

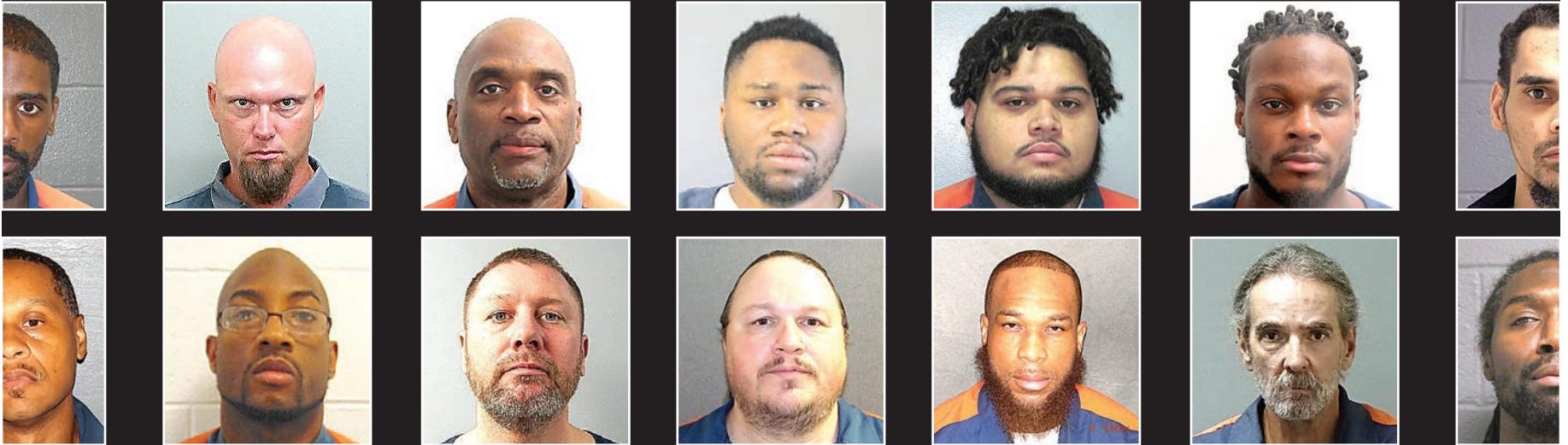
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Does a convicted murderer deserve a second chance?

Prosecutor Carol Siemon thinks so — and is doing something about it

SEE PAGE 12



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Favorite Things

Julia Anne Miller and her Frog Legs Bean Bag

Julia Anne Miller is a 40-something Lansing resident who keeps busy organizing for Punks With Lunch, a volunteer-ran and donation-based activist group that advocates for people who struggle with food and shelter. Since she founded the Lansing chapter back in 2017, she's helped it grow into a local fixture. "We offer harm-reduction support," said Miller, whose duties include providing sack lunches, hygiene products, blankets and more to those in need. "Our hope is to encourage others to take on more of a DIY mentality and find ways they can also do more to help people in their community."

My favorite thing is a stuffed animal named Frog Legs Bean Bag. He's green and very faded with a dingy white or cream-colored stomach. He's at least 40 years old, and his condition is well-loved.

Frog Legs originally belonged to my paternal grandfather, who collected frogs. His collection started after my mom gifted him a frog, not Frog Legs—some other frog. From there, it was mainly stuffed animals that friends and relatives gifted him. He acquired many in a short time. When I was a kid, Frog Legs was my favorite of Grandpa's frogs. I was always so excited when I got to visit because it meant I could also see Frog Legs.

Grandpa passed away when I was 5, and he had it written in his will that I would get Frog Legs. Other grandchildren were to also get a frog from Grandpa, but they had to wait until "Grandma was ready." Basically, "over Gram's dead body." They had a long time to wait, Gram lived another 33 years, but I got my frog immediately.

He was my childhood best friend. I even decided he needed a birthday, so I designated March 17th as his birthday because it's spring and he's green. My mom would make him a little birthday cake or treats for years. I'd make gifts for him, like capes so he could fly. My brother gave me the wheels off of an old toy truck so I



could make Frog Legs a skateboard. Everywhere I went, he went.

Looking back, my mom used to torment me. When I'd come home from school, I might walk in and find Frog Legs Bean Bag sitting in a stew pot or in the oven. Still, to this day, I have never eaten frog legs. I don't think I could do it. I even had him pose with me in one of my class pictures to give to my Grandma.

It's been awhile since I had a birthday party for him, but I always tell him happy birthday on March 17. He sits on the bed in the spare room, but I still go in and chat with him when I need someone to listen to me (laughs).

I feel funny gushing about a stuffed frog, but he's special. After grandpa passed, the family frog collection continued with Gram, my Dad, sister and myself all collecting frogs — but Frog Legs was my first frog. I collect a lot of other things now, and I've lost a lot of the special toys due to moving around, but he's one of the few lifelong special family items I have. He's a connection to my childhood, to family.

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

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Sing the winter blues away



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DIY sleds at the Cardboard Classic



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A winter festival of art and beer in REO Town



Cover Art

Photos courtesy Michigan Department of Corrections

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

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Skyler Ashley
skyler@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068
EVENTS EDITOR/OFFICE MANAGER • Suzi Smith
suzi@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704

PRODUCTION • Abby Sumbler
production@lansingcitypulse.com
(517) 999-5066

STAFF WRITERS • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065
Kyle Kaminski • kyle@lansingcitypulse.com
(517) 999-6710

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

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

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

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

Interns: Matthew Stine • stinem47@gmail.com

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by TOM TOMORROW

FURTHER IMPEACHMENT TRIAL RULES FROM MITCH MCCONNELL
WITNESSES ALLOWED, AS LONG AS THEY HAVE NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE CASE.
I NOW CALL TO THE STAND, A GUY WHO RUNS A FOOD CART OUT ON THE MALL!

DEMOCRATS MUST CONCEDE THAT THEY ARE BIG DUMMIES WHO LIKE TO SMELL THEIR OWN BUTTS.
BOTH SIDES MUST BE WILLING TO COMPROMISE IN THIS TIME OF INTENSE PARTISAN DIVIDE! THAT IS JUST HOW OUR SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES WORKS!

NOW GO ON-- SAY IT!

NO MORE MENTIONS OF THE WORDS "UKRAINE" OR "CORRUPTION" ARE PERMITTED.
DONALD TRUMP'S CALL TO THE PRESIDENT OF, UM, THAT COUNTRY, WAS A CLEAR CASE OF, YOU KNOW, THAT THING!

HA HA! WHATEVER YOU SAY, SENATOR!

DEMOCRATS NOW REQUIRED TO ADDRESS CHAMBER IN PIG LATIN.
SIGH...ESIDENT-PRAY UMP-TRAY IS EMONSTRABLY-DAY UILTY-GAY!

THEY DON'T HAVE A CASE! THEY'RE JUST BABBLING INCOHERENTLY!

DEMOCRATS MUST CAST THEIR VOTES IN NEEDLEPOINT FORM.
GAH! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO THIS!

TIME'S UP! I'LL PUT YOU DOWN AS A "NO!"

HELLO PRESIDENT ZELENSKY, THIS IS DONALD J. TRUMP, AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN ANY QUID PRO QUO! I ONLY WANT TO ROOT OUT CORRUPTION IN ALL OF ITS FORMS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

ALSO: ONLY ONE OUTCOME ALLOWED!
MERRICK GARLAND WAS JUST A TRIAL RUN, SUCKERS!

Tom Tomorrow © 2020

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

We're for Warren

The CP Edit

Opinion



Bringing an end to the long, national nightmare that is Donald Trump begins with choosing the strongest standard bearer from an impressive array of Democratic candidates. Even though logic and common sense ordinarily would dictate that even the weakest contender could beat Trump, we live in anything but ordinary times. Trump's persistent popularity with his base of unapologetic deplorables and the inexplicable acquiescence of otherwise normal Republicans makes his reelection a distinct possibility. This would, of course, be a cataclysmic outcome that engenders a clear and present danger to the republic.

With absentee voting about to start for Michigan's March 10 Democratic presidential primary, choosing the most competitive candidate from the top tier of Democrats isn't easy. Nearly all of the leading could-be-presidents impress us enough that we would be delighted to see any of them elected. Two of the candidates, however, stand above the rest. True progressives to the core, U.S. Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth

Warren of Massachusetts both offer a compelling vision for a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable nation. Each has the requisite qualifications and experience to command the highest office in the land.

We have immense respect and admiration for Bernie Sanders, a man of unwavering principle, deep conviction and unquestioned integrity. Though we worry about his sometimes curmudgeonly demeanor and recent health troubles, we wholeheartedly subscribe to his unabashedly progressive agenda. Yet we are concerned that America isn't quite ready to embrace the self-described socialist. To be clear, we have no problem with Bernie being a socialist. Sadly, too many Americans ignorantly conflate socialism with communism, making the left-wing appellation a damaging pejorative and an electoral liability at a time when defeating Trump must countervail all other considerations. His age — he would be 79 upon taking office — and his recent heart attack also give us pause.

Which brings us to Senator Warren. Her prodigious intellect, passion for social justice and endless moxie make her a formidable candidate indeed. As evidenced by Hillary Clinton winning the popular vote in 2016, America is certainly ready and willing to elect a female president. We are, too. Warren brings unbridled energy to the campaign trail and isn't likely to make the strategic and tactical mistakes that doomed Clinton's bid.

Throughout her distinguished career, Warren has been a powerful and consistent voice for every day Americans, advocating for improved access to education, solving the student debt crisis, fair taxation, and raising the minimum wage. The arc of her life story, from Republican homemaker to celebrated academician and author to progressive Democratic senator, offers a compelling narrative of personal growth, determination and achievement that broadens

her appeal beyond the Democratic base to independent voters and to Republican women who are disgusted by the puerile proclivities and deeply disturbing behavior of the nation's pussy-grabber-in-chief.

We're particularly impressed by Warren's unflinching support for single-payer, universal health care, popularly known as Medicare-for-all. Her refusal to back down in the face of withering criticism from all quarters over the projected costs of her bold plan is courageous. She could do a better job defending her plan by noting that every other industrialized country in the world is capable of providing universal health care to its citizens without bankrupting the nation. If they can do it, so can we, but it will require a systematic attack on the exorbitant underlying costs of this country's greed-infested, profit-driven health care industry. We think it's better to think big and push for revolutionary change than to merely nibble around the edges and hope that an incremental approach will rein in out-of-control medical costs and improve access to affordable health care.

We're also confident that Warren will be a commanding and respected figure on the world stage in the fashion of Angela Merkel, Germany's inimitable chancellor, and will immediately begin to repair the wreckage of Trump's damaging attacks on our closest allies, rebuilding confidence and trust in America's global leadership.

While our choice is sure to disappoint the legions of Bernie Sanders fans among our readers, rest assured that we will enthusiastically support his campaign if he wins the nomination. Nonetheless, because we are convinced she is the most progressive candidate who can still beat Trump, we endorse Elizabeth Warren for president of the United States and encourage early voters to cast their absentee ballots accordingly.

For our sane Republican readers, we offer a strong endorsement for William Weld. He has no chance to defeat Trump in the primary, but you can vote for the moderate and eminently sensible former governor of Massachusetts with a clear conscience, knowing you did your part to stop the madness.

Whoever one chooses in the primary election, we urge all citizens to embrace the uncomfortable truth that we are a nation in the midst of a political, constitutional and existential crisis. Because it is a foregone conclusion that the U.S. Senate will not vote to remove Trump through the impeachment process, the only path to restoring America's sanity is by kicking him and his scurrilous band of swamp-dwelling scyphophants out of office this November.

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

SORE OF THE WEEK



2129 Lake Lansing Road

We miss you, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts. And we know we're not alone.

Greater Lansing can still find your glazed ambrosia at a few local grocery stores and Speedway gas stations, but nothing quite compares to watching freshly baked doughnuts roll off a conveyor belt here in the capital city. And that's why this week's feature is your long-shuttered location along Lake Lansing Road. We want it back.

The building is in decent shape. Aside from boarded-up windows, this certainly isn't a typical eye sore. But this storefront shouldn't have remained empty as long as it has, especially given its prime location outside of the Eastwood Towne Center.

County property records show Krispy Kreme still owns the building and the three-acre swath of land that surrounds it, but property taxes have been long paid by Ronald and Dayna Reynolds. Neither the Reynoldses or corporate Krispy Kreme returned calls to City Pulse. And the land has been available for lease since at least 2017. Real estate agent Kelly Miller wouldn't share any details about the property or what led the shop to sit vacant all of these years.

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

City audit reports myriad conflicts by human relations director

Jackson Johnson directed \$1.4 million to nonprofits with ties to her

Reports from a recent audit point to mismanaged funds, conflicting interests and grant-funded nepotism stemming from Joan Jackson Johnson's activities as director of Lansing's Department of Human Relations and Community Services. And now the Michigan attorney general will decide what happens next.

"There is no doubt that Dr. Joan Jackson Johnson has done incredible work on behalf of the neediest in the city," said Mayor Andy Schor. "However, upon receiving and reviewing the completed forensic audit report, it alleged many improprieties and inconsistencies with our local ordinances, state law and federal regulations."

Jackson Johnson, Lansing's human relations director since 2006, was placed on paid administrative leave this month after auditors found that she "performed transactions in a manner that lacked transparency and may have misrepresented her actions, potentially to conceal her violations," according to the recently released report.

The bulk of an audit report, which was released Monday in response to a Freedom of Information request, centers on an alleged conflict of interest in which Jackson Johnson's department, under her direct oversight, funneled at least \$1.38 million in city funding to various community service nonprofit groups in which she was either directly involved or had ties to her immediate family members.

Records show One Church One Family, a local nonprofit geared toward homelessness prevention, received nearly \$500,000 through the city while Jackson Johnson served simultaneously as its human relations director and as the nonprofit's president, secretary and treasurer. Her daughter, Nikki Johnson, was also listed as one of the directors of One Church One Family, among other nonprofit groups, while the city funding flowed.

Loaves and



Jackson Johnson

City of Lansing | January 8, 2020

Analysis of the Human Relations and Community Services Department



plante moran | Audit, Tax, Consulting, Wealth Management.

ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT – PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL

The full analysis can be read online: lansingcitypulse.com/stories/jacksonaudit,13782

Fishes, a homeless shelter, received another \$300,525 from Jackson Johnson's department while she controlled the city's purse strings. According to state records, her husband, Vernon, served as treasurer for at least 11 years, through 2018.

Auditors contend the financial arrangements at times posed a "blatant" conflict of interest and broke the law.

The close-knit deals — in which Jackson Johnson essentially formed contracts with herself and had little oversight outside of her own department — had teetered into a legal grey area in which she cashed several city-issued checks that carried her own signature. The AG's office will determine whether any transactions were illegal.

Invoices raise questions

Did Jackson Johnson take cash for personal gain? She vehemently denies it. Many in the community served through her charitable work

simply refuse to believe it's possible. And auditors aren't making any conclusions. But the recent report on the finances of Jackson Johnson's department detailed a few of the ongoing suspicions.

Auditors said two "questionable" invoices paid by Teen Challenge — another (now-shuttered) nonprofit organization in Lansing — that were found inside a file cabinet at her department are raising some additional concerns over financial mismanagement and appeared to have personally benefited Jackson Johnson.

The invoices, purportedly paid by One Church One Family and bankrolled with city funding, were spent on "work duties" that included renovations at Jackson Johnson's residence and at one of her rental properties, auditors found. In total, \$4,230 was spent on bathroom renovations and a variety of other fixes.

Jackson Johnson had told city officials that she — and not her nonprofit — paid for those renovations

personally. Auditors, however, noted that without a more expansive audit into the finances of One Church One Family that they couldn't make any conclusions about whether the funding had remained separated.

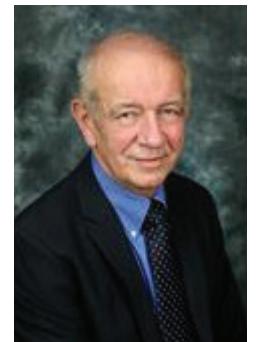


Schor

"It would be unusual that, in a drawer full of OCOF documentation, there would be two random non-OCOF invoices in the files belonging to the HRCS director," auditors noted.

Additionally, auditors said Jackson Johnson had spent about \$100,000 from an emergency Community Development Block Grant using her city purchasing card but that she could only generate about \$15,000 in "acceptable supporting documentation." Auditors noted that they didn't re-search that issue any further.

Schor said the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development notified the city late last year about a series of alleged "legal concerns" tied to various "issues with



Smiertka

contracts" signed by Jackson Johnson. The city hired an auditor to probe into her department.

Schor said the report was of "such material significance" that City Attorney Jim Smiertka felt obliged to pass the findings on to the AG's office while Jackson Johnson was placed on paid administrative leave. The final say on whether Jackson Johnson stays or leaves now likely hinges on the results of that ongoing review.

"We hope to hear back from those authorities quickly so we can come to a resolution," Schor said.

In the meantime, former department director Willard Walker has offered to manage the department on an interim basis until the situation with Jackson Johnson can be fully

See Jackson Johnson, Page 7

Jackson Johnson

from page 6

resolved, Schor announced this week.

The audit cost \$29,390, Schor's office said.

Jackson Johnson had final say

Jackson Johnson's department receives a portion of the city's general fund budget — about 1.25%, or \$1.6 million in 2018 — to use at its own discretion, mostly by distributing grant funding to nonprofit entities.

Auditors found the staff works collaboratively, but Jackson Johnson carries "ultimate authority" on spending.

And while the department's budget has certainly been used to help to fund various community service-oriented programs within the city over recent years, auditors largely took issue with the process behind the scenes.

One city invoice was found to have been paid to One Church One Family with \$4,903 from the city's general fund, designed to prevent tenants from being evicted from one of the nonprofit's rental homes on Stillwell Avenue. In other words, taxpayer dollars were being used to pay back rent purportedly owed to the nonprofit.

Jackson Johnson was found to have been "essentially using city dollars to fund a cash shortfall" at One Church One Family during a time when she served as its president, secretary, treasurer and as a director, the report states.

Auditors, without having access to nonprofit financial records, largely stopped short of directly alleging Jackson Johnson or her family took any cash for personal gain. But those dueling familial roles pointed to a conflict of interest through a city executive signing off on funds that went to nonprofits that she and her family controlled.

Jackson Johnson previously told City Pulse that she had been working to divorce herself from One Church One Family. State records show she resigned her leadership roles last month.

She labeled her recent suspension as the product of a "witch hunt" against her and contended that she didn't receive any personal financial gain from her involvement with the city or other local nonprofit organizations.

Jackson Johnson, however, stopped

What exactly is the AG's office reviewing? Here are six key takeaways listed in the recent auditor's report:

1. Jackson Johnson served in various volunteer positions that appear to have violated the city's ordinance on conflicting interests and a state law that guides contracts with publicly funded entities. A violation of that law can be a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and fines of up to \$1,000.

2. In addition to Jackson Johnson's role as president of the nonprofit One Church One Family, Jackson Johnson also served in other positions and maintained close relationships with entities that receive thousands of dollars in direct funding and federal grant distribution through the city of Lansing.

3. Notably, Jackson Johnson's husband and daughter were named in the report as being tied to leadership positions at various entities — like Loaves and Fishes — that receive cash through the city of Lansing. Auditors pointed to these relationships as conflicts of interests that give the appearance of impropriety.

4. Jackson Johnson was made aware of these concerns yet "performed transactions in a manner that lacked transparency and may have misrepresented her actions, potentially to conceal her violations," the report states. Those included at least two instances where Jackson Johnson appeared to reap a personal benefit.

5. Jackson Johnson had also allowed a volunteer with her nonprofit to use office space, a city email and cell phone without explicit approval from Lansing's Department of Human Resources. The report noted that Jackson Johnson had also sought permission for them to use a car but had her request denied.

6. Additionally, the report found the funding disbursement process in the Department of Human Relations and Community Services to be set up to give Jackson Johnson near-total autonomy — with "limited oversight/approval" — over how about \$1.6 million in annual general fund dollars were spent.

returning calls to City Pulse after the AG's office announced it would conduct a review. Attempts to reach Vernon and Nikki Johnson for additional comments have also been unsuccessful.

Auditors further noted that Jackson Johnson brokered deals that, separate from the "problematic relationships and affiliations," also were labeled "questionable." The report identified multiple instances of Jackson Johnson requesting funds on behalf of her nonprofit and then personally approving them on behalf of the city.

The report also found those annual disbursements were left mostly unreviewed by anyone outside of Jackson Johnson's department. Additionally, receipts and invoices weren't typically required for reimbursements and prior attempts to monitor departmental spending were mostly fruitless given "time and staffing" constraints.

Even funding that required board approval lacked appropriate checks and balances, according to auditors. The report noted that Jackson Johnson

has long carried "significant influence" over how those votes were decided. The report also raised concerns over Jackson Johnson's close ties to organizations that received the cash.

Schertzing's role

One Church One Family, for example, maintains nine homes in Lansing that were purchased from the Ingham County Land Bank in 2010 and 2011. During that time, Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing was listed as both a director of Jackson Johnson's nonprofit and had served as chairman of the land bank's board of directors.

Wearing "two separate hats," as Schertzing described it, he played a



Bernero

role in both selling and purchasing the land. He said he wouldn't be surprised if his signature was penned to the final sale agreements. At the time, he didn't see a conflict of interests. The nonprofit had been viewed as

a sort of pseudo-entity of the city, he said.

"That independence between the nonprofit and the government entity — I'm not sure how clear that was," Schertzing explained. "Yes, there is a competing interest. There's a conflict, if you want to use that term, but it just goes with the territory. You wear multiple hats. It was all part of an effort to do this work to help people."

Contracts mentioned in the auditor's report also included a conflict of interest clause that mandated employees of the city who exercised "any function or responsibility" with administration of the contract would not have any interest — either directly or indirectly — in the proceeds of city-allocated funding or distributions of grants.

Still, the Lansing City Council had also approved each contract with One Church One Family. Each of the agreements also carry the signatures of first Mayor Virg Bernero and then Schor, who succeeded him in 2018.

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

Dozens crowded City Hall after the news broke to support Jackson Johnson, repeatedly lauding her department for its charitable efforts throughout the city.

Former Mayor Virg Bernero — among others — recognized the funding protocol might not have followed best practices but it resulted in a positive impact in Lansing.

"The main question for me is whether the money went where it was supposed to go," Bernero said. "We should follow guidelines on these things, but I'm more concerned on whether the cash was spent as intended. That seems to be what people care about, and Joan's department has always been there to take care of people."

— KYLE KAMINSKI



Schertzing

'Dark Waters' at home

Slotkin, experts ring alarm bells on PFAS contamination

Michigan is only starting to come to grips with a hydra-headed threat from over 4700 "forever chemicals," widely known as PFAS, making their way into the state's waterways, animals and people.

To comment on proposed PFAS standards in Michigan, go to

www.michigan.gov/PFASresponse or text PFAS to 21333
Public comment period runs until 5 p.m. Jan. 31

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin and a panel of scientists, a state official and an environmentalist rang the alarm bell Friday night after a Lansing screening of the sobering 2019 film "Dark Waters."

Slotkin told the audience at Celebration! Cinema that Michigan has the highest number of PFAS contaminated sites in the United States.

"We are literally on the forefront of this issue in Michigan," she said.

In the film, attorney Robert Bilott, played by Mark Ruffalo, discovers widespread PFAS contamination in his

West Virginia hometown when cattle die, people get cancer and babies are born with defects. The discovery leads to a decades-long, lopsided legal battle between Bilott and chemical giant DuPont.

After the screening, Slotkin praised Ruffalo, who also co-produced the

film, for raising awareness of the issue.

Slotkin said Congress has been working on PFAS legislation, but it's "been a struggle."

The PFAS Action Act passed the House of Representatives last year, but the measure is unlikely to reach the Senate floor and would likely be vetoed by President Trump if it reaches his desk.

A lack of guidance from the federal Environmental Protection Agency is a "big problem," Slotkin said. "We still don't have an EPA standard for what is safe and what is not," she said. "So much of the way our government works and acts is based on a standard. If there is no standard, we can't force someone to clean something up."

Held together by nearly unbreakable chemical bonds, PFAS chemicals have been used for decades to give a wide variety of products non-stick and stain- and water-resistant properties. Many of these compounds, such as Teflon, Scotch-Gard and Gore-Tex, have been phased out, but the resulting "legacy PFAS" takes decades to break down. Some are still in use, most notably in fire retardant foam used at military bases and airports.

Friday night, Slotkin framed PFAS contamination in terms of her own background, as a matter of "homeland security." In 2018, Slotkin flipped the 8th District from longtime Republican control, in part on the basis of her national security experience, as a CIA analyst in the Middle East, militia expert and national security official at the Pentagon.

"If you don't know if you can give your child a glass of water without them getting a learning disability or early cancer, that is a threat to your family," Slotkin said. "That is traditional homeland security. The way we need to talk about this should be much more muscular. We shouldn't be ashamed at protecting our family."

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, Slotkin helped to amend the National Defense Authorization Act to require the Department of Defense to stop using



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin called PFAS contamination a "homeland security issue" after a screening of the Mark Ruffalo film "Dark Waters" in Lansing last week.

PFAS-based firefighting foam by 2020, stop using it in firefighting exercises and to test firefighters' blood for PFAS.

Last week, MSU started a center for PFAS research, with 13 researchers on staff, according to Cheryl Murphy, a professor and toxicologist in MSU's Fisheries and Wildlife Dept. and a member of Friday's panel.

Murphy is looking at PFAS contaminated fish in the Huron River to find out why the chemicals are so insidious, but it will take time to sort out more than 4700 combinations and "combinations of combinations" of PFAS.

"These contaminants act differently than mercury or DDT or contaminants we've looked at in the past," Murphy said. "They're not binding to your fat. They're binding to your cell membranes, your proteins, and they're accumulating in strange patterns we don't know about."

Exposure to the chemicals has been linked to kidney, testicular and prostate cancers, high cholesterol, changes in hormone levels, low fertility, hypertension, autoimmune diseases and weakened immune systems, according to Courtney Carignan, an MSU professor on Friday's panel.

Carignan gave the audience alarming news after working with several affected communities in Michigan,

including Oscoda, near the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base, now an airport. She said PFAS concentrations in Clark's Marsh near Oscoda are the highest in the world. In October 2018, the state issued "do not eat" advisories for fish and deer in the area around the former base. PFAS foam is visible on the surface of lakes and rivers in the area and is washing into Lake Huron.

A map of Michigan drawn up by the Natural Resources Defense Council placed Ingham County in the lowest category of PFAS drinking water contamination, from 0 to 1 parts per trillion.

However, the state has identified two Lansing sites, out of 75 sites state-wide, as probable sources of PFAS contamination: Adam's Plating at 521 N. Rosemary St., an electroplating operation that ran from 1964 until it was destroyed by fire in 2010; and RACER Plants 2, 3 and 6, a 72-acre site on Lansing's northwest side stretching from Willow Street southward to Michigan Avenue, adjacent to two former General Motors plants.

Friday's panel was united in its concern over PFAS in Michigan, but it didn't agree whether to set state PFAS standards soon or wait until more sci-

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
Shellie Hooten
DEPUTY CLERK
73 Main St., Fallon, NV 89406

CP#20-002

RFP/20/048 DEFERRED COMPENSATION SERVICES as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **FEB. 28, 2019** at which time they opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#20-017

Lansing's new Councilman sits for national anthem

As the national anthem echoed across the Lansing Center at last week's 55th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day luncheon, newly elected Lansing City Councilman Brandon Betz sat placidly in his chair and refused to stand.

He and his partner, Melina Brann, were among the only people that remained in their seats, he told City Pulse.

"Economic and social racism remains a present reality in our country, and even Lansing," Betz explained. "Martin Luther King Jr. stood up to oppression through peaceful protest. On the day honoring him, I decided to show courage in my convictions. My partner and I decided a long time ago that we would sit or kneel in solidarity with activists all over this country to protest police brutality and oppression of people of color."

Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick garnered national attention for refusing to stand for the national anthem in 2016 over wrongdoings against African Americans and minorities in the United States.

Like Kaepernick, Betz and his partner refuse to show pride in a flag for a



Betz

country that oppresses people of color.

"This nation was built on the backs of black and brown people who were enslaved by our ancestors. They deserve solidarity," Betz said, noting that systemic racism still persists. "I don't think that I'm the right person to be a spokesperson for the black activist community. I am acting in solidarity with them, not on behalf of them."

At a nearby table, Michael Lynn Jr., a firefighter and vocal advocate for racial equity who is suing the Lansing Fire Department for alleged racial discrimination, remained seated in his chair too. His son also made headlines for

kneeling during the national anthem as a football player at Lansing Catholic High School back in 2017.

"It's clear to me that if Dr. King was still alive, he would be organizing and leading the peaceful protest that Kaepernick initiated," Lynn said. "Anyone who still believes that we are doing this to disrespect the military or our vets are practicing willful ignorance. There's too much information out there to still believe that narrative."

And it doesn't appear Betz is alone in Lansing. The City Council honored Lynn's son and three other football players who knelt during the anthem with a formal resolution in 2017. Representing then-Mayor Virg Bernero, Bishop David Maxwell said taking a knee was about "love for the nation," just like a hand placed across the chest.

"As it pertains to the audience in attendance that did not stay seated, in my opinion, this activism isn't for everyone," Lynn added. "Some people work behind the scenes, some up front, and some are in fear of speaking out. I know personally the cost of speaking out, but I also know the cost of silence. I chose to fight."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Slotkin

from page 8

ence is in.

Steve Sliver, director of the multi-agency Michigan PFAS Response Team, said the state is "moving forward" to set safe drinking water standards for seven PFAS compounds and expects to have "enforceable drinking water standards" by May.

The proposed standards range from 6 to 8 parts per trillion for various PFAS and related compounds.

"Not that the numbers can't go lower, but we want to get these standards in place and not have them held up," Sliver said. The public can comment on the standards through Jan. 31.

Last week, Attorney General Dana Nessel announced litigation against 17 manufacturers of PFAS.

"That's another positive step," Sliver said.

However, Cyndi Roper, senior policy advocate for the Natural Resources Defense Council and a longtime defender of the state's waterways, didn't buy Sliver's assurance that the standards can be tightened in the future. Roper also took part in Friday's panel.

"Every time more science comes in, the numbers go lower and lower," she said. "There is no guarantee we'll come back to it."

Roper also called for a "class-based approach" to all 4,700 PFAS compounds, rather than the individual standards Sliver's group has proposed, "so we don't have to play whack-a-mole with these standards as the years go by."

Roper had more ominous concerns. When members of the Michigan Manufacturers Association showed up at a public hearing on PFAS in Roscommon Jan. 16, their remarks reminded her of the pushback Ruffalo's character faced from the "titans of industry" in "Dark Waters."

"You could see it in that room," Roper said. "They stood there and threatened to sue the state agency if the agency set a standard on a chemical they put into our water."

With the feds unlikely to act, and the state facing anti-regulatory pressures from manufacturers, Roper gestured at the screen and repeated the painful conclusion Ruffalo's character makes at the end of the film: "We are the only ones who can protect ourselves."

— LAWENCE COSENTINO

Top Ingham Co. exec quits amid 'strong concerns'

Ingham County's top executive, controller Tim Dolehanty, has resigned after members of the Board of Commissioners expressed "strong concerns" about his performance, commission Chairman Bryan Crenshaw said Tuesday.

"There have been discussions with Tim prior to his resignation," Crenshaw said. "He did choose to resign, but I will say that there have been some strong concerns that have been raised involving things that have gone on. It's just been one situation after another situation, and after some discussion he chose to resign from the position."

Commissioner Mark Grebner pointed to multiple closed board sessions related to attorney-client privilege. He declined to comment on whether Dolehanty's performance was discussed at those private meetings.

"Those closed sessions are good for anything," Grebner said. "We say we're going to discuss some privileged information by having some letter stamped by an attorney. That's good for any-

thing. You can do that and then just talk about whatever we want to talk about. The Open Meetings Act, actually, it's just completely useless."

Republican Commissioner Randy Schafer told the Fowlerville News and Views that Dolehanty has been "remarkable," noting his "progressive" vision for the county will be "sorely missed."

"We have some great staff in the county. I try to be positive," Schafer wrote in an email. "However, some commissioners are not always the most professional in how they treat others. This is for another time."

Other commissioners — and Dolehanty — couldn't be reached immediately for comment.



Dolehanty

Dolehanty was hired for the job in 2013 after serving in various top-level administrative posts in Isabella, Chippewa and Wexford counties. His responsibilities included directing "central administrative functions," balancing the budget and acting as a liaison between commissioners and the general public.

Crenshaw noted the board had become increasingly frustrated with Dolehanty's performance as controller, most recently over how he handled an investigation into specialized prescription drug coverage for county employees. An investigation into barriers to coverage of certain prescription drugs remains ongoing.

Additionally, commissioners were expected to meet Tuesday evening to discuss the situation. Crenshaw noted that early plans call for an interim county controller to be named sometime this week while a search is launched to find a more permanent replacement.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Whitmer to lay out Dems' agenda in her State of the Union response

By MIRS News

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was doing what all governors do at this time of the year. She was writing a State of the State message while simultaneously drafting a new state budget when her chief of staff informed her she might be getting a phone call.

But this wasn't just any phone call. This one was from Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi with an invite to deliver the Democratic response to President Trump's State of the Union address next Tuesday. Her chief of staff suggested, "You might want to think about what your response will be."

The governor's first thought was, "It was mind boggling and something I never thought about."

And then the call came in.

"You can't say no to the speaker," Whitmer smiled as she accepted the gig that will propel her into the national conversation next week.

Pelosi advised her she would have 10 minutes and could talk about whatever she felt "comfortable" with. However, for those who think the governor will attack the president, think again. The governor was given some broad issue guidelines from the speaker's office, but there's no micromanaging from Washington. Whitmer will focus on the issues she thinks Democrats should be talking about this year.

"I am going to lay out a Democratic agenda," she explained while noting that the country is already badly divided and it is not her intent to add to that by blasting away at the sitting president.

So she will not be "going after" Trump and will "stay focused" on that Democratic agenda, including "preserving our moral standing" in the world.

She wanted to focus on what the citizens want and she'll point out what the Democrats and her fellow governors have accomplished. But, by the same token, she is fully aware of the mercurial nature of the president, who could say anything during the speech.

Whitmer said she will be "nimble" and if he raises "anything interesting," she may have a response for that, too.

Her approach is not to react to every item raised by the president in his speech, but "my job is to make

sure I offer a real Democratic vision for what we can be in this country. The people of the United States want leaders looking at a vision that actually improves their lives."

She recalled what happened to U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, who drank water in the middle of his SOTU response in 2013 and got all sorts of flak for doing that.

The governor advised, "I'm going to stay hydrated but not too hydrated," she laughed.

From a public perception standpoint, Whitmer's prime-time appearance can cut one of two ways for the governor, said John Sellek of Harbor Strategic Public Affairs. At best, the speech will go well. It'll be like "cotton candy." Listeners will find it sweet before it melts from their memories.

At worst, she could make a blunder like Rubio's drink of water and memories of her appearance will linger for bad years. Considering she's already been in the conversation as a potential vice presidential candidate — particularly if Joe Biden is the nominee — that would be bad thing.

Another unintended consequence of doing the State of the Union Address response is the political ramifications at home. With Whitmer being elevated to a more high-profile role on the national stage, Republicans back home will be less inclined to get her a big "win" she could trumpet if she were added to the national ticket in 2020.

Michigan Republicans can't risk, politically, taking an active role in giving Whitmer an enormous win on roads, her No. 1 priority. A bipartisan victory in a Midwestern industrial state that Trump won by 10,000 votes? That's the type of resume padding the R's want nothing to do with.

So while Whitmer's appearance next week may be a springboard for other opportunities down the line for our governor, it'll likely mean legislative paralysis on major issues until at least the 2020 election is over.

OPINION



POLITICS
Kyle Melinn's column will return next week

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020 ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

For the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices:

- President of the United States (Democratic)
- President of the United States (Republican)

For the purpose of voting on the following proposals:

- **Ingham County:** Health Services Renewal Millage Proposal, Potter Park Zoo Renewal Millage Proposal, Trails and Park Renewal Millage Proposal
- **Ingham Intermediate School District:** Special Education Millage Proposal
- **Capital Area Transportation Authority:** Renewal Millage Proposal

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Lansing City Clerk; the office of their County Clerk; a Secretary of State Branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms may be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed or dropped off at the office of the Lansing City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the Lansing City Clerk's Office is **Monday, February 24, 2020**.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
Lansing City Clerk – Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave. Lansing, MI 48910	Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm Wednesdays 8am - 7pm

Additional times outside of the above listed regular hours are as follows:

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Election Day March 10 7am - 8pm
Lansing City Clerk – Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave Lansing, MI 48910	Saturday February 8 February 15 February 22 February 29 10am - 2pm Saturday March 7 10am – 10pm Sunday March 8 10am - 10pm Election Day March 10 7am – 8pm

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The Lansing City Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the locations referenced in the above table or by visiting our website at lansingmi.gov/clerk.

Monday, March 9, 2020 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, March 9, 2020 must be requested and voted in person at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, March 10, 2020, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC
 Lansing City Clerk
 Phone: 517-483-4131
 Email: city.clerk@lansingmi.gov
 Website: www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#20-016

The rule of law, or rule by the lawless?

Senate Republicans face their clearest test of moral courage yet

Until Sunday night, everything was going to plan: The Senate would rush through opening arguments, then through a brief question period,

then reject a motion for further evidence, and then acquit President Trump on charges of abusing his office and obstructing Congress in time for his pre-Super Bowl interview with fanboy Sean Hannity and his State of the Union address next week.

Sure, voters told pollsters they wanted the Senate to at least pretend to care about getting to the truth. But Mitch McConnell was betting on short memories: The quicker he dispatched with impeachment, the sooner it would disappear into the fog of an election year. Democrats would raise a hue and cry, and editorial boards would wag their fingers. But the cover-up was safer than allowing new information into the public domain. McConnell is nothing if not ruthlessly cynical, and he knew that whatever emerged would be damning.

That Trump could extort a foreign government for his political benefit and suffer no consequence is indicative of how fragile our polarized political system really is. More important, it's shown how untethered the Republican Party has become from the rule of law — and how dangerous a second Trump term, with his party brought to heel and unwilling to check his increasingly authoritarian instincts, could be.

The New York Times's story on Sunday offered the GOP one last chance to demonstrate moral courage.

The Times reported the incendiary contents of former national security adviser John Bolton's unpublished manuscript, in which Bolton says Trump directly told him that he



JEFFREY C. BILLMAN

INFORMED OPINION

would not give the Ukrainians \$391 million in military aid unless they investigated the Bidens. That undercuts every single aspect of Trump's defense, including what his attorneys told the Senate last week. Bolton wants to testify. Trump is blocking him.

Senate Republicans have a choice: to muster moral courage and issue a subpoena, or to look the other way.

Don't get your hopes up that they'll do the right thing. They've had several other chances to show moral courage this week, and they've failed every test.

Last Tuesday, at the beginning of the trial, White House Counsel Pat Cipollone stood up and told a bald-faced lie: "The [House impeachment] proceedings took place in the basement of the House of Representatives. ... Not even [Adam] Schiff's Republican colleagues were allowed into the SCIF," (which stands for Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility). That's plainly wrong: Each of the committees involved in the inquiry included Republicans who questioned witnesses. Cipollone's opening arguments on Saturday were no less mendacious: He said Ukraine didn't know military aid was being withheld (false), that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 election (debunked by Trump's FBI chief), and that Trump was "locked out" of the House's process (he declined an invitation to Judiciary Committee hearings). No Republican demanded that he correct the record.

They did, however, clutch pearls aplenty when Adam Schiff referenced a CBS story that quoted a Trump ally saying that Republican senators were warned, "Vote against the president and your head will be on a pike." "That's where he lost me," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, one of those said to be on the fence about calling witnesses. More likely, this performative outrage was cover for the cowardly vote they planned to take all along.

Republicans didn't express the same outrage when Trump tweeted a threat at Schiff on Sunday morning, alleging that he is a "CORRUPT POLITICIAN" who "has not paid the price, yet, for what he has done to our Country!" Nor did they get riled up when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo cursed out an NPR reporter for asking a perfectly legitimate question about Ukraine and then lied about their conversation in an official State Department statement. In most administrations, Pompeo's boorish behavior would have drawn a stern rebuke, if not a demand for his resignation. Instead, Trump threatened to pull NPR funding.

Crickets from the GOP. But sure, Schiff gave them the vapors.

Back to Bolton. Let's not mistake the mustachioed menace for any sort of resistance hero. He's a neocon warmonger, a man whose pornography is probably satellite images of drones dropping bombs on desert villages. There are reasons to question his credibility: Namely, he's out to sell a book.

But he's not some liberal Deep State squish, and the brief outline in the Times aligns with what other witnesses told House investigators. His story shreds a key element of Trump's narrative—that the president had valid reasons for withholding the money. It also puts the lie to what Trump's lawyers have told the Senate—that there are no firsthand witnesses who can testify that Trump

linked the hold to the Bidens. And it calls into question what else Trump's attorneys are lying about.

After all, Bolton submitted the manuscript to the White House for a security review on December 30 and signaled his willingness to testify a week later. Trump made clear that, should McConnell's efforts to shut down all testimony fail, he'd try to exert executive privilege to keep that from happening. It's obvious that Trump and his lawyers know (and are terrified of) what Bolton will say; according to the Times's sources, the manuscript "intensified concerns among some of [Trump's] advisers that they needed to block Mr. Bolton from testifying."

Even after the Times's story broke, the White House urged Republicans to hold the line, arguing that Bolton testifying will "open the floodgates," leading to a longer trial and more information in the public domain—which is exactly what McConnell doesn't want.

Rarely are there choices this clear, or moments with this much moral clarity. Do Senate Republicans put Bolton under oath and see what he has to say, or do they admit that the entire party is complicit in Trump's corruption?

In other words, are we to be a country ruled by law, or a country ruled by the lawless?

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

B/20/066 GRASS MOWING CONTRACTOR SERVICES 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. 25, 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.

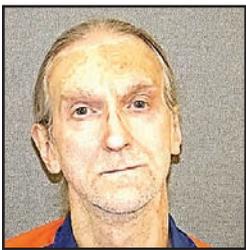
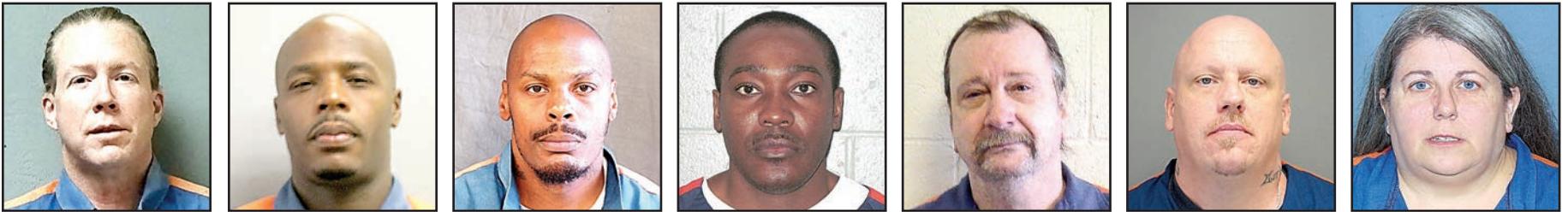
CP#20-019

B/20/065 TRASH REMOVAL CONTRACTOR SERVICES 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. 25, 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#20-020

RFP/20/067 LANSING SAVES PROGRAM SERVICES 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 **MARCH 3, 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#20-021



Ingham County murderers may get second chance

Prosecutor looks to commute certain life prison sentences



Carol Siemon is all about second chances, even for convicted murderers.

As the prosecuting attorney for Ingham County, Siemon knows her job is largely about ensuring justice is fairly served for about 290,000 local residents. Usually, that involves locking a lot of people behind bars, some for the rest of their lives. But this year, she could be asking Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to send a few of them back home.

"While I personally believe there are some people who should be in prison forever, like the Jeffrey Dahmer type of people, I just don't believe in the death penal-

ty," Siemon explained. "I think life in prison without parole functions in a similar way, and I think everyone should have an opportunity to be able to get out some day."



Siemon

Siemon – with pro-bono help from former Assistant Attorney General Ron Emery – this year plans to begin a formal review of the 90 convicted murderers serving life in prison without parole in Ingham County. And for a select few, she said she plans to seek a gubernatorial commutation that could get them back out on the streets.

"It's not whether or not they're innocent," Siemon told City Pulse. "We're not saying that. But if they committed a homicide 40 years

ago, who are they now? And do they deserve another chance? To my knowledge, nobody else is doing this type of thing in the state. It has just been something rolling around in my head."

'A progressive prosecutor'

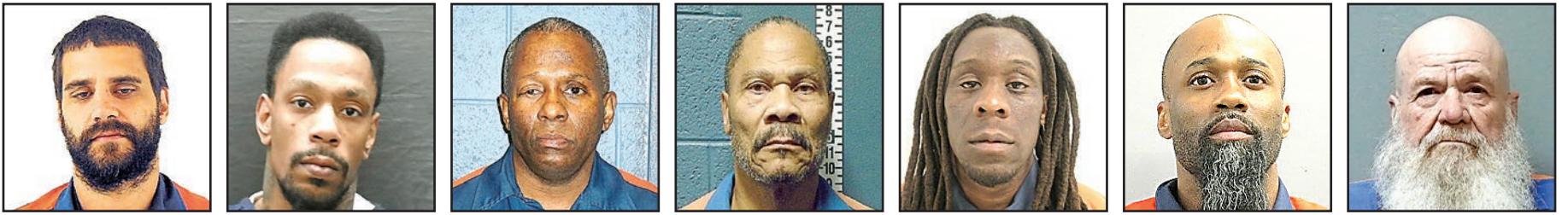
In Michigan, only those convicted of first-degree murder or placing explosives causing injury can garner a sentence of life in prison without parole. And only the governor has the power to commute their sentences after the prisoners are reviewed and formally recommended for release by the 10-member Michigan Parole Board.

After Siemon took office in 2017, she enacted policy to always offer defendants (even those accused of the most heinous crimes) a chance to plead guilty to a lesser charge like second-degree murder. Her

Photos courtesy Michigan Department of Corrections
Ninety men and women, who are pictured on the cover and on these pages, have been convicted of first-degree murder in Ingham County and are serving sentences of life without parole.

See Second chance, Page 13





Second chance

from page 12

goal: eliminate the possibility of life in prison without parole, instead putting prisoners before a review board within a few decades.

Other prosecutors before Siemon weren't as lenient. And defendants don't always take the deal before pushing their case to a trial. But that doesn't mean some of them don't deserve another shot at freedom, Siemon insisted.

"I just don't like to exclude the possibility that someone can be rehabilitated," Siemon said. "Families don't always like it, and it can be very unpleasant — especially with victims' families — but these people deserve it. Some don't like that we offer it. We take those views into account, but it doesn't mean they drive the decision."

It's typical for prosecutors to use their discretion when deciding on the severity of various criminal convictions; That's just part of the job. But Siemon's comparatively lenient and so-called "progressive" stance on offering plea deals to first-degree murderers is hardly the norm throughout the state of

Michigan and the rest of the country.

And the differing prosecutorial philosophies largely toe the line between judicial rehabilitation and punishment.

Calhoun County Prosecuting Attorney David Gilbert, a registered Republican, said he doesn't have a similar policy in his office because some defendants can simply "deserve" to rot away in prison for the rest of their lives.

"Can they be rehabilitated? Maybe they can. But look at some of these cases where they put a gun to someone's face and pull the trigger: Why should we take the chance? There's not much you can do that is more personal than taking a human life," Gilbert added. "That's why we have these charges. We like to let the jury decide."

"One never says 'never' or 'always' in our profession," added Leelanau County Prosecutor Doug Donaldson. "That automatically ties your hands. And there are some out there that probably do deserve life in prison without



Gilbert



Nessel

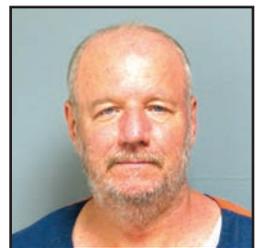
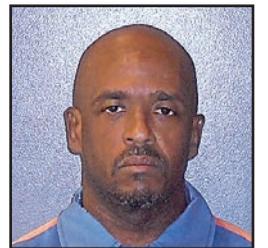
parole. If the crime is cold and calculated, the concept of rehabilitation can be essentially be a non-starter."

Attorney General Dana Nessel also

doesn't condone a blanket policy toward watered-down murder charges. Without careful consideration, uniform plea deals can erode the legislative intent behind the harsh sentences written into state law. And plea deals to lesser charges aren't always appropriate considerations, Nessel said.

"Other times it is clear from the actions of the defendant as well as the criminal history of that individual that society should be protected from that person for the remainder of his or her life," Nessel said. "However, each county prosecutor is duly elected by their county residents, and I respect Prosecutor Siemon and her rationale."

Siemon declined to address criticism of her prosecutorial policies on plea deals, noting she doesn't want to rally "unwarranted opposition" to her upcoming plans to



See Second chance, Page 14





Second chance

from page 13

seek commuted sentences for murderers. She recognizes that her policies aren't for everyone, but maintains it's the best way to ensure justice — including for defendants.

"When you're a progressive prosecutor, you have people who will say things like 'You hug thugs,' or 'You don't care about victims.' That's not true. I care about the process being fair. We've learned that locking people up for a long time doesn't always make the community more safe. It doesn't serve a purpose other than vengeance."

Rehabilitation vs. vengeance

Pushing her progressive prosecutorial policy a step further, Siemon last week told City Pulse that her office will soon begin a formal review of every life sentence doled out in Ingham County since 1975. And those who display the most rehabilitative progress — pending Whitmer's eventual approval — might soon be set free.

In addition to the severity of the crime, attorneys will look at prisoners' misconduct records and their participation in educational programs. Siemon's office will also focus on defendants that were convicted of first-degree murder on the basis of being an accessory to the actual killing without literally pulling the trigger.

"The main question is whether we can truly feel they've been rehabilitated," Siemon added.

Siemon hasn't established a precise timeline for the ongoing prisoner review process and noted that Emery theoretically could decide that none of the prisoners actually deserve to have their sentences commuted. If those recommendations make it to the governor's desk, however, she's confident that Whitmer will take action.

"I haven't talked about it with her, but phil-



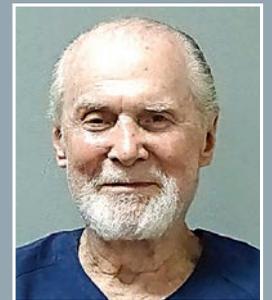
Whitmer

Prison is like a pool of deep water,
at first so clear that you can easily see the surface
and grasp the reaching hands of family and loved ones
holding you, keeping you from sinking.
But years pass, and grips tire and loosen,
one by one finally letting go until all are gone,
and you begin to slowly sink deeper and deeper,
into the murky depths that have become your world,
and the light above slowly fades into pieces
of imperfect memory until, finally, all that remains of hope
is an unclear vision of a stranger far above somewhere with a
rope...
and the prayer that she will throw it.

— George Norris Hall

A Stranger with a Rope (2012)

University of Michigan Prison Creative Art Project Hall



osophically, I think she'd be on board with this," Siemon added.

At least 90 people are serving life in prison without parole after they were convicted of first-degree murder in Ingham County in cases that date back to 1975, according to records obtained by City Pulse. An analysis cross-referenced with prison records shows the average lifer was sentenced at age 27, has served about 18 years and is now about 47 years old. All but one are men. Sixty-five percent are black. Thirty percent are white.

The oldest among them, 84-year-old George Norris Hall, was convicted in a brutal murder of three card players in an East Lansing basement, according to a newspaper clipping from 1975. The youngest, 24-year-old Marcell D'Jon Davis, was convicted in 2018 of a robbery and a murder outside of a marijuana dispensary in Lansing.

About a third of those prisoners have spent more time behind bars than they've lived in the free world. Hall, for example, was convicted at 39 and spent the last 45 years in prison.

Another inmate from Ingham County, Bruce Edward Hicks, was convicted of murder at 18. Now 62, he has spent more than 70% of his life in a prison cell.

"The severity of the crime used to be the only thing we really looked at," Siemon said. "If someone committed a crime 20 years ago, however, that tells me who they were then. It's not always who they still are now. I'll make these decisions based on my own criteria, but it's really all going to be about asking: Who are they now?"

But not everyone wants to bother to ask the question.

Gilbert said prisoners serving life in prison without parole from Calhoun County, for example, will remain there unless they personally seek to have their sentences commuted. Even then, it's a long shot, he said. And besides, he said he's not comfortable reviewing old convictions from former prosecutors that decided to levy the charges.

Second chance

from page 14

"I wasn't there for these cases," Gilbert added. "I'm not going to be the one to second guess them."

A second chance

At a bench trial in 2017, an Ingham County circuit judge found 25-year-old Thomas McClellan guilty of first-degree murder, child abuse and arson in the stabbing (and burning) of his 5-year-old stepdaughter, Luna Younger. His first-degree murder conviction requires him to serve the rest of his life in prison without parole.

He wasn't offered a plea deal to lesser charges, but that was before Siemon rolled out her new policies. And while his case likely won't be up for a commutation review for at least another few decades, the possibility of his eventual release has touched a nerve with Younger's family and those who leaned on his sentence for closure.

McClellan, according to reports in the Lansing State Journal, had stabbed Younger at least five times because she had interrupted his nap and asked for something to eat. He later piled blankets and paper towels on her body, then doused the pile in vodka and set it on fire before eventually surrendering to police just a few hours later.

Younger would've had her 9th birthday on Monday.

"It's not my job to judge, but nobody won in that case," said Jeanette Miller-Halmich, Younger's grandmother. "What if he ended back on the street and did it again? I can forgive him, but that doesn't mean he doesn't need to pay for what he did. Nobody will understand the magnitude of the grief that we're all still feeling over this."

Others, like Paula McKay, who was a spokeswoman for Younger's family at trial, have a different perspective.

"I do feel that everyone has the ability to be rehabilitated, but I know a lot of people — including Luna's mother — would feel differently," McKay added. "My own husband would disagree with me; I know he would not like to see (McClellan) get out. But I'm a very strong Christian. These are just my feelings on the situation."

In the last decade, at least 168 Michigan prisoners have had their sentences commuted by the governor, at least 44 of which had been convicted of first-degree murder, according to the Detroit Free Press. And

only one of them went on to break the law and return to prison again, MDOC spokesman Chris Gautz told the Free Press.

Since 2011, commutations have been rare. There were at least 4,017 requests for commutation in Michigan under former Gov. Rick Snyder. He only granted six — all of which were for reportedly for medical reasons, according to data published in the Free Press. Whitmer's office has yet to issue any gubernatorial commutations.

Absent an appeal, however, there's no other formal mechanism or judicial precedent that grants adults serving life in prison without parole — like McClellan — another chance at freedom in Michigan. And Siemon said she feels a moral obligation to ensure those defendants' sentences actually serve some form of rehabilitative purpose.

"I'm not here to do vengeance. It's not my job," Siemon added. "If you're a prosecutor, it can be really hard to go against this sort of law and order because people think you don't care but that's simply not true. I do care."

In a statement last week, Whitmer's office noted that her administration has taken "historic steps to reform our criminal justice system to better serve victims and treat offenders" and that an ongoing bipartisan movement in the state legislature continues to "review all aspects" of Michigan's criminal justice system.

"They would be responsible for changing the laws surrounding life without parole," according to the statement sent to City Pulse from Whitmer's office. "All commutation requests are required to go through the process established by law which begins with the Michigan Parole Board, who reviews requests on a case-by-case basis."

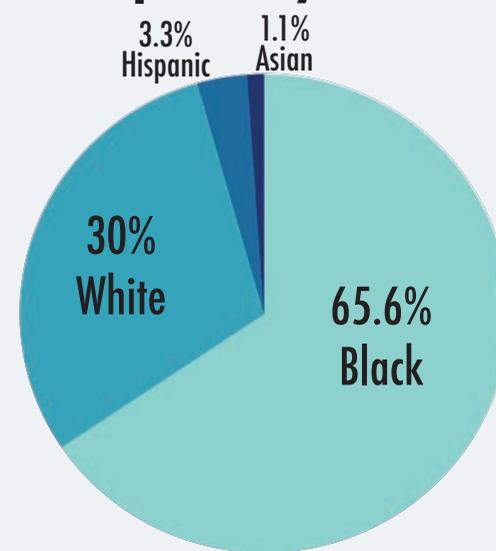
Siemon, the first woman to be elected prosecutor in Ingham County, defeated her Republican challenger Billi Jo O'Berry with about 58% of the vote in 2016. She plans to run for another four-year term this year. No challengers have surfaced. And she knows her prosecutorial philosophies might not align with some of the more conservative voices in the field — especially those that tend to lean more heavily on the punitive side of the scales of justice.

But it's a risk she's willing to take as she heads into another campaign cycle without a clear challenger.

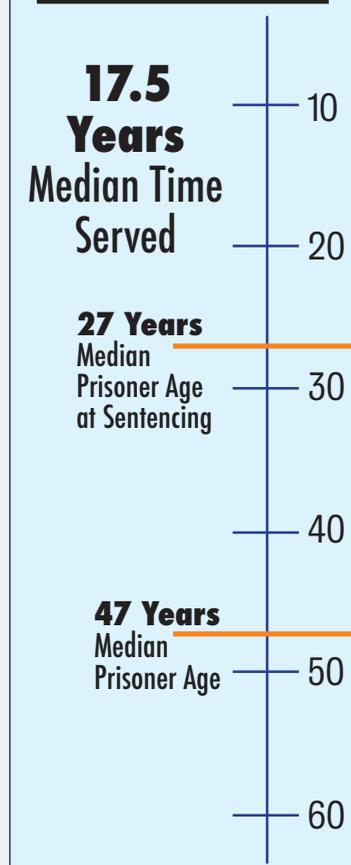
"My promise when I ran in 2016 was that I will always try to do the right thing, no matter the fallout. That certainly has not changed," Siemon said. "I endeavor to do what research and justice require — not what might make me more popular. I admire my fellow Michigan prosecutors even when we don't always agree."

FAST FACTS

Prisoners serving life without parole by race



Sentencing Ages & Time Served



- 90 — Convictions**
- 84 — Jury Trials**
- 89 — Male Prisoners**
- 1 — Female Prisoner**

Source: Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney and Michigan Department of Corrections.

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Thawing Lansing's pipes at the Mid-Winter Singing Festival

By SKYLER ASHLEY

For nearly two decades, the Mid-Winter Singing and Folk Festival has warmed the hearts of folk fanatics in the dead of Michigan's perennially harsh winters. The two-day celebration begins with a dual-headliner gig Friday and leads into a massive community sing Saturday. Between these two main platters is a clever array of workshops and jam sessions, such as

Mid-Winter Singing and Folk Festival

\$5 Student,
\$18 member,
\$20 public
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, events begin
at 11 a.m.
Hannah Community
Center
819 Abbot Road,
East Lansing
Full schedule available
at tenpoundfiddle.org
(517) 337-7744

Mark Dvorak's spontaneous folk ensemble and Joel Mabus' class on songwriting.

Ten Pound Fiddle booking mastermind Sally Potter has been with the festival since its inception and is in charge of keeping it fresh as the winters drift by. The festival was originally two nights of singing, dubbed the Mid-Winter Singing Festival, but the exhausted lungs of its attendees eventually made that no longer viable as a multiday format.

"Frankly, by Saturday night, people were exhausted," Potter said. "They were singing Friday for two hours, and then Saturday for another three or four hours. People started going to one or the other, so we thought let's have a concert and just have one big singing night."

Potter said the original singing-only festival took off simply because it was the first of its kind in Mid-Michigan. She got the initial idea driving home from upstate New York in 1994 after leading a sing-along with her trio, Second Opinion, at a folk festival. After a breakfast conversation with fel-



Carroll

low Ten Pound Fiddle stalwarts Pat Madden, Bob Blackman and Mabus, the wheels for the Mid-Winter Singing Folk Festival started to turn.

"I put it in the back of my head, if you want to get a lot of people around and make them really happy, just let them sing all the songs. If you go to a concert, whether it's Springsteen or anybody else, and you ask people to sing, what happens? Everyone sings along," Potter said.

Friday's concert features Liz Carroll, a Ten Pound Fiddle veteran and internationally renowned powerhouse fiddler from Chicago, as well as Philadelphia up-and-comers House of Hamill. The talent of Scotland-born Celtic harpist Maeve Gilchrist, now based in New York, and the sublime dancing skills of East Lansing's own Nic Gareiss will amplify Carroll's set.

House of Hamill, while having performed elsewhere in Michigan several times, will be performing its first Ten Pound Fiddle gig. The duo, composed of Rose Baldino and Brian Buchanan, has the perfect rockumentary origin story. Baldino and Buchanan's original bands, Enter the Haggis and Burning Bridget Cleary, were booked together on a bill in Kansas City, but flight cancellations left Baldino and Buchanan stranded without their bandmates. With virtually no time to rehearse, the two decided to perform onstage together. And, hey, it actually worked. Buchanan eventually joined Baldino in Philadelphia, and House of Hamill was formed.

"We trusted each other, but we both had been playing with our own bands for so long — that to play with somebody new and do an entirely different set of music is hard. I think we were both really scared; our nerves definitely showed," Baldino said.

Baldino and Buchanan have been immersed in the world of folk and Irish traditional music since their adolescence. Growing bored with her classical music lessons on violin, Baldino transitioned to the Irish fiddle.

"I started playing fiddle when I was 13. I joined Burning Bridget Cleary when I was 16 and I played with them



House of Hamill and Liz Carroll will perform Friday night at the Mid-Winter Singing and Folk Festival. Pianist Dan Chounaird will lead Saturday's community sing.

for 12 years," Baldino said. "Brian has been with his group Enter the Haggis for almost 20 years. Between the two of us, we've got more than 25 years of experience with this instrument."

One of Baldino's major influences and favorite fiddle artists coincidentally happens to be Liz Carroll herself.

"It's slightly terrifying to open for her now," Baldino laughs. "She's so sweet and gracious. I'm really stoked to be opening for her."

After House of Hamill and Carroll kick things off Friday, Dan Chounaird, a world-class pianist hailing from Minnesota's Twin Cities, will lead the fabled community sing for his fourth time. Chounaird carefully curates his song list, with help from Mabus, to craft a fitting tribute to the old standards, newer American classics, artists' birthdays and pay homage to musicians who died in 2019.

"I feel a slightly higher pressure to pick songs that are off the well worn sing-a-long repertoire and bring something a little bit different," Chounaird. "I also like to think about bringing the Minnesota perspective. There's often Bob Dylan on the list. We haven't sung any Prince, but it's never too late."

Mabus, a longtime Ten Pound

Fiddle song leader and Michigan folk stalwart, is leading one of Saturday's workshops. It's split into two parts, one focused on improving attendees' songwriting and the other aiming to improve their lyricism.

"Songwriting isn't something I've done in recent years at the festival, and it made sense to break it into two parts," Mabus. "Somebody that wants to do both can take the entire two-hour class, and somebody who doesn't have the time can attend the hour that interests them the most."

Mabus will focus on the relationship between words and music and help guide people in crafting better chord progressions and structures, along with penning streamlined, melodic lyrics to harmoniously go along with the music. A full schedule of the Mid-Winter Singing and Folk Festival's workshops is available on Ten Pound Fiddle's website.

Potter looks at the festival's past and future fondly.

"Signature event? Is that the word I want? It's our festival. A lot of folk groups have a festival; a lot of them are in the summer," Potter said. "In the middle of winter, what do you need? You need community, singing and you gotta stay warm."

A rhumba to remember

MSU students take third in Jazz at Lincoln Center competition in New York

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

MSU jazz musicians soaked up some jazz history Friday night, visiting Manhattan's fabled Birdland and digging the great Count Basie Orchestra.

Then they went out and made a little jazz history of their own.

MSU's premier big band, Jazz Orchestra I, took third place in the first annual Jack Rudin college jazz competition at Jazz at Lincoln Center Jan. 18-19. Four student musicians were singled out for solo honors.

Jazz at Lincoln Center director Wynton Marsalis led the panel of judges. Temple University and Indiana University took first and second place.

The invitation-only championship is named after Jack Rudin, a long-time supporter of Jazz at Lincoln Center and its educational programs.

It was a packed, emotional weekend the students are not likely to forget. They arrived in New York Thursday for a warm kickoff party at the home of Jack Brandfield, an MSU baritone saxophone player who hails from the Big Apple. Later that weekend, Brandfield was the only baritone sax player at the competition to be

singled out for individual honors.

Friday, after a day of rehearsals, the students made a pilgrimage to Birdland, where all the great jazz musicians have played over the decades.

As if basking in the big sound of the Basie band wasn't inspiring enough, the students also got to re-unite with one of its newest members, tenor saxophonist Markus Howell. Just last year, Howell was riding buses and sitting in classrooms shoulder to shoulder with them in East Lansing. After graduating from MSU, Howell joined the Basie band in August and has already toured Japan with the group.

Diego Rivera, assistant director of MSU Jazz Studies, said the competition experience was "transformative" for the students. In rehearsals leading up to last weekend, he felt them close ranks more tightly than ever.

"Toward the end, they'd cut in before I could say anything, really getting involved in the music," Rivera said. "You want them to really take ownership. It's the difference between playing in a band and being a band. The got inside of each others' playing."

Saturday night's blazing octet performance, under Rivera's direction, created a general buzz about Michigan State in the halls of Lincoln Center.

"I couldn't have asked for a better per-

for-



Courtesy MSU College of Music

Bassist Liany Mateo was singled out for solo honors by legendary jazz bassist Ron Carter.

mance," Rivera said. "The next day, everybody was looking forward to the big band."

Competitions can get nerve-wracking or even nasty, at least in the classical world. Rivera said that from where he sat, the infectious fellowship of the MSU jazz family put a positive spin on the whole competition.

"The feeling and camaraderie spilled over," he said. "Our students reached out to other schools, hanging out, making a lot of connections."

Sunday, the MSU orchestra performed three tunes under the leadership of jazz studies director Rodney Whitaker.

They opened with Dizzy Gillespie's blindingly fast riot hose of bebop, "Things to Come," followed up with Duke Ellington's "Rockabye River" and closed with a spectacular salvo of Latin-flavored counterpoint, Chick Corea's "Armando's Rhumba," arranged by Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra bassist Carlito Enriquez.

Four students were recognized as outstanding soloists: bassist Liany Mateo, pianist Sequoia Snyder, tenor saxophonist Samuel Corey and Jackson Brandfield.

There was a sweet moment at the awards ceremony when Corey, coming off the stage with his award, grinned at Brandfield, who was ascending the steps to get his.

Mateo was singled out for recognition by the most illustrious of the judges and, arguably, one of the most revered jazz musicians alive — bassist Ron Carter, a member of Miles Davis' second great quartet and the most recorded bassist in history.

Rivera said Carter is a harsh judge and could easily have singled out nobody at all.

For the octet, Rivera was given a choice to perform a tune of his choice by jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton or eccentric bebop genius Thelonious Monk.

"That was a no-brainer," Rivera said. "This is a bebop school."

MSU was the only school to play Monk's "Bye-Ya," a hard swinging salvo of pungent chords that span the scale from floor to ceiling.

It was a slamming performance of a new arrangement by Rivera, but you probably won't hear the tune locally anytime soon.

"They're pretty tired of it by now," Rivera said.



Courtesy MSU College of Music

MSU's Jazz Orchestra I joins hands before taking the stage at Jazz at Lincoln Center Sunday. The big band took third place in a national college championship.

A Phoenix rises from mold: Capitol View, now leasing

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Two decades after a devastating fire made the building's apartments uninhabitable, the complicated saga of Oliver Towers is receiving some much needed closure. The eight-floor apartment tower, since rebranded as Capitol View, has its renovations almost completed and is accepting rental applications, with approved applicants expected to move in between February and March.

The Eyde Co., which purchased the building in late 2015, took on a hulking behemoth of a project. Before-and-after photos reveal Capitol View's metamorphosis from a dilapidated, deserted building into a sleek, modern apartment complex. The arduous physical labor that garnered these impressive results was handled by Lansing's Wieland Construction.

"The damage and mold were substantial. If you were walking through the building you should have had a mask on," Eyde Co. CFO and general counsel Mark Clouse said. "We took literally everything out. Everything you see here is brand new."

The overall project ended up with a price tag of \$14.7 million, with Eyde Co. receiving approval for a \$2.4 million low-interest loan from the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and a \$1.3 million Brownfield tax credit from the city, which has a duration of 12



Capitol View Apartments

Now leasing
313 N. Capitol Ave.,
Lansing
villagegreen.com/lansing/
capitol-view-apartments

years.

So what's inside? Eighty-eight one-bedroom and eight two-bedroom apartments. One-bedrooms are available as a 442-square-foot studio apartment, or in larger sizes clocking in at 586 and 592 square feet. The two-bedroom option is 886 square feet. All units feature one bathroom. Pets are allowed, but there is a deposit and monthly fee. Rent begins at \$900 for a studio and reaches \$1515 for the most expensive two-bedroom apartments. And each unit features a full kitchen, along with a washer and dryer. Community amenities include a fitness center, bike storage, an indoor lounge and a courtyard.

If you're a budding entrepreneur, Capitol View also has retail space available. The two partitions on the first floor of the building are 1,992 and 2,494 square feet. They can be leased individually, or as a joint unit.

Why the name change? The original Oliver Towers was subsidized housing



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

The living room of a model studio apartment on the first floor of the newly renovated Capitol View apartment tower, which is now leasing.

for senior citizens; Capitol View is not. And considering the building's address has changed to 313 Capitol Ave. from 310 N. Seymour Ave., rebranding just made sense, Clouse said.

The most important task? Preserving the vibe of the tower's late-'60s, early-'70s architecture. While not deemed historic by any legal body, Eyde Co. didn't want to paint over a building that's contributed to downtown Lansing's aesthetic since 1968. Noticeable attention to detail confirms this philosophy, such as the building's courtyard

restoration, which respectfully preserved its sycamore trees.

"The initial focus when we acquired the building was to honor the architecture. I think when people try to change the existing and turn it into something it's not — it doesn't look good," Clouse said. "We asked our architects to improve what was here, not cover what was here."

If you're interested in living at Capitol View, applications are available at property management company Village Green's website.

Cat café cross-breeds animal love and pop culture

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Cats. Lattes. Star Wars trivia. While it might be hard to imagine, yes, there is a place in Lansing where you can partake in all three of those things, and more, simultaneously. Since opening

Constellation Cat Café

Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
3320 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing
(517) 918-4919,
constellationcatcafe.com

in October, Constellation Cat Café has grown into a popular hangout for cat enthusiasts. The cat room fills with parents and their rambunctious toddlers for storytelling

gatherings. On trivia nights, which regularly sell out, the place is packed with people bonding over pop-culture fanaticism and, well, cats.

"It was really chaotic in the beginning. I didn't really feel like I knew what I was doing," executive director Kelsey Maccombs said. "Now we've

evened out and we have our routine down. We are running more events in the cat room and having a lot of success with that."

Lansing cat owner Taylor Anderson attended Star Wars trivia night with a group of friends and took home the top prize: drink coupons and free entry to the cat room, which normally costs \$8, upon a return visit.

"I'm a huge Star Wars fan. I knew as soon as I saw the event posted on their Facebook page, my friends and I had to compete," Anderson said. "We had never been there before, but when I got there I was pleasantly surprised. It is an adorable café."

Constellation Cat Café is only the fourth cat café to open in Michigan. The concept is popular overseas, especially in Japan. Maccombs decided to pursue the idea after reading a Facebook comment that asked, "Is there a cat café in Lansing?"

"Nobody was saying there was one

coming, so I was like, 'OK, I'll just do it.' Like, ha ha, what a cute joke," Maccombs said. "And slowly, once I had the idea formed in my head, I said, 'Now I have to do this, for mysterious reasons.'"

Constellation Cat Café's foster rescue partner is Saved by Zade. All the cats in the cat room are available for adoption, a process that requires payment of a single \$125 adoption fee and a screening process. There have been 126 adoptions so far, a number "way higher" than Maccombs originally anticipated.

"We were aiming for 100 in the first year we were open. To get there so quickly is just insane," she said. "A lot of people come in not planning to adopt, and then they fall in love and go home with a cat."

Upcoming events at Constellation Cat Café include Guided Knitting with Cats Feb. 3, Marvel Trivia Night Feb. 13 and Galentine's Day at the Cat Café Feb. 13.

"I want everyone to feel welcome here



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Children playing with a cat during a storytelling event at Constellation Cat Café.

and have a thing that interests them," Maccombs said. "Lots of people can benefit from being around cats, even if they don't want to take one home."

Library of Michigan announces the 2020 Michigan Notable Books

By **BILL CASTANIER**

It's January and people are arguing about who will win the Super Bowl, impeachment, the Iowa Primary and baseball's cheating scandal — just to name a few of the topics.

On a different scale, readers, authors and publishers are arguing about the books on the 2020 Michigan Notable Books list, which was announced this past week by the Library of Michigan.

Michigan's chief librarian, Randy Riley, looks forward to those arguments. "What could be better than arguing and talking about books," he said.

A panel of 14 academics, librarians and writers from across the state selected this year's list of 20 books. The authors will be feted in April at a gala event in the Library of Michigan. I'm humbled to be a part of that selection committee and I can vouch for the "arguments." I've already gotten emails and phone calls wondering why a book didn't make the list.

It was not an easy task to select only 20 books from the hundreds that we collectively read and discussed. And yes, there were disagreements within the panel about books that should make the list.

The criteria for selection are the author is either from Michigan or has spent significant time in the state, and/or the book is set in Michigan, or is about a Michigan theme. Obviously, another top criterion is the book must be well written.

As a writer for City Pulse for the last 18 years, I have interviewed hundreds of authors with a focus on local writers, or authors who write about Michigan. I was fortunate to have interviewed 12 of the authors whose books made the list this year.

Although there are no Pulitzer or National Book Award-winning books on this year's list, as there has been in the past, my observation is that this year's winners are among the best ever selected and each year the books have been getting better and better.

The 2020 list is eclectic representing a variety of genres and geography. You've got Arthur C. Clarke Award-winner Mary Doria Russell writing about "Big Annie" LeBlanc and the 1913 copper strike

in "The Women of Copper Country" and David Maraniss, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, writing an intimate story about his father and the '50s Red Scare in "A Good American Family."

Closer to home, New York writer Abigail Pesta has written a chilling and inspirational nonfiction book on the Larry Nasser scandal in "The Girls: An All-American town, a Predatory Doctor, and the Gymnasts Who Brought Him Down."

Several of the winners have used Detroit for a fictional backdrop to look at thematic topics including, "Broke: Hardship and Resilience in a City of Broken Promises" by Jodie Adams Kirshner; "Guardians of Detroit: Architectural Sculpture in the Motor City," by Jeff Morrison; "The Queen Next Door: Aretha Franklin, an Intimate Portrait," by Detroit photographer Linda Solomon; and Bridgett Davis's biography of her mother, "The World According to Fannie Davis: My Mother's Life in Detroit Numbers."

Erin Bartels' debut book, "We Hope for Better Things," covers two centuries of a family's search for answers about its past, and Okemos poet, and MSU Law professor Brian G. Gilmore considers Michigan's cultural landscape in "Come See About Me."

Less well-known topics are considered in the teen book "Deadly Aim: The Civil War Story of Michigan's Anishinaabe Sharpshooters," by Sally M. Walker; the children's picture book "Sport: Ship Dog of the Great Lakes," by Pamela Cameron; and illustrator Renee Graef and "Camera Hunter: George Shiras III and the Birth of Wildlife Photography,"

by James L. McCommons.

Author, artist and curator Susan Skarsgard takes us on a futuristic look at the history of General Motors' automobile design in "Where Today Meets Tomorrow: Eero Saarinen and the General Motors Technical Center," while Gerald Van Dusen looks at a wall of racial divide in "Detroit's Birchwood Wall: Hatred & Healing in the West Eight Miles Community."

For those who see cooking in their future, Zingerman's alum Abra Berens has created one of the most unusual and tantalizing cookbooks with "Ruffage: A Practical Guide to Vegetables." Although not a cookbook, poet Jeff Kass explores pizza delivery and economic struggle in "Teacher Pizza Guy." And although there are no food recipes in Dean Kuiper's memoir "Deer Camp: A Memoir of a Father, a Family and the Land that Healed Them," there is a recipe for how nature can provide the healing we all need.

Finally, three fictional examinations of complicated family and romantic endeavors on the list are "All Manner of Things," by Susie Finkbeiner; "Shades: Detroit Love Stories" by Esperanza Cintron and "The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls" by Anissa Gray. All will keep readers up past their bedtimes.



Michigan Notable Books honor authors that are either local to Michigan, such as Lansing's Erin Bartels (right), or write about Michigan-centric topics, such as Abigail Pesta, who covered the Larry Nassar scandal.

SCHULER BOOKS

INTO THE FIRE WITH GREGG HURWITZ
February 4 • 7pm

New York Times, #1 internationally bestselling author Gregg Hurwitz will sign and discuss his fifth *Orphan X* book, *Into the Fire*.

SCHULER BOOK CLUB
February 19 • 6pm

Join us monthly for the Schuler Book Club—a great way to create community and engage with new books. This month we are reading *The Bromance Book Club* by Lyssa Kay Adams.

MAGIC/KEYFORGE GAME NIGHT
Tuesdays • 6pm

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

KID'S STORY TIME
Saturdays • 11am

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

SchulerBooks.com / Event
Meridian Mall • Okemos

Curious Book Shop

307 E. Grand River, E. Lansing
332-0112 • We validate parking
Mon. - Sat. 10-7 pm, Sun. 12-5 pm
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We have books you always wanted but never knew existed!

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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 29

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.

Cell and Molecular Biology Program Research Forum - 12-1 p.m. 1425 BPS, MSU, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

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

Community Night: Imbolc - Learn about what Imbolc means in the WISE tradition. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-657-5800.

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

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

Math Seminar Series - Algebra Speaker: Tony Feng, MIT. 3-4 p.m. C304 Wells Hall, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Mental Health First Aid USA Training - Jan. 29 - Ingham County MSU Extension Office, 5303 S Cedar St, Lansing. More info - canr.msu.edu.

Organic Chemistry Seminar - 3 p.m. 136 Chemistry Building, MSU, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Technology with Michelle - Session I, Staying Brain Fit. Apps are available to help you keep that brain busy and productive. 1-2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

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

Internment by Samira Ahmed - MSU's Muslim Journeys scholar-led book discussion series! 7 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

EVENTS

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. with The Dangling Participles at 5 p.m. 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

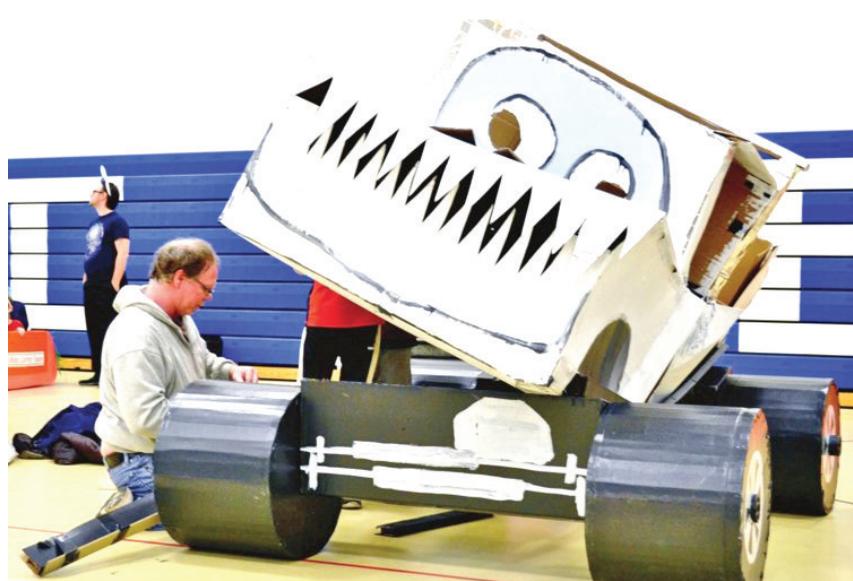
Breslin Recycling Sweep MSU vs. Northwestern (Men's) - Come volunteer with MSU Recycling and Spartan Sierra Club after the basketball game. 8:30-10 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Rd, East Lansing. 517-432-1989.

Founder's Battle of the Bastards - Choose your bannermen wisely. Be warned: one side plays dirty! 5-8 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506.

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

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

Lansing Codes : Cowork at The Grid - Join us for coworking and arcade game pomodoros. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The Grid, 226 E. Grand River Ave, Lansing.



Cardboard Classic at LCC

The Cardboard Classic at the Gier Community Center joins DIY engineers in a crafty competition to see who can build the fastest cardboard sled. Designs that have popped up at past events include Viking ships, the Mystery Machine from Scooby-Doo, giant squids and

oddly enough, a bowl of chicken soup. Each unique sled then competes in a race down the hill outside of the Gier Community Center.

Competitors are limited to building their sleds entirely out of cardboard, paper, tape and glue. While certain soft materials may be used to enhance the sled aesthetically, the bulk of it must consist of those materials. Wood, hard plastic, glass and metal are strictly forbidden. Sleds are judged on design, and there are several award categories.

cardboard sled. Designs that have popped up at past events include Viking ships, the Mystery Machine from Scooby-Doo, giant squids and

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

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 sculptural weaving. 1-4:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., 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. daily. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Sq., 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.

Thursday, January 30

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.

Getting Started with WordPress (Adults) - Learn how to set up a website. Register 517-676-9088 or go to cadl.org/events. 6-7 p.m. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason.

P-A Colloquium - Speaker: Ellen Zweibel. 3:30-4:30 p.m. 1400 BPS Building, MSU, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Soups and Stews - Learn how to prepare healthy dinners in the form of soups and stews. 6-7:30 p.m. Allve, 800 W Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. myalive.com.

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

Urban Gardener Certification 2020 - Registration is open. 6-7 p.m. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing.

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 31 >> SALSA VERDE AT URBANBEAT



Need some heat in this cold? Look no further. Salsa Verde is a group founded for MSU students to practice and perform Afro-Cuban music. The band performs music by acts like Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Gloria Estefan, Poncho Sanchez and Tito Puente. Members of the group are students and faculty of the MSU College of Music.

\$8 Presale, \$15 Door, \$5 Students
8:30 p.m.
UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St., Lansing
(517) 331-8440
urbanbeatevents.com

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Decade in Review, Part 2" -- fun stuff from 2012 & 2013.

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 It's produced in a Van de Graaff generator
- 7 Glass with a radio cadence
- 10 Base times height
- 14 "Garfield" cat
- 15 "As much as you want"
- 17 Type of music video with a world record set in 2012 by 9,300 participants in Lindsay, Ontario
- 18 Book-based movie series that ended in 2012 with "Breaking Dawn - Part 2"
- 19 Q&A feature, on Reddit
- 20 Like Dalí's art
- 22 Spear-shaped fish
- 23 Need an ice bag
- 25 8-Down's need
- 26 Home of the Nevada Museum of Art
- 27 Opera highlight
- 28 Actress Claire of "The Crown"
- 29 Becomes dim
- 30 2012 song that was YouTube's most-viewed video until "See You Again" surpassed it in 2017
- 34 Yoko born in Tokyo
- 35 "___ Nub" (common name of the 1983 song called "Ewok Celebration")
- 36 House vote
- 37 ___ Lipa ("New Rules" singer)
- 40 What China became the third country to achieve with the Chang'e 3 mission in 2013
- 43 ___ dab in the middle
- 46 Suffix with puppet or racket
- 47 Key West, e.g.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15			16			
17						18						
19			20		21					22		
	23		24		25				26			
27				28				29				
30				31			32	33				
34				35			36			37	38	39
			40				41			42		
43	44	45				46			47			
48				49	50				51			
52				53				54		55		56
57			58					59		60		
61								62				
63					64			65				

- 48 Minnow's home
- 49 Sign of sorrow
- 51 Fascinated with
- 52 Go bad
- 53 Role for Smith, Cartwright, Kavner, or Castellaneta
- 55 Athlete's knee injury site, often
- 57 Swedish duo with a breakup song that hit #1 on the UK Singles Chart in 2013
- 59 Game that "The Price Is Right" devoted all six pricing game segments to in a 2013 episode
- 61 Gillian Flynn thriller published in 2012
- 62 Bygone Toyota model
- 63 Drink from a flask
- 64 Red Sox rival, on scoreboards
- 65 Jousting's horses
- Down**
- 1 Parlor, in La Paz
- 2 Boat with three hulls
- 3 2020 Best Supporting Actor Oscar nominee
- 4 Talking bear film of 2012
- 5 Occupied, as a lavatory
- 6 "From Peru to ___ hear the power of Babylon" (Philippine island name-dropped in Enya's "Orinoco Flow")
- 7 They receive paper assignments
- 8 Crew member
- 9 What a celebrity might use at a hotel
- 10 "Who ___?" ("Les Miz" song)
- 11 Fixed illegally
- 12 Gas in fuel mixtures
- 13 Team in a sign-stealing scandal
- 16 Taking a sick day
- 21 Floor-cleaning robot
- 24 Sea ___ (Popeye villain)
- 26 Peabody Award-winning Issa
- 27 In bygone times
- 28 "Prelude to the Afternoon of a ___" (Debussy work)
- 29 Dessert also known as crème caramel
- 31 Stoooge's laugh syllable
- 32 First Family of the 1840s
- 33 2012 or 2013, e.g.
- 37 Itinerary measure
- 38 Insecure, in a way
- 39 Mature
- 40 "Daft Punk is Playing at my House" band ___ Soundsystem
- 41 Freshen up, as lipstick
- 42 Annoying racket
- 43 Rosemary bits
- 44 Milk source, to a kid
- 45 "Queer Eye" food and wine expert Porowski
- 49 Easy basket
- 50 Atlanta research university
- 51 Arm of the sea
- 53 2012 AFTRA merger partner
- 54 Chooses
- 56 Online outbursts
- 58 Pos. opposite
- 60 Incensed feeling

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Answers Page 23

SUDOKU

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

Beginner

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 243

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Jan. 29 - Feb. 4, 2020

ARIES (March 21–April 19): My favorite ancient Greek philosopher was the rascal Diogenes. As a joke, he carried around a lantern during the daytime, proclaiming, "I am just looking for an honest man." When Alexander the Great, the most powerful man in the world, came to meet Diogenes while he was relaxing outside and asked him if he needed any favors done, he replied, "Yeah, stop blocking my sunlight." As for Plato, Diogenes complained that the famous philosopher talked too damn much and misinterpreted the teachings of Socrates. I encourage you to borrow some of Diogenes' attitude in the coming weeks. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, it'll be healing for you to experiment with being brassy, saucy, and sassy. Emphasize what makes you most unique, independent, and self-expressive.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Taurus author Anthony Trollope (1815–1882) published his first novel at age 30. During the next 37 years, he completed 48 additional novels and 18 works of nonfiction. Critics liked his work well enough, but were suspicious of his prodigious productivity. When they discovered that one of Trollope's motivations for writing was to make money, they disapproved. Then they found out that Trollope kept a watch nearby as he worked, determined to generate 250 words every 15 minutes. The critics hated that even worse. Creative artists are supposed to court inspiration, not adhere to a schedule—at least according to the critics. But I approve of and recommend Trollope-like behavior for you in the coming weeks, Taurus. Cosmic forces will be on your side if you do.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): In accordance with the astrological indicators, I invite you to rise and soar and glide during the coming weeks. I encourage you to expand and enlarge and amplify. Don't wait around hoping to be asked to explore and experiment and improvise—just do those things. It's high time for you to enjoy stirring quests and research projects and missions dedicated to discovery. Be a fun-loving pioneer. Sample the joys of being a maverick and outlier.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): I love living in the material world. Its crazy-making demands and exhilarating rewards are endlessly entertaining. Despite having been born as a fantasy-prone, overly sensitive Cancerian, I've become fairly earthy and well-grounded. I have a good job, a nice house, a smart wife, and an interesting daughter. On the other hand, I also love living in the soul's realm. I have remembered and recorded an average of three dreams per night for many years. Although I don't take drugs, I cultivate alternate states of consciousness through meditation, prayer, and ritual. I've long been a student of depth psychology, which has trained me to be as focused on my soul as my ego. In accordance with current astrological omens, my fellow Cancerian, I urge you to hang out more than usual in the soul's realm during the coming weeks.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Can I talk you into being more tender and open-hearted toward the people who care for you? I don't mean to imply that you are currently too hard and closed. But all of us can benefit from enhancing our receptivity, and the coming weeks will be prime time for you Leos to do just that. I think you'll find it easier than usual to deepen your listening skills and intensify your sensitivity. You'll have an acute intuitive grasp of the fact that you can earn yourself huge blessings by expressing love and compassion in very practical ways.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): All of us are in service to someone or something—to certain people or ideas or situations. We provide them with help or energy or mirroring or love. We are dutiful in attending to their needs and wants. For some of us, our service feels like a burden. It's grating or humbling or inconvenient, or all of the above. For others of us, being of service is fulfilling, even joyful. We find a rich sense of purpose in our devotion to a higher cause or deeper calling beyond our selfish concerns. Among the 12 signs

of the zodiac, you Virgos are more likely than most to carry out the latter kind of service. I bring these thoughts to your attention because the coming weeks will be an excellent time to re-evaluate, reconfigure, and reinvigorate your own service.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Author David Markson imagined what it would be like to write a novel that lacked conflicts or confrontations—in other words, a novel unlike any ever created. Libran author Ursula Le Guin also fantasized about stories with plots that weren't driven by strife and struggle. Since many of us are addicted to entertainment that depends on discord to be interesting, we might find it hard to believe Markson's and Le Guin's dream would ever happen. But I'm pleased to inform you, Libra, that your life in the coming weeks may be exactly like that: a fascinating adventure with few hassles and wrangles.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): According to Scorpio painter Georgia O'Keeffe, success is irrelevant. The most crucial life-long effort that anyone can be devoted to is "making your unknown known." Did she mean making your unknown known to yourself? Or making your unknown known to other people? Or both? According to my analysis of the astrological omens, the coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to do both. So I hope you will tease out your best and biggest mysteries from their hiding places. Give them expression.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): You Sagittarians have a talent for burning bridges that really do need to be burned. Your intuition often guides you to assess when the time is ripe to withdraw from connections that no longer benefit you. On the other hand, you sometimes burn bridges prematurely. You decide that they are in such disrepair that they're of no use to you, even though it might serve your ultimate interests to fix them. I offer these thoughts as a preface for my advice: 1. Refurbish rather than burn a certain bridge you're a bit disenchanting with. 2. Build at least one new bridge that will be valuable in the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): The shape of the planets' orbits around the sun is elliptical, not circular. Capricorn astronomer Johannes Kepler (1571–1630) was the first person to figure this out. He didn't like it. He really wanted the orbits to be circular. That would have been more satisfying to his aesthetic and spiritual sensibilities. Explaining the arduous labor he did to arrive at his conclusion, he wrote, "Take pity on me, for I have repeated these calculations seventy times." In the big picture of our understanding of the universe, of course, his discovery was felicitous. It's not a problem that the orbits are elliptical, merely the truth. In the coming weeks, Capricorn, I foresee you engaging in a process that's metaphorically comparable to Kepler's. Hard work will yield useful, if unexpected results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Please don't imitate or repeat yourself in the coming weeks. Refrain from relying on formulas that have worked for you before. Resolve to either ignore or rebel against your past as you dream up fresh gambits and adventures. Treat your whole life like an improvisatory game that has just one purpose: to attract and stir up useful novelty. If you do these things, Aquarius, I can practically guarantee that you will win the game.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Poet Robert Bly believes that each of us has a special genius, and the key to understanding and fully activating that genius is in our core wound. In other words, the part of us that got hurt the worst is potentially the generative source of the best gifts we have to give. Do you know where that is in yourself: the wound that could be the source of your blessing? Now is a great time to investigate this tantalizing mystery.

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

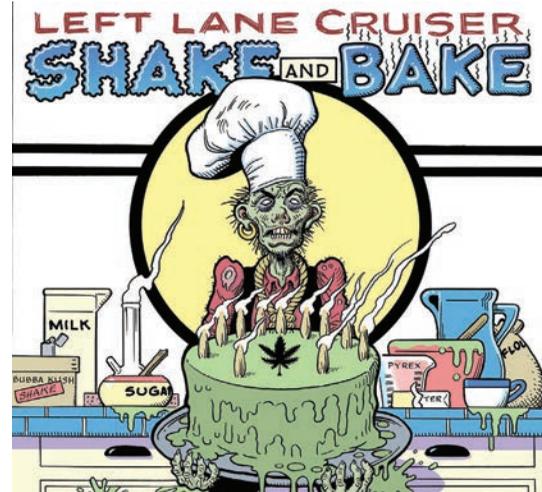
BY RICH TUPICA

Friday, Jan. 31

LEFT LANE CRUISER DRIVES INTO TOWN



Left Lane Cruiser is (L to R): Pete Dio (drums, backup vocals) and Freddy J IV (vocals, guitars). The blues-rock duo headlines Friday at Mac's Bar. (Courtesy photo)



"Shake and Bake" is the latest LP from Left Lane Cruiser, released in via Alive Natural Sound Records.

Alive Natural Sound blues-duo brings grit to Mac's Bar, Wormfoot open

Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15, \$10 adv., 7 p.m.

Known for its gritty, primal blues-rock riffin', Left Lane Cruiser has been a force in the underground scene since the duo formed in 2004. The Fort Wayne-based outfit signed to Alive Natural Sound records in 2007, toured Europe in 2008, and haven't slowed down a bit since then—even with a few lineup changes along the way. Joe Evans (guitarist/vocalist) is the only constant member, though drummer/backup vocalist Pete Dio has been behind the kit, poundin' and shoutin', for the last six years.

The band is on the road promoting its latest album, "Shake and Bake." The slab of wax is the band's 11th album since its 2006 debut, "Gettin' Down On It." In 2008, the band's first album on Alive

Records was issued, "Bring Yo' Ass to the Table." After that, 2009's "All You Can Eat" featured the track "Waynedale," a tune featured on season three of AMC's "Breaking Bad."

TV placements aside, the relentless road warriors tour endlessly, playing their vast songbook of blues and free-style jams. In fact, the new record, "Shake and Bake," was written mostly in the tour van, en route to their next gig.

According to their label's press release, its "a record about the juice that keeps the crowd dancing, the smoke that keeps the minds lifted ... (it) has a heavy sound and big heart." In keeping with its rootsy-an-real sound, the 10 tracks were cut at with producer Jason Davis at his

analog studio in Fort Wayne. The striking cover art—an illustration of a zombie holding a marijuana birthday cake with joint candles—was done by the legendary William Stout, who's worked for icons like the Ramones, Fred McDowell and Iggy Pop.

Friday, Left Lane Cruiser returns to Lansing for a headlining slot at Mac's Bar, opening the all-ages show is Wormfoot, a Lansing-based doom band featuring local musician Uriah "Baby Jesus" Baker. Two weeks ago, a GoFundMe was started to help aid Baker in recent hospital bills and promptly surpassed its \$2,000 goal. To donate, search "The Mr. Baby Genius Recovery Fund" on GoFundMe.com. Meanwhile, Baker's other band,

The Goddamn Gallows, once again hit the road for a lengthy American tour, this time with co-headliner Weedeater.

The tour kicks off Feb. 2 in Asheville and ends March 21 in Richmond, Virginia. This time around, a March 11 show at The Sanctuary in Detroit is the only Michigan date. For show updates, follow the Gallows at facebook.com/thegoddamn-gallowsofficial. The Goddamn Gallows's latest release, 2018's "The Trial," infuses rockabilly and punk rock with bluegrass and metal.

To keep up with Left Lane Cruiser, follow their whiskey-fueled two-man frenzy at facebook.com/leftlanecruiserband or pick up their releases on vinyl at leftlanecruisermusic.com.



Upcoming show? Contact Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave..	Trivia Night: Star Wars 10PM	Movie Night 9PM	90's Karaoke 9PM	Jenn's Apartment 9PM
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.				Miranda and the M80s 9PM
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River, East Lansing	North of Five 8PM	Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM	
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Old School - DJ Jalese 8:30PM	Be Kind Rewind 9PM	Be Kind Rewind 9PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Karaoke	From Big Sur 8:30PM	Full House 8:30PM
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee			Live Music with the Darin Lerner Trio 8PM	Live Music with Larry McCray 8PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Artists Umbrella 6:30PM	Camp Kesem Benefit Concert 7:45PM	Joe Hertler and the Rainbow Seekers 7:30PM	Homegrown Throwdown 2020 7PM
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	K15 Loops Funknight 9PM		Left Lane Cruiser 7PM	Big Dawg Status 8PM
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw			The New Rule 7PM	The New Rule 7PM
Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington			Marty DeRosa & Carly Kane 8PM	
Spiral, 1247 Center St.		Throwback Thursday Drag Show 9PM	Turn Up Friday 9PM	Pride Saturday 9PM
Urban Beat, 1213 Turner St.	Happy Hour with Sam Warren 5PM	Craig Hendershott 5PM, Kammy Yedor 7PM	Luidmila Bondar 5PM, Salsa Verde 8:30 PM	
Unicorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing			Live Music with Handsome Pete 9PM	Live Music with Buzz Bin 9PM
Wildlife Pub, 6380 Drumeller Rd., Bath			Open Mic 7:30PM	

From Page 20

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Battle of the Books: Team Spirit Event - We'll have materials on hand to make posters, buttons, and more! 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. grandledge.lib.mi.us

EVENTS

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

Escape Room for Kids--Minecraft (Ages 8-12) - Can you defeat the Ender Dragon before time runs out? Register at 517-655-1191. 3-4:30 p.m. CADL Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Rd. #1, Williamston. cadl.org

The Future - Humans have always liked to talk about the future, whether it's tomorrow or 20 years from now. 10-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Lansing Grassroots Philosophy - weekly discussion group oriented around philosophy. 6:30-8 p.m. Kelly's Downtown, 220 S Washington, Lansing.

ARTS

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

Studio (in)Process - The studio is In Process! 6-9 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. More info at broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Friday, January 31

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

4-H Horse Judging Workshop - 6:30-9 p.m. Michigan State University Pavilion, 4301 Farm Ln, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

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

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

EES Distinguished Speaker Series - Free. 12:30 PM, Room 204, Natural Science Building, MSU, East Lansing. naturalscience.msu.edu

High Energy Physics Seminar - Measuring Neutrino Oscillations at the End of the World 2:45-4 p.m. 1400 BPS, MSU, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

MSU Libraries' Special Collections Pop-Up - The Plague in History and Popular Culture. 12-2 p.m. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing.

PJ Storytime Party & Stuffed Animal Sleepover (Ages up to 6) - Wear your PJs and bring your favorite stuffed friend and your stuffed friend will stay overnight for a sleepover! 6-7:30 p.m. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason.

EVENTS

Marty DeRosa & Carly Kane at The

Robin (standup comedy) - 8-10 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, 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.

ARTS

Beer and Coasters Print and Take Workshop - Participants will print their own t-shirts and unique set of coasters. 6-8 p.m. ALT Printing Co, 1139 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

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

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

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

Universal Archive: A selection of films by William Kentridge. Broad Underground Film Series. 7-9 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. events.msu.edu.

MUSIC

Ching-Yin Chien, piano - Free. 6 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Mid-Winter Singing and Folk Festival: 7:30-10 p.m. Hannah Community Center, White Auditorium, 819 N. Abbot Rd., East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Hyemin Kim, piano - Free. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Redlining - 496 & Lansing's African American Community. MSU Professor John Aerni-Flessner. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CADL Downtown, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. cadl.org

Film Making Workshop (Grades 7-12) - Learn creative and technical skills. Lunch and refreshments provided. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. cadl.org

Life Without Sunlight - Science On a Sphere at the MSU Museum. 1-2 p.m. 409 W Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-355-2370. museum.msu.edu

Seed Starting & Transplanting - Learn the basics about seed starting. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

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

Snowshoe Class - Don't miss out on walks this winter...learn to snowshoe! 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Create, Play, and Learn Saturday Storytime - Stories, crafts, and fun. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Wacousta Community United Methodist Church, 9180 Herbison Rd, Eagle. 517-627-7014.

Michael Lerner Book Tour - Rabbi Lerner presents Revolutionary Love: a Political Strategy to Heal and Transform the World. 7-8:30 p.m. Kehillat Israel, 2014 Forest Rd, Lansing. 517-882-0049.

Writing the Land: A Poetry Workshop led by Lansing's current Poet Laureate Laura Apol. 1-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson, Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. grandledge.lib.mi.us

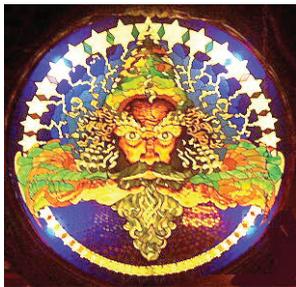
EVENTS

4th Annual Cardboard Classic - 14th season! 1-4 p.m. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St, Lansing.

8th Annual Art & Craft BeerFest - Noon-10 p.m. The Cadillac Room, 1115 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

Comedy for Art & Craft Beer Fest - We are thrilled to present Stand Up Comedy as part of the festival! 7-10 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2 >> SUPER BOWL POTLUCK AT STOBER'S



Celebrate Super Bowl Sunday at Stober's, which is inviting the community to bring their favorite dishes to enjoy while the Kansas City Chief and San Francisco 49ers battle for the Lombardi Trophy.

6 p.m.
Stober's Bar
812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 487-4464

Saturday, February 1

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

4-H Benefit Clinic - 10-5 a.m. Livestock Education. Michigan State University Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. Info at canr.msu.edu.

4-H Horse Judging Workshop - 6:30-9 p.m. Michigan State University Pavilion, 4301 Farm Ln, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

Black History Month Event -

See Out on the town, Page 24

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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

From Pg. 21

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SATURDAY, FEB. 1 >> SCIENCE ON A SPHERE AT THE MSU MUSEUM



Ever wonder what lives on the ocean floor? You can explore the world's oceans, take part in demonstrations and experience touching real specimens. Visitors can even create a deep-sea animal model to take home.

\$3.50, 1 p.m.
MSU Museum
409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing
(517) 355-2370
museum.msu.edu

From Page 23

Contra and Square Dance - All dances taught – no partner needed. 7-10 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Death Cafe - We will drink tea, eat cake and discuss death. 10-11:30 a.m. Hospice of Lansing Administrative Building, 3186 Pine Tree Rd., Lansing. 810-938-2410. deathcafe.com.

Imbolc with Weavers of the Web - Celebrate the lengthening days and set our goals and intentions for the upcoming turn of the Wheel! 4-9 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington, Lansing. 517-657-5800.

Scavenger Hunt Saturdays at the Michigan History Museum - complete with prizes! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-420-1342. michigan.gov/mhc

Winter Farmers' Market - Meridian Twp. Farmers' Market at the Meridian Mall in the JCPenney wing, Okemos. meridian.mi.us

ARTS

Casual Clay - 12:30-2:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Family Day: Kindness. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu

Introduction to Drawing with Colored Pencils - Learn the basics of drawing. 12-2 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400. lansingartgallery.org

MUSIC

Children's Concert Series - Free live musical performance. 11 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Mid-Winter Singing and Folk Festival: Community Sing. 7:30-10 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 N. Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

MWSFF Afternoon Workshops - 12-4 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., E. Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

MWSFF Children's Concert with Mark Dvorak - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

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

Sunday, February 2**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

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

EVENTS

Jackpot Barrels & Poles Event - 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Michigan State University Pavilion, 4301 Farm Ln, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

Lunar New Year Celebration (All ages) - Celebrate the Lunar New Year! 2-4 p.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. cadl.org

Storytime with Solinox - Bring your kids as Solinox Silverstar shares different stories from mythology. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-657-5800.

Superbowl Watch Party at Henry's Place - Complimentary Hors d'Oeuvres until half time! 6-9 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Rd., Okemos.

Talk on "The Science of Christianity" - 2-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing.

Winter Walks at CCBS - 9-10:30 a.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Drive, Lansing, Okemos. michiganaudubon.org.

Woodchuck Day Walk - 2-3 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

ARTS

Art House: Open Studio Time 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400. lansingartgallery.org

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

MUSIC

Chamber 3: Music for Piano Quartet - 3-5 p.m. Lansing First Presbyterian, 510 W Ottawa St, Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

Monday, February 3**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.

Bird Feeder Make-n-Take - Remember your feathered friends with a tasty treat this winter! 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

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

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

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 2step - 8:15-9:05 p.m. The MAC, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

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

Organizing Together Workshop - 6-7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St, Lansing.

EVENTS

Daddy Daughter Dance - Presented by Delta Township. 6-7 p.m. Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts, Lansing. deltami.gov.

Black History Month Event - Films by Black Artists (Adults). Popcorn provided. 5:30-7 p.m. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

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

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

MUSIC

Patrick Johnson, piano - "Fantasy Pieces" 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, MSU, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Tuesday, February 4**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

1st Annual Capital Area Pain Conference - 7:45 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing.

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

Get Found on Google Search & Maps - We want to help every business in our community to get found on the web. 10-11 a.m. Lansing Community College, 309 N.

Washington Square, Lansing. 517-483-1921. clients.sbdcmichigan.org.

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

Humorous Illustration - This class will teach you the basics of humorous illustration/cartooning. 1-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Professional Speaker Series: Vision Therapy - Join us for an educational seminar. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Alive, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte.

USDA Value-Added Producer Grant Workshop - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Dr., Lansing. 517-483-1921. clients.sbdcmichigan.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

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

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

EVENTS

Honeybee Legends, Lore & More (Adults) - Hear some honeybee folklore and see the intricate inner workings of a hive. 6:30-7:30 p.m. CADL Williamston, 115 N. Main St., Williamston. cadl.org

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.

On Screen: François Bucher - What kind of stories can be told when we unravel history's familiar threads? 7-9 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

MUSIC

Beyond Performing and Teaching: Creative Careers - Interested in what MSU alums can do with a background and love in music beyond teaching,

SUNDAY, FEB. 2 >> ART HOUSE: OPEN STUDIO TIME

Looking for space to work on a project? Searching for inspiration, or just looking to meet other artists? Then gather your materials and bring them down to Art House: Open Studio Time at the Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center.

11 a.m.
Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center
119 N. Washington Sq., Ste. 101, Lansing
(517) 374-6400
lansingartgallery.org



FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Multivenue festival lights up REO Town with booze and art

By **KAITLYN KELLEY**

Who said festivals were only for the warmer seasons? The eighth annual Art and Craft Beer Fest — a festival that has art, live music, comedy, short films, beer and more — will go down Saturday in REO Town.

Organizer Paul Starr said the festival allows people the chance to look, buy and even create their own art with hands-on demos. He said the festival is “really about the art” — photographs, paintings, sculptures are all put on display for the craft beer connoisseurs to enjoy while sipping their boutique brews.

The Art and Craft Beer Fest also features a variety of food and drinks from an array of vendors, including Shove It Pizza Truck, On the Roll Food Truck, Sleepwalker Spirits & Ale, Cigar City Brewing, Virtue Cider and the Rusty Mug.

As the years have gone on, the festival has expanded and added several more venues. This year, the festival will have events at the Cadillac Room inside Riverview Church, the Robin Theatre, A.L.T. Printing Co. and REO Town Marketplace. All four locations are located on the same strip in REO Town and are short walking distances from one another.

The festival has also expanded its hours to include activities for children. Some of these activities include slime-making, cartoon drawing and doughnut decorating.

“It’s just morphed over time and changed and I think we’re going in a good direction,” Starr said. “As a parent myself, you have your kids and you want to take them out to something.”

The Art and Craft Beer Fest is “a pretty unique festival in the area” that is interactive, family-friendly and has “something for everyone,” Starr said.

“Even if somebody’s not super into art or anything like that, you can still

come out and enjoy some beers and ciders and look at the amazing art sculptures and the awesome art they have,” he said.



Courtesy Photo

Attendees to the Art and Craft Beer Festival in REO Town can check out art while drinking craft beer and enjoying food from local eateries.

Starr joked it’s the best kind of winter festival to attend because you only have to go outside in the cold weather while traveling to the next

venue. “If somebody is looking to try a new festival, it’s the perfect one to give it a shot,” he said.

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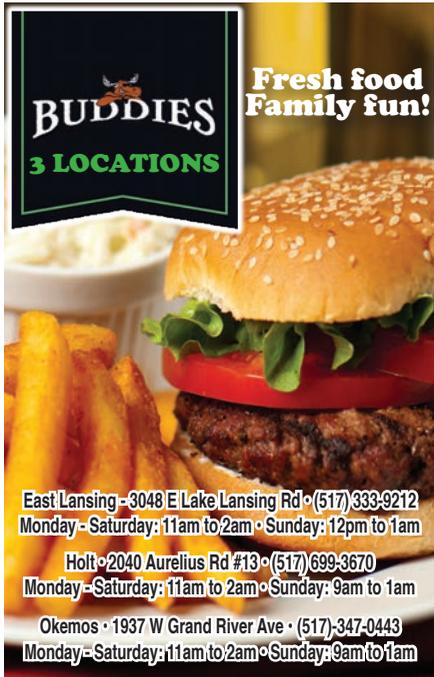
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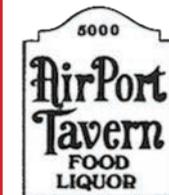
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