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CityPULSE

January 22-28, 2020

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Are TINY houses the next BIG thing?

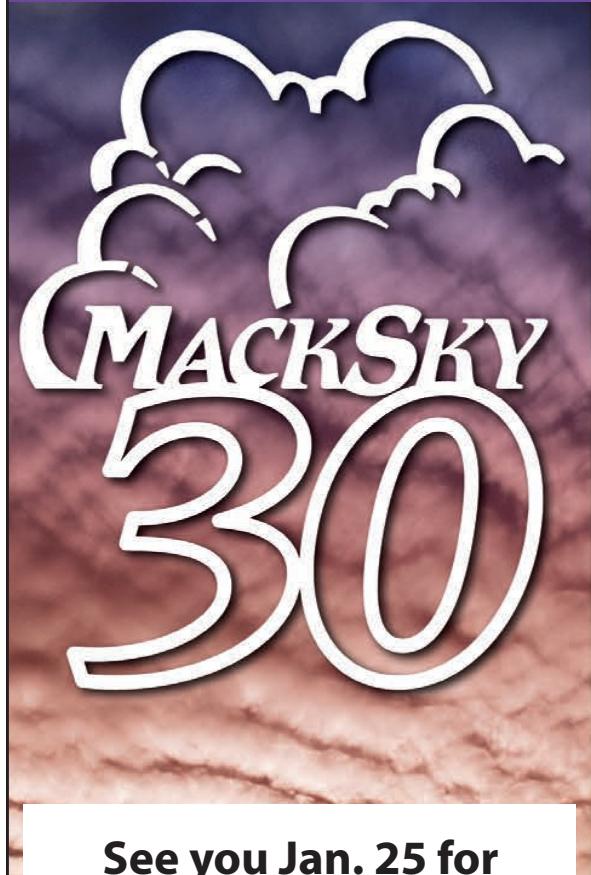
See page 11

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THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING

MACKEREL SKY'S 30th ANNIVERSARY



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

Favorite Things

Local musician A.J. Glaub and his rusty mixing console



A.J. Glaub is the social media and events coordinator for Elderly Instruments, but he is also a local rad dad and somewhat infamous Lansing-based musician and Eastside noise maker. He talked with City Pulse about a rusty-but-trusty piece of music equipment that's been with him for years.

My favorite thing is a Realistic Stereo Mixing Console from the '80s. A dear friend stuck it in my hands in 2004, suggesting I would know what to do with it. I was 20, I'm 35 and a half now.

Back in 2004, I was recently introduced to "internal feedback." For the uninitiated, this is similar to when a microphone creates feedback, but inside the hardware and much more bonkers, diverse, strange and interesting. It's like a harsh sine wave that's all brittle timbre and/or blasting crunch with no chromatic control. You can try it at home, just plug an output into an input. This particular mixer responds in the most dynamic and exciting way.

It's in rough shape. It was already pretty corroded when I received it. All the knobs are dented and broken from years of zero respect, from which it eternally rebounds. If you look at the bottom right corner, that dent is from throwing it across Mac's.

I'd become obsessed with the most abrasive, inside-out, broken and free music equipment I could possibly find. I soon met like-minded

friends on Lansing's Eastside. We discovered the mixers sounded better when you poured beer into them. It's exploded in sparks on stage at Mac's Bar, right before I threw it across the bar. I once performed in a flooded basement, tingling with electric current from the exposed electrical cable the entire time. It's had moods, eras, multiple lives and always gives me something new and exciting when I push it to create. The fuzzy lettering on it says "77 Han," a nonsense naming of the device. The cartoon character is a stupefied Porky the Pig, or something similar. This item holds extremely deep sentimental value to me. As I said, this was a gift from a very close friend who had a traumatic brain injury and was unable to remember me afterwards. I hold on to the memory of our friendship very closely.

These memories speak to a more disordered time of my life. While my current favorite things are healthy living and my relationship with my daughter, this item represents the "me" most people probably know or remember. It allows me to re-identify in a positive way. I still make plenty of crazy noise, but now I'm a "scene elder," and it's important for me to be a good example and show that endless inspiration and self-care go hand in hand.

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

MSU Music TAYLOR JOHNSTON Early Music Series PROFETI DELLA QUINTA

Lamento d'Arianna: Music of the Italian Renaissance
SUN. JAN. 26, 7:00 P.M. FAIRCHILD THEATRE, MSU AUDITORIUM

Presenting the evolution of the Italian madrigal, from the highly expressive polyphony of de Rore to the revolutionary madrigals by Monteverdi that shaped the Baroque era

In remembrance of Dr. Taylor Johnston, the College of Music would like to recognize his vision, passion and support for underwriting the Early Music Series. This guest ensemble is supported by the cultural department of Basel, Switzerland. Artist Management by Latitude 45.



TICKETS & INFO

MUSIC.MSU.EDU/EARY-MUSIC
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Accurate Inspections

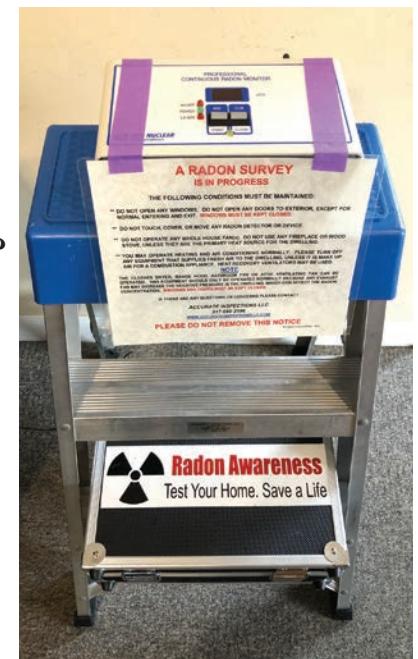
What is Radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring gas found in uranium deposits that can be found in the soil underneath your home. The gas is odorless, tasteless and invisible, which makes the concern greater.

Why should you test for Radon?

- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer.
- Elevated radon levels in your home is a risk and a hazard to your family and loved ones.
- Knowing the air quality of your home is your duty as a home owner.

Have your home tested for Radon every 1-2 years as the radon levels can change

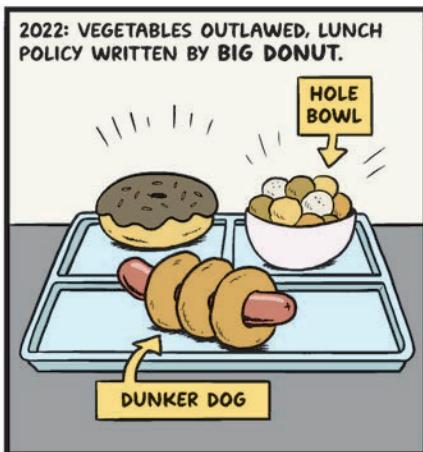
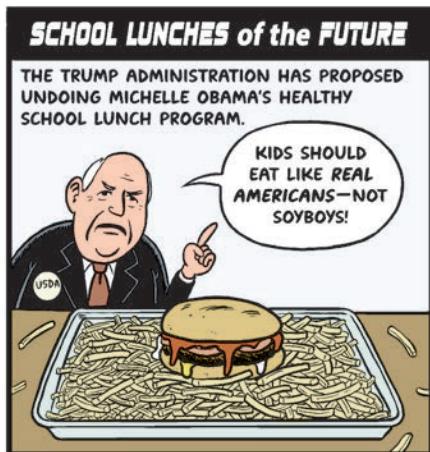


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Bringing Martin Luther King's words to life



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Celebrate Chinese New Year at Meridian Mall



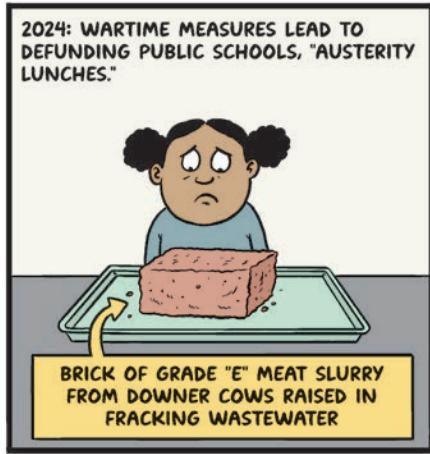
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Cover
Art

Illustration by Nevin Speerbrecher

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THIS MODERN WORLD

THE UNBELIEVABLE TRUMP



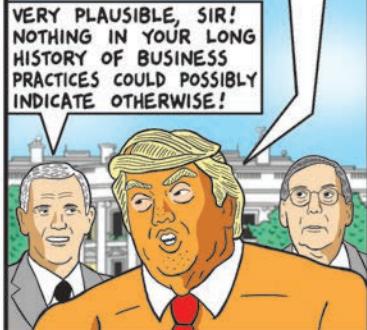
NOT TO MENTION **DISHWASHERS**, WHICH DON'T WORK UNLESS YOU KEEP **PUSHING BUTTONS!** MANY WOMEN TELL TRUMP THIS! TRUMP **ALWAYS** TALKING TO WOMEN ABOUT DISHWASHERS!



LOOK, TRUMP NEVER **HEARD** OF THIS PARNAS GUY, WITH WHOM TRUMP HAS BEEN PHOTOGRAPHED MANY TIMES!



TRUMP **DEFINITELY** NOT KNOW WHY THIS RUDY GUY WRITE LETTER TO ZELENSKY! TRUMP NOT CARE ABOUT DIRT ON BIDEN! TRUMP ONLY CARE ABOUT **CORRUPTION!** TRUMP **HATE** CORRUPTION!



ANYWAY, SO-CALLED NEW EVIDENCE IS **TOO LATE!** EVERYONE HAS TO **IGNORE** IT! THAT HOW IMPEACHMENT WORK--RIGHT, TURTLE GUY?



TOM TOMORROW © 2020

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Let the Counting Begin

In November 2018, more than two-thirds of state voters supported sweeping changes to Michigan's absentee voting laws, bringing us in line with 27 other states that allow no-reason absentee voting. Prior to the adoption of Proposal 3, popularly known as "Promote the Vote," voters could only cast absentee ballots if they were over age 60, planning to be out of town on Election Day, serving as a poll worker, unable to vote without assistance at the polls, unable to vote in person due to religious reasons, or in jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Not surprisingly, the advent of no-reason absentee voting has had a profound impact on voting patterns in cities across the state, including Lansing. A whopping 76 percent of capital city voters chose to cast absentee ballots in last year's August primary election and 66 percent in the November general election.

To the credit of Chris Swope, Lansing's amiable and highly effective city clerk, the use of absentee ballots by city voters began to rise long before Proposal 3. A decade ago, absentee votes represented about 28 percent of all ballots cast in the city. By 2015 that number had surged to nearly 45 percent, thanks to Swope's persistent and successful efforts to add eligible voters to the permanent AV list, his continuous outreach efforts to make city residents aware of their voting options, and more recently, establishing multiple offices with extended hours to accommodate walk-in absentee voting up to 40 days in advance of the election.

Although few clerks around the state have been as aggressive and successful as Swope, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson still expects the statewide average for absentee voting to reach or exceed 50 percent in the upcoming 2020 presidential election, nearly double the rate in the three previous statewide elections.

The overwhelming success of no-reason absentee voting has had predictable side effects. Because local clerks are not permitted to open or count absentee ballots until the polls close at 8pm on Election Day, the task of promptly tallying the final vote and reporting the results has become vastly more challenging. According to Clerk Swope, the change is

dramatically shifting the work of his office away from polling locations. In the November 2019 election, Swope hired 227 polling workers to help with just 26

percent of the vote, while the 28 people in his office counted the lion's share of the votes.

This sea change in voting patterns, and the likelihood that even more voters will choose to cast absentee ballots in future elections, creates a major challenge for Swope and his peers. If you can't even open the deluge of absentee ballots before the polls close, how can they all be tallied before the sun comes up the following day? In all likelihood, they cannot and perhaps should not. Asking the clerk's staff to pull an all-nighter to count the absentee ballots is a tall order, and one that makes mistakes in the wee hours of the morning all the more likely.

The CP Edit

Opinion

That's why lawmakers should approve changes to state election statutes to allow clerks to open and prepare absentee ballots for counting well before the polls open on Election Day. Secretary Benson called for such changes more than a year ago, but her warning that clerks are not equipped to deal with the onslaught of absentee ballots apparently fell on deaf ears in the Michigan Legislature. At this writing, no bills have yet been introduced to help ease the counting crunch by allowing the early processing of absentee ballots.

Opponents of such changes, including former Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, allege that opening absentee ballots before Election Day will lead to all sorts of calamities, such as voter fraud or election



results being disclosed prior to the close of polling locations, possibly influencing voters who haven't cast their ballots yet.

Yet dozens of other states have adopted rules that allow early processing of absentee ballots. In Maine, for example, municipalities can choose to process absentee ballots up to three days before an election, but are not permitted to count them until after polls have closed. Delaware allows local elections officials to begin opening absentee ballots the Friday before a Tuesday election but requires them to do so in a public meeting so challengers can observe the process.

With less than ten months to go before voters head to the polls for the presidential election, time is growing short to make the necessary changes here in Michigan — and for clerks to implement them — that would allow opening, preparing and perhaps even counting absentee ballots before Election Day.

A major obstacle to making it happen is Ruth Johnson herself, now a state senator who chairs the Senate Elections Committee. Despite her opposition, we urge the Capital region's legislative delegation to work with Clerk Swope and others to get the ball rolling by drafting and introducing legislation based on best practices in other states, then working to persuade Senator Johnson and other reticent Republicans to get on board.

See Letters to the Editor on page 8. Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to letters@lansingcitypulse.com. Please limit them to 250 words.



Wheelchair ramp at 615 N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Lansing

Festooned with greenery and smelling of fresh pine, the wheelchair ramp on the north side of 615 N. Martin Luther King Blvd. is a cheerful sight and a possible life saver for the resident, a 90-year-old veteran who had developed health issues and become prone to falling in recent months.

With the coming of winter, the man's family was worried he would take a serious fall on the porch steps, so they called the Tuesday Toolmen, a band of itinerant sawhorse samurai affiliated with the Capital Area Housing Partnership.

Since 2010, the Tuesday Toolmen have built about 300 handicap accessible ramps in the Lansing area, along with many handrails, grab bars and miscellaneous indoor projects. On a typical Tuesday, about 25 volunteers show up at 9 a.m. and get down to work. By 4 p.m., the ramp is ready to use and the crew is already on its way to DeLuca's Pizza.

For the volunteers, it's a fun and rewarding project, and not because of the pizza.

"It makes a huge difference in people's lives," program coordinator Brady Calkins said. Last week, the Toolmen had a grand day building a ramp for a disabled child.

"His mom had been carrying him up and down the steps," Calkins said. "At the end of the day, the guys got to see this 9-year-old kid use the ramp, and that's what makes the program worthwhile."

Call (517) 332-4663 if you know of someone who could use some help from the Toolmen.

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

The highest taxpayer-funded paychecks in Greater Lansing

Which government employees raked in the most cash in 2019?

Hundreds of government employees working for the cities of Lansing and East Lansing and Ingham County government were paid more than \$100 million in total last year. Many of them collected six-figure paychecks, leaning heavily on taxpayer dollars to bring home the bread for their own families.

City Pulse recently collected payroll records for the largest earners in the three largest municipalities in Greater Lansing over 2019. About 70% of those highest paid employees are men, and they included elected leaders, top government administrators, doctors, judges, lawyers and emergency personnel.

In Lansing, the top ten biggest earners accounted for about 2% of the city's total \$60 million payroll. The ten most lucrative jobs with the city of East Lansing account for about 5.5% of the city's \$21.8 million payroll. And in Ingham County, the 10 highest paid government employees comprise 2.4% of the \$66.3 million in total pay.

Here's a quick look at where some of the biggest paychecks were sent out during 2019:

East Lansing		Total:	\$1,562,130
1. City Manager George Lahanas	\$172,902	Gross Payroll:	\$66,246,403
2. Fire Chief Randy Talifarro	\$131,537	Percent of Gross Payroll:	2.4%
3. Finance Director Jill Feldpausch	\$127,089		
4. Police Chief Larry Sparkes	\$116,805		
5. Public Works Director Scott House	\$115,439		
6. Police Lieutenant James Campbell	\$110,287		
7. Fire Captain Cameron Howie	\$110,189		
8. Police Lieutenant Tresha Neff	\$104,836		
9. Deputy Fire Chief Dawn Carson	\$103,621		
10. Police Lieutenant Marc Smith	\$100,332		
Total:	\$1,193,039		
Gross Payroll:	\$21,792,303		
Percent of Gross Payroll:	5.47%		
Lansing		Total:	\$1,242,041
1. City Attorney Jim Smiertka	\$161,769	Gross Payroll:	\$60,340,228
2. Mayor Andy Schor	\$134,058	Percent of Gross Payroll:	2.06%
3. Chief Strategy Officer Shelbi Frayer	\$134,000		
4. Human Relations and Community Services Director Joan Jackson Johnson	\$126,789		
5. Fire Chief Michael Mackey	\$124,471		
6. Public Services Deputy Director Christopher Mumby	\$115,000		
7. Public Services Director			
Ingham County		Total:	\$190,575
1. Community Health Centers Interim Medical Director Priti Pathak	\$190,575		
2. Community Health Centers Primary Care Physician Melvin Cherry	\$186,987		
3. Community Health Centers Family Medicine Physician Luis Valle	\$183,033		
4. East Lansing City Manager George Lahanas	\$172,902		
5. Lansing City Attorney Jim Smiertka	\$161,769		
6. Ingham County Controller Tim Dolehanty	\$153,372		
7. Community Health Centers Dental Director Stephen Pittel	\$149,956		
8. Probate Court Judge Richard Garcia	\$149,490		
9. Probate Court Judge Shauna Dunnings	\$149,220		
10. Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon	\$136,064		

Total: **\$1,562,130**
Gross Payroll: \$66,246,403
Percent of Gross Payroll: 2.4%

Overall Top Ten

1. Community Health Centers Interim Medical Director Priti Pathak	\$190,575
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Source: Ingham County Human Resources Director Sue Graham.

Freedom of Information Act requests filed with Lansing and East Lansing.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Is Barack Obama Street coming to Lansing?

Board of Public Service examines name change idea

The idea has been raised: Should Lansing rename a local street after President Barack Obama?

Samara Morgan, chairwoman of Lansing's Board of Public Service, said she would be "thrilled" to see a local street renamed after the former president after the concept first surfaced at a board meeting earlier this month. The idea is still in its infancy. No proposals have been developed. But interest in the name is growing, she said.

"Some citizens are interested in exploring the possibility of naming a street after President Obama. Right now, we are in a preliminary discussion phase and just brainstorming ideas," Morgan explained in an email.

"I support doing something to honor President Obama, as once upon a time we had a president worthy of honor."

At least 15 streets in the United States and two outside the U.S. (in Spain and Tanzania) have already been named after the 44th president.

The Lansing City Council has voted to rename streets after historic icons in the past. And almost all of the ideas have generated controversy among local residents. The biggest was in 1994 and 1995, when the Lansing City Council approved renaming Grand Avenue for migrant rights champion Cesar Chavez – then voters reversed the decision the next year. More than 20 years later, a part of Grand River Avenue was renamed after him, despite some opposition from merchants in Old Town.

"I don't know how to feel about it," added board member Nancy Mahlow. "It's nothing against Obama. He was a great president, but there's always a big controversy with renaming streets. There would need to be public discussions and homeowners would need to be notified. There are costs. It's just a whole bunch of hoops."

City officials said renaming a street involves a formal recommendation from the Board of Public Service, which would then head to the City Council for a public hearing and final approval. Lansing Public Service Director Andy Kilpatrick said any name change would also generate costs for local business owners and for new signage.

"I was very supportive of the idea," added board member John Krohn. "It's early, and there was no signifi-

cant action taken, but it's something we're all thinking about now. I think the atmosphere was generally supportive."

Kilpatrick said board member Stacey Locke brought up the idea at a board meeting earlier this month. Locke and board members Jason Wilkes, Cleophus Anderson and Dulce Cardenas couldn't be reached for comment.

"It was a very informal discussion," added board member Walt Sorg. "It's definitely an interesting concept, but I can't think of any circumstances where we've named a street after someone who is alive before. I don't know how that works. One of the main points was that he's a historic national figure, but again, it's just an early idea."

Morgan noted that no specific streets have been identified as the preliminary discussions continue,

See Obama, Page 7

Michigan pulls plug on anti-marijuana campaign

Misleading advertisements removed after public outcry

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is tapping the brakes on a recent anti-marijuana advertising campaign after facing backlash over its largely false and misleading take on cannabis consumption.

"The goal of this federally funded media campaign is to address a problem that is well-documented among youth," according to an emailed statement from an HHS spokeswoman that was sent earlier this week. "We're currently rethinking how to craft the most effective messaging possible for this campaign."

With about \$300,000 in federal grant funding, the department produced a series of short videos in December that were designed to warn about the "health risks and dangers" of teenage marijuana use. But after marijuana enthusiasts cried foul over the campaign last week, all but one clip were abruptly pulled from YouTube.

A spokeswoman said the ads were initially slated to appear on various social media and streaming services until mid-April. But after they were removed online, those plans have been "paused" altogether while officials decide on how to reshape the message of the campaign.

"Although the goal is to address a

health risk that is well-documented among youth, we do not want to stigmatize adults who are using marijuana," according to a department spokeswoman.

The ads all featured a heavyset, middle-aged man lecturing a supposedly teenage version of his younger self. The younger actor — who portrayed a stereotypical red-eyed stoner — played video games and ate pizza and was too lethargic to respond to the conversation while being chastised about the supposed consequences of marijuana.

"No career. No friends. No money. What happened to us, man," the older man asked in one of the videos, essentially insinuating that all pot smokers are somehow incapable of graduating college or going on to serve as productive members of a professional society. "Marijuana messed with our brain. We can't focus."

That advertisement, along with at least four others, were removed from public view over the weekend after several statewide news outlets reported on their controversial existence. Only one, 15-second clip that specifically warns about marijuana's effects on teenage brain development remains online.

Department officials said they had intended for all of the ads to address research that points to marijuana's detrimental impact on the teenage

brain. But the actual takeaway caused some industry insiders to raise their eyebrows, especially in a state that has legalized marijuana for both medical and recreational adult consumption.

Rick Thompson, owner of the Michigan Cannabis Business Development Group, argued the videos weren't clearly intended for a teenage audience and used "inappropriate and well-disproven tropes about cannabis." And the bearded "high schooler" in the video hardly appeared teenaged — instead more likely in his early to mid-20s.

After HHS disabled comments before deleting the videos, social media blowback had been fierce. Some viewers slammed the recent campaign for supposedly discouraging the growth of a lucrative new state-wide industry and spreading a dated "Reefer Madness" mentality to exaggerate the negative side effects of smoking marijuana.

And it appears state officials took that feedback into consideration.

"It's actually really encouraging," Thompson said this week. "This is an

example of the public rising up over an issue and the government responding. It's sort of the American condition to distrust the government and expect them to just ignore these pleas from the people. But in this instance, we're seeing a very responsive government."

The original ads were supposedly geared to discourage ages 14-20 from smoking marijuana before they're legally able to do so under state law. The state spokeswoman previously declined to discuss the obvious perpetuation of negative stereotypes, but noted that the video clips tested well with focus groups before they were put online.

However, it appears state officials are now heading back to the drawing board to rethink their advertising plans.

"Kudos to the Whitmer administration for responding quickly," Thompson added. "As a governmental lesson, \$300,000 is a pretty inexpensive price to pay. We've seen the government waste more money and learn a lot less."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

RFP/20/064 CART OPERATIONS EVALUATION as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. Proposals will be accepted at the CITY OF LANSING PURCHASING OFFICE, 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on FEB. 18, 2020 at which time proposals will be opened. Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 702-6197, or email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com, or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#20-012

Obama

from page 6

but she hopes that awareness of the idea could serve as the impetus for a "citizen movement" to put some changes into motion.

"Any time the public is engaged in a positive cause, I'm happy," Morgan added.

In 1989, Logan Street was renamed Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. In 2010, Main Street became Malcolm X Street. In 2018, the City Council voted unanimously to change Grand River Avenue to Cesar Chavez Avenue. And that idea faced significant backlash from local preservationists and the Old Town Commercial Association.

Some, at the time, wanted to maintain the historic integrity of Grand

River Avenue's original name. Others in the local business community complained about the costs associated with changing logos and other signage. But eventually (and with vehement support from Lansing's Hispanic community) the changeover was made official.

At this juncture, it's unclear whether the Obama concept will actually develop into a recommendation for the City Council, but Morgan encourages those with feedback to reach out to the Lansing Board of Public Service.

(The email address is publicserviceboard@listerv.lansingmi.gov.)

"We kind of just throw these things out there at these meetings," Mahlow added. "It's just a suggestion that turned into a discussion. A lot of times that's where it ends. We don't really know where this will go just yet."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020, AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers
Trustees: Harris, McKenzie, Bankson
MEMBERS ABSENT: Supervisor Hayes; Trustee Broughton
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Motion to appoint Clerk Aten Chair pro tem.
Meeting called to order by Chair pro tem Aten.
Approved minutes of the meeting held on December 10, 2019.

Agenda approved.

Approved request from Trustee to suspend stipend for two months due to absence.
Adopted Resolution 20:01 – To Opt out of the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act 152 of 2011.

Adopted Resolution 20:02 – Township Board Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income and Asset Test.

Approved 2019 amusement device license renewal for VFW Post 6132.

Approved 2019 used car lot license renewal for University Foreign Car Repair.

Approved budget amendment #1.

Approved Claims.

Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#20-007

LETTERS to the editor

Witnesses needed in Trump trial

My name is Sandra and I have been a long time Michigan resident, voting in every election. I strongly believe that every person deserves a fair trial and the ability for both the prosecution and the defense to call witnesses to help uncover the truth. This is especially important in the upcoming trial in Washington. The charges against Donald Trump are serious. Every avenue to acquit or to condemn should be pursued, including the calling of witnesses.

Sandra Thomasson
Williamston

Stop 'Mafia-like behavior'

As a nearly 40-year resident in mid-Michigan and a voter who has never missed an election, I am urging all elected officials and in fact everyone to demand of the Senate that it engage in a fair and thorough trial of the president for "high crimes and misdemeanors." That includes hearing testimony from witnesses who have knowledge of the president's actions pertaining to his attempts and those of his personal representative, Rudy Giuliani, to bribe the Ukrainian government to announce an investigation of Joe Biden and his son. The President has done his best to prevent such testimony hoping that it would undermine the House's case against him.

It is time to strike a blow against this Mafia-like behavior at the highest level of government and in favor of honesty in government. It is time for everyone to speak out against the most thuggish behavior of a president at least since Richard Nixon's Watergate burglary and cover-up. Decency and democracy demand it.

Lewis Siegelbaum

Jack and Margaret Sweet Professor Emeritus of History
Michigan State University

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

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

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

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

'Disappointed' lifelong Republican

I'm a 30 year resident of Lansing, MI and a retired State of Michigan employee. I also served 30 years in the United States Air Force (Active, Air National Guard and Reserve), now retired. For several weeks now, I have closely watched various media venues regarding the pending impeachment trial. I find it difficult to understand why some Senators are refusing to allow witnesses, documents, and evidence that would allow for a fair trial. As an American patriot, I as well as all American people deserve to see what is happening, limiting transparency only to protect classified information and whistleblower anonymity. Our Senators must vote for a fair trial with witnesses and public documents. Without a fair trial, our democracy is at stake. I'm life long Republican and I am very disappointed in the party I've supported for 50 years. Do the right thing and support a fair trial.

David Thomas
Lansing

What's the rest of the story?

I found the Mike Stratton "Breaking up with pot: When the going gets weird" story (Jan. 8, 2020) to be quite riveting and mostly very well done. But I have two MAJOR problems with it.

One, when I got to the end, I felt like I was about to finish a book only to find the last 20 pages ripped out. What the heck?!?! Ending a story with a rock-bottom experience and "I knew I had to find a way, but life certainly wouldn't be any fun anymore" -- and then nothing else ... well to say it leaves the reader wanting much more is an understatement. We need to hear about the recovery, the next steps... what happened after that? I kept looking for a "continued on page X" or "part 1 of 2" ... but nothing.

Then the other thing... the title. I was expecting something about a casual pot user going a little too far and kind of a cautionary tale in the face of the dramatic changes in weed laws and potential availability and consumption that is changing our culture.

But Mike's story is one of serious addiction involving both alcohol and pot ... really simply a story of someone who has to stop using, whatever the drug of choice, or face losing everything. That's some fairly extreme substance abuse there — though he was admittedly a "functional" user for much of it -- and for a lot of the story, the pot use is secondary to the alcohol use.

I hope Mike will do a follow-up story. I'd love to hear about his progress from that point.

Thanks
Steve Underwood
Lansing

(Editor's note: The "rest" of the story is in Stratton's book, "The little green book: (a guide to breaking up with marijuana)", is available on Amazon. City Pulse published an excerpt.)

NEVER SPOKEN AGAIN: ROGUE STORIES OF SCIENCE AND COLLECTIONS

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, Jan. 24, 6-8pm

Please join us and guest curator David Ayala-Alfonso to celebrate our next lead exhibition **Never Spoken Again: Rogue Stories of Science and Collections**. This traveling exhibition reflects on the birth of modern collections, the institutions that sustain them, and their contingent origin stories.

For more information, visit broadmuseum.msu.edu.



Daniel R. Small, *Excavation II*, 2016, mixed media installation.
Installation view at Hammer Museum. Courtesy of the artist.

Never Spoken Again: Rogue Stories of Science and Collections is a traveling exhibition curated by David Ayala-Alfonso and produced by Independent Curators International (ICI). It is the result of a new series of programs, pioneered with the support of the Hartfield Foundation, aimed at providing opportunities to emerging ICI Curatorial Interns to think through the role of the collector and the collector's role in the CIC's commitment to fostering and championing new curatorial voices who will shape the future of the field. Never Spoken Again is made possible with the generous support of ICI's Board of Trustees and International Forum, with additional support from SAMA. Support for this project at the MSU Broad comes from the Eli and Edythe Broad endowed exhibitions fund.

MSU BROAD

B/20/059 Delta River Dr Rehabilitation as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on Feb. 6, 2020 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#20-014

It's 2020, as if Lucido couldn't tell

In some other time and in some other place, Sen. Pete Lucido's carelessness comments to younger women he'd met around the state Capitol would have been nervously laughed off.

Telling a 22-year-old female reporter she could "have fun" with a pack of high school boys or they could "have fun" with her would have yielded yucks and backslaps from the guys within earshot. The embarrassed young woman, alone in the situation, would not share in the jovial display.

As it was, Allison Donahue's experience last week emboldened Sen. Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak) to share her interaction with Lucido, a Republican from an affluent northern Detroit suburb, from an orientation training 14 months prior. A potential future Senate majority leader, Lucido puts his hand on the lower back of the 33-year-old freshman, checks her out and says "I can see why" he unseated an incumbent male Senator at the ballot box.

How many times have creepy exchanges played out around the Capitol? According to the female colleagues and staff who've talked to McMorrow, the list is long.

But, wrongly or rightly, the poster child for this conduct is Pete Lucido, the chairman of two powerful Senate committees. A potential 2022 gubernatorial candidate. Someone who passed up a clear shot at Congress. A fast-talking senator who said on public television the week before that he'd go around his own leadership to push for the road-funding plan he wanted, if need be.

Now, Lucido is under investigation by the Senate Business Office, facing calls for his resignation, putting his leadership in a position of having to publicly discipline him so the mud he's kicked up doesn't splatter on them.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake, thought little of referring to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer as "my" governor as if he were referring to his automobile or his breakfast. Then he called the governor "bat shit



POLITICS

crazy," and now he's watching his step.

Last year, four former female Democratic state senate employees went public with their complaints that a male co-worker's antics were inappropriate, at best. They felt their concerns were cast aside because his technical value to the Senate D's was too valuable. They all ended up leaving their jobs. He kept his.

Neither Shirkey nor Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich may suffer any lasting political damage from these brushfires, but there's no way they're opening themselves up to be either being re-ignited by looking the other way.

This is not some other time or some other place. This is 2020 in the center of a deeply sensitive and hotly political environment. The time of loud, overbearing people shaming others with belittling snide comments has entered a vortex. Now, it's the perceived bullies being publicly shamed on social media.

The bigger the political figure, the louder the blowback.

Lucido, the same guy once pictured screaming his lungs out at a Donald Trump rally, isn't going to get a pass as the president seeks a second term. Especially when he's an elected Republican representing a state Trump won in 2016 by a handful of votes.

Instead of working the system to

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.

Sue Sevon
CLERK OF THE COURT
Shelle Hooten
DEPUTY CLERK
73 Main St., Fallon, NV 89406

CP#20-002



Lucido

aggressive, bull-in-a-china-shop tactics that made him so effective as a legislator — nine public acts last year, chair of a committee that's handled a quarter of the bills moved in the Senate, MIRS Senator of the Year in 2019 — is clearly his biggest weakness.

In 2020, shielding yourself as some wild, fast-talking Italian attorney from rough-and-tumble Macomb County is growing thin. When you're a conservative Republican making a sexual innuendo to a reporter from a liberal news outlet, you're playing with fire. Running your mouth and saying

whatever's on your mind to someone who isn't your chum like you're Jim Carrey in "Liar, Liar" doesn't add to your charm.

In 2020, those stepped on by reckless chatter are being embraced, encouraged, reassured, empowered.

In 2020, more and more people are treating others — regardless of what personal characteristic makes them stand out — with respect. Or at least they should be.

Is the media explosion around the Lucido story inflamed by the political atmosphere of 2020? Probably. But, whether it's 2020 or not, choosing not to keep it professional, courteous and respectful with others isn't OK.

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

B/20/060 Willard Pump Station Improvements as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on **Feb. 18, 2020** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#20-013

PUBLIC NOTICE
Of Vehicle Auction
January 31, 2020 - 12 p.m.
2005 Chevy Impala VIN: 2G1WF52E359176853
2011 Chrysler 200 I VIN: 1C3BC1FBXBN600498
2017 Nissan VIN: 3N1CN7AP7HL871241
Auction will be held at
P.J.'s Towing
1425 Rensen St.
Lansing, MI 48910
NO PHONE CALLS

CP#20-015

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
FY2020, 7/1/2020 – 6/30/21

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS
FROM: LANSING PLANNING BOARD
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020
TIME AND PLACE: 6:30 p.m., Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple Street, Lansing, MI.

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2019 (7/1/2019 – 6/30/2020).

For additional information, please contact Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner at (517) 483-4063, M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for FY 2020 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed herein for FY 2020 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are based on prior entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown in the link, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity.

Copies of the Proposed Funding Allocations for FY 2020 (7/1/20-6/30/21) can be found on the City of Lansing's website at: www.lansingmi.gov/development

CP#20-011

What Bernie (might have) said

Several months ago, a very progressive, proudly feminist friend asked me who I was supporting in the Democratic race for president. I said I wasn't sure, but I was leaning toward Elizabeth Warren.

"She won't win," she replied.

"So who are you voting for?"

"Biden," she said quickly. That took me aback. Of the major Democratic candidates, the moderate former vice president was the one probably least aligned with her values.

"Why don't you think Warren can win?" I asked.

"This country won't vote for a woman."

The only thing that mattered, she added, was defeating Donald Trump. She thought Joe Biden was the safest path toward that goal. Everything else was secondary.

I have no idea if Bernie Sanders told Elizabeth Warren in late 2018 that a woman couldn't beat Donald Trump in 2020. I'll confess some skepticism that such a remark would have gone unleaked for a year only to surface weeks before the Iowa caucuses. But it's possible that

Sanders said it; CNN's audio of their post-debate interaction last week suggests Warren believes he did. It's also possible that Sanders said something that Warren interpreted in a way Sanders didn't intend.

Either way, I'm less interested in The Feud than I am the question underlying it. For the sake of argument, assume Sanders said

a woman can't beat Trump. Is he wrong?

I know more than one shell-shocked progressive who has their doubts, and not without reason: In 2016, America had the choice between a smart, overqualified woman and a loutish, racist, aggressively ignorant man. The man won.

There are caveats galore, of course. Trump's election required a perfect confluence of events: Start with Hillary Clinton's godawful campaign, led by an uncharismatic candidate tarnished by a quarter-century of ginned-up pseudo-scandals. Throw in the FBI's mishandled email-server investigation that the media hyped like it was Iran Contra times Watergate to the power of Teapot Dome. Add some Russian hacking and WikiLeaks dirty work. Mix in a late callback to Anthony Weiner's dick pics. And for the coup de grace, the Electoral College, which gave Trump the White House despite earning 3 million fewer votes, thanks to a football-stadium-size margin spread across three states.

In an election that close, everything mattered.

So yes, maybe Bernie would have won because he'd have rallied the millennials who stayed at home. Maybe he would have won because the Rust Belt would have responded to his message. Or maybe he would have won because he is not a woman.

This thesis can't be tested, of course. Who knows where Bernie would have ended up after a billion dollars worth of "he honeymooned in the Soviet Union" ads? But Sanders, at least, wouldn't have had to endure the torrent of misogyny, both from Trump and his supporters and from the media, that Clinton did.

Three years later, "I'll vote for a woman, just not that woman" has become a meme, but like any good meme, it gets at something real: Large swaths of the country despised Hillary, but they'll probably find some reason to despise the next woman who makes a serious run for commander in chief, too.

Consider the Democratic primary: Among the reasons Kamala Harris never caught on was that Democrats voters feared a black woman wouldn't be electable. Amy Klobuchar, who seemed primed to make a Rust Belt case, was met at

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF INGHAM
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
File No. 19-745-DE

Estate of Rafael Ramirez. Date of birth: 10-26-1967.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Rafael Ramirez, died May 19, 2019. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Yolanda Jimenez-Ramirez, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 01/05/2020
Yolanda Jimenez-Ramirez
907 Cleo Street
Lansing, MI 48915
517-402-1846 CP#20-010

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF INGHAM
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
FILE NO 18-000578-GM-P33

In the matter of Dakota E. Heinlein.
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS*: Valerie Eve Rogers whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: ONE OR MORE ANNUAL REPORTS ARE BEING FILED WITH THE INGHAM COUNTY PROBATE COURT. Annual Report of Guardian on condition of minor.

Date: 1/13/2020
Tammy McDowell
904 Paul Revere Court
Potterville, MI 48876
517-885-1009 CP#20-006



INFORMED DISSENT

JEFFREY C. BILLMAN



the gate with stories painting her as, well, a bitch. And Warren has been labeled "angry" and "antagonistic," another way of calling her "unlikeable."

To become the first black president, Barack Obama had to not only be an exceptional politician, but he also needed the stars to align. With the economy tanking and the Iraq War a dumpster fire in 2008, whichever Democrat won the nomination would almost certainly win in November. And Obama had given a speech opposing the Iraq War in 2002—before his opposition carried any consequence—while Clinton backed it. He was lucky and good.

To become the first woman president, Warren (or Klobuchar) will need to defeat an incumbent presiding over a growing economy. To break through the barrier in the worst rich country in the world to be a woman, she'll have parity misogynistic depravity that knows no bottom and a media that still treats Trump as normal. She'll have to persuade a country conditioned

to accept a man's flaws (Trump won just six weeks after the "grab 'em by the pussy" tape came to light) and doubt a woman's ability and whereabouts (remember that time Hillary coughed?). She'll also have to deal with the fact that female ambition tends to make men uncomfortable.

In short, she'll have to be exceptional. And like Obama, she'll need some stars to align.

Despite the economy, Trump is unpopular, widely perceived as crass, venal, mendacious, impulsive, corrupt, and cruel. A good candidate, man or woman, will make the election a referendum on the president while also motivating the party's base to turn out. It's a fine line to walk, but if it happens, Trump will lose.

There's no reason that candidate can't be a woman. But like Ginger Rogers, she'll have to do it backward and in high heels.

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



Living small

Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

At about 1,000 square feet, the homes in developer Dave Muylle's Cottage Row on Lansing's east side are not quite tiny, but the village breaks sharply from traditional home building patterns.

Tiny homes throw a potent pebble into Lansing's housing pool

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The words "housing bubble" bring to mind bleak images of foreclosure sales, tax auctions and rows of huge, muscle-bound McMansions, sitting empty for lack of buyers. For more than half a century, homes in America got bigger and more expensive until the bubble spectacularly burst.

Across the nation, a dramatically down-scaled vision of affordable housing is popping up, like outcrops of colorful mushrooms, and it's starting to pop up in Lansing.

"Tiny homes" (under 600 square feet and often half that in size) and their bigger brothers, "small homes" (under 900 square feet) look like a cute fad on TV, but a group of Lansing area residents see them as a partial solution to the crying need for affordable housing.

Living in a tiny home can be a lifestyle choice, as it is on chirpy HGTV shows, or a crucial key to home ownership for people in poverty or the homeless.

Lansing Area Tiny Homes is a diverse

group of more than 50 Lansing area residents, from builders to accountants to people looking for a home they can afford. Their goal is to start a non-profit organization and build a settlement of tiny homes for low-income and homeless people in Lansing. The group is led, for now, by the Rev. Jon Pohl of Asbury United Methodist Church, until a board of directors is established.

At the same time, local developers such as Dave Muylle and Brent Forsberg are putting a toe in the tiny and small house markets, bucking decades-long traditions and layers of legal barriers that have discouraged Americans from living small.

Casitas at Cass

The diverse group that gathered at Asbury United Methodist one night last week disagreed on the details, but there was a clear consensus that tiny homes have the potential to help people in poverty attain the dream of home ownership.

Michigan's most conspicuous example, and

a potential model for the Lansing group, is Detroit's tiny home community, just off the Lodge Freeway's Elmhurst exit, on the city's west side.

The nonprofit Cass Community Social Services builds and manages the homes, which are set on 25 vacant lots purchased from the city for \$15,000.

So far, 19 homes, ranging in size from 250 to 400 square feet, have been built, six more are underway and 10 larger homes for families are planned. They are the first new structures the neighborhood has seen since 1974.

A volunteer work force built each home in a few weeks with donated goods.

In a sharp rebuke to the institutional drabness of many public housing projects, the Cass homes are designed in different architectural styles: Cape Cod, modern, shotgun, Victorian. Cathedral ceilings make them feel much larger than they are. Porches and patios extend the living space and enhance the feeling of community. The cost of the first seven homes was

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Homes

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about \$40,000.

The Rev. Faith Fowler, the nonprofit's director, said the homes are meant to offer disadvantaged people "the pride and dignity of owning a home, and, ultimately collateral." Occupants pay a dollar a square foot monthly rent and are required to take financial literacy classes and do volunteer work in the community. After seven years, if the requirements are met, the house is theirs.

The Cass project is one of a long string of tiny house projects across the nation, many of which have their roots in political activism.

Dignity Village in Portland, Oregon, began in 2000 as a tent city and evolved into a village of over 40 tiny homes. Opportunity Village in Eugene, Oregon, evolved from an Occupy Eugene encampment to a village of 30 very tiny shelters (about 200 square feet in size) with a communal yurt for sleeping on cold nights. Second Wind Cottages in Ithaca, New York, turned a homeless encampment behind a Wal-Mart into a village of 20 winterized tiny homes. Hickory Crossing in Dallas, built in 2016, houses 50 chronically homeless people. The list is long and getting longer.

Beret and ski cap

The Cass project came up frequently at the meeting at Asbury United Methodist. Brad Warrenburg, a utility worker specializing in rebate programs

and energy efficiency, didn't know anybody at the LATH meeting, but he sat in a rear pew and listened intently, his interest piqued by the group's Facebook page.

A few years ago, faced with a month and a half shutdown from his job at Ford Motor Co., Warrenburg joined a group in New Orleans that built homes for people displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

He's interested in helping the Lansing group make its tiny homes energy efficient.

"I've been in too many homes doing audits for people where they have their utilities shut off because they can't pay the bill," he said. "I like the whole idea of tiny homes."

The diversity of the Lansing group was evident in the conversations that broke out after the meeting. Warrenburg, clad in a tweed suit and beret, stood in the lobby next to Benjamin Jones, a bearded, ruddy builder, dressed in ski cap and heavy work clothes.

Jones loves architecture and has studied it since high school. Tiny homes combine that interest with his other driving passion, protecting the environment. He has long planned to build his own homestead, following principles of sustainability.

"I want to put as minimal a footprint on the planet as possible," Jones said. "We don't need these 3,500-square-foot mansions to live in."

The average American house put out over 28,000 pounds of carbon dioxide in 2015, while the average Cass tiny home puts out 3,500 pounds a year, according to data from Cass Community Social Services.

Jones has just finished design-



Courtesy photo

Developer Brent Forsberg is building a village of small homes ranging in size from 760 to 900 square feet in an abandoned trailer park near Eaton Rapids.

ing a tiny home in a rural area near Dimondale for a woman who is retiring in April.

The house will be about 320 square feet and cost \$15,000. He plans to position two shipping containers, each 20 feet by 8 feet, at right angles to each other, creating a patio space between the wings. (The client calls it a "catio," for her cats.) There will be a bedroom, a bath, a kitchenette and living area with a trundle bed for guests. The house will be heated with a wood stove and powered by a solar grid. Water will come from a well and there will be a septic tank.

Jones will start work as soon as the shipping containers arrive, so the client

can move in this fall. He was delighted to learn of the LATH meeting and is eager to take part in the group.

"This is a good chance to show how we can reinvent the idea of community, how to live and how to give back," he said.

Mary Lynn Granado's interest in the Asbury Church meeting was far from abstract. She needs an affordable alternative to her current housing situation.

"I'm going to be alone one day," she said. "My husband's dying of kidney failure and I need a place to live that I can afford."

Granado's income from disabili-

See Homes, Page 13

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Saturday, January 25th at 7pm

Sunday, January 26th at 3pm

A Broadway Musical Revue!

Homes

from page 12

ty payments comes to about \$1,000 a month, but she has years to go before her regular Social Security payments kick in.

She doesn't want to end up in a federally subsidized housing project and hopes to help the group any way she can.

"Even working, people are struggling," she said. "I'd like to be a part of this even if I can't afford to have one built for myself."

The cottages and the councilman

When it comes to tiny houses, Lansing City Councilman Brandon Betz is a believer.

"The work Dave Muylle has done on the east side has been awesome," said Betz, whose First Ward includes the east side.

Muylle, a small-scale developer and restorer of craftsman-style homes, is the mastermind of Cottage Row, a village tucked into Lansing's east side.

So far, four cottages are completed and occupied and two more are under construction. At 1,000 to 1,100 square feet, the cottages exceed most people's definition of "tiny home," which is fine with Muylle, because he doesn't like the term anyway.

"I don't consider myself a tiny home builder," Muylle said. "What I'm interested in the size and the design of the house being appropriate — maybe it's 400 square feet, maybe it's 900."

He'd like to see the city make it easier for small builders like himself to participate in the creation of their own homes "instead of leaving housing in the hands of a few big developers."

"My project took four years before I finally got approval to build this thing, because of increased density, shared driveways and things like that," he said.

Muylle's eight-plus years of hard work may reverberate beyond his little village. Councilman Betz watched the cottages go up when he lived on Leslie Street. He still lives nearby and walks his dogs by Muylle's village frequently.

"They're gorgeous," he said. "I'm very impressed with his work."

Two weeks ago, Betz met with Jon Pohl of Lansing Area Tiny Homes and offered his support.

"I believe they're a path to owner-

ship and equity that low-income people don't get," Betz said. "If I had a tiny home available to me, I would love to purchase one myself."

Betz's hopes for the project go beyond helping low-income people build equity. "If this is done right, we can house a lot of the homeless population," he said.

Betz said he is asking LATH for a "road map" of "all the things we need to get done and changed to have this happen," from zoning to other kinds of red tape.

"We have a ton of laws associated with everything, and so does the state," Betz said. "I'm interested in making it as easy as possible to build these because I think they'd be a valuable resource to the community."

The city is seeded with seekers of simplicity with plans for nesting into a tiny home.

Architect Frederic Lee McLaughlin is planning to build his own tiny home on a southside lot he picked up at a tax sale in the 1980s for about \$700, on the west side of Everett Lane between Crest and Hodge streets. McLaughlin can expound for an hour about the design principles behind the rooftop patio at East Lansing's El Azteco, which he designed, but let's stick to our tiny topic.

He plans to build a house about 570 square feet in size, using straw bale construction. Straw bales, cemented in place by a mortar-like semi-liquid, make surprisingly strong exterior walls. Michigan's building code allows it. (Benjamin Jones, the man who is building the shipping container homes near Dimondale, is also building a larger straw bale home for a client near Harrison. When two inspectors came to look at the semi-finished home, one bet the other that straw bale construction was prohibited and he lost the bet.)

Straw bale walls are thick, making tiny spaces even tinier, but McLaughlin has his retirement nest all laid out.

"I'm focusing on doing it as simply as I can," McLaughlin said. He hopes it will come in under \$50,000.

When McLaughlin tells people about his plans, he gets a lively response. "I live in the state Capital," McLaughlin said. "I've talked with everybody from tea partiers, a few years back, who were very interested in this, to the most liberal types."

But he is concerned that the advocates put their money where their mouth is.

"We're not encouraging people to build affordable houses while we're liv-

ing in a 5,000-square-foot house," he said. "I'm coming up on 73 this May, but I'm pretty energetic. I still want to make a contribution."

Blue thing on Elm Street

The most famous "tiny home" in Lansing is the much-talked-about 600-square-foot home on Elm Street in REO Town, built by developer Brent Forsberg on a 33-foot-wide lot. The simple rectangular structure has no second floor and no basement. The robin's-egg-blue exterior is frequently called "edgy," even by Forsberg himself.

Muylle said he supports Forsberg's REO Town house, even though it's not what he would have built.

"The city called it a chicken coop, a Katrina cottage," Muylle said. "It should be celebrated. People like it and it solves a problem."

Forsberg's development team is talking with the city of Lansing to develop a "pocket style neighborhood" of similar homes in REO Town. He plans to apply for a zoning variance to get the village approved. He's busy with other projects and expects to submit his plans to the city this summer.

In the meantime, Forsberg bought an abandoned trailer park near Eaton Rapids at a tax sale and approached the city with a proposal for a village of "small homes" ranging in size from 760 to 900 square feet.

Two of the planned 12 homes in the

See Homes, Page 14



MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
SHOWCASE SERIES

ROOMFUL OF TEETH AND DUBLIN GUITAR QUARTET

TUE. 1/28, 7:30PM, FAIRCHILD THEATRE

Roomful of Teeth is a GRAMMY-winning vocal project dedicated to reimagining the expressive potential of the human voice and the Dublin Guitar Quartet is a pioneering group entirely devoted to new music. Together they present "How Little You Are" by Nico Muhly, a beautiful new chamber work written for vocal ensemble and guitar quartet, including a variety of other works by living composers such as Mazzoli and giants of contemporary music like Philip Glass.

Roomful of Teeth and Dublin Guitar Quartet are guest artists of the MSU Federal Credit Union Entrepreneurial Musical Artist in Residence program. Additional support provided by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the Crane Group. Dublin Guitar Quartet international touring is supported by Culture Ireland.



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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MUSIC.MSU.EDU/SHOWCASE
517-353-5340

Homes

from page 14

village are now under construction, despite the winter weather. The houses are clustered to create more green space around the village.

It took about six months for Forsberg's team to get the project approved, chiefly by getting the lots rezoned from single family residential to higher density residential.

In Lansing, homes on lots wider than 40 feet must measure at least 24 feet by 24 feet, according to zoning administrator Susan Stachowiak. When a lot is 40 feet wide or less, the house must be 20 feet by 20 feet.

Anyone can apply for a variance, but Stachowiak said no one has done so since she took her post in 2000.

"Both Dave Muylle's and Brent Forsberg's houses comply with that requirement," she said.

"I've had a few people over the years inquire about tiny houses, but nobody's ever submitted anything official," she added. "I know they say it's a trend, but I don't know."

Forsberg thinks he knows. In his view, smaller homes are a logical response to several recent changes in the housing market that are hardening into long term trends.

"There is a fad component, with the TV exposure and all that, but what we try to look at is, what is the trend behind that?" he asked. "For my parents' generation, investing in a house, spending time in the yard and working on the house was a big part of their life. Now people want to get out, be more active and have other experiences outside the house."

The 2008 housing crash and economic downturn put jets under that trend. Shocked homeowners found that those dream houses upon which they lavished so much money and time weren't the solid investments everyone thought they were.

From 1950 to 2015, American houses got bigger and bigger, including the houses Forsberg was building. The average size of an American house was 2,657 square feet in 2015, up 40 percent from 1975.

"We finally saw that trend turn in 2015," Forsberg said. All the while, labor and material costs continued to increase.

"In the Lansing area, median household income is \$43,000 a year," Forsberg said. At that income, families



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

A blue 600-square-foot home in REO Town, built by developer Brent Forsberg, gets double takes from passers by. Forsberg hopes to develop a "pocket style neighborhood" of tiny homes in REO Town.

should spend no more than \$1,200 a month on housing and utilities.

The prospect of a huge, unfilled demand for affordable housing — a demand that is likely to grow — was obvious.

But what form should the housing take?

Forsberg turned to the principles of architect Andrés Duany, founder of the Congress for the New Urbanism, an influential urban planning think tank with a charter that calls for "the reconfiguration of sprawling suburbs into communities of real neighborhoods."

"How do we build a living experience at a people sized scale?" Forsberg said. "That's how we designed these homes."

Future of civilization

Dave Muylle insists he doesn't build "tiny homes," but he said he would love it if Lansing Area Tiny Homes challenged the city with a set of drawings, a site, a cadre of volunteers and community support.

"That's the way things change," he said.

Like Forsberg, Muylle believes that people are woven into the fabric of a neighborhood much more effectively when they live in smaller homes embedded in a neighborhood than in larger apartment blocks.

"I know it's messy," Muylle said. "You're dealing with a lot of small builder-owners instead of one developer, but we don't incentivize that kind of building, and we give millions of dollars to big multi-use projects," he said.

Muylle said the city's regulatory

somebody does something stupid and it's a total failure, so what? That's the way we make progress."

Single-family homes have been approved, built and sited in the same way for generations, Muylle said, and a re-evaluation is long overdue.

"Only one in five households is the standard mom, dad and kids," Muylle said. "We're trying to fit everybody into the same thing and it doesn't work."

A zoning variance here and there isn't the answer.

"They don't want to do a variance," Muylle said. "It sets precedents and they get their hair on fire about that. There needs to be systemic change."

Forsberg is sympathetic to city officials who are wary of tiny homes, for fear the city will be stuck with enclaves of substandard housing, but he has his own concerns about the future. As wages stagnate and the homeless population grows, how will we keep people sheltered in a way that respects human dignity and doesn't help fry the planet?

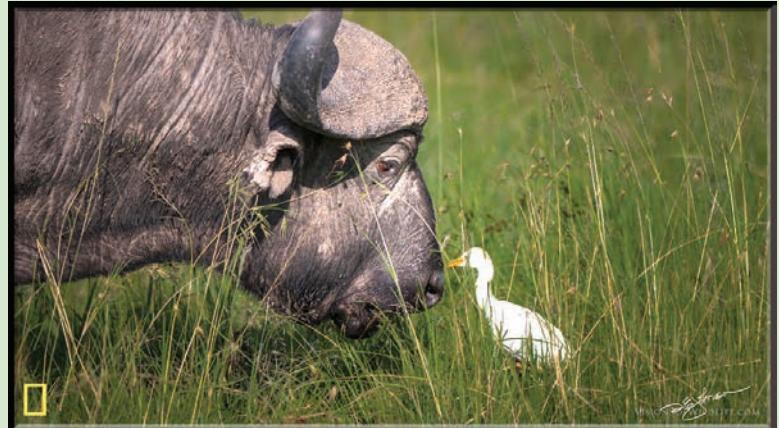
"The cities of 50 years from now will be shaped by decisions we make today," Forsberg said. "These are great conversations to be having in the community as we define what housing looks like for the future of our civilization."

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ARTS & CULTURE

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'Letter from Birmingham Jail' comes to life at Sycamore Creek

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Ever since Tom Arthur, the pastor of the Sycamore Creek United Methodist Church, acquired the building on South Pennsylvania Avenue five years ago, he thought the sanctuary was an ideal place for community theater.

Much of the remodeling that has been done in those five years has made the church more accommodating to theater groups. "We even remodeled our streetscape this past summer and included an outdoor stage," Arthur said.

"Letter From a Birmingham Jail"

Sycamore Creek United Methodist Church
1019 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing
Friday, Jan. 24 and Saturday, Jan. 25: 7 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 26: 10 a.m.
\$5 Donation at the door

Inside, the sanctuary has enhanced acoustics, theatrical lighting and a sophisticated sound system. Its 140 fixed seats are just right for local play productions. "We're excited to partner with the arts to produce art that inspires and challenges," Arthur said.

In February 2018, the pastor's wish to host a genuine community theater production was realized when Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s production of "The Christians"—a play set in a church—was held at the Sycamore Creek Church. PCT founder Chad Swan-Badgero directed that play.

"I asked Chad," Arthur said, "That



Tom Arthur, a pastor at the Sycamore Creek United Methodist Church, had the vision to remodel to accommodate community theater productions.

was an easy one. What's a hard one?"

On Jan. 24, 25 and 26, "Letter from Birmingham Jail" will be a trickier performance to pull off in a church setting. Swan-Badgero will direct the multifaceted reading of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s eloquent 1963 discourse about racism—written after being arrested after a non-violent demonstration.

The staged reading follows the MLK holiday. "Honoring MLK is more than a one-day-a-year effort," Arthur said. "It takes considerable intentional perseverance to resist racism."

Since the 44 year-old attended Duke University Divinity School, Arthur has been impacted by "Letter from Birmingham Jail"—and what a powerful, prophetic message it has for those hesitant to speak out about justice.

Building friendships with blacks that experienced struggles with racism made King's message even more important to Arthur. And after the predominantly white Sycamore Church joined the predominantly black Epicenter of Worship in south Lansing for a service that included the "Letter," Arthur was even more compelled to spread its message.

About a year ago, Arthur got the idea for a staged reading. After brainstorming with Swan-Badgero and the pastor's wife, Sarah, she "did the hard work of taking our ideas and reworking them into a script," Arthur said.

Sarah had 12 books published. They range from popular devotionals to fiction books for young adults. "She's the expert," he said, "I'm the organizer and producer."

"I originally just wanted Peppermint Creek Theatre to do the work," Arthur said. Schedules didn't mesh to make it a PCT production (this is the final weekend for its "Gloria" at PCT's, Central United Methodist Church home in downtown Lansing). Swan-Badgero still managed to help recruit actors, lead the three rehearsals and direct "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

Arthur's original idea was to have one person memorize the "Letter" and deliver it in a dramatic way during a Sunday service. "Chad and Sarah had bigger, more creative ideas," Arthur



David Winkelstern/City Pulse

Norr Allen will play Martin Luther King Jr.

said. "So now it's a whole cast of performers."

The reading has Norr Allen as King in jail while following various resistance movements from over 50 years ago to current times. The diverse cast includes Tashmica Torok as the "Organizer" and AnnaMarie Horn as the "Judge." Mike Shalley, Rick Dethlefsen and Dan McCole play white preachers. Reader #1 is Melik Brown and #2 is Ana Hattey.

Arthur feels the enactment of King's readings personally. "MLK is speaking to people like me and my church," he said. "And especially to whites like me who have platforms of influence in the white community."

The pastor has a history of using his platform to promote racial justice. "After Ferguson, I got more involved in racial reconciliation in Lansing," Arthur said, referring to a 2014 incident when an unarmed black teen, Michael Brown, was shot by a white officer.

He was on the team to bring "Congregations Organizing for Racial Reconciliation" to Lansing. It's a movement that began in Grand Rapids. The Sycamore Creek Church hosts two "Understanding Racism" workshops a year and bimonthly CORR caucuses. Arthur said they "integrate faith with understanding how racism is personal, structural and cultural."

Over 100 people from about 20 churches have been involved in the workshops. Two-dozen Sycamore Creek members are "helping Sycamore Creek move toward becoming an anti-racist church," Arthur said.

The \$5 suggested donation to attend "Letter from Birmingham Jail" will support CORR in Lansing. The original plan was to take their production to different churches. "We just ran out of time and energy this time around," Arthur said. "But it could travel in the future."

Sound Around explores the meaning of music at Broad Art Lab

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Want to make some noise? Do you have a rock 'n' roll disposition, but think guitar music is old and in the way? Don't fret, you oddly specific hypothetical reader — the Sound Around at Broad Art Lab has you covered.

Inspired by the avant-garde stylings of artists such as John Cage, Pierre Schaeffer and Sonic Youth, local musician Corey



Kellicut

improvisational feel. Kellicut called it a "hoote-nanny." He wants attendees to feel uninhibited in terms of what sounds they can potentially create.

Kellicut first became acquainted with this obscure and daringly guerilla form of music-making

after spending an afternoon with his younger brother, Tom. The pair joyously wasted away a Saturday playing with a contact microphone, a small recordings device that allows one to pick up frequencies from an array of random objects.

"Twenty years ago, I was visiting my brother, and he had just made a contact microphone out of a Piezo disc for his guitar. We realized we could put it on any object that could produce vibrations," Kellicut said. "We spent all night putting the mic on things around the house. Especially in the kitchen — there was a lot of good sounds in there."

Contact microphones, when used as

The Sound Around

Free
Sunday, Jan. 26, 2 p.m.
to 4 p.m.
MSU Broad Art Lab
565 E. Grand River Ave.,
East Lansing
(517) 884-4800, broad-
museum.msu.edu/artlab

ly proving how any household object can theoretically become an instrument. Kellicut performs around Lansing with different solo projects and his band Tweed Wolves. Picture a group jam with musicians of all skillsets, using whatever's available to them.

"A symphony orchestra musician will be there, as well as at least one elementary school student. They will both be on equal footing, one listening to the other and vice versa," Kellicut said.

Sound Around will have a loose,

part of a noise rocker's arsenal, often produce polarizing results. For example, one can choose to harvest the tranquil sounds of running water, or the cacophony of a buzzsaw striking a rusty sheet of metal. And Kellicut has no real preference, he says with a grin on his face.

"I could go either way. I've played in some loud, noisy punk bands, and I've also recorded loops of pouring water and other tranquil sounds," Kellicut said.

For the purposes of Sound Around, Kellicut is providing several random objects that can be hooked up with contact microphones. Some examples include cutting boards, metal mixing bowls and other metal cookware that can be filled with water.

"They have a really nice bell sound to them," Kellicut said.

But people can bring anything they'd like. Kellicut said a friend of his is bringing a broken typewriter. For devices that prove incompatible with contact microphones, attendees can substitute a regular microphone. Four-track recorders and iPads loaded with recording apps will be available to capture the resulting harmony or cacophony.

"I really want this to be improvised," Kellicut said. "I'd like to see people listening to each other, so you're not just experimenting with sound on your own, but you're also listening to what other people are doing and interacting with them."



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'Boy Gets Girl' is a potent look at romance and trauma

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

The "Boy Gets Girl" play at Riverwalk Theatre's Black Box is nothing like a Hallmark movie. It's not

Review

the kind of story where the jerk sees his flaws and turns into a sweet ol' chap and, by gosh and golly, he gets the gal after all.

Rebecca Gilman's "Boy Gets Girl"

"Boy Gets Girl"

\$14 General Admission
\$12 Senior/Student/Military
Thursday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 26, 2 p.m.
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Dr., Lansing
(517) 482-5700,
riverwalktheatre.com

for a series of intense and frightening events.

If "Boy Gets Girl" were a book, it would be a real page-turner. It is filled with dialogue that is cleverly amusing, unnerving, quick-witted and loaded with power. Like a good chapter, every scene ends with a final, profound line.

Its suspense and quick pace makes the two-and-a-half-hour-with-intermission show never dull. Director Brian Farnham deserves some credit for that. He also warrants praise for designing a multifaceted set with properties that are beyond most Black Box sets.

What also makes "Boy Gets Girl" gripping is that its fable about a man crossing the line in pursuit of a woman is all too real — and its cast is superbly lifelike in its portrayals. The combined realism is hard to watch at times, but I never considered turning away.

Janet Colson is Theresa Bedell (the "Girl"). All of Colson's mannerisms, mood swings and emotional outbursts seem authentic. Every breath she takes fits her role. As the entire cast, Colson doesn't just depict a character. She, and they, all portray genuine personalities.

Michael Banghart has just the right amount of charm and creepiness to be Tony Ross (the "Boy"). Ben Holzhausen is believable as Mercer Stevens — a co-worker who questions his own aggressiveness. As editor Howard Siegel, Greg Pratt is perfect as a mild-mannered boss.

Sabrina Dahlgren is marvelously ditzy as the young and naïve assistant Harriet. Michelle Booher-Puroskey seems natural as a detective named Beck. Bob Puroskey, offers a standout performance as filmmaker Les Kennkat.

Kennkat is modeled after sex-ploitation directors a' la Russ Meyer. Kennkat's crude honesty and frank humor is a sharp contrast with the mostly serious cast. Puroskey represents



Courtesy Photo

Janet Colson in Riverwalk Theatre's Black Box production "Boy Gets Girl."

an aging-but-now-hip icon that is both delightfully subdued and over-the-top at the same time. Like every character in "Boy Gets Girl," he exposes ways men and women's perceptions of sex and romance are different.

To really listen is a repeated message of the play. It has those onstage and ideally, the audience, examining their own relationship actions and expectations.

Sadly, since the occurrences of female assaults are commonplace,

"Boy Gets Girl" is a realistic reminder of the problem and the trauma it creates. And the play won't offer solace to those affected, either.

Anyone who might be triggered by such reminders should avoid it. Those brave enough to endure "Boy Gets Girl's" horrors and very graphic language will be rewarded with a thriller with some laughs and lots of potent acting.

Just don't even think about taking a first date to it.

The cynical 'Gloria' lacks important nuance

By TOM HELMA

Albert Camus once said, "Without work, all life goes rotten, but without meaningful work, the soul withers and dies."

Review

In Peppermint Creek's new stage play "Gloria," now playing at Central United Methodist Church's

Gloria"
\$15, General admission
\$10 military/senior/student
Thursday-Saturday,
Jan. 23-25, 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 26, 2 p.m.
Peppermint Creek/Central
United Methodist
215 N. Capitol Ave.,
Lansing
(517) 927-3016
peppermintcreek.org

c a v e r n o u s Great Room, the lights come up on three 20-something millennials sitting foursquare, desks facing each other.

They are peering over

laptops, chatting casually about nothing of consequence, blathering in banalities, asking around as to who did and did not go to officemate Gloria's

party the previous night. A fourth person to complete the group soon joins them, but Gloria is nowhere to be found.

This is a New York publishing house. These folks are writers, sort of. Maybe the Great American novel was once in their earlier imaginative minds — but this "ain't" that.

Confusion alert: The six characters in this production portray 13 characters. It isn't always clear as to who is who.

Connor Kelly is Dean (or Devin), a cynic who has been there a while. A disillusioned college graduate, he realizes that his dreams have morphed into a career he does not like.

Unlike Kelly's work in many previous shows, wherein his performances have bristled with electricity, Kelly here appears to phone in his character. Laconic, to be sure, but is it intention-

al?

Anasti Her is Kendra (or Jenna). Her character is full of herself, empty of empathy and deep down shallow, annoyingly so.

The contrast could be compelling, but Her pushes it way too hard. The outcome is exhausting.

Matters are made worse when Adam Carson (Lorin), shows up onstage and over-the-top, begs, pleads, nay exhorts people to quiet down. Two histrionics in one play; one scene — it's too much.

The intern Ndegwa McCloud joins these two. Mild-mannered, exceedingly over-accommodating, his character is relegated for the most part to running to get lattes for whoever demands it of him.

Storm Kopitsch rounds out the bunch, filling in the gaps in conversation with nothing much, a lot of active listening. That's it.

Will these people fulfill Camus' prophecy: In the absence of meaningful work, see their souls die?

Nope.

Gloria, played by Fillona Thomas — and who has only drifted in and out of the scene twice and looks weird to the foursome and weirder to the critic — resolves that issue quickly.

She pulls out a chrome-plated six-shooter worthy of the Lone Ranger and promptly shoots two of them. End of act one.

We soon learn as act two opens, a few years later, that Gloria has shot, killed or maimed 18 people, including herself.

A reason? Nuance? Not explained at all.

Act two, in two scenes, elaborates the basic premise of the play: A tragedy can easily morph into opportunism, as the characters that survive a horrible event find ways to exploit it. Whatever post-traumatic stress there is for survivors, it is suppressed, transformed into profitable memoirs, a television show

Oh, the urbanity

Yehuda, symphony airlift icebound audience to Paris

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Mid-January is not a propitious time to pile more angst onto a pre-oppressed populace, already weighed down by foul weather and fouler news.

Review So, without waiting for April, the chestnut blossoms and all that stuff, the Lansing Symphony whisked a packed house of semi-frozen Michiganders to France Saturday night.

On paper, the program presaged a frivolous night, but there are deep and dark layers in music director Timothy Muffitt's lightest soufflés.

Two famous works, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" by Paul Dukas and George Gershwin's "An American in Paris," provided the obligatory fireworks, but the cream of the concert was in the middle.

I'd be surprised if 20 people in the packed hall had ever heard the clarinet concerto of Jean Francaix. Thanks largely to the athletic and agile artistry of principal clarinetist Guy Yehuda, stepping out Saturday as soloist, the concerto went over in grand style, like an airship built by the Montgolfier brothers.

A jaunty, slightly off-kilter promenade, utterly out of touch with the weightier manifestations of 20th century music, set a mood of urbane drollery. Soloist and orchestra adroitly bounced the melody back and forth in a fine-tuned two-act that only tightened as the music grew more complex.

Yehuda yoked the concerto's magi-

cian-in-top-hat showmanship to his own disciplined precision and gorgeous tone, erasing the distinction between fun and high art. Everybody in the orchestra seemed to be on Yehuda's wavelength. There was even a wink-wink moment when Yehuda took the clarinet out of his mouth and it seemed to continue playing! Of course, the notes were emanating from acting principal Tasha Warren, a few rows back, who took over the seat vacated by Yehuda for the night and produced many memorable moments.

Yehuda was almost as much fun to watch as he was to listen to. His body twisted and swayed as he coaxed long, ductile melodies and adroit bursts of punctuation from his ebony horn. His virtuosity was beyond impressive, but it always served an emotional mood or a musical thought, the same way a stunt by Buster Keaton revealed some aspect of his character while making you say "wow." A sudden ascent to a dog-whistle-high note, while breathtaking to follow, finished the phrase leading up to it as logically as a tail completes a cat. When Yehuda played alone, pianissimo, he took the volume down to a daring threshold of audibility, commanding the stage so completely that people stopped coughing, or even breathing.

In the dense second movement, Yehuda packed even more colors, gestures and textures onto the canvas, melding complexity with comedy in a way that never got confused or overloaded. The bumptious bustle receded completely in the slow movement, a languorous play of undulating, intricate sighs.

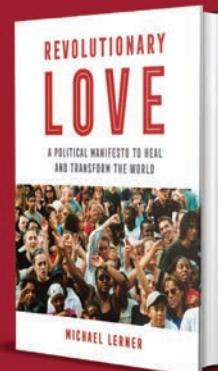
The other half of the night's cream center had a completely different fla-

vor. Even when you think you are ready — when you have not been lulled into complacency by extroverted drama and rollicking showmanship — there is no preparation for the merciless beauty of Maurice Ravel. Judging by its title, the "Mother Goose" suite promised the most lightweight fare of the night. But nobody is ready for a miraculous trip back to a state of mind associated with childhood. Ravel's downy reveries and haunting harmonies, like the impossible touch of a long dead loved one, are so painfully lovely they seem to come from a forbidden place. In the transcendent last movement, the strings generated a long, sweeping arc of airy uplift, with a throbbing undertow, climaxing with a glittering eruption of percussion.

Need a cigarette now? Sorry, no

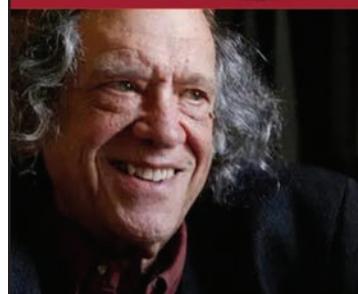
smoking in the auditorium, but a kaleidoscopic escapade through the streets of Paris, courtesy of George Gershwin, effectively shook off the post-Ravel reverie. Maestro Muffitt's professional uprightness, his skill at opening up the music and burnishing every detail, was almost misplaced in "An American in Paris" because it made you notice how labored some of the transitional passages really are.

A bit of headlong rushing, some throwaway carelessness, a spritz of good old schmear and schmaltz, might have livened things up and papered over the music's inherent cracks. But the performance was grand where it needed to be. In the nick of time, trombonist Ava Ordman goosed the big finale with a magnificent, sliding "whomp" that put it over the finish line.



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—Cornel West



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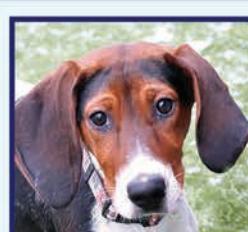


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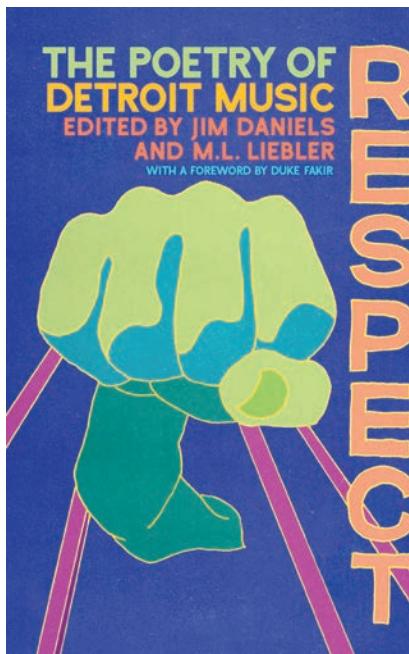
In memory of
Rodica's cats

'RESPECT: The Poetry of Detroit Music' is a cultural tour de force

By BILL CASTANIER

I've known M.L. Liebler for the better part 20 years now, and if he's passionate about anything it's poetry and music, especially if they relate to Detroit.

Liebler has written 15 books of poetry and fiction and has taught English and creative writing for 40 years at Wayne State University. He's the leader of a pack of musicians called "Beatles Forever," which does an unusual tribute to the Beatles based on a short story he wrote. For a number of years each summer, he's led a class of students to London for a deep dive into the Beatles' culture and music.



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Join us monthly for The Schuler Book Club! Book Clubs can help you to create community, engage with what you are reading and read beyond your comfort zone. The Schuler Book Club will curate its reading to the group each month, and is open to new and avid readers! This month we're reading *The Bromance Book Club* by Lyssa Kay Adams.

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Meridian Mall · Okemos

And fortunately for lovers of Detroit music, he's partnered with another Detroit native, poet Jim Daniels, to edit a new anthology of poetry: "Respect: The Poetry of Detroit Music," which is singularly unique in its breadth of genres and the talent they were able to bring to the project.

If you remember such a thing, the nearly 500-page book is telephone directory thick — filled with the poetry of more than 100 contributors from both the deep Detroit music scene and poetry world.

"Respect" is literally an A to Z collection of poetry featuring the famous, the infamous and fledgling poets and musicians, like Marrim Akashi and Michael Zadarian. The famous include Eminem, Jack White, Billy Braggs, Paul Simon, Robbie Robertson, Gordon Lightfoot and Wayne Kramer. They riff on Detroit music of all genres including blues, jazz, rock, northern soul, techno and hip-hop.

The book is broken up by music category, so it makes it easy to jump back and forth. Both Daniels, who teaches at Carnegie Mellon University, and Liebler have contributed pieces from

their own oeuvres.

Daniels takes you on a trip to his teen years with his poem "School's Out, Alice Cooper, 1972" and writes about a "guy named Alice with the face of cartoon death." Readers will have to dig deeper to catch his drift about his "sky-blue panties."

Anyone who's seen and heard Patti Smith will get his poem "Patti Smith at the Punch and Judy Theater," where he writes "She's one freaky kind of scarecrow scaring all the birds away."

"Respect" is also a musical tour of all the venues that made and still make Detroit famous. The poetry takes you on a ride from the Bluebird Café (jazz) to the Grande Ballroom (rock) and to the blues clubs that are a cloudy memory for most.

Liebler stresses that all the entries were obtained gratis, or as he calls it "all for free." Without the tremen-

dous cooperation of poets, publishers, musicians and lyricists, it would have been impossible to compile this anthology, Liebler said.

Both Liebler and Daniels have what can only be called musical rolodexes (an old-fashioned way of keeping contact information) that are a mile deep and a country wide. As an example, there aren't many books that can boast work from the poets Phillip Levine, June Jordan, Rita Dove, Nikki Giovanni or Melba Joyce Boyd. In addition, three of the five MC5 members have contributed work to the anthology, including Rob Tyner's "Grande Days," when he considers the famed rock palace. "Now the Ballroom stands empty, nobody ever comes to play."

Michael Zadorian has a piece on the infamous song of the MC5 "Kick out the Jams," and the time a high school classmate convinced a teacher to let him play it in class. Most everyone knows the rest of the lyrics.

Liebler and Danielson first approach a couple of other publishers before settling on Michigan State University Press. It was MSU Press that convinced Liebler to change his original title "I Just Wanna Testify," to "Respect" as a way to honor the Detroit superstar. He said it was Aretha Franklin's funeral that helped turn it around for him.

He said the idea for an anthology grew out of his book "Heaven Was Detroit," a collection of essays on Detroit Music. Liebler has two entries in the book including "Rhythm and Blues Fire," which he dedicates to the Falcons and Sir Mack Rice. It ends with this line: "It's our good fortune to have new hymns for our northern souls." The Falcons (not to be confused with the original Detroit Red Wings) were a 1955 rhythm and blues group known for helping create soul music and Sir Mack Rice was the composer of "Mustang Sally," which has been covered innumerable times.

Liebler recognizes they missed some big name, like Smokey Robinson and Patti Smith, due to running out of time or missing a connection, but the early popularity of this anthology seems to demand a volume two.

What is known for sure is garnered from a single line by poets Hajjar Baban, A'leetzia Burns, Nandi Comer and Marrim Akashi in their collaborative work "A Mediation on Music," "Daddy taught us young, this music was holy."

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with 20% off Used Books
Jan. 25 - Jan. 30



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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 22

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.

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

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.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

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

PJ Storytime (Ages 3-12) - 7-7:30 p.m. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 N. Aurelius Rd., Holt.

EVENTS

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. with Mori & Mama performance 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 24 >> 'NEVER SPOKEN AGAIN' OPENING RECEPTION



MSU Broad Art Museum and guest curator David Ayala-Alfonso are celebrating the opening of "Never Spoken Again: Rogue Stories of Science and Collections." This nomadic exhibit analyzes the curious origins of modern art collections, the institutions that sustain them, and their contingent origin stories. "Never Spoken Again" also features work from an international roster of artists.

Free. Friday, Jan. 24, 6 p.m.
Broad Art Museum
547 E. Circle Dr., East Lansing
(517) 884-4800
broadmuseum.msu.edu

1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Code Club! - We're launching our very own Code Club --No coding expertise necessary. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Community Night: The Self - Discussion topic is the Self. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-657-5800.

Lansing Area Mindfulness Community - 1-7:30 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S MLK Blvd., Lansing. 517-420-5820. lamc.info.

Line Dancing - Join line dancing for fun, exercise, and staying involved in a social activity. 1:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Sean McBrearty @ Allen Neighborhood Center - 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.

Winter Workdays at CCBS - Join us for a stewardship workday at Capital City Bird Sanctuary. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. 6001 Delta River Drive, Lansing. michiganaudubon.org.

ARTS

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

Free Form Sculptural Weaving - Create a unique, one-of-a-kind sculptural weaving. 1-4:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

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.

Sorry, I'm Not Leaving Art Exhibition - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. ongoing. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington, 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

MUSIC

Caleb Shannon, saxophone - Free. 6 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.



Chinese New Year at the Meridian Mall

The Greater Lansing Chinese Association is teaming up Sunday with the Meridian Mall to celebrate Chinese New Year, or Lunar New Year, and

officially usher in the Year of the Rat. Visitors to the Meridian Mall will be greeted with a vibrant smattering of Chinese New Year traditions, including a parade — yes, there will be a dragon — live music, choreographed dancing, singing, and family-friendly games. The Year of the Rat marks the beginning of the cycle of the zodiac's 12 animal signs.

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

Thursday, January 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Grow with Google - Plan & Budget (Adults). Learn about making good financial decisions, researching costs, and planning. 6:30-8 p.m. CADL South, 3500 S. Cedar, Lansing. cadl.org

Learn517: In the Sky - Ages 6 to 11. Fee: \$5/student, \$4/adult Walk-in registration only; 1:30 p.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. michigan.org.

Strength & Balance (Adults) - Improve your posture, strength and balance in a weekly series. 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

Friends of Delta Township District Library Bake and Book Sale - Over 5,000 items including books, CDs, and DVDs all 75 cents or less. 3-7 p.m. Delta Twp. District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. 517-321-4014.

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

EVENTS

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

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

ICBA 2020 Meet the Judges - This provides members of the legal community an opportunity to network with respected judges. 5:30-7:30 p.m. WMU Thomas M. Cooley Law School, 300 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Lansing Grassroots Philosophy - Discussion group oriented around philosophy, psychology, self-exploration, and questioning assumptions. 6:30-8 p.m. Kelly's Downtown, 220 S Washington Square, Lansing.

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. reachstudioart.org.

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

MUSIC

Absolute Music Chamber Series - 7:30-10:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble - MSU Brass. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd., East Lansing. 517-355-1855. music.msu.edu.

Friday, January 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

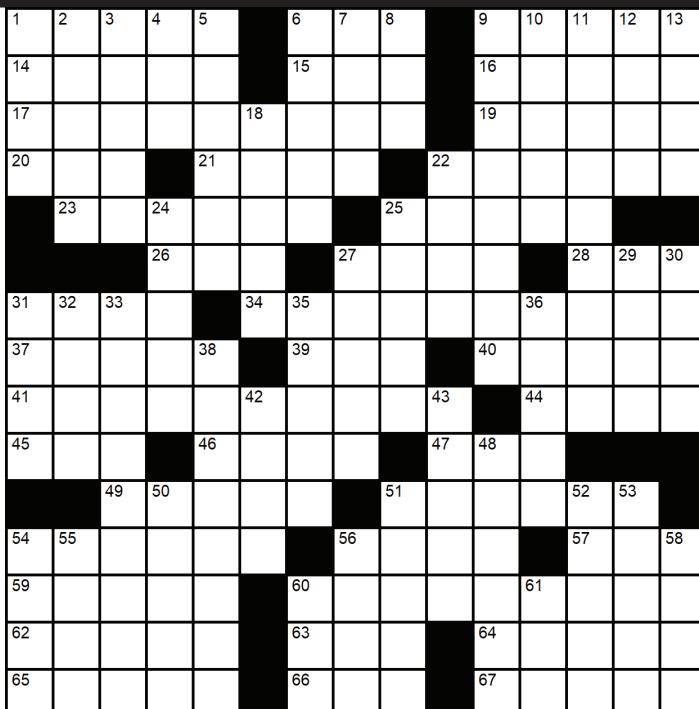
See Out on the town, Page 24

Jonesin' Crossword

"Decade in Review, Part 1"--fun stuff from 2010 & 2011.
by Matt Jones

Across
 1 Part of PSL
 6 Henna, e.g.
 9 Bean that goes in bars
 14 Make up (for)
 15 Fish eggs
 16 Ivy League sch.
 17 Game show legend who, in his late 80s, returned to host "Let's Make a Deal" for a week in 2010
 19 Heavy weight, in France
 20 Health stat that can be misleading
 21 Farm grunt
 22 Billboard's Hot 100 #1 song of 2010 (originally a limited-time free download on Kesha's MySpace page in 2009)

23 Black Widow portrayer, in tabloids
 25 Forest growths
 26 Neptune's home
 27 "Good Will Hunting" director Gus Van __
 28 Break down
 31 Shareable PC files
 34 Veteran actress who got to host "Saturday Night Live" in 2010 after a grassroots campaign
 37 Red-headed Disney princess
 39 AI game competitor
 40 Boogie ("The Nightmare Before Christmas" character)
 41 A cappella group formed in 2011 that won NBC's "The Sing-Off"
 44 Part of RPI
 45 Do some math
 46 Elizabethan collar shape
 47 Dorm leaders



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 49 Regrettable | 5 Friend of Roo and Pooh | 35 Magazine first published in 1945 |
| 51 Kind of poster | 6 Brand used in pipes | 36 Give a lift |
| 54 IBM computer that beat two humans on "Jeopardy!" in 2011 | 7 Form of the Sanrio character Gudetama | 38 North America's oldest sport |
| 56 "___ oughta!" | 8 Predatory fish | 42 In shreds |
| 57 Templeton, in "Charlotte's Web" | 9 Bifurcate | 43 Inside looks? |
| 59 "Cast of thousands" films | 10 Pig in __ | 48 Drummer in the Electric Mayhem |
| 60 Only one of 2011's top 10 highest-grossing films that wasn't a sequel | 11 Symbol that's a lowercase letter split by a vertical line | 50 Award for Alfonso Cuarón |
| 62 Broad, flat beans | 12 Part of A.D. | 51 Potter's device |
| 63 Long-handled farm tool | 13 1,024 bytes, briefly | 52 Misjudgment |
| 64 Thrown for __ | 18 Hair-covering garment | 53 "Finding Dory" actor Willem |
| 65 Farm machinery manufacturer | 22 Like nanotechnology's scale | 54 Join metal to metal |
| 66 Poly (West Coast school) | 24 It's on the plus side | 55 "Four and twenty blackbirds baked in __" |
| 67 Temptations | 25 "Lady Marmalade" singer LaBelle | 56 "Hold up!" |
| Down | 27 Ring setting | 58 Amts. in recipes |
| 1 Gyro ingredient, often | 29 Songwriter Redding | 60 Active chemical in cannabis |
| 2 Smashable items | 30 Round red root | 61 Mauna __ (former Hawaiian erupter that's neither one you're probably thinking of) |
| 3 Gin complement | 31 Bear whose chair was too hard | |
| 4 Crate contents in "Angry Birds" | 32 1857 litigant Scott | |
| | 33 Works into the schedule, with "for" | |

Answers Page 24

SUDOKU

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

Advanced

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 24

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny

Jan. 22 - Jan. 28, 2020

ARIES (March 21-April 19): German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832) declared that English writer Lord Byron (1788–1824) was the greatest genius of the 19th century. Here's an interesting coincidence: Byron regarded Goethe as the greatest genius of the 19th century. I bring this to your attention, Aries, in the hope that it will inspire you to create a similar dynamic in your own life during the coming months. As much as possible, surround yourself with people whom you think are wonderful and interesting and enlivening—and who think you are wonderful and interesting and enlivening.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Taurus-born Johannes Brahms (1833–1897) was a renowned German composer who lived most of his life is Germany and Austria. He became so famous and well-respected that England's Cambridge University offered him an honorary degree if he would visit the campus. But Brahms was too timid to risk crossing the English Channel by boat. (There were no airplanes and Channel in those days.) He declined the award. I beg you not to do anything even remotely like that in the coming weeks, Taurus. Please summon the gumption necessary to claim and gather in all you deserve.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): According to my analysis of the astrological omens, the coming weeks will be one of those rare times when you can safely engage with influences that might normally rattle you. You'll be protected as you wander into the unknown and explore edgy mysteries. Your intuition will be highly reliable if you make bold attempts to solve dilemmas that have previously confounded and frustrated you. If you've been waiting for the perfect moment to get a bit wild and exploratory, this is it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): J. M. W. Turner (1775–1851) is regarded as one of England's greatest painters. He's best known for his luminous and imaginative landscapes. His experimental use of light and color influenced the Impressionist painters who came after him. But the weird thing is that after his death, many of his works were lost for decades. In 1939, a famed art historian found over a hundred of them rolled up like tarpaulins in the basement of an art museum. Let's apply this event as a metaphor for what's ahead in your life, Cancerian. I suspect that buried or lost elements of your past will soon be rediscovered and restored. I bet it will be fun and illuminating!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In my early adult life, I lived below the poverty line for many years. How did that impact me? Here's one example: I didn't own a mattress from ages 23 to 39, but rather slept on a two-inch thick foam pad that lay directly on the floor. I'm doing better now, thank you. But my early experiences ensured that I would forever have profound empathy for people who don't have much money. I hope this will serve as inspiration for you, Leo. The next seven weeks will be the Empathy Building Season for you. The cosmos will reward you if you build your ability to appreciate and understand the pains and joys of other humans. Your compassion will be tonic for both your mental and physical health.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Ancient Greek author Theophrastus was a scientist before the concept of "scientist" existed. His writings on botany were influential for hundreds of years after his death. But some of his ideas would be considered unscientific today. For example, he believed that flute music could heal sciatica and epilepsy. No modern research suggests that the charms of the flute can literally cure physical ailments like those. But there *is* a great deal of evidence that music can help relieve pain, reduce anxiety, reduce the side effects of drugs, assist in physical therapy, and even make you smarter. And my reading of the current astrological omens suggests that the therapeutic effects of music will be especially dramatic for you during the next three weeks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Learning to love is difficult, and we pay dearly for it," wrote the

serious and somber author Fyodor Dostoevsky. "It takes hard work and a long apprenticeship," he added. All that's true, I think. To hone our ability to express tenderness and warmth, even when we're not at our best, is the most demanding task on earth. It requires more courage than that of a soldier in the frenzy of battle, as much imagination as a poet, and diligence equal to that of an architect supervising the construction of a massive suspension bridge. And yet on the other hand—contrary to what Dostoevsky believed—sometimes love is mostly fun and inspiring and entertaining and educational. I suspect that the coming weeks will be one of those phases for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): How well do you nurture yourself, dear Scorpio? How diligent are you in providing yourself with the sustenance that ensures your body, mind, and soul will thrive? Are you imaginative in the ways that you keep yourself excited about life? Do you take strong measures to avoid getting attached to mediocre pleasures, even as you consistently hone your focus on the desires that lead you to joy and deep satisfaction? The coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to meditate on these questions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Seven books of the Bible's Old Testament refer to a magical place called Ophir. It was a source of exotic finery and soulful treasures like gold, peacocks, jewels, frankincense, and precious sandalwood. One problem: No one, not even a Biblical scholar, has ever figured out where it was. Zimbabwe? India? Tunisia? Its location is still unknown. I am bringing this to your attention because I suspect that in 2020 there'll be a good chance you'll discover and gain access to your own metaphorical Ophir: a fount of interesting, evocative resources. For best results, be primed and eager to offer your own skills and riches in exchange for what this fount can provide to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Capricorn filmmaker Steven Soderbergh says it's crucial for us to have a well-developed story about who we are and what we're doing with our lives. It's so important, he feels, that it should be the trigger that flings us out of bed every morning. We've got to make our story so vivid and interesting that it continually motivates us in every little thing we do. Soderbergh's counsel is always good to keep in mind, of course, but it will be even more so for you in the coming months. Why? Because your story will be expanding and deepening, and you'll need to make the necessary adjustments in how you tell your story to yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I'm a big fan of self-editing. For example, every horoscope I write evolves over the course of at least three drafts. For each book I've published, I have written but then thrown away hundreds of pages that I ultimately deemed weren't good enough to be a part of the finished text. And yet now and then, I have created a poem or song in one rapid swoop. My artistic artifact is exactly right the first time it flows out of me, with no further tinkering needed. I suspect you're now entering a phase like that, Aquarius. I'm reminded of poet Allen Ginsberg's operative principle: "first thought, best thought."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Who don't you want to be, Pisces? Where don't you want to go? What experiences are not necessary in your drive to become the person you were born to be? I encourage you to ask yourself questions like those in the coming weeks. You're entering a phase when you can create long-term good fortune for yourself by knowing what you don't like and don't need and don't require. Explore the positive effects of refusal. Wield the power of saying NO so as to liberate yourself from all that's irrelevant, uninteresting, trivial, and unhealthy.

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S
MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

Friday, January 24

MUSTARD PLUG'S RICK JOHNSON RETURNS SOLO TO MAC'S



Rick Johnson chats with City Pulse, prior to his Friday show at Mac's Bar, about his long career in DIY music.

Friday's show at Mac's Bar is a fundraiser for The Commons, a locally founded group that's aiming to open a neighborhood center. Follow the group at facebook.com/thecommons Lansing.

The Commons fundraiser features Rick Johnson Rock & Roll Machine, Rent Strike, more

Friday, Jan. 24 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, 8 p.m., \$15, \$10 adv.

For 15 years, Rick Johnson has toured the world playing bass with Mustard Plug, while also moonlighting in bands like Bomb The Music Industry!, Wack Trucks, Sharkanoid and The Stitch Up. During that time, he's also fronted The Rick Johnson Rock and Roll Machine, a one-man lo-fi synth-pop project.

Friday, he brings that solo act to Mac's Bar for a fundraiser concert supporting The Commons, a Lansing-based group that, in part, states its mission as:

"A (future) social center in Lansing, Michigan that wants to see neighbors come together in mutual self-reliance. In our time of escalating social and environmental crises, we need to chart a course towards a different future. The Commons wants to support the growth of the many formal and informal groups that are fighting racism, gender-based oppression, reliance on the police, greed, inequality and all of the other forms of domination that exist in

our society."

Also performing at the fundraiser are Mover Shaker, Rent Strike and austhebear. As for the headliner, the Rick Johnson Rock and Roll Machine, Johnson simply calls it his "one-man freak out." But that's not all he's up to right now, he also hosts "I'm in Love With a Girl Named Spike," a podcast covering "Degrassi Junior High."

"I am never not working," said Johnson, 39, who also operates Cold War Studios, his own Grand Rapids-based recording facility — a business he started out of necessity.

"Basically, in order for me to justify buying recording gear, I had to do something commercial with it," he said. "Also, to seek out a living only doing music things, it made sense to open up a studio."

Beyond recording other bands at his studio, Johnson also frequently hits the road with various bands doing sound and tour managing. As for Mustard Plug, Johnson

said the ska-punk outfit is "loosely working on something," but didn't specify beyond that. Last year, he toured Japan with the group, but missed many of the band's other dates.

"Because of my other touring requirements, I only played about half of Mustard Plug's shows last year," Johnson said. "This year, however, is turning out to be pretty busy. Mustard Plug is doing a West Coast run shortly and also might be going to Australia."

Looking back, after countless days in the tour van, he's had amazing memories, like touring with the late Wesley Willis, but he's also had a few tense incidents along the way, too.

"A group of skinheads tried to stab me with a screwdriver in Rockford, Illinois, in 2007," he recalled. "That was possibly the craziest thing."

On a more positive note, it's mostly been a dream come true for Johnson, who

is also "98 percent" through wrapping up a new Sharkanoid album with the band's co-founder, Dan Potthast.

For Johnson, who cut his teeth in the golden years of the '90s alt-rock boom, he said his longevity comes from staying focused on his passion for music, and not getting consumed with success and money. He's just kept as busy as possible.

"Basically, I grew up in the era of grunge and punk," he recalled. "It was cool to be in a band in those days. It's probably still cool, but maybe not as a 40-year old at the class reunion. But, back then, I put all my eggs in that one basket, so I had to run with it. You know, a rock and roll shark's gotta keep swimming, gotta keep moving."

"I mean it is pretty insane that I just get to tour as much as I do," he added. "I never thought I would be able to go to the place that I have ended up."



Upcoming show? Contact
Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Cafe , 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Trivia Night: Name That Song 10PM	All Request Cocktail Night 9PM	Diva Karaoke 9PM	Detroit Punk Free 9PM
Coach's Pub & Grill , 6201 Bishop Rd.				Kathy Ford Band 9PM
Crunchy's , 254 W. Grand River; East Lansing		Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM
The Exchange , 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Old School - DJ Jalese 8:30PM	Showdown 9PM	Showdown 9PM
Green Door , 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Karaoke	Corzo Effect 8:30PM	Miranda & the M80s 8:30PM
Lansing Brewing Co. , 518 E. Shiawassee				Live Music with Atomic Boogaloo 8PM
The Loft , 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Blockhead 9 PM	Homegrown Throwdown 2020 7PM
Mac's Bar , 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Rick Johnson Rock and Roll Machine 8PM	Annual Bobby Knuckle Bday Bash 7PM
Reno's North , 16460 Old US 27			The New Rule 7PM	The New Rule 7PM
Robin Theatre , 1105 S. Washington			Tim Grimm and Ben Bedford 7:30 p.m.	
Spiral , 1247 Center St.		Doomsday Drag Show 9PM	Good Vibes Party 9PM	Disco Ball 9PM
Urban Beat , 1213 Turner St.	Camtone 7PM	Absolute Music 7:30 PM	Taylor Hermann Quartet 7:30 PM	Matt Bliton Band 7:30PM
Unicorn , 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing	Open Mic 9:30PM		Live Music with Good Cookies 9PM	Live Music with Off The Ledge 9PM
Wildlife Pub , 6380 Drumeller Rd., Bath			Open Mic 7:30PM	

From Page 21

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

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

Neuroscience Seminar - Free. 12:30 p.m. B, 342 Wells Hall, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Friends of Delta Township District Library Bake and Book Sale - Over 5,000 items all 75 cents or less. 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. 517-321-4014.

EVENTS

2020 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show - 6 p.m. Michigan State University Pavilion, 4301 Farm Ln, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

GEM Social Club - For ASD Teens and Young Adults. Join us for an evening of friendship, socializing, food & fun! 6-8 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

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

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

We Laugh Comedy Show - 7-9 p.m. Cadillac Room, 1115 S Washington, Lansing. 517-798-6175.

ARTS

MSU 3rd Annual Social Justice Art

FRIDAY, JAN. 24 >> LIBERATION & LIBATIONS AT REPUTATION BEVERAGE CO.

An event curated by Sometimes Art House and hosted at Reputation Beverage Co., Liberation & Libations features tarot card readings, an artist market, craft/decompression table and "all the coffee, tea and kombucha your heart desires."

Donations suggested.

Friday, Jan. 24, 6 p.m.

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reputationbev.com**

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

7	2	5	1	3	9	4	6	8
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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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Introduction to Zentangle - Learn about the peaceful meditative drawing process. 12-1:30 p.m. Charlotte Library, 226 S. Bostwick, Charlotte. 517-543-8859. retreadart.com.

Kitchen Skills: A Workshop for Teens & Young Adults. Learn how to fix quick and easy meals. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Lunar New Year (All ages) - Usher in the Year of the Rat by learning about the Zodiac and New Year customs. 1-2:30 p.m. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing.

Mushroom Cultivation - Learn the process of growing mushrooms on logs. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

PreSchool Playdate - museum experience for young children providing hands-on learning experiences. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-355-2370.

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

Women's Aviation Career Symposium - Interested in a career in aviation? 9 a.m.-2 p.m. WACS Michigan- Lansing Airport, 16641 Corporate Aviation Drive, Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Character Storytime (Ages up to 10) - 2-3 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. cadl.org

Friends of Delta Township District Library Bake and Book Sale - Over 5,000 items all 75 cents or less. 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. 517-321-4014.

EVENTS

2020 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show - 6:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Ln, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

The Four Horsemen Bourbon Barrel Release

- 3-10 p.m. Ellison Brewery + Spirits, 4903 Dawn Ave, East Lansing.

Owl Prowl Campfire - Roasting marshmallows and learning about Michigan Owls. 7-8:30 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Statehood Day Celebration - a FREE celebration of 183 years of Michigan History! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-420-1342.

ARTS

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

Schrodinger's Cat is in Town - Special encore edition of the Community Open Call! 2-4 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

Taste of Jewelry: Cold Forming - 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2400 W. St. Joe, Lansing.

The Witch, The Beauty and The Handsome Prince - For all ages. 2-3:30 p.m. East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-333-2580.

MUSIC

Glen Erin Pipe Band Presents the 261st Robert Burns Birthday Gala - Good food and drink, bagpiping, Highland dancing and Celtic music. 5-10 p.m. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Rd, Bath. glenerinpipeband.com.

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

Singers on the Grand present "Fifties

SATURDAY, JAN. 25 >> TUBING AT HAWK ISLAND

Come to Hawk Island and slide down one of many 16 foot wide sculpted snow lanes. An uphill conveyor lift is there to transport riders back to the top of the hill. Worried about the cursed sun melting away the fun? Snowmaking machines are on deck to extend the time the snow-tubing hill is usable.

\$8/person plus \$5 vehicle entrance fee.
Saturday, Jan. 25, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Hawk Island Park
1601 E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing
(517) 676-2233
facebook.com/inghamcountyparks

SATURDAY, JAN. 25 >> INSPIRATIONAL ANIMAL POSTERS PRINT AND TAKE AT ALT PRINTING CO.

ALT is hosting a two-hour workshop in which children will get to design a print featuring inspirational animal graphics. Attendees get to leave with a customized, handmade poster with a funky animal letting you know that you can accomplish anything.

\$35. Saturday, Jan. 25, 10 a.m.
ALT Printing Co.
1139 Washington Ave., Lansing
(517) 388-3558
altprintingco.com

Favorites” - 6-8:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge.

Sunday, January 26

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Empowerment and Goal Setting Yoga Workshop - 2-5 p.m. Lansing Hot Yoga, 914 Elmwood, Lansing.

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

Screenagers Documentary - explores teenagers' use of social media and video games as well as internet addiction. 3-5:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing. screenagersmovie.com

ARTS

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

CABS Beale Street Sendoff - Come and send the winners on the road to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN! 4-8 p.m. Pump House Concerts, 368 Orchard St, East Lansing.

Profeti della Quinta - Taylor Johnston Early Music Series. 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. music.msu.edu

Singers on the Grand present “Fifties

MSU Music

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOZART!

1/27 MONDAY, 7:30 PM
FAIRCHILD THEATRE, MSU AUDITORIUM

10th annual celebration! Works by Mozart include Divertimento for Winds No. 8 and No. 14, Sonata in B-flat Major, Piano 4 Hands, and Sonata in D Major for Two Pianos. Join us for music and birthday cookies.

Generously sponsored by Martha L. and John R. Brick, and “Dinner and a Concert” from the State Room Restaurant inside the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center.

INFO AND TICKETS
music.msu.edu/westcircle
517-353-5340

10th Anniversary
Joanne & Bill Church
WEST CIRCLE SERIES

Favorites” - 2:30-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge.

Monday, January 27

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 - 9-11 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Drop-in Homework Help (Grades 1-8) - Free tutoring in general subjects by students from MSU Community Learning Services. 5-7 p.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos.

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.

EVENTS

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

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

ARTS

Hebreo: The Search for Salomone Rossi

- 7-8:30 p.m. Residential College of Arts and Humanities Theater, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. 517-432-3493. [jsp.msu.edu](#).

MUSIC

Happy Birthday, Mozart! - Join us for music and birthday cookies. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. [music.msu.edu](#).

Tuesday, January 28

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

Book Discussion Group (Adults) - This month: "My Beloved World" by Sonia Sotomayor 7-8 p.m. CADL Webberville, 115 N. Main St., Webberville. [cadl.org](#)

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

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

Capital City Toastmasters Open House - Learn public speaking, leadership skills, and develop confidence. 6:30-8:30 p.m. CADL Downtown, 401 S Capitol Ave, Lansing.

Garden Club Tuesday Meeting - 1-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge.

ARTS

Adult Clay Winter B - 6:15-9:15 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. [reachstudioart.org](#)

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](#)

MUSIC

Roomful of Teeth - 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. [music.msu.edu](#)

Yan Zheng, Chamber - Free. 6 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. [events.msu.edu](#)



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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Mafioso-themed bagel shop coming to stadium district

BY SKYLER ASHLEY

A downtown bagel shop with eclectic, Michigan-made ingredients and a staff that treats customers like old friends — that's the ambition of Goodfellas, a new stadium district restaurant expecting its soft opening the first week of February.

Co-owners Adrian Joseph and Nate Parisian decided to try their hand at the bagel hustle after deciding that there weren't enough bagel options in downtown Lansing.

"I like bagels, he likes bagels — we all like bagels. And this was all born out of there not being enough options for breakfast sandwiches," Joseph said.

The menu will be structured around a score of signature bagel sandwiches, each named in tribute to common phrases and names from classic gang-



Goodfellas Bagel Deli

Soft-opening expected first week of February
625 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
(517) 580-8611
facebook.com/goodfellasbageldeli

ster cinema. For example, "The Don" features ham, bacon, egg, whole grain mustard and garlic and herb cream cheese, while "The Godfather" has sausage, fried onion straw, muenster cheese and avocado cream cheese.

"One of the facets of our business is that we didn't want to have stuff that is easily accessible. We want to go straight to the producer, straight to the farm," Joseph said. "We're using a lot of cage-free eggs and sustainably

See Goodfellas, Page 27



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Goodfellas co-owners Nate Parisian (left) and Adrian Joseph.



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Pop-up restaurant to sling health-conscious food

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Worn down by greasy food? Did your favorite brunch spot let you down last week with some soggy French toast? If you're craving something new, a unique dining opportunity is coming to the Old Town Marquee this weekend.

A b u n d a n c e Café, an occasional pop-up restaurant started by Erin Meadows, is returning for its third round of dishing out health-conscious, homemade food over a single weekend.

"Abundance Café is a healthy, made-from-scratch type of restaurant. I focus on healthier options made with whole foods," head chef and owner Erin Meadows, 45, said. "It's to help to meet that niche of special dietary needs. There's a lot of people that are gluten-free or vegan, but there's not a lot of places for them to get delicious food to eat."

Just because Abundance Café is a pop-up doesn't mean the format is any different than a standard café-style restaurant. You place your order, sit down and



Courtesy Photo

Erin Meadows, founder of Abundance Café, is hosting another pop-up this weekend at Old Town Marquee.

wait to be served. Meadows prepares the food beforehand at Morton's Fine Catering, where she works, and brings it to the Old Town Marquee's warming kitchen.

Ingredients used by Meadows are as local as possible. Chickens and eggs are

supplied by Circle F Ranch in Fowler. Fruits and veggies are normally supplied by farmers markets, but the winter has Meadows hitting up the local options at Meijer and Horrocks.

See Pop-up, Page 27

Goodfellas

from page 26

sourced ingredients."

Goodfellas' fresh bagels and coffee will be supplied by Zingerman's in

Ann Arbor.

"We had to set up an exclusive route to get these bagels every day. They don't deliver the bagels because there's a one-day shelf life, so every bagel we're turning over is the freshest you can get," Joseph said.

Joseph and Parisian have been renovating the former Capitol City Scoop location at 625 E. Michigan Ave.

since late last year. According to the pair, it's been an uphill battle, as the space was left in a state of disrepair.

"The place had been vacant for nearly a year. There was nothing here for a long time," Joseph said. "It looked crazy before this; it was left in a rough spot."

While the soft opening is geared

toward the family and friends of Parisian and Joseph, nobody truly curious to try Goodfella's gourmet bagels will be turned away.

"We want a place where if you come, you should expect to be spoken to like a goodfella — you know?" Joseph said. "It's a mantra and a real cool environment."

Pop-up

from page 26

"Horrocks has a lot of local products and they help support the local farmers. That's part of my thing too, helping support the local economy," Meadows said. "When we get food from local farmers, we're also ensuring that people get the freshest food possible."

She hasn't finalized the menu for this weekend, but a few dishes are a sure-fire lock: chicken salad croissants, apple basil chicken salad, quinoa and black bean salad, mango ginger salad and gourmet hardboiled eggs. Meadows will also be preparing soup, which she has sold for a few years at the Meridian and DeWitt farmers markets. Adding to the pop-up's cozy atmosphere will be live music, massage therapy and tarot card reading.

Meadows wants to eventually open a proper brick-and-mortar version of Abundance Café that would serve breakfast and lunch. She also has ambitions for the permanent location to double as a yoga studio. Her current

timeline to get it all done is by the end of 2020.

"One of the most important things to me, is to let people know that I want them to be healthier and feel great. That's part of my passion, this isn't just a moneymaking deal for me; I want to help people feel better," Meadows said.

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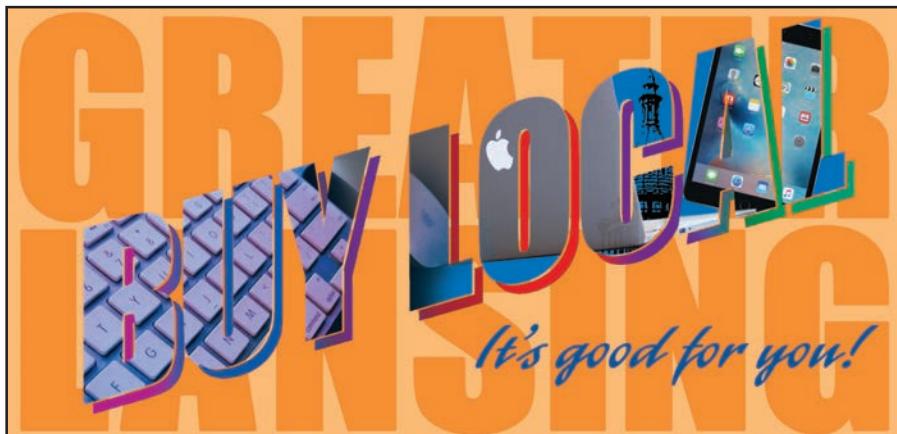
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