, Gridiron will sing "If I Can Help Somebody," one of her favorite gospel tunes, and one of King's favorites as well.

"Talk to most jazz musicians and often they have roots in the church, the spiritual world," she said. "That's certainly the case for me." The song is deeply personal for Gridiron yet universal in scope.



Tiffany Gridiron, one of the featured performers at MSU's Sunday concert honoring Martin Luther King Jr., sings at Small's in New York.

Photo by Eva Kapanadze

King even quoted it in his prophetic "I may not make it to the mountaintop" speech: "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living will not have been in vain."

"Life is too short no matter how you slice it," Gridiron said. "What is meaningful in life? It's having an impact on others in a positive way."

Gridiron will also sing a song that King called the unofficial anthem of the Civil Rights movement: Curtis Mayfield's "People Get Ready," first recorded in 1965 by The Impressions.

"I've sung that song at a wedding and a funeral," Gridiron said. "It has this sense of preparation and hopefulness for a better future that encapsulates so much of black music."

Gridiron said the inclusion of more women in jazz is squarely in line with King's idea of the "beloved community."

"How do we make space for each other to offer whatever talents and qualities we have to make us all better?" she said. "That's the spirit of it."

However, folding the theme of gender into the MLK concerts, while true to King's civil rights vision, invites scrutiny of the jazz program itself, and Whitaker knows it. All of the MSU Professors of Jazz are men, and Whitaker said that it's taken

until this year to reach the point where 20 percent of jazz students auditioning for the program are female. (Five of the 11 students in Whitaker's bass studio are female.)

"We have to fight harder to have more women playing the music," Whitaker said. "No. 1 priority for our program is to get a female faculty member, or two or three, so young female players will have someone they see modeling what it is they want to be."

In recent years, the roster of distinguished artists in visiting MSU for concerts, classes and residencies have included clarinetist Anat Cohen, bassist Mimi Jones, trumpeters Ingrid Jensen and Bria Skonberg and other female role models.

"We're taking the cue from our students," Whitaker said. "We're asking them who they want to see."

In the meantime, MSU alumni like Davis and Benalcazar are taking their place in the biggest cohort of female jazz musicians ever to hit the scene.

MSU grad Endea Owens is playing with John Batiste's house band on the "Late Show with Stephen Colbert." Another recent MSU grad, Aneesa Strings, has just been named to the all-star SF Jazz Collective.

"A lot of the top young players I see now teaching at camps and young ensembles I see across the country," Whitaker said. "The females are taking over."

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Killing the boy band with She/Her/Hers

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The journey of Emma Grrl, 26, the multi-instrumentalist bookworm troubadour behind the Lansing punk group She/Her/Hers, begins outside of San Diego. Even though she's now in several bands, such as Rent Strike and Grey Matter, that reside confidently on the cutting edge of underground sounds and politics, Grrl's origins have the same late-'00s suburban DNA shared by many millennial musicians.

However, the generic classic rock staples of the Guitar Hero soundtracks, or secondhand tunes from her parents'

The Commons Fundraiser at Mac's Bar

W/ Mover Shaker, Rick Johnson Rock and Roll Machine
8 p.m., Jan. 24, Friday
2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
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stereo, would not be the defining music that informed the styles of She/Her/Hers. A teenage Grrl found the proper dosage of inspiration from hearing folk punk band Against Me! at an open mic night.

"I said, 'This is incredible! What is this?' Over that summer I got really into Against Me! and Defiance, Ohio, and Nana Grizol — those were definitely the bands," Grrl said. "I loved all of 'Reinventing Axl Rose.' 'Baby I'm an Anarchist' is a song I played at open mics hundreds of times."

That spirit carries over into her involvement with Rent Strike, which is performing Jan. 24 at Mac's Bar as part of a fundraising effort for The Commons — a planned east-side neighborhood community resource center.

Perhaps more important than the actual music of these bands to Grrl is their radical leftist politics overtly inspired by anarchist literature, such as the works of Emma Goldman. The aforementioned 'Baby I'm an Anarchist' features lyrics about chucking bricks at Starbucks' windows. Defiance, Ohio's debut LP, "Share What Ya Got," contains romanticized passages of anarcho-collectivists building their own free societies.

"I didn't start reading people like Goldman until I was much older," Grrl said. "I was a part of a crew of punk kids from my shitty suburban hometown who introduced me to really good politics and called me out on my fuck-ups."

When listening to music that urges you to set the world afire, it's hard to keep yourself bottled up within the confines of a bedroom. So Grrl injected herself into the DIY music scene of San Diego, hanging with an older punk rock



Hailey Lamb

She/Her/Hers is Emma Grrl (center). Back row from left: Cody Kuutilla, Piper Bazard and Jake Matter.

crowd.

"I had very little formal training — I would just cover bad Johnny Hobo songs. When I was 16, I started joining bands in San Diego. I kind of forced myself in with the 25- to 30-year-olds. I bought an accordion, and it's really easy to join bands when you play the accordion 'cause nobody else plays that," Grrl laughs. "I didn't start writing my own songs until I was 20."

In proper punk kid fashion, Grrl didn't hang around her hometown for much longer. She underwent several odysseys, driving her Mazda 3 back and forth from coast to coast performing solo acoustic shows as She/Her/Hers. Through this chaotic period, Grrl lived in Portland, Oregon, briefly, before eventually finding a more permanent home in Boulder, Colorado.

After gathering some bearings in Boulder and meeting eventual partner Piper Bazard, Grrl, joined by makeshift producer Jon Pizarro, recorded She/Her/Hers' seminal project — the "Grrl Angst" EP. The album found itself becoming a beautiful, retrospective expression of Grrl's trans identity. With songs like "Gender is Boring" that feature lyrics such as, "Cause if I use she pronouns, well, what does that mean? Am I reinforcing a gender binary that I

don't believe in; that I don't adhere to. I say I'm a woman, what's that supposed to tell you?" Grrl used the project to write clever ruminations on her escape from the bondage of oppressive gender roles and sexual identity. Female-identifying, but preferring her unkempt black shirts and jeans, songs like "Never Pass" proudly eschew the idea that Grrl must be complacent with society's image of a how a woman is supposed to appear.

"I remember vividly having a conversation at around 3 a.m. I told my friend, 'I don't know how I am supposed to feel about being trans. I feel like I am buying into this toxic binary,'" Grrl explained. "But I think I was missing the point. Being trans doesn't mean I am buying into antiquated gender norms. A lot of it comes down to my enjoyment of using she pronouns, while not being super femme-presenting. I think it's really cool and powerful to be trans and butch."

She explained the majority of the lyrics from "Grrl Angst" were inspired by recontextualizing the myriad feelings she experienced during the process of becoming comfortable with being out.

"I wasn't working a normal job, so I didn't have to fit into the normal trans narrative of passing and living within heteronormative society," Grrl ex-

plained. "It allowed me to talk openly about living on the fringes — not just in an economic sense, but also in the sense of gender and sexual identity. Younger trans folk are surrounded by people that don't get it, being around people who got it opened up a whole new world."

After releasing "Grrl Angst," Grrl found time to partake on yet another odyssey with fellow anarchist travelers Chatterbox — a band featuring musician John Warmb from the Lansing folk group Rent Strike. Meeting Warmb formed an important connection that eventually drew Grrl to Michigan.

"On that tour, there were two people from Arizona, two people from Colorado, one from Texas and John was from Michigan. We were all like, 'Oh we hate where we live! We wanna move! We should all move to one place together,'" Grrl said. "John was like, 'I'm not moving, I love Michigan.' So we said, 'All right! Guess we're moving to Michigan!'"

Taking She/Her/Hers to Lansing saw the band evolve from just Grrl and her acoustic guitar, to a full-fledged electric punk band. After filling out the lineup, which includes Piper Bazard on trumpet, Cody Kuutilla on drums and Jake

Grrl

from page 19

Matter on Bass, Grrl met and formed an important connection with Joe Steinhardt of the nationally renowned independent music imprint Don Giovanni Records. Steinhardt, who briefly resided in Lansing while teaching at Michigan State University, suggested that Grrl do a release with the label, and that became “Kill the Boy Band.”

The three-song release, anchored around a rerecording from “Grrl Angst,” is an important musical evolution for She/Her/Hers that highlights Grrl’s improvement as a songwriter and singer. The titular song, “Kill the Boy Band,” is

a fierce indictment of a lack of diversity in independent music scenes. On the track, Grrl is more than just jaded with male-dominated gigs and movements.

“The narrative I see when I talk to people about diversity in their bands, and the pushback I get is, ‘We’re all just friends, it’s not like we specifically picked out white guys for our band,’” Grrl said. “Well, maybe it says more about the fact that you’re not friends with people that don’t look exactly like you. It’s a microcosm of a bigger problem. I don’t think it’s that hard to have a diverse scene.”

With two successful and uncompromising releases under the name She/Her/Hers, Grrl is moving her musical inspiration beyond the politics of gender and sexual identity. Not wishing to be painted into a corner, Grrl said the “cautiously optimistic” future for She/

Her/Hers will see the band move even further beyond the confines of punk rock, and address issues such as climate change through its lyrics.

“I see us moving away from punk. There will be a lot more piano on future records — more horns, more strings. Probably a lot softer in general,” Grrl said. “I don’t write about gender as

much anymore. I think that perspective is always going to color things, but it’s no longer the primary driver. A lot of my songs have been about climate change. What does it mean to live in a world that’s falling apart and it’s also somewhat your fault? How do you reconcile with being part of the problem? But I don’t have many answers.”



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Broad Art Lab displays MLK student art contest winners

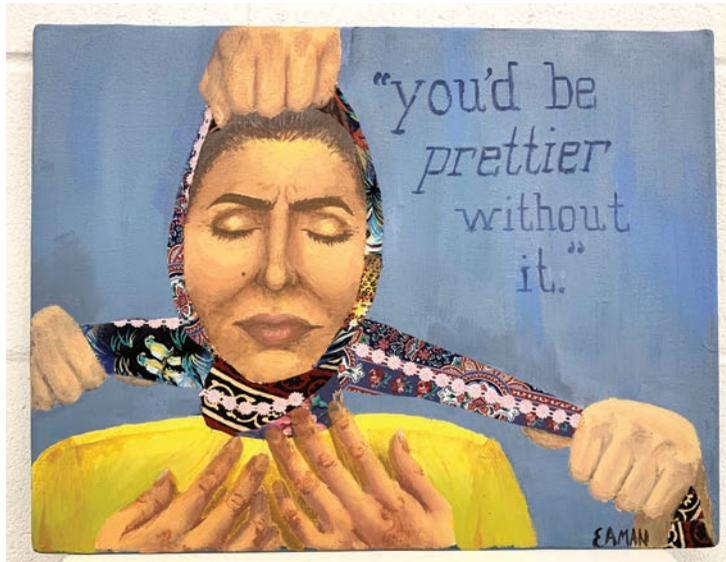
By SKYLER ASHLEY

Lansing students in grades 6-12 were tasked by the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan's 2020 MLK Holiday Art Contest to create paintings that took into consideration the theme, inspired by a famous quote from King, "There comes a time when

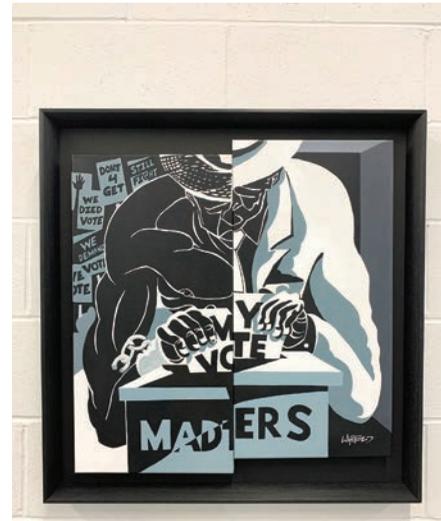
silence is betrayal."

Unveiled Tuesday night at the MSU Broad Art Lab, the winning paintings will be on display until Jan. 21. Delta Dental of Michigan and MSU's Eli &

Edythe Broad Art Museum helped sponsor the contest.



Eaman Ali's painting illustrates the struggles faced by women who wear hijabs. It is the winner of the high school submissions. Ali attends East Lansing High School.



"Silence is Betrayal," by Brian Whitfield, is the winner from the adult submissions.



"Violence Creates Silence (No Violence)," by Calvin Bosanic from MacDonald Middle School in East Lansing, is the winner of the middle school submissions.

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Fountains of Yehuda

Symphony uncorks
faceful of French fizz

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Time seems to dangle like a droplet of water when the tumult of the Lansing Symphony dies down and the round tones of Guy Yehuda's clarinet hang in the air for a fleeting minute or two.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Guy Yehuda, clarinet
7:30 p.m. Saturday,
Jan. 18
Wharton Center
Cobb Great Hall
\$20-55

This Saturday, Yehuda turns on the waterworks.

Yehuda will step out as featured soloist in a devilishly difficult, fluid-as-

flame concerto by French composer Jean Françaix. The solo turn anchors a night of bright and witty French (or almost French) music, culminating in George Gershwin's splashy dance suite from "An American in Paris."

The dazzling 1951 film version of "American in Paris," with Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron, put Gershwin's music front and center in a daring 20-minute climactic dance sequence. In a lucky convergence, the movie will return for several big screen showings at Lansing's Celebration Cinema and Regal Lansing Mall Jan. 19 and 22, courtesy of Turner Classic Movies.

Gershwin's opening act at the symphony Saturday isn't well known to

many music lovers, but Jean Françaix cut an unusual figure in the radical-minded 1960s — an urbane, warm-hearted showman in the vein of Charlie Chaplin.

In 1976, a famous British clarinet player, Jack Brymer, declared Françaix's 1968 concerto unplayable, but not because the music was too cutting edge. In defiance of the times — and the mid-20th century diktats of his chilly modernist compatriot, Pierre Boulez — Françaix packed his music with riotous, droll dynamism, like a luxury clown car.

"His music is extremely beautiful, and witty and anything can happen," Yehuda said. "He does a 180-degree turn and you find yourself in a different key. And this concerto takes it up a notch."

When Yehuda approached Lansing maestro Timothy Muffitt with the idea of performing the concerto, Muffitt instantly knew the flashy flair of Françaix would set the table perfectly for a magnum of musical Champagne the maestro longed to uncork, George Gershwin's "An American in Paris."

"The concerto was the stimulus for the whole program — the Frenchness, the vigor, the hustle and bustle, the delight and surprise," Muffitt said.

When the maestro sat down to study "An American in Paris" alongside real French music like the Françaix concerto and Ravel's delicate "Mother Goose Suite" (also Saturday's concert) that he realized how authentically French — not Epcot Center French — "An American in Paris" really is.

"We're so familiar with it that we lose touch with how Parisian it really sounds," he said. "This isn't just American music with a French label."

The affinity goes a lot deeper than the French taxi horns famously heard in the opening bars.

"It trickles down to small choices of melodic delivery, rhythm and tempo that all add up to a musical character that feels truly French," Muffitt said. "It really surprised me. It was a discovery. It's been fun to come at it from this perspective."

The Françaix concerto also gives Muffitt a chance to feature Yehuda, a defining voice of the symphony since he joined the organization in 2016.

"This opportunity to be up front is much deserved," Muffitt said. "He brings such a vibrancy and energy and a broad expressive palette to the orchestra. This work plays beautifully into who he is as a musician."

Yehuda was born in Israel, a nation with a vibrant musical culture, and took up the clarinet at his father's suggestion. He started out playing jazz, under the influence of swing legend



Yehuda

Benny Goodman. He quickly noticed that when Goodman wasn't reigning as the "king of swing," he played classical music with such authority that composers Aaron Copland, Igor Stravinsky and Bela Bartok all wrote works for him. Before long, Yehuda was hooked on classical music as well as jazz.

He still plays "a bit of jazz and a bit of klezmer" when he gets the chance, taking advantage of the clarinet's wide range. "There's a lot of crossover between classical and jazz," Yehuda said. "It's fun to dance between the two worlds, but I don't have any pretensions to playing real jazz."

The finicky reeds of the clarinet all too easily veer into horsey territory. Yehuda centers his own discipline, and that of his students at MSU, on shaping a beautiful tone.

He tells them to play one note, over and over, until their ears tune in on a sub-universe of overtones and intervals that are hidden to casual perception, like ultraviolet or infrared light.

"It's easy to pick up the clarinet prettily quickly, and that's why a lot of young people pick it up," Yehuda said, "but then you hit a plateau. In order to really master the instrument, it takes a lifetime, if ever. It's a constant journey."

Yehuda has had many plenty of memorable moments in Lansing.

"We're blessed with many great parts in the symphonic literature," he said. "Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony was a blast, and Brahms is really close to my heart. We're going to play his second symphony at the end of this season and that's going to be a pleasure."

When he symphony did a pops concert of music by John Williams, Yehuda got one of his juiciest moments, playing the "Victor's Tale" from Steven Spielberg's "The Terminal."

"It's almost like a concerto for clarinet, in a pops concert," Yehuda said. "That was really fun."

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Jim MacLean remembers Lansing's historic architects

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Early in his book "Lansing's Young Architects," author Jim MacLean points out that Eustace Hall at Michigan State University is his favorite structure designed by Lansing architect William Appleyard. The building was constructed in 1888 and was later named for Harry J. Eustace, who chaired the Horticulture Department from 1908 to 1918. It was listed on both the Michigan and National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

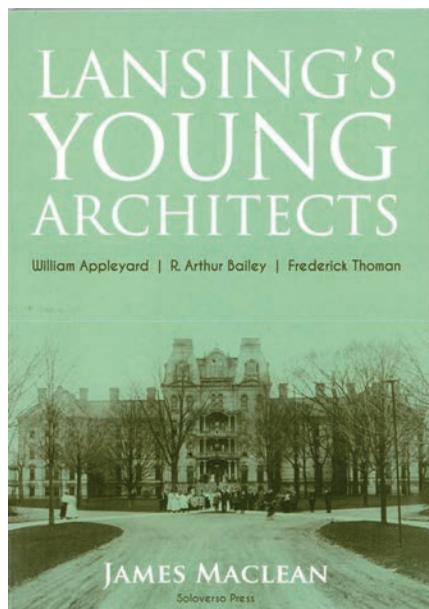
It is a remarkable amalgam of Queen Anne, Romanesque and Shingle Style Architecture. It's remarkable that it still stands, since many of the structures designed by William Appleyard, R. Arthur Bailey and Frederick Thoman, known collectively as "Lansing's Young Architects," have been torn down. The three worked in Lansing during the late-1800s and the early part of the 20th century.

As you work your way through MacLean's book, the frequency of the notation "was torn down" becomes apparent. You can sense the author's frustration when he looks at another Appleyard project, the magnificent Charles J. Davis home. It once stood at 1326 E. Michigan Ave., just east of Sparrow Hospital, and was torn down in 1949. Davis was a Lansing mayor, entrepreneur and railroad pioneer.

MacLean writes, "When you consider the importance of the Davis home, it is remarkable the site is now a parking lot. Frankly, it is tiring to note that an architecturally significant building or home was torn down to create a parking lot or sterile office building. Lansing offers few significant historical architectural wonders aside from the Capitol. People visit historic sites, not parking lots."

As you read through MacLean's book, you realize that he is an accomplished and tireless researcher. Those skills were especially valuable in writing this book, since no archives of the three architects survive, and blurry newspaper photographs of the structures were often all he could find to illustrate the book.

MacLean resorts to mining newspapers, industry publications and secondary sources. There is also no known comprehensive listing of the buildings and projects the architects worked on, so some could have easily been missed. While researching Detroit projects, he learned that no property tax roles for



Wayne County survived.

He does give kudos to the Stebbins family real estate records of Lansing, which are on file at the Capital Area District Library, where MacLean is a librarian. MacLean has previously written a book on architect Darius Moon, who is also from Lansing.

In his book, he explores the nexus of the three young architects with James Appleyard, William's father, who mostly supervised construction of buildings. James Appleyard moved to Lansing to supervise construction of the Capitol. The last building he designed and supervised construction of is the Lansing Women's Club at 118 W. Ottawa St., which is a testament to his skills. He also supervised the construction of two notable libraries that also still stand: the Hoyt Library in Saginaw and the University of Michigan Library.

He and his son also worked on the completion of the original Michigan

State University Library and Museum, now Linton Hall, on the east end of Circle Drive on campus.

William Appleyard was also responsible for the Kalamazoo Street School, the gothic Liederkrantz Hall on Grand Avenue, buildings on the School for the Blind campus, the original Veterinary Building at MSU — all torn down — and several private homes and commercial structures, which can still be seen in downtown Lansing on Michigan and Washington avenues.

Rufus Arthur Bailey's first work in Lansing was on the iron work of the Post Office and Federal Building, across from the Capitol. MacLean calls the building "an architectural treasure," which was torn down for the modern City Hall. Bailey was also responsible for a block of stores on North Washington Avenue, torn down in 1967 during Lansing's urban renewal days. He also was the architect of record for a new foundry at the E. Bement & Sons stove plant located on North Grand, also torn down.

One unusual project Bailey worked on was a row of eight still-standing fieldstone flats on Eureka Street. In the late-19th century, the flats were considered "classy and fashionable." He also was responsible for the elegant Capitol Avenue residence of John Herrmann, a successful men's clothier. Today, the structure has been totally restored for use as the president's residence.

Bailey was also responsible for the legendary private Iser Clubhouse, which was built on pylons on Lake Lansing, Pine Lake and since torn down, and for numerous private residences in Detroit.

The final architect Frederick J. Thoman was a scion of the fami-

ly associated with Lansing's milling entrepreneurs. His first work was the Robert Smith Printing Co., followed by the Wentworth Hostelry on the corner of Michigan and Grand — both torn down. He also was responsible for the small Delta Subdivision, where Michigan and Grand River Avenue form a triangle. Only one of the homes stands today. One of his most notable works was the Detroit Olds plant, which eventually burned down.

MacLean has peppered the book with interesting snippets like the quaint Meteorological Station designed by Appleyard, which once stood the west lawn of the Capitol grounds in 1884.

SCHULER BOOKS

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.

MAGIC/KEYFORGE GAME NIGHT

Tuesdays • 6pm

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

BOARD GAME NIGHT

January 16 • 6pm

Join us in the cafe for board games! Bring your some of your favorites or choose from among those provided!

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.

SchulerBooks.com / Event
Meridian Mall • Okemos

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, January 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

3D Print Lab (Age 8 & up) - Learn how to design and print a 3D object. Children 8-11 need an adult helper. 4:30-5:30 p.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. cadl.org

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

Business Model Workshop - 9-10 a.m. Gaynor Entrepreneurship Lab, 651 N. Shaw Ln, East Lansing.

Five Wishes - advance directives allows you to guide important medical care decisions. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

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

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

Math Seminar Series - Algebra Speaker: Eli Matzri. 3-3:50 p.m. C304 Wells Hall, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Writing a Business Plan: Your Roadmap to Success! 9-11:30 a.m. Lansing Community College, 309 N. Washington Square, Lansing. 517-483-1921. clients.sbdcmichigan.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Adventure Club Storytimes - 4-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Community Night - Our Threads of Wisdom discussion series kicks off with Book of Shadows and Herstory. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-657-5800.

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

EVENTS

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. with Mike Eyia performance 5 p.m. 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Code Club! - No coding expertise necessary. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Dungeons & Dragons - The Wild Sheep Chase (Adults) - Join fellow adventurers on a quest full of danger, dice, and most importantly, sheep. All levels of D&D experience welcome. 6-8 p.m. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org

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

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

Line Dancing - Join line dancing for fun, exercise, and staying involved in a social activity. No experience needed. 1-1:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Mariah Martinez at Senior Discovery Group - Join us for "pretty good coffee" and great conversation! 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing. 517-367-2468.

Prioritizing YOU in 2020 with Three Happy Turtles - We will be talking self-care and why it is so important. 6-8 p.m. The Hive, 2722 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

ARTS

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

Low-tech Screenprinting: Art, Craft, Business. 4:30-6 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.



Women's March on Lansing 2020

The 2020 National Women's March touches down in Lansing Saturday, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Capitol. Organizers state the mission of the march is to "harness the political power of women, respect diversity and create transformative social change."

The gathering hopes to provide a positive atmosphere for inspiration, entertainment and community connection. Volunteers will also be available for anybody that has not yet registered to vote.

Women's March

Free, Saturday, Jan. 18

2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Michigan State Capitol

110 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

Volunteers will also be available for anybody that has not yet registered to vote.

The Rainmakers Come to The Peoples Church: 12-4 p.m. daily. 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-6073. thepeopleschurch.com.

Sorry, I'm Not Leaving Art Exhibit - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square, Ste. 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

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

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

Watch + Make: Mel Chin - Are you interested in learning about contemporary art, the processes behind the work and the way artists help us see the world? 6-8 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-884-4800. Visit broadmuseum.msu.edu.

MUSIC

Christopher Kaminski, composition - Free. 6 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Thursday, January 16

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.

Grow with Google - Plan & Budget (Adults). Learn about making good

The "Mistress of Ceremonies" is Shannon Garrett, local activist and CEO of SMG Strategies — a political firm that assists aspiring political leaders, nonprofits and unions with grassroots organizing and campaign planning.

The event's keynote speech will come from Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel. Other speakers include Gov. Whitmer, Elissa Slotkin, Gretchen Driskell, Curtis Hertel Jr., Kara Hope, Julie Brixie, Maria Garcia Santana, Veronica Johnson, Michelle Rick, LaShawn Erby and Egypt Otis. Pending events in Washington, D.C., U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters are also slated to appear.

financial decisions, researching costs, and planning. 6-7:30 p.m. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason.

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

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Chipmunk Story Time - Story time comes alive as children interact with puppets. 10-11 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

PJ Storytime (Sensory Friendly) - rhymes and a snack. PJ's and stuffed toys are welcome! 6:30-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

EVENTS

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

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

The Future - Humans have always liked to talk about the future. 10-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Lansing Grassroots Philosophy - discussion group. 6:30-8 p.m. Kelly's

See Out on the town, Page 27

FRIDAY, JAN. 17 >> CULTURE CLASH 2020 KICKOFF AT THE AVENUE CAFE



Culture Clash is a monthly showcase hosted every third Friday or Saturday at The Avenue Café that highlights diverse trappings of art and entertainment. "The 2020 Kick Off" includes music selections from EssBe & Y'z Council.

Free, 9 p.m. to midnight

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facebook.com/avenuecafe2021

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Free For the Decade" -- ringing it in!
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Spill it
- 5 Catchphrase from Barbara Walters heard a lot recently
- 15 Ceremonial observance
- 16 RZA's group
- 17 During
- 18 Nearly done with the return trip
- 19 Uninterrupted sequences
- 21 Russian ruler of the 1800s
- 22 Messy Halloween prank
- 23 Former Rocket Ming
- 25 Paper promises
- 28 2014 drama with David Oyelowo and Common
- 29 Company whose founder recently left its board
- 30 "Watch somewhere else" letters
- 31 "I feel ___"
- 32 Like mortals?
- 33 Go fast
- 34 Protein for some sushi rolls
- 36 Communication where K and V differ only by a thumb
- 38 "Silent All These Years" singer Tori
- 42 Thomas who drew Santa Claus
- 44 Knock down ___
- 48 Unvaried
- 49 Sucker
- 50 Kind of base or reserve
- 52 Ukraine capital, locally

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

- 53 He presided over the O.J. trial
- 54 At the location
- 55 "Open 24 hours" sign material
- 57 Turns used materials into something better
- 59 Missing comment?
- 62 Garment edges
- 63 Skincare company with a Hydro Boost line
- 64 Affirmative votes
- 65 First-person action-adventure game with a "Death of the Outsider" sequel
- 66 He worked with Branford Marsalis
- Down**
- 1 Prepares (for impact)
- 2 French city known for its porcelain
- 3 Feeling all excited
- 4 Occasion for storytelling
- 5 Nashville sound
- 6 "Pen15" streaming service
- 7 "Possibly"
- 8 ___ Tome and Principe (African island nation)
- 9 Available for purchase
- 10 Some P.D. officers
- 11 Rapper with the Grammy-nominated album "Based on a T.R.U. Story"
- 12 Medium-dry Spanish sherry
- 13 Bad hour for a car alarm to go off
- 14 "We Are Number ___" (song meme from "LazyTown")
- 20 Far from meaningful
- 24 Use a SodaStream on, say
- 26 Area 51 sighting
- 27 Letters in some personal ads
- 29 Mark often used for metal?
- 35 Concluding with
- 37 2019 Max Porter novel about a whimsical boy
- 38 Part of AMA
- 39 Johnson's predecessor
- 40 Menacing
- 41 Important interval in jazz music
- 43 Old Faithful, e.g.
- 45 Easter-related
- 46 Glare
- 47 Sentries at entries
- 51 Not as much
- 54 Pack of hot dog buns, often
- 56 Oaxacan "other"
- 58 Cone dropper
- 59 AFC South team, on scoreboards
- 60 Opus ___ ("The Da Vinci Code" group)
- 61 I, to Claudius

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Answers Page 27

SUDOKU

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

Intermediate

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 27

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Jan. 15 - Jan. 21, 2020

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Comedian John Cleese has an insight I hope you'll consider. He says, "It's easier to do trivial things that are urgent than it is to do important things that are not urgent. It's also easier to do little things we know we can do than to start on big things that we're not so sure about." I hope you'll make this advice a priority in the coming weeks. You'll be wise to prioritize important tasks, even those that aren't urgent, as you de-emphasize trivial matters that tempt you to think they're crucial. Focus on big things that are challenging, rather than on little things that are a snap.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Author Honoré Balzac (1799-1850) was born with sun and Mercury in Taurus and in the tenth house. Astrologers might hypothesize from these placements that he was ambitious, productive, tenacious, diligent, realistic, and willful. The evidence supporting this theory is strong. Balzac wrote over 80 novels that displayed a profound and nuanced understanding of the human comedy. I predict that 2020 will be a year when you could make dramatic progress in cultivating a Balzac-like approach in your own sphere. But here's a caveat: Balzac didn't take good care of his body. He drank far too much coffee and had a careless approach to eating and sleeping. My hope is that as you hone your drive for success, you'll be impeccable in tending to your health.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Before he was 21 years old, William Shakespeare and his wife had birthed three kids. When he was 25, while the brood was still young, he started churning out literary masterpieces. By the time Will became a grandfather at age 43, he had written many of the works that ultimately made him one of history's most illustrious authors. From this evidence, we might speculate that being a parent and husband heightened his creative flow. I bring this to your attention because I want to ask you: What role will commitment and duty and devotion play in your life during the coming months? (I suspect it'll be a good one.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian-born painter Stanley Spencer (1891-1959) didn't align himself with any artistic movement. Early on, his work was an odd blend of French Post-Impressionism and 14th-century Italian painting. I appreciate his stylistic independence, and suggest you draw inspiration from it in 2020. Another unique aspect of Spencer's art was its mix of eroticism and religiosity. I think you'll enjoy exploring that blend yourself in the coming months. Your spiritual and sexual longings could be quite synergistic. There's one part of Spencer's quirky nature I don't recommend you imitate, however. He often wore pajamas beneath his clothes, even to formal occasions. Doing that wouldn't serve your interests. (But it will be healthy for you to be "somewhat" indifferent to people's opinions.)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in the 1440s. In subsequent decades, millions of mass-produced books became available for the first time, making their contents available to a far wider audience than ever before. The printing press caused other changes, too—some not as positive. For instance, people who worked as scribes found it harder to get work. In our era, big culture-wide shifts are impacting our personal lives. Climate change, the internet, smart phones, automation, and human-like robots are just a few examples. What are doing to adjust to the many innovations? And what will you do in the future? Now is an excellent time to meditate on these issues.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're skilled at the art of self-editing. When bright new ideas well up in you, you understand they are not yet ready for prime time, but will need to be honed and finessed. When your creativity overflows, tantalizing you with fresh perspectives and novel approaches, you know that you'll have to harness the raw surge. However, it's also true that sometimes you go too far in your efforts to refine your imagination's

breakthroughs; you over-think and over-polish. But I have a good feeling about the coming weeks, Virgo. I suspect you'll find the sweet spot, self-editing with just the right touch.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Thomas Love Peacock was a Libran author whose specialty was writing satirical novels that featured people sitting around tables arguing about opinions and ideas. He was not renowned for cheerful optimism. And yet he did appreciate sheer beauty. "There is nothing perfect in this world," he said, "except Mozart." So much did Peacock love Mozart's music that during one several-month stretch he attended six performances of the genius's opera "Don Giovanni". In this spirit, Libra, and in accordance with astrological indicators, I encourage you to make a list of your own perfect things—and spend extra time communing with them in the coming weeks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Jean-Michel Basquiat started his career as a graffiti artist. When he evolved into being a full-time painter, he incorporated words amidst his images. On many occasions, he'd draw lines through the words. Why? "I cross out words so you will see them more," he said. "The fact that they are obscured makes you want to read them." In the coming weeks, you might benefit from discreetly using this strategy in your own life. In other words, draw attention to the things you want to emphasize by downplaying them or being mysterious about them or suggesting they are secret. Reverse psychology can be an asset for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Because of the onslaught of the internet and social media, lots of people no longer read books. But in 2020, I highly recommend that you *not* be one of that crowd. In my astrological opinion, you need more of the slow, deep wisdom that comes from reading books. You will also benefit from other acts of rebellion against the Short Attention Span Era. Crucial blessings will flow in your direction as you honor the gradual, incremental approach to everything.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "I love to be surprised by something I have never thought of," declares Capricorn actor Ralph Fiennes. According to my analysis of the astrological aspects, you'll be wise to make that one of your top mottoes in 2020. Why? First, life is likely to bring to your attention a steady stream of things you've never imagined. And second, your ability to make good use of surprises will be at an all-time high. Here's further advice to help ensure that the vast majority of your surprises will be welcome, even fun: Set aside as many of your dogmas and expectations as possible, so that you can be abundantly receptive to things you've never thought of.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "I love fools' experiments. I am always making them." So said one of the most famous and influential scientists who ever lived, Aquarian-born naturalist Charles Darwin. In accordance with upcoming astrological factors, I invite you to draw inspiration from his approach. Allow yourself to explore playfully as you conduct fun research. Just assume that you have a mandate to drum up educational experiences, and that a good way to do that is to amuse yourself with improvisational adventures.

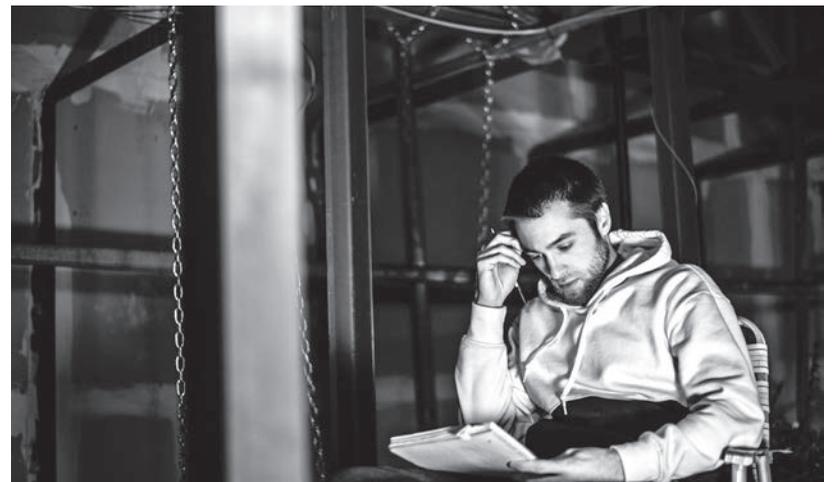
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "How do you get your main pleasure in life?" That question was posed to Scorpio author Evelyn Waugh and Piscean social reformer William Beveridge. Waugh said, "I get mine spreading alarm and despondency." Beveridge said, "I get mine trying to leave the world a better place than I found it." I hope you will favor Beveridge's approach over Waugh's in 2020, Pisces—for two reasons. First, the world already has plenty of alarm and despondency; it doesn't need even a tiny bit more. Second, aspiring to be like Beveridge will be the best possible strategy for fostering your mental and physical health.

TURN IT DOWN! A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE BY RICH TUPICA

BIG SHERM TALKS 'FUNK NIGHT' AT MAC'S



Mike Sherman, aka Big Sherm, has been a vinyl-spinning DJ since 2009. Each Wednesday, he spins at Funk Night, a weekly Mac's Bar event. (courtesy photo)



When he's not DJing or producing, Mike Sherman also releases his own hip-hop tracks. Sample his growing discography at bigsherm.net. (courtesy photo)

Local DJ Mike Sherman looks back on a decade of sounds

Wednesdays @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, 9 p.m.

Mike Sherman, aka Big Sherm, is familiar face in Lansing's music scene. He's known locally as not only a longtime sound guy at Mac's Bar, but also as a musician in his own right. The 27-year-old is a producer, rapper, engineer and vinyl-spinning DJ. Among the many titles on his resume, Sherman is also a resident DJ at "Funk Night," a weekly Mac's Bar event specializing in an assortment of danceable live bands and DJs. Tonight, Funk Night hosts not only booming beats, but an Odd Side Ales tap takeover. Then, on Jan. 22, Holy Roots performs a powerful live set of progressive reggae. In short, there's no shortage of diverse, upbeat sounds.

"Since Funk Night was started about a year ago, I've grown tremendously as a DJ," Sherman said. "I have become even more open to genre-bending and

finding music that relates to people of all types, not just fans of techno or rap music. I'm looking forward to the reggae night, because it gives me a reason to try new things and experiment, while staying within the imaginary bounds of Funk Night."

The evening is always funky, but always serving unique takes on the genre.

"It took months to develop the sound," Sherman explained. "But now it speaks for itself. We have many people regularly coming to check out the featured bands and hear me and DJ Muzik experiment and play funky jams everyone can dance to. It's been amazing."

Of course, Sherman has been at it for a shade over a decade now. In 2009, he started spinning funky and soulful house music at Neon Tuesdays, Basement 414 and The Loft. A year later, he started

running sound at Mac's Bar. But that's not all he was up to. He also recorded his own hip-hop tracks, operated a recording studio and submerged himself in the local music scene.

"Music means everything to me," Sherman said. "If it wasn't for hip-hop, I wouldn't be who I am today. My music is very intertwined with myself as a person — and growth in one translates to growth in the other."

As a fourth-grader, Sherman attended the Detroit Electronic Music Festival and it solidified his path at an early age.

"I was always into electronic music, but didn't have the gear to start DJing," he recalled. "So, when I was about 12, I turned to hip-hop to let out frustrations and record songs on a cheap microphone. Years later, this love of the craft had me opening as an emcee for some

great acts in Lansing, including One Be Lo, Kool Keith, D12 and Crooked I."

As for 2020, Sherman plans to keep busy, like usual. He's steadily dropping a flurry of tracks on his site, bigsherm.net.

"I am constantly working on new music, from making beats and instrumentation, to recording and writing," he said. "I spent the end of 2019 compiling and releasing tracks that nobody outside my inner circle has heard over the years. This came out to about 16 different projects around 10 tracks each, of varying styles and angles. It was incredibly freeing to release this music and the new year has given me so much energy to create, having recorded a new art piece every day this year."

Follow Big Sherm at [facebook.com/bigggsherm](https://www.facebook.com/bigggsherm).



Upcoming show? Contact Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Trivia Night: Arrested Dev, 10PM	Open Mic 8PM	AOTA Hip Hop DJs 9PM	GTG Free Show 8PM
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.				Homespun 9PM
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River, East Lansing	North of Five 8PM	Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Old School - DJ Jalese 8:30PM	Smooth Daddy 9PM	Smooth Daddy 9PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Karaoke	The Rewind 9PM	Roux 8:30PM
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee			Live Music with DJ Skilz 9PM	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Of Virtue 6:30PM	Homegrown Throwdown 2020 7PM
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Funk Night 9PM	Phil Johnson 7PM	AOTA: Fresh Class 8PM	Power Moves Only 8PM
Spiral, 1247 Center St.			Turn Up Fridays 9PM	DLP Presents Frost 9PM
Urban Beat, 1213 Turner St.	Live Happy Hour 5PM	Live Happy Hour w/Craig Hendershott 5PM	Live Happy Hour 5PM	
Unicorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez	Open Mic 9:30PM		Live Music with Time 2 Play 9PM	Live Music with Shelby & Jake 9PM
VFW #701, 123 N. Rosemary			The New Rule 8PM	
Wildlife Pub, 6380 Drumeller Rd., Bath			Open Mic 7:30PM	

From Page 24

Downtown, 220 S Washington Square, Lansing.

Minecraft Game Night (Ages 8–15) - To register call 517-485-5185 or go to cadl.org/events. 5-6:30 p.m. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. cadl.org

ARTS

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

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

Craft Night - Come out for crafting and fellowship. 7-9 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-657-5800.

Crafting with a Cause - support and serve our community through crafting. 4-5:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

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

MUSIC

Behind the Scenes - Get to know the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. 5:30-9:30 p.m. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982.

Friday, January 17

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.

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

Dr. Susie Linfield on “The Lion’s Den: Zionism and the Left from Hannah Arendt to Noam Chomsky” - 10-11:30 a.m. MSU Wells Hall, 619 Red Cedar Rd., Room C-730, East Lansing. 517-432-3493. jsp.msu.edu.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

James Keeleghan - Poet laureate of the folk and roots music world. 7:30-10 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing.

Mitten Season Storytime (Ages up to 6) - 10:30-11 a.m. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. cadl.org

Sensory Friendly Storytime (Age 2 & up) - This interactive storytime features sensory-friendly activities before we open to the public. 9:30-10:30 a.m. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 N. Aurelius Rd., Holt.

EVENTS

40th Annual Memorial Observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - 12-1 p.m. Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave, Lansing. lansingmi.gov.

Assassin Game - \$5/person, 18+. Gift basket awarded to the winner. 7-10 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-657-5800.

Half Day Game Day (Robots and More) - Games and robots - try a new challenge! 1-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Indoor Snowball Fight (Age 5 & up) - 4-5 p.m. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. cadl.org

Lansing Personal Injury Attorneys Meetup - have drinks and share personal injury case stories. 10-11 a.m. The Cadillac Room, 1115 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-798-6175. attorneykennugent.com.

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

The Stewardship Network Conference 2020 - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Kellogg Center, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing.

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

ARTS

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.

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

Middletown by Will Eno - Cold readings. Roles available: 5 women/7 men - various ages/any ethnicity. 6-8 p.m. LCC Theatre, LCC Gannon Building - Room 1403, Lansing.

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

Not Far from Here: Broad Underground Film Series - Recent Iranian Video Art. 7-9 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

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

MUSIC

Gallery Suite Jazz Series - 8-10 p.m. La Fille Gallery, 336 E Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Saturday, January 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Birding Basics Workshop - Learn more about what feathered friends live in our area. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

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

Make It! Think Tank Workshops - Design, build, and take home your own creation for makers ages 9-14! Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org

Snowshoe Class - Learn to snowshoe and nothing will stop you! 9:30-11:30 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Tun-Dra Dog Mushing (All ages) - Meet some live sled dogs from Tun-Dra Kennels when their staff visits to talk about mushing and the Iditarod. 10-11 a.m. CADL Webberville, 115 N. Main St., Webberville. cadl.org

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Poets Roundtable - 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

Reading to Dogs (All ages) - Practice reading with one of our dogs! 2-3 p.m. CADL Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Rd. #1, Williamston. cadl.org

EVENTS

CADL Adventurers Role Playing Game Club (Ages 10–18) - Embark on a creative adventure with other gamers! Register: 517-694-9351 x3 or go to cadl.org/events 4-6 p.m. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 N. Aurelius Rd., Holt. cadl.org

Capital Pro Wrestling - 3-6:30 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing.

See Out on the town, Page 28

SATURDAY, JAN. 18 >> JANUARY ARTISAN MARKET AT REO TOWN MARKETPLACE



The REO Town Marketplace, a combination consignment emporium located, hosts its first pop-up market of 2020. Shoppers will be able to peruse a vast variety of homemade goods from local artists and craftsmen.

Free, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
1027 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
(517) 927-7576
[facebook.com/REOTownmarketplace](https://www.facebook.com/REOTownmarketplace)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 25

B	L	A	B	T	H	I	S	I	S	2	O	2	O
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SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 25

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

SATURDAY, JAN. 18 >> SCHOOL OF ROCK '90s LIVE SHOW AT THE AVENUE CAFE



School of Rock, a rock music education program based in Lansing, is hosting a student showcase at The Avenue Café. Attendees will be able to check out the chops of School of Rock students as they blaze through your favorite '90s hits.

Free, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 927-7576
[facebook.com/REOTownmarketplace](https://www.facebook.com/REOTownmarketplace)

SATURDAY, JAN. 18 >> CREATE YOUR OWN CRYSTAL GRID WORKSHOP AT WOKE STUDIO



Everyone is invited to this cookout. Gravity Smokehouse & BBQ in Holt will touchdown 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

From Page 27

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

Dinner Dance - Delicious roast pork dinner served 5:30-7 p.m. with dance from 6:30-10:30 pm. Lansing Liederkrantz, 5828 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing. 517-882-6330.

DLP Presents Frost - Annual DLP Winter Fundraiser party, Frost! 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St, Lansing. 517-214-2149.

Frozen Party (Age 3 & up) - Let's celebrate the new Frozen movie with crafts, activities and wintry fun. Costumes welcome! 2-3 p.m. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org

Lansing Record and CD Show - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. University Quality Inn, 3121 E Grand River Ave, Lansing. 517-351-1440.

Scavenger Hunt Saturdays at the Michigan History Museum - Self-guided scavenger hunts complete with prizes! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-420-1342.

The Stewardship Network Conference 2020 - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Kellogg Center, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing.

Third Saturday Contra Dance - 7-10 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. lgmaa.org.

Winter Farmers' Market - Meridian Twp. 10-2 p.m. JCPenney wing, Meridian Mall, Okemos.

ARTS

ARTspace Pop-up Art Market - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing.

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

Embroidery Workshop - Join artist and teacher Dayna Walton. 1-4 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing.

Jane Gunneman Gallery Show - 12-6 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Middletown by Will Eno - Cold readings. Roles available: 5 women/7 men - various ages/any ethnicity. 3-5p.m. LCC Theatre, LCC Gannon Building - Room 1403, Lansing.

MUSIC

An American In Paris - Lansing Symphony Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

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.

Ten Pound Fiddle: Contra and Square Dance - All dances taught, no partner needed. Workshop at 6:30 p.m., Dance 7-10 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N Capitol Ave, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Sunday, January 19**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

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

ARTS

Open Auditions for "Sylvia" - 6:30-8:30 p.m. Windwalker Underground Gallery, 125 S. Cochran Ave, Charlotte. 269-262-1945.

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

MUSIC

Bath Community Drum Circle - Come jam with us! 2-4 p.m. Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath. bathtownship.us.

Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest Concert - MSU Jazz. 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. music.msu.edu.

Monday, January 20**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

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

Basic Principles of Photography - Learn photography skills. 9-11 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Business Model Workshop - 9-10 a.m. Gaynor Entrepreneurship Lab, 651 N. Shaw Ln, East Lansing.

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.

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

Professional Speaker Series: Home and Office Desktop Ergonomics - 5:30-6:30 p.m. Alive, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Drop-in Minute to Win It Challenge Series (Ages 9-14) - Stop by to complete some challenges to earn points toward your season score. 3-4 p.m. CADL Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Rd. #1, Williamston.

EVENTS

35th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Celebration - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Lansing Center - 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. For tickets 517-410-2998 or GLMKITIX@gmail.com or at the City Treasurers office, 124 W. Michigan. lansingmi.gov.

CanHope support - Support group for cancer patients and caregivers. 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m. Alive, 800 W Lawrence Ave., Charlotte.

Game Night at the Fledge - Board and card games. 7 pm to close. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka, Lansing. 517-203-9287.

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

ARTS

Auditions for Sylvia - 6:30-8:30 p.m. Andromeda Community Theatre, Charlotte.

Let It Snow Glitter Paint Party - Paint adorable Snowman with us! 6-9 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Rd., Okemos.

Play Day: Movies, Games and more. 1-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Tuesday, January 21**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

8-Hour ServSafe Manager Training - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MSU Extension - Ingham County, 121 E Maple Street Conference Room A, Mason. canr.msu.edu.

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.

Microbiology & Molecular Genetics Seminar - hosted by the Dept. of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. 4:10 p.m. MSU, 122 Wells Hall, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Protect Your Online Identity and Reputation and Social Media Profile Stalking Awareness - free class. 5-7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbott Rd, East Lansing.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Paws for Reading at GLADL - Come and read to a library loving therapy dog! 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

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

Read a Poet/Write a Poem: The Ghazal Poets and the Ghazal w/ Guillermo Delgado. 7-8:30 p.m. C303 Snyder Hall, 362 Bogue Street, East Lansing. 517-884-1932. poetry.rcah.msu.edu.

EVENTS

Bring Your Lunch Social Time! - Bring a sack lunch and enjoy a visit with friends. 11 a.m. 1 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing.

Kiwanis Monthly Meeting - 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge.

Prime Time Crime Time - Featuring the Movies of the 60s and 70s. This week: The Late Show, 1977. 1-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113. cityofeastlansing.com

Robot-a-thon (Age 4 & up) - JTry robot art, compete in an Ollie race, and have a robot sumo match. 4-6 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Sierra Club's Environmentalist of the Year Ceremony - 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

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

ARTS

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.

Papercrafting (Adults) - Learn new ways of using paper to artistically adorn cards, gifts or even your walls. 1-3 p.m. CADL Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Rd. #1, Williamston. cadl.org

MUSIC

Seoul National University New Music Ensemble - 7-8:30 p.m. RCAH Theater, MSU, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing.

Suren Bagratuni, cello, and Margarita Shevchenko, piano - 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. music.msu.edu.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 18 >> ARTSPACE POP-UP ART MARKET AT ALLEN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**

ARTspace, a grassroots community organization that promotes the artists of Lansing's east side neighborhood, is teaming up with Allen Neighborhood Center for a pop-up market.

Free, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
(517) 214-7593
[facebook.com/ARTspaceLansing](https://www.facebook.com/ARTspaceLansing)

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



HE ATE

SHE ATE



Amanecer Mexicano

A warm, family atmosphere

By **MARK NIXON**

Rare is the restaurant where you walk in and almost immediately feel you've stepped inside the home of a family member.

That feeling swept over me within seconds after setting foot in Amanecer Mexicano. We were greeted as family, or at least good friends. So were other customers — sometimes in Spanish, other times in English, always with warmth.

“Instant family” doesn't come in a box. Thirty seconds in the microwave and poof! ready to serve. No, it comes from the heart. And Amanecer Mexicano is first and foremost about heart.

A placard on the east wall hangs below the photograph of a man we are told is the owner's father. Written in Spanish, it says: “The most important man in our lives, who taught us to fight for our dreams.”

Reimagined from an old fish and chips chain restaurant, Amanecer Mexicano is mingling its dreams with ours — assuming your dreams are a soulful prayer for real Mexican cuisine.

After two visits, Judy declared this place to have the most authentic Mexican food in our community. I would go further. It's some of the best Mexican food I've had anywhere, including housemade dishes we've tasted in Oaxaca, Puebla, Mexico City and Huatulco.

By all means, don't pass over the Pico de Gallo, a \$1 add-on that is worth thrice that. The key word here is fresh, as in fresh cilantro, onion, tomato and loads of garlic. Subtly spiced, it makes a perfect companion for a variety of dishes, from gorditas to guacamole. (The guacamole, at \$4.75, is equally outstanding and equally fresh.)

Amanecer Mexicano translates as Mexican Sunrise, which aptly describes much of the menu. This is a breakfast and brunch place. We made our first visit a breakfast outing. As you can imagine, this is not the place you go for waffles and pancakes.

Try the Chilaquiles with over easy eggs (\$10.99). Housemade tortilla

chips are stewed in tomato sauce and then shredded chicken, refried beans and cheese are ladled in.

I ordered gorditas filled with eggs, beans and cheese, with an add-on of smoked meat called barbacoa. These scratch-made “little fat ones” are cousins to the taco, but most often the masa is pinched together to completely enwrap the filling. Gorditas are \$3 each, and compare favorably with the handmade gorditas crafted each May at the Cristo Rey Fiesta in south Lansing.

On our next visited we opted for brunch, which begins at 11 a.m. Hands down, the brunch winner was the Carnes en su Jugo (“meats in their juices”) for \$11.99.

Thinly sliced beef is stewed in beef broth, probably for many hours. Pinto beans are added, and eventually the dish is topped with bits of crisp bacon, bite-size chunks of fried tortillas and, just before serving, a fresh scallion. It reached our table piping hot. Topped with fresh cilantro and diced onions brought separately, this is plainly, simply, a remarkable feast for the eyes and stomach.

I ordered two tacos, one stuffed with battered shrimp (\$4.50) and the other with breaded fish (\$3.99). The bread-ing in both cases was not overdone, allowing other flavors to shine through. Both shrimp and fish were decked out

Another delicious gem for Lansing

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

Throughout high school and college, I did what everyone else did and ate at Taco Bell. I became conditioned to think that all Mexican food had to be dripping in cheese and that seasoned ground beef was the only protein option. Since those dark days, I've changed my ways.

I've learned that corn tortillas are vastly preferable to flour, that any dish featuring chorizo is a dish that I'm going to like and that cheese can be used sparingly, or sometimes not used at all.

Amanecer Mexicano opened in September and, as the name suggests —

amanecer translates to dawn — offers breakfast and brunch options and closes at 3 p.m. The menu is decidedly small and aggressively egg-forward. The interior of the restaurant is swathed in neutral tones, and bowls of fresh oranges have replaced the giant neon sombreros found in many local Mexican chain restaurants.

On a recent visit, Mr. She Ate started his meal with a glass of fresh-squeezed orange juice, which was made in-house right before our eyes. I haven't had orange juice in literally years — I always say that I would rather eat my calories than drink them — but this juice was incredible. Our only criticism of it was that it was room temperature, and would have been even more refreshing served cold.



Amanecer Mexicano
 Sunday,
 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Monday, Tuesday,
 Thursday-Saturday
 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
 2418 E Michigan Ave.
 Lansing
 (517) 574-4461
 facebook.com/
 AmanecerMexicano1

See He ate, Page 30

See She ate, Page 30



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He ate

from page 29

in red onions; diced tomatoes, a speck of shredded cabbage and a light drizzle of spiced, homemade cream.

Where's my thesaurus? I need some new synonyms for "outstanding."

Mexican food is sometimes considered unhealthy, a debate I will leave to others. However, it's worth noting that Amanecer Mexicano offers a number of fresh fruit smoothies, fruit salad and fresh-squeezed orange juice. The latter is served more or less at room tempera-

ture because, well, when they say fresh-squeezed, they mean exactly that.

The homey touches are worth noting. I saw a row of wooden clothespins dangling from a wire stretched above a kitchen workstation — no doubt an economical but useful way to hold orders.

There's little doubt that heritage is important here, and not just familial connections. A portrait of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo hangs on one wall, and scattered about are tiny molcajetes — Mexican mortar and pestles that are essential in many Mexican kitchens.

Food, family and clinging to one's heritage while fighting for our own dreams. Sure sounds like home to me.

She ate

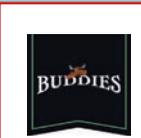
from page 29

I've waxed poetic in this space about Lansingites embracing the different cuisines represented by people who live here. Traveling to other cities around the country and around our state makes me realize that it's atypical to have so many wonderful Middle Eastern restaurants, a successful barbecue/Vietnamese restaurant, and the

like that are so completely embraced by our whole community. Amanecer Mexicano is another beautiful illustration of this phenomenon, as evidenced by our mayor documenting his recent visit on his Facebook page. Service is unflinchingly attentive, even as Mr. She Ate and I wandered in, bleary eyed, toting an infant car seat. Even when Baby Jane started to kick up just the smallest fuss, nobody side-eyed us. The kitchen is gleaming, the prices are right and the food is fantastic. Word to the wise — they aren't open Wednesday.

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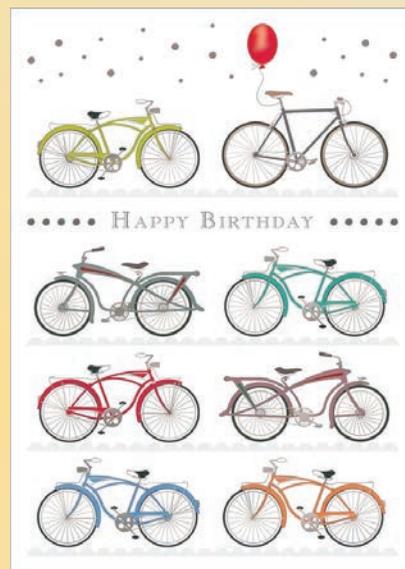
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