

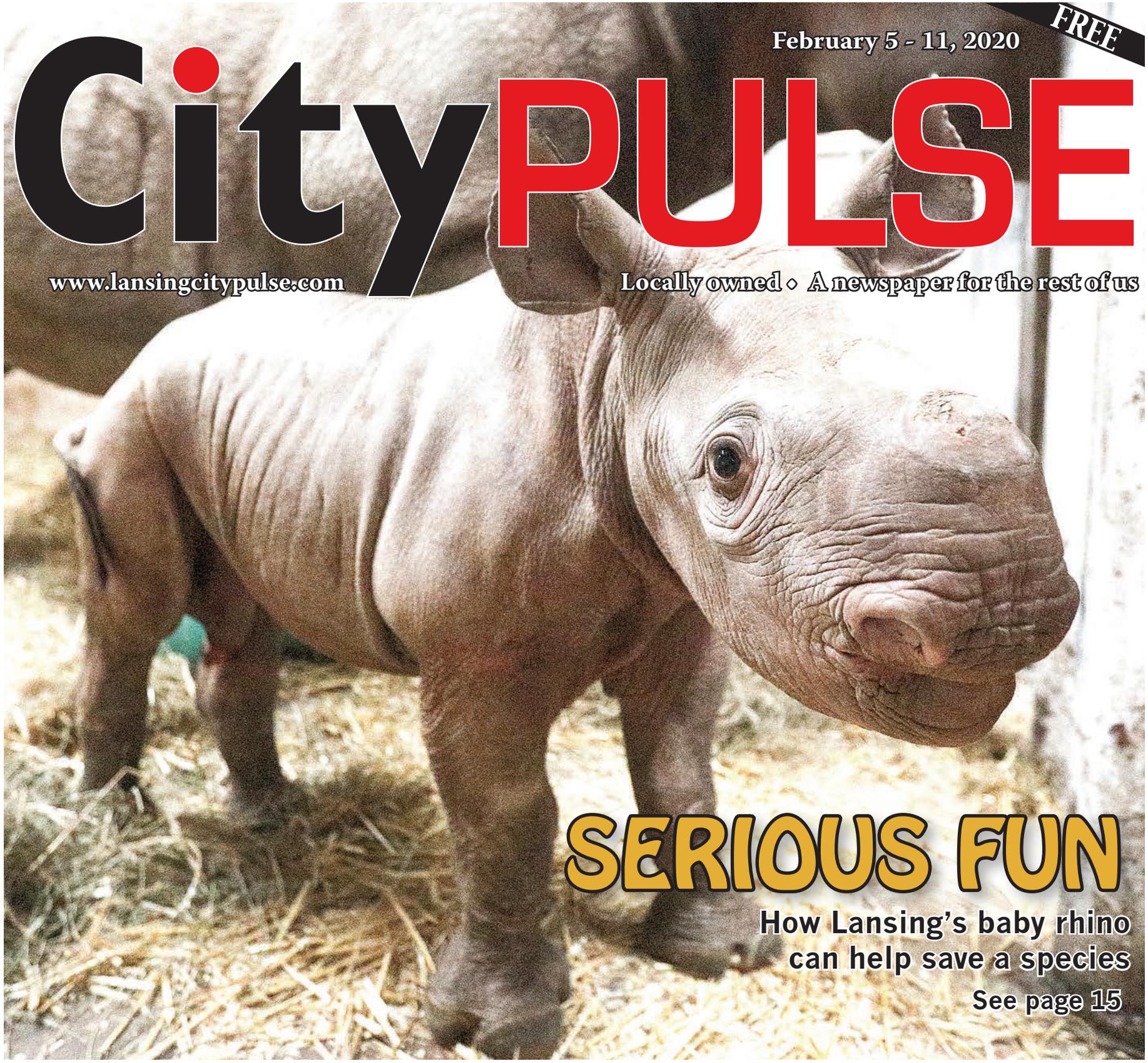
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February 5 - 11, 2020

CityPULSE

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SERIOUS FUN

How Lansing's baby rhino can help save a species

See page 15

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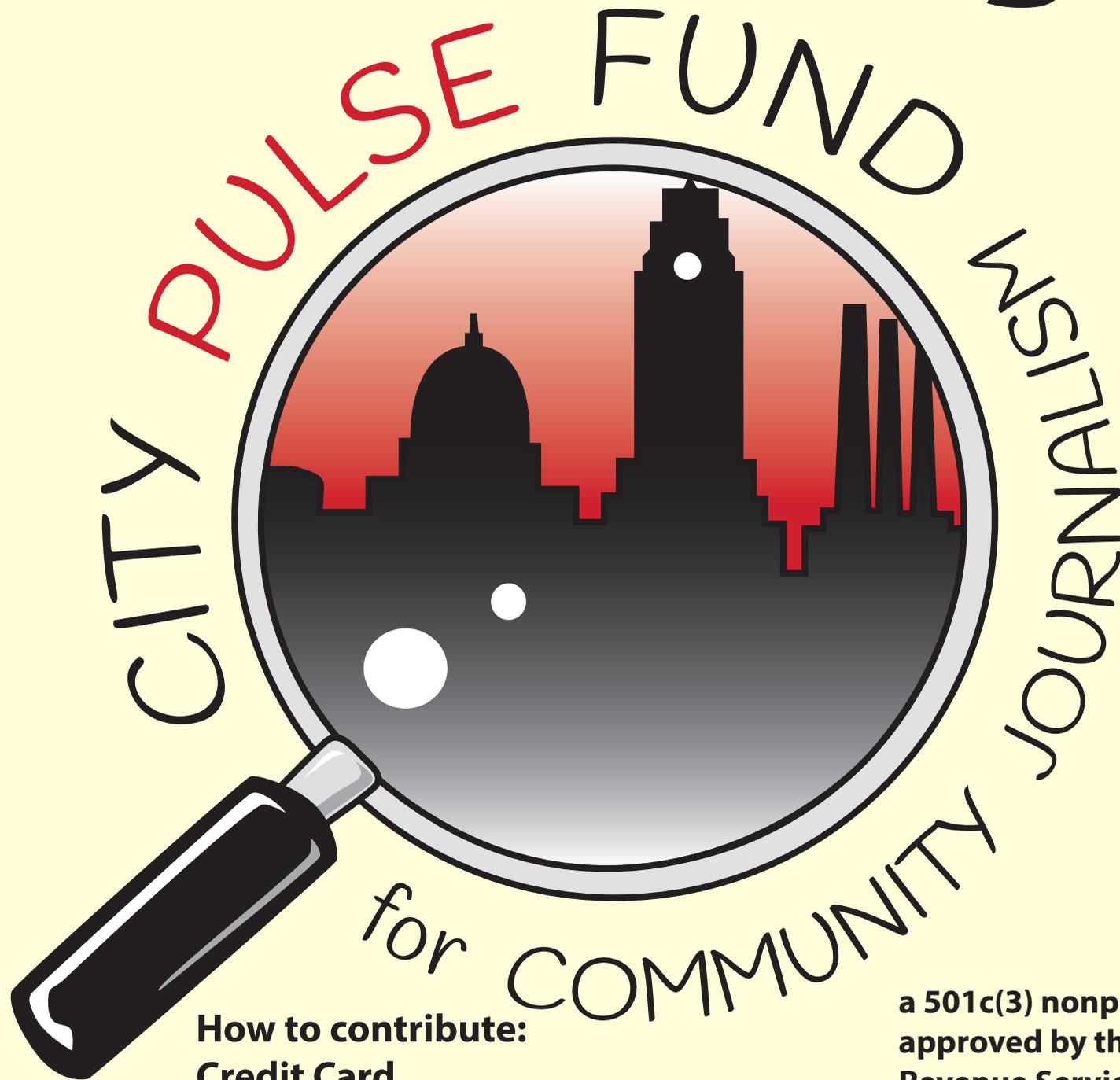
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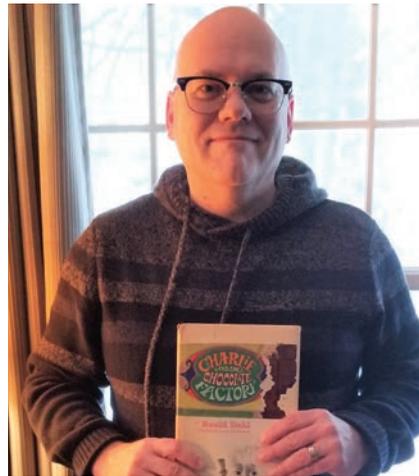
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Favorite Things

Mark Neese and his hardcover 'Charlie & the Chocolate Factory'

Mark Neese, 51, a cataloging assistant at Capital Area District Libraries, of course has a soft spot for books in general. However, there's one classic title he's kept since his childhood days in the Motor City. Here's what he told City Pulse:

My favorite thing is an old hardcover copy of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," by Roald Dahl. My Grandma Cutler bought it for me when I was about 9 or 10, so this would have been 1977 or 1978. My family was still living in Detroit, only a few blocks away from Grandma's house on Stahelin Avenue. I was with her the day she bought it at the old Kresge Department Store in the Grandland Shopping Center on the corner of Grand River and Fenkell Avenue. Grandland was like a smaller scale Frandor and Kresge was a discount store that was the precursor



to Kmart, but on a smaller scale. Books were not major merch at Kresge, so I'm pretty sure this copy of "Charlie & the Chocolate Factory" was discounted. The retail price on the dust jacket is \$4.95. It's the 1973 revised

edition, so I doubt it has much monetary value, even today.

Back then, I did read it and I was also familiar with the 1971 film adaptation — what kid didn't love that? But the book was so much better, as is almost always the case with books vs. films.

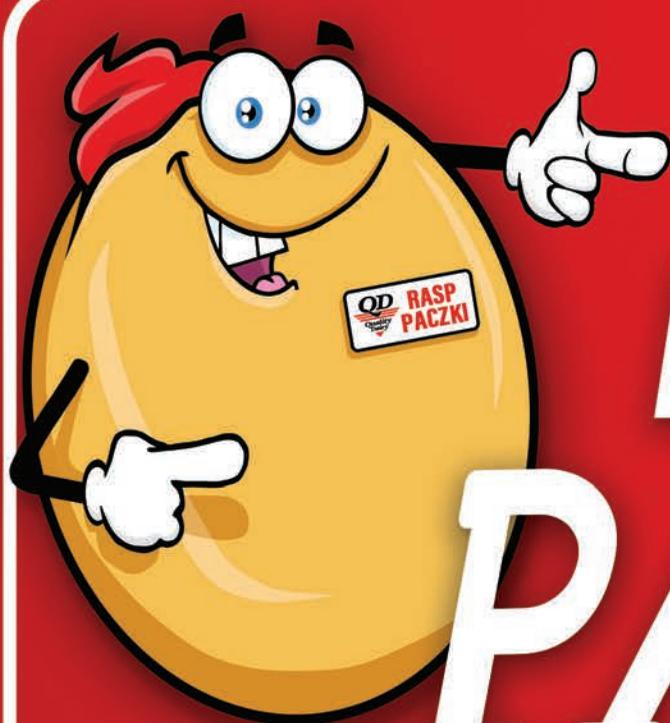
It inspired me to read the sequel, "Charlie & the Great Glass Elevator," which is also quite good. In the time we lived in Detroit, from 1973 to '79, I spent a lot of time at Grandma's. Christmases. Summer days. She'd take me to the Chaney branch of the Detroit Public Library, and sometimes my mom would come along, too. We'd check out books together. For me, it was usually Beverly Cleary or books about World War II. For Grandma: the latest John Jakes, Michener or some mystery novel.

By 1979, my family moved to the thumb in Cairo, a small town. I lived there until 1986, when I came to Michigan State University. I've been in the Lansing area ever since. Today, at my family's house, we've got

one book case in the living room, one book case in the hallway and tons more in the basement. My copy of "Charlie" stays upstairs in the living room. Most, if not all, of my other childhood books are gone now, but not this one. Grandma Cutler died in 2000 at age 93. This might sound corny, but whenever I see the spine, I'm that 9-year old kid at Kresge with Grandma — that sends me to memories of reading books in one of her upstairs bedrooms in the summer with wind blowing through the screen windows and Mr. Seiler mowing his lawn next door.

The book also simply reminds me of my grandmother: her generosity, her spirit and her love of reading. I'll always love this book. It still holds up — the wicked British sense of humor in particular. The last time I read it was about eight or nine years ago to my oldest son, who's now at MSU.

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



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CityPULSE

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ISSUE 26**

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Meet the house concert series held within a blanket fort

**PAGE
20**

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A Rally of Writers returns to LCC

**PAGE
23**

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Seth Rentfrow rocks The Loft

**PAGE
25**

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Kaiti Chritz/Potter Park Zoo

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Who's Going to Save Us?
NOT SENATE REPUBLICANS, APPARENTLY.

JOE BIDEN SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT HE'S ASKING FOR.

WOULDN'T WANT HIM GETTING IMPEACHED, NOW WOULD WE?

PROBABLY NOT MAINSTREAM MEDIA.

M-M-MUST NORMALIZE THIS SOMEHOW.

HA HA, WASHINGTON SO DYSFUNCTIONAL!

NOT THE TECH COMPANIES.

I'M SORRY, BUT THE SURVIVAL OF FACEBOOK IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SURVIVAL OF HUMANITY.

US?

WELL, MY VOTE WON'T MATTER BECAUSE OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

EXCUSES FOR ACQUITTAL

DEMOCRATS WANT TO UNDO THE WILL OF THE VOTERS

IF WE CAN REMOVE DONALD TRUMP FROM OFFICE--

--OUR SCHEME TO INSTALL MIKE PENCE AS PRESIDENT WILL BEAR FRUIT AT LONG LAST!



SCHIFF ONCE PARAPHRASED A PHONE CALL

--AND I DIRECT YOU TO VIDEO OF HIM CLEARLY STATING HE IS PARAPHRASING THE CALL, PROVING HIS NEFARIOUS INTENT TO DECEIVE!

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.



LOOK, I WORK FOR DONALD TRUMP, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU EXPECT?

WE DON'T KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER

WHAT IF THEIR THOROUGHLY SUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS WERE MOTIVATED BY POLITICAL BIAS?



EVERYONE KNOWS YOU CAN'T REPORT A CRIME UNLESS YOU ARE A COMPLETELY UNBIASED OBSERVER!

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HUNTER BIDEN HUNTER BIDEN HUNTER BIDEN HUNTER BIDEN HUNTER BIDEN!



EVIDENCE SCHMEVIDENCE

IF HOUSE DEMOCRATS WEREN'T ABLE TO HEAR TESTIMONY FROM WITNESSES THE PRESIDENT BLOCKED FROM TESTIFYING--

--IS THAT SOMEHOW THE PRESIDENT'S FAULT? LOL, WE'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO PRETEND TO TRY ANY HARDER THAN THIS!



JOHN BOLTON IS JUST A DISGRUNTLED FORMER EMPLOYEE

I barely even KNEW that guy with the weird moustache! If I ever find out who hired him, I am TOTALLY firing THEM!



HOW do all these idiots end up working for ME? SO unfair!!

WHAT'S THE POINT OF WITNESSES IF WE'VE ALREADY MADE UP OUR MINDS

BY REFUSING TO LISTEN TO ANYONE WITH FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF TRUMP'S ACTIONS--

--WE CAN CONTINUE TO CLAIM WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM ANYONE WITH FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE!



TRUMP CAN LITERALLY DO ANYTHING

YOU CAN'T CONVICT A PRESIDENT FOR TRYING TO CHEAT IN AN ELECTION IF HE'S A DERANGED NARCISSIST WHO BELIEVES HIS ILLICIT VICTORY IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST!



DID ANYONE HERE EVEN GO TO LAW SCHOOL?

TRUMP DID EVERYTHING AND IT WAS GOOD THAT HE DID

WHO AMONG US HASN'T TRIED TO CUT A DEAL WITH A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT TO DESTROY A RIVAL'S REPUTATION?

IF BLATANT CORRUPTION IN THE PURSUIT OF CONTINUED POWER IS WRONG, I DON'T WANT TO BE RIGHT!



Tom Tomorrow © 2020

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Fix the damn roads

We were delighted to hear Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announce at her second State of the State Address last week that she would unilaterally move forward to break the political logjam with Republicans in the Michigan Legislature over where to find the billions of dollars needed to repair the state's crumbling roads. The morning after her speech, the State Transportation Commission approved her plan, voting to issue \$3.5 billion in state bonds to fix Michigan's freeways and other roads under state jurisdiction.

We're not certain that the rhetorical grenades Whitmer launched at legislative Republicans during her speech was the most constructive approach to winning their cooperation on this or any other issue, especially after invoking the bipartisan spirit of the late, great Gov. William Milliken. But we certainly share her frustration over the partisan bickering that has forestalled any meaningful agreement on a comprehensive solution to road funding. Taking the matter into her own hands is, in this instance, the right thing to do.

The obvious shortcoming of her plan is that none of the \$3.5 billion can be used to fix local roads in Michigan. That means thousands of miles of city thoroughfares and neighborhood streets that are in the worst shape of all will continue to deteriorate. The governor's half measure is certainly better than nothing, so we won't complain when orange barrels pop up like daisies along state freeways and trunk lines in the coming construction season. But the urgent need to address the pathetic condition of the rest of Michigan's roads remains unsolved.

We support a solution that no one seems to be talking about for reasons that aren't readily apparent. Our rather simple and elegant approach to solving the road funding riddle is a temporary, five-year increase in the state sales tax. A 2-cent increase, from the current level of 6 cents to 8 cents on the dollar, would generate approximately \$3 billion per year — nearly \$15 billion over the next five years.

Because the sales tax rate is enshrined in the Michigan Constitution, an amendment must be placed on the statewide ballot and approved by a majority vote of the people. Republicans in the state legislature are loath to approve new taxes for any reason, but their constituents could well embrace a temporary sales tax boost if 100 percent of the revenues are constitutionally dedicated to fixing local roads, with no shell games diverting the money to other programs. Critics may argue that the sales tax approach was tried once before and overwhelmingly defeated by state voters. Our rebuttal is that the ill-fated 2015 ballot proposal was so complicated by extraneous measures tie-barred to the road funding fix that no one understood what it would really do. Voters weren't rejecting a sales tax

The CP Edit

Opinion



increase to fix the roads, they were rejecting the Rube Goldberg language of the proposal, which so muddled the measure that voters simply said no out of sheer confusion.

Our strategy hinges on the idea that the ballot language would only ask voters to increase the sales tax by 2 cents for five years and that every dollar is guaranteed to flow down to local governments to fix local roads. Nothing more and nothing less. We think such a measure would pass for a simple reason: Michigan residents have had enough of the potholes and the political squabbling over how to fix them.

Others will argue that increasing the sales tax is fundamentally regressive and would have a disproportionate impact on Michigan's poorest residents. There is truth in this concern, but the inequities inherent in a higher sales tax can be ameliorated by expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit through a separate legislative act. We would oppose including this provision in the ballot language so as not to detract from the sales tax proposal's simplicity.

We also agree with the governor that the various ideas floated by legislative

Republicans — selling state-owned bridges, raiding the teacher's pension fund, or shifting the existing sales tax on gasoline away from schools and local governments — are non-starters. Nor are we persuaded by the notion that the state has plenty of money to fix the roads. If that were true, we would already be driving on fresh pavement wherever we go, while leaving tire tracks on the backs of our state education system and other key budget areas that would have been decimated to generate the billions of dollars needed to actually fix the roads.

For what it's worth, by putting a constitutional amendment on the ballot, tax-averse legislators can fall back on the political cover that they didn't vote to increase taxes, they merely agreed to let the people of Michigan decide for themselves if they want to raise the funds needed to fix local roads — or not.

We welcome other reasonable, politically viable ideas to bake the local half of the road repair loaf, but we've all been waiting a long time for a realistic plan to come forward. It's time to let the people decide on a temporary sales tax increase to get the job done, and done right.

Check out letters to the editor on page 9

Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to letters@lansingcitypulse.com.

Please limit them to 250 words.



This week's Eye Candy is the newly opened bridge-trail south of the Nancy L. Moore Community Park in Meridian Township. The trail includes a bridge over the marshy area north of Central Park Drive, running parallel to Okemos Road. The bridge-trail itself is constructed of wood with iron supports, raising the bridge-trail several feet above the marshland below. A concrete ramp leads up to the bridge on both the north and south sides of the trail. It is approximately a quarter mile long and offers a lookout spot to stand and observe the natural area to the east.

The bridge-trail is sheltered from Okemos Road by trees, currently bare; however, once in bloom these trees will make the spot feel like a nature preserve, removed from its nearby urban surroundings. The trail is a destination in itself for dog walkers, families pushing strollers, and runners, all out recently on an unexpected springlike day. Parking is available at the Meridian Works building. The new bridge-trail is also a safer alternative for pedestrians and cyclists who traverse the area, providing a connection between the rails-to-trail path between Park Lake Road and Okemos Road and the Meridian Farmers Market and surrounding area. Check it out!

— **CARRIE SAMPSON**

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

Jackson Johnson's departure creates 'scary situation' for tenants

Bogus records prompt Lansing to seek One Church One Family takeover

Joan Jackson Johnson was a godsend for Demario Washington.

Last summer, Washington was among more than 400 people who found themselves without a place to sleep in Greater Lansing. Jackson Johnson, then director of the Lansing Human Relations and Community Services Department, knew Washington needed some help — and a home — if he were ever to get back onto his feet.

By September, Washington was able to move into one of nine houses operated by One Church One Family, a nonprofit that for years operated as a sort of pseudo-entity of the city under Jackson Johnson's direction. Grant funding helped Washington pay rent while reaching for a brighter future.

But six months later, Jackson Johnson is nowhere to be found. She resigned from the nonprofit. Washington lives in the home on Stillwell Avenue in South Lansing — scared again.

"I've tried reaching out to find out what's going on but nobody is calling back," Washington said. "I don't know what's happening."

Washington isn't alone. Other tenants report similar experiences.



Jackson Johnson

A motion the city filed last week in 30th Circuit Court asks for a judge-ordered receiver to take control of One Church One Family. It's a necessary step to "safeguard" thousands of dollars in grant funding and ensure services for the homeless continue, records state.

But as the city of Lansing pauses — and likely redirects — hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding that was originally slated to head to Jackson Johnson's nonprofit, the future of her network of homes remains uncertain.

State law allows judges to appoint a receiver over nonprofit organizations and their assets after they've essentially been abandoned by their leadership. Those assets — which in this case would include the nine homes in Lansing — can be returned "whenever it appears to be the best interest" of the parties involved, according to the statute.

But where those assets will end up remains uncertain. After Jackson Johnson resigned from the organization last year, Schor said city officials haven't found anyone to take responsibility for the nonprofit. And botched records filed with the state are making it difficult for city officials to follow thousands in city funds.

"It's surprising, I would say that," Schor explained to City Pulse. "We're still trying to figure it out."

Court records contend One Church One Family failed to provide any records of how it spent nearly \$250,000 in grant funding and is operating without a registered agent or any legitimate board of directors — leaving no apparent choice for a local judge but to appoint a receiver.

That person, if appointed, would be tasked with ensuring homelessness prevention services continue for dozens of local families, including those housed at the nine Lansing homes. The case has been assigned to Judge Clinton Canady. No hearings have yet been scheduled.

A recent forensic audit report pointed to mismanaged funds, conflicting interests and grant-funded nepotism within Lansing's human relations department after at least \$1.38 million in city funding had been funneled into various nonprofit groups in which Jackson Johnson was either directly involved or had ties to her immediate family.

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

Those allegedly conflicting interests pushed city officials to put Jackson Johnson on paid leave last month while Attorney General Dana Nessel's office continues to review the findings for possible criminal missteps. But as the probe continues, city officials are now exploring whether anyone other than Jackson Johnson had been involved.

And by all accounts, it appears One Church One Family has operated largely as a one-woman show.

Five of the six members of Lansing's Human Relations and Community Services Board — an entirely advisory and volunteer body which helped Jack-



Courtesy Photos

One Church One Family operates nine homes in Lansing to help curb homelessness.

son Johnson decide where to distribute grant funding to help the homeless community — have been listed in newly filed state records as the directors of One Church One Family.

But it appears none of them were actually willingly involved in the local nonprofit at all, indicating Jackson Johnson may have single-handedly directed the entire operation. Schor said those details only surfaced last week as city officials continued to investigate the situation. And this week, they still don't have any clear answers.

"I've never been to a board meeting or had anything to do with the operation of One Church One Family," said Mark Eagle, an Human Relations and Community Services Board member and, according to state records, the treasurer of Jackson Johnson's nonprofit. "We were all a bit confused. We're reaching out to the AG and providing them with information."

Board members Julie Rowe and Chad Guerrant also dispute the validity of state records that list them as directors of One Church One Family. Neither had been asked nor agreed to accept those leadership roles. Eagle said Jackson Johnson had requested he be listed on nonprofit paperwork, but he never con-

sent to the listing.

"Joan also told me that she needed me on this bank account for One Church One Family, but we never came to terms with anything," Eagle said. "I never agreed to anything. We all seem to be in this same predicament here."

After city officials confronted Jackson Johnson about her alleged conflicts of interest, she reportedly resigned from One Church One Family at the end of last year. But paperwork subsequently filed with the state again lists her as the registered agent of the nonprofit, along with an apparently fraudulent roster of nonprofit directors.

The new state registration records — filed last month by a former Lansing Housing Commission director, Patricia Baines-Lake, are admittedly inaccurate, Baines-Lake said. Baines-Lake only sent them in at Jackson Johnson's explicit request, but now plans to file additional paperwork in the near future to fix the mistake, she told City Pulse.

In the meantime, Lansing hopes to have the issue resolved in a courtroom. One Church One Family breached its contract with the city by failing to provide required documentation, financial

Tenants

from page 6

reports, inventories or any accounting of the income generated through the program. A receiver might help sort out the uncertainties.

By demanding reports and a full-fledged audit of One Church One Family's financials, the city also hopes to keep its community services operational, including the lease of the nine homes, and prevent the waste of grant funding and "otherwise safeguard the interests of the city" and other parties, records state.

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing's name continued to appear as resident agent for the nonprofit in 2018 even though he said he resigned in 2013, noting concerns about bookkeeping. He referred to Jackson Johnson as

a "one-woman show."

Jackson Johnson couldn't be reached. She stopped returning calls after the AG opened a file on her office.

The Michigan Nonprofit Corporations Act makes it a misdemeanor to "knowingly make or file or assist in the making or filing of a false or fraudulent report." Those who violate that law by fraudulently listing supposed board members against their will can be subjected to a fine up to \$1,000 for each violation, the law states.

Additionally, the law grants the AG the authority to bring court action to dissolve a nonprofit corporation if it engaged in certain other misconduct, including procuring its organization through fraud and "repeatedly, willfully and materially" exceeding its legal authority or conducting its affairs "in an unlawful manner."

Nonprofits registered with the IRS (like One Church One Family) are

also required to maintain bylaws, hold elections and produce minutes for its board-level dealings to maintain tax-exempt status. Without those procedures in place, the corporation can lose that designation and face additional federal

consequences.

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for previous and continued coverage as the investigation continues to unfold.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING 3209 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE LANSING, MICHIGAN 48917

Regular meeting schedule of the Downtown Development Authority for fiscal year 2020 has been amended by the Downtown Development Authority Governing Board as follows:

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD (DDA) Meetings held at 9:00 a.m., Location: 3209 W. Michigan Avenue

	4/2	7/9	10/8
2/6	5/7	8/6	11/5
3/5	6/4	9/10	12/3

Minutes of the above meeting will be available in the Office of the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services planning to attend any Township meeting should notify the Township Clerk's Office in advance of the meeting that will be attended.

Susan L. Aten, Clerk
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#20-018

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020 MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP:
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Meridian Township 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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Meridian Township who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Meridian Township Clerk; the office of the Ingham County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the Meridian Township 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 local clerk 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 Meridian Township Clerk's office, located at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 at the following times:

- Regular business hours: Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday March 10, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

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

The Meridian Township Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office or by visiting our website at www.meridian.mi.us.

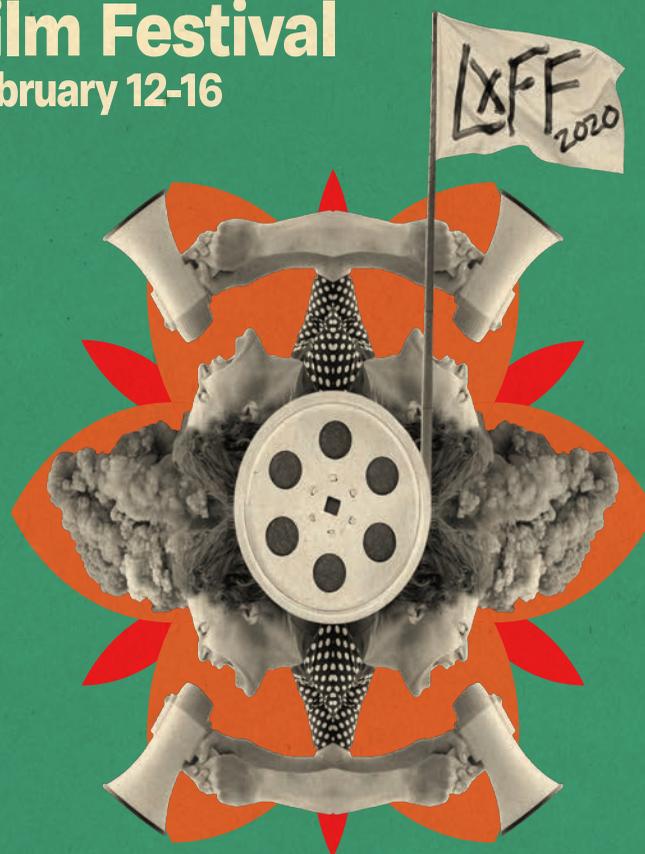
Monday, March 9, 2020 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who registered to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, March 9, 2020 must be requested and voted in person at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, March 10, 2020, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

Brett Dreyfus, CMMC
Meridian Township Clerk

CP#20-032

MSU Latinx Film Festival February 12-16



To view the schedule,
visit msulatinxfilmfestival.com



Office of Inclusion & Intercultural Initiatives, College of Arts & Letters, College of Communication Arts & Sciences, College of Music, Film Studies Program

MSU Libraries, Global Studies in the Arts & Humanities Program, Chicano/Latino Studies Program, Council of Graduate Students, College of Social Science

James Madison College, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, Julian Samora Research Institute, Residential College in the Arts & Humanities

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

MONTGOMERY DRAIN MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
DIVISION I – RED CEDAR PARK POND
PARCEL NO. 33-01-01-14-426-001

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Patrick Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, being Chair of the Montgomery Drain Chapter 20 Drainage Board, will receive bids on **Monday, February 24, 2020, at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, located at 707 Buhl St., Mason, Michigan, 48854 until 10:00 a.m.** Bids relative to construction work on Parcel No. 33-01-01-14-426-001 will then be opened and, after a meeting of the Montgomery Drain Drainage Board, will be publicly announced for construction work to be undertaken in connection with a drain known and designated as the "Montgomery Drain."

The following quantities are viewed as the major items of work comprising this work and the following quantities are approximate. Final payment will be made based upon measured quantities.

Includes the following work in connection with construction of the Montgomery Drain and coordination of work for other permitted activities on Parcel No. 33-01-01-14-426-001:

1. Detention Basin Excavation – Approx. 142,500 Cu. Yd.
2. Open Channel Excavation – 33 Lin. Ft.
3. Spoil Hauling
4. Inlet and Outlet Control Structures
5. Overflow Spillway
6. Sewer Removal – 564 Lin. Ft.
7. Structure Removal – 5
8. Riprap
9. Provide and Operate Floc Tank During Construction
10. Stabilized Construction Access
11. Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control
12. Safety Fencing – 1,446 Lin. Ft.
13. Dewatering
14. Seeding, Fertilizing, and Mulching
15. Cleanup and Restoration

One contract is being let for this work, which will include all material necessary to perform same. This contract will be let in accordance with the Contract Documents and bids will be made and received in accordance with these documents.

Bidding Documents are on file, and may be examined at the following locations after **Monday, February 3, 2020, 12:00 p.m. local time:**

Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl, Mason, MI 48854, (517) 676-8395
Spicer Group, 1595 W Lake Lansing Rd, Ste 200, East Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 325-9977

Bidders wishing to download the Plans and Specifications at a cost of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) may do so by going to the Bidding section of the Spicer Group, Inc. website at www.spicergroup.com. You may view the digital project bidding documents by entering Quest Project Number 6685202 on the website's project search page. Please contact Quest CDN Customer Support at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with the digital project information. For bidders wishing to purchase the plans and specifications, a fee of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) will be required for each set of proposed plans and specifications and will not be refunded. A mailing fee of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) to cover handling and postage will be charged to anyone wishing to receive the plans and specifications via United Parcel Service.

A MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on Monday, February 10, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of Spicer Group, Inc., located at 1595 West Lake Lansing Road, Suite 200, East Lansing, Michigan 48823. Representatives of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and Engineer will be present at the pre-bid conference to discuss the Drain Contract. Prospective Bidders are required to attend and participate in the pre-bid conference. All prospective Bidders must sign in by name of attendee, business represented, and email address. All prospective bidders will also be required to submit a certification of compliance with Public Act 517 of 2012 prior to bid award. Only bids from Bidders in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be opened. All other bids will be considered non-responsive and will be disqualified from bidding on the Drain Contract. The Engineer will transmit to all prospective Bidders of record such Addenda as the Engineer considers necessary in response to questions. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.

Bid security in the amount of 5%, for and subject to the conditions provided in the Instruction to Bidders, must be submitted with each Bid. Bids may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days after the actual date of opening thereof. This time period may be extended by mutual agreement of the OWNER and any Bidder or Bidders.

Contracts will be entered into with the successful bidder giving adequate security for the performance of the work and meeting all conditions represented in the Instructions to Bidders. The Montgomery Drain Chapter 20 Drainage Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids, award the Contract to any bidder even if not the lowest cost, and to adjourn the letting to such time and place as it shall publicly announce.

Bidders shall comply with the Ingham County policies regarding the payment of Prevailing Wages, and Equal Opportunity/Nondiscrimination, as set forth in Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolutions #02-263 and #02-283, respectively. The work must be substantially complete by September 15, 2020.

CP#20-028

Privacy concerns precede county controller's resignation

Commissioners retroactively redact confidential health records

Several members of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners contended a series of "strong concerns" and "little things" preceded Controller Tim Dolehanty's resignation late last month. But most of them still decided to let him walk away with a \$76,000 severance package and promised that a favorable reference will be sent to his next employer.

Commission Chairman Bryan Crenshaw, without elaboration, previously told City Pulse that "strong concerns" over Dolehanty's leadership — displayed through "one situation after another situation" — ultimately led to closed sessions and a settlement deal for Dolehanty's voluntary resignation on Jan. 24.



Dolehanty

All but two commissioners — Carol Koenig and Randy Schafer — had voted to accept his resignation, Koenig said. And a report that Dolehanty produced days before he left might help explain some of the board's animosity. Koenig said concerns stemming from an alleged breach of privacy played a role in his departure.

"That's always going to be an issue," Koenig said. "Employee confidentiality is particularly important."

The board's County Services Committee met on Jan. 21 — three days before Dolehanty resigned — to continue its ongoing investigation into barriers to prescription insurance benefits for certain county employees, including those who had difficulty accessing name-brand treatment for HIV and drugs to assist with gender transitions.

A report that commissioners had requested from Dolehanty's office was designed to investigate the issue and explore potential solutions — including the possibility of another health insurance provider for county employees. But confidential medical records listed in the report immediately triggered the board's fury.

Dolehanty, with assistance from Human Resources Director Sue Graham, ultimately released to the board — and by extension, the public — a report that included the full name of a county employee, the specific medications he sought to have filled and transcripts of calls between him and the

county's insurance carrier.

That report, after a brief appearance on the county website, has since been entirely removed from public view.

"There was a report that was submitted by the controller and it was criticized a lot during a recent meeting," said Commissioner Emily Stivers. "That was a big one, but as far as concerns, there have been a lot of little things. All of them are a matter of public record. We'd ask him to follow up on some things and that was just never done."

Commissioners Schafer, Vic Celentino and Randy Maiville contended they had no issues with Dolehanty's leadership. Commissioners Crenshaw, Stivers, Koenig, Mark Grebner and Thomas Morgan declined to elaborate on any perceived problems with the former controller. Others didn't return calls.

"Good controllers are hard to find," Koenig added. "I know a lot of people had a bigger problem with his follow through. They'd want the controller to do something and there always seemed to be issues with him following through. Not necessarily for me; I'd just pick up the phone and call him again. Tim really was a great guy."

As part of a settlement agreement, Dolehanty will continue to receive six months of salary and benefits — valued at about \$76,000 — while he searches for another job. He'll also be paid out on any unused vacation time and will receive a contractually mandated "favorable reference" that identifies his strengths as a top administrator.

"When employers hear about a neutral review — which has become common in these sorts of settlement agreements — they seem to know it's probably not a good review," Koenig added. "I think that's why that language was put in there. I also don't think it's disingenuous for the board to give him that good review."

In the meantime, Deputy County Controller Jared Cypher has since been appointed as interim controller while commissioners form a committee to find a more permanent replacement. A national firm, Trillium Staffing Solutions, has also been hired to help conduct the nationwide search at a rate of \$25,000.

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for previous and continued coverage as the search for a new county controller continues.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Calling out Trump's health-care lies

By **ANGELA WILSON**

President Trump continues to bolster his self-proclaimed accomplishments on a wide range of topics, including health care. Unfortunately, he has yet to propose any policies to lower health care costs and expand coverage for Michiganders. Instead, he repeats his lies and false promises on health care, as he has been doing since the inception of his presidential campaign.



Wilson

President Trump and his team are already in deep trouble when it comes to health-care this year. In January, Trump lashed out at his own secretary of the Health and Human Services Department because of polling showing that the administration's health care policies are wildly unpopular among voters. He seems to be frustrated and desperate and will say, but not do, what Michiganders want when it comes to fixing health care.

During Trump's presidency, there has been a huge spike in drug prices. His response? Give drug companies billions of dollars in tax breaks and oppose giving Medicare the authority to negotiate lower drug prices — the most effective solution to this problem. Though Trump has stated that “drug prices are coming down, for the first time in 51 years because of my administration,” the truth is that drug companies have continued to consistently raise their prices and reap massive profits throughout his presidential term.

In response, Democrats have drafted ambitious bills to try and lower drug costs. The president first praised, then opposed, the bills, leaving them stuck with no GOP support.

On top of Trump's refusal to lower drug prices, his administration and its Republican allies continue to undermine the Affordable Care Act. After trying, and failing, to repeal the ACA through legislation numerous times, Republicans are now focused on an ongoing federal lawsuit to overturn the landmark health care law. If the lawsuit is successful, 20 million Americans could lose their health insurance, and 135 million Americans with pre-existing conditions, including 4.1 million Michiganders, could lose access to care. Incredibly, Trump still has the audacity to claim he “saved” protections for those with pre-existing conditions, despite boasting about how his lawsuit would “terminate” the ACA and its consumer protections.

These blatant lies and vicious attacks on Americans with pre-existing conditions prove exactly how much the president cares about providing healthcare to those in need. But that's not all: though Trump has promised that he and Republicans will “stand for protecting Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid,” he as recently as this month, signaled he will slash benefits for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security in 2020 if re-elected.

Trump promised that his health care plan would cover everyone and claimed he is “far better” on health care than Democrats. But under his administration, attacks on Obamacare have left 7 million Americans uninsured. Despite his many promises to release a “phenomenal” health care plan, he has yet to produce one. Instead of using the State of the Union address to introduce a plan for American health care, the president continued to try to undermine Obamacare. I hope Michiganders can see past his false promises and the fake news.

(Angela Wilson is and Okemos resident who relies on prescription drugs to manage a serious chronic illness.)

LETTERS to the editor

Revictimization

I enjoy & have respected City Pulse up until now.

The cover story about convicted murderers (Jan. 29, 2019) made me stop in my tracks. I immediately recognized one of them as he brutally slayed a dear friend of mine in his own home. It was a slap in the face and brought up such a tragic memory that I just had to recall 3 years ago, almost to the day.

Placing these photos on the FRONT page only re-victimizes families that are trying to move on. Did you reach out to them first to warn them? Maybe you should reach out now & ask that you can place the Victims' pictures on your next FRONT page!

All I know is that was the worst decision in City Pulses' history.

Suzy Hall
East Lansing

Facebook is not our friend

It appears that after Mark Zuckerberg's and Trump-supporting Facebook board member Peter Thiel's secret dinner meeting with President Trump at the White House, Facebook is accepting \$10 million dollars to run misleading political ads to support the corruption and abuse our President committed against Ukraine.

So Mr. Zuckerberg is selling his soul and our democracy for a bag of gold coins.

We need to send a message to Facebook to stop accepting political ads as Twitter has done.

I encourage all American Patriots and defenders of our Constitution to cancel your Facebook account and boycott Facebook supporters.

Facebook is no more than a platform for scams, hacking, bullying, election meddling and other nefarious activities.

No one needed Facebook before it showed up and we certainly don't need it now. Our Democracy as we know it is at stake.

Michael Fifelski
Holt

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, COUNTY OF INGHAM, STATE OF MICHIGAN:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the Charter Township of Lansing who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the Township 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 Township Clerk 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 Lansing Township Clerk's office, located at 3209 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917 at the following times:

- Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 7, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, March 10, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE this election is for the purpose of nominating candidates for the office of President of the United States from the Democratic and Republican parties.

PLEASE ALSO TAKE NOTICE that Ingham County and Ingham Intermediate School District will be voting on the following millage proposals as presented and listed below.

INGHAM COUNTY PROPOSALS

- Ingham County Potter Park Zoo and Potter Park Operational Millage Question
- Countywide System of Trails and Parks Millage Renewal Question
- Ingham County Health Services Millage

INGHAM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSAL

- Intermediate School District Special Education Millage Proposal (Restoration of Headlee Reduction)

TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY PROPOSAL

- Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) Millage Renewal Proposition – City of Lansing, City of East Lansing, Meridian Township, Lansing Township, and Delhi Township

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the Lansing Township Clerk's office, 3209 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917, telephone: (517) 485-4063. A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Clerk's office.

Susan L. Aten, Clerk
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#20-023

Seven local funding proposals on March primary ballot

Thousands of Ingham County voters will decide the fate of seven local ballot proposals at next month's presidential primary election — including whether more taxpayer funds are needed to help support school districts, public transportation options, local road repairs, parks and trails maintenance and more.

Everything (as always) could use some extra cash, officials said. But how do voters decide what deserves their vote? The following primary election guide (in two parts, this week and next) is designed to inform readers on those issues, but as always, City Pulse encourages local voters to do their own research and view proposals in their entirety before the election.

Polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on March 10. No-reason absentee ballots have already been made available.

CATA Millage Renewal

The Capital Area Transportation Authority is asking voters throughout Lansing, East Lansing, Meridian, Delhi and Lansing townships to renew the same millage they approved in

2014. If the renewal passes, the 3.007 mill levy would again be extended — this time through 2025 — and will generate about \$19 million in 2021.

Officials said the millage funding essentially serves as the backbone for public transportation throughout Greater Lansing, supporting the fuel, parts, electricity, wages and just about anything else required to keep rider fares affordable and to ensure buses stay rolling smoothly and efficiently down hundreds of local streets.

A failed millage would almost certainly equate to a reduction in local routes, but it's a bridge that CATA won't likely have to cross anytime soon. Voters — especially those who reside in the denser and more urbanized areas of Greater Lansing — have a lengthy history of support for proposals to help bolster public transportation.

Ingham County Trails and Parks Millage Renewal

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners wants to renew a millage to help fund the creation and maintenance of a countywide system

of recreational trails and adjacent parks — including along Lansing's River Trail — and find new ways to connect and extend existing trailways throughout Greater Lansing and beyond.

If approved and levied in its entirety, the 0.5-mill renewal would be extended for another six years and raise an estimated \$3.84 million within the first year. And officials said its passage is vital for recreational opportunities.

"We have a lot of trails that are slated to be finished this year," Ingham County Parks Commissioner Matthew Bennett said previously to City Pulse. "It's going to be a lot more apparent that the trails are getting done."

The funding helped repave long swaths of the aging Lansing River Trail last fall, including a new \$1.8 million bridge over a flood-prone section of the Red Cedar River and the oldest parts of the trail both downtown and in the forested area between the Potter Park Zoo and Kalamazoo Street. Additionally, eroded river banks have been shored up with a seawall near Moores River Park. Four bridges on East Lansing's Northern Tier Trail have also been replaced. The trail itself has since been repaved too. Outside of Lansing, trails improve-

ments surrounding the city of Mason have also been supported through the millage funding since the measure first passed in 2014.

Last February, the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to fast-track remaining trail projects and to double the amount of money given to local municipalities up front to pay for them. "It was time to give residents something to show for their money," Morgan said previously. "I couldn't support putting it back on the ballot again if we're not using the funding that people so graciously provided."

Ingham ISD Special Education Millage Restoration

Officials at the Ingham Intermediate School District are requesting additional taxpayer funding to help bolster its special education programming for local students, and as a result, free up some more cash to spread across local public schools across Ingham County, according to Ingham ISD Superintendent Jason Mellema.

"We truly believe in the success and achievement of all of our learners," Mellema added. "This funding restoration would allow us to continue to be future-focused and ensure that

See Proposals, Page 11

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held to consider a site plan application from 3400 West Road, LLC for the property at 3401 Coolidge Road to allow construction of an office building approximately 23,900 square feet in size to house the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy district offices. The subject property is zoned OIP, Office Industrial Park District.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a lot split application from 3400 West Road, LLC for the properties at 3400 West Road and 3401 Coolidge Road to split each lot into two separate lots. The subject properties are zoned OIP, Office Industrial Park District.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider an application for a special use permit from Gateway of East Lansing, LLC for the property at 300 West Grand River Avenue to convert first floor retail space to a fitness center for residents and non-residents of 300 West Grand River Avenue. The subject property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business District.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider an application to modify a special use permit from Gateway of East Lansing, LLC for the property at 300 West Grand River Avenue to convert retail space on the first floor to six dwelling units. The property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business District.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk **#20-030**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **February 25, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1462, an ordinance to amend Sections 50-790, 50-791, 50-792, 50-793 and 50-794 of Division 6 – East Village District – of Article VII – Other Districts – of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to make changes to certain provisions of the East Village District.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a Site Plan and Special Use Permit application from Core Campus Manager, LLC for the properties at 131, 135, 207, 217, and 227 Bogue to demolish all of the existing buildings on the site and construct a 14-story, 720-unit multi-family development in two separate buildings, each at 152 feet tall, including amenities for the residents and structured parking for 400 vehicles. The development proposes a mix of apartment types ranging from efficiencies to four-bed units, including row houses. The subject property is located in the East Village zoning district.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1478, an ordinance to amend the Zoning Use District Map of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to rezone the property at 3118 West Road from RA, Residential Agricultural District, to B-5, Community Retail Sales Business District.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1479, an ordinance to amend the Zoning Use District Map of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to rezone the property at 341-345 Evergreen Avenue from Conditional B-3, City Center Business, to Conditional B-3, City Center Business, to allow for revisions to the associated site plan and special use permit.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk **#20-031**

Proposals

from page 10

all learners have these opportunities through additional equipment, support, resources and supplies that teachers in every local district can use.”

Michigan’s Headlee Amendment — passed in 1978 — caps property taxes at the rate of inflation. When the taxable values of those properties rise faster than inflation, the actual tax levy is rolled back. As a result, schools, like those served through Ingham’s ISD, are forced to collect less revenue than initially approved by local voters.

Mellema said this millage request, if approved, would restore the 0.2438 mills for special education to the original amount of 4.75 for a period of 20 years. And the total millage would capture about \$2.3 million in its first year to put toward equipment and upgraded facilities for more than 6,000 special education students in the county.

“This funding restoration will also allow us to invest in some capital projects to ensure all of our students are adequately supported,” Mellema said. “These dollars make a difference.”

Every registered voter who lives in the school districts of Dansville, East Lansing, Haslett, Holt, Lansing, Leslie, Mason, Okemos, Stockbridge, Waverly, Webberville and Williamston, whether a property owner or not, is eligible to vote on the issue. If it passes, Mellema estimates each household would pay an extra \$1.27 per month.

Williamstown Township

Road Improvements Bond Proposal

Williamstown Township is looking to borrow \$7.5 million and issue a series of general obligation bonds designed to improve, replace and reconstruct public roadways within its boundaries. If approved, the estimated millage to be levied in 2020 would be 2.97 mills and it would help clear potholes from miles of local pavement.

“Unfortunately, it appears state funding is not going to have an impact on our local roads,” said Township Supervisor Wanda Bloomquist. “It became obvious that we cannot keep up on needed improvements. This is an investment into a major asset of our community and residents need to decide if it’s worth the investment.”

Bloomquist noted that Williamstown Township voters turned down a 1.5 mill levy to invest in local roads back in 2014 but, in the meantime, the township has gone from 1.5 miles of failed roads to 8.5 miles. The declining condition of streets within the township will only become worse without an immediate cash infusion, she said.

“This is a difficult issue for neighbors to agree on and does have an impact on property values,” Bloomquist said.

Data shows out of the 47.3 miles of local township roads, only about 14% would be classified by the state as “good” or “fair.” Many roads — including those within local subdivisions — haven’t seen any maintenance at all in almost 20 years. Officials warned that costs will only increase as streets continue to deteriorate without fixes.

If the measure passes, Bloomquist said the township will work with consultants to choose which roads would be bid out for improvement during any given year. County officials would also help review the recommendations.

City of East Lansing Property Sale

Under charter, the East Lansing City Council needs explicit permission from local voters to sell off city-owned property. This proposal allows the city to offload a 13,250-square-foot parking lot at the northwest corner of Albert Avenue and Abbot Road, possibly to Michigan State University Federal Credit Union for \$810,000.

“This is an opportunity for both us and for East Lansing to have another business downtown,” said April Klobes, MSUFCU’s president and CEO. “This would allow us to extend our credit union operations and would also bring some additional tax revenue — as well as many new market-rate jobs — back into the community.”

Plans call for MSFCU to dig up Parking Lot #4 and construct in its place a 5-8 story commercial office building up to 112 feet tall that includes a credit union office branch, an intern center, additional office space and a community room that could eventually be used to host MSUFCU, MSU and other non-profit events.

“We plan to have a call center there and host some other operations too,” Klobes added. “We invest in the community. We support local events and programs. In addition to that, we take great care of our facilities.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO.1481

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 4-4 OF CHAPTER 4 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO DISALLOW ELECTRONIC LEASHES.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 4-4 of Chapter 4 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4-4. Keeping domestic animals and fowl; feeding stray cats; leashes for dogs.

(a) Except for service animals as defined and regulated under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and except as provided in this section, no person shall keep or house any animal, bird, or reptile within the city except dogs, cats, canaries, or other animals which are commonly kept and housed inside dwellings as household pets, and in all cases with regard to dogs or cats no person or persons shall keep or house more than four dogs or four cats or a combination making a total of four of both within any dwelling within the city. No dog shall be kept, restrained, confined, or housed in the front yard unless attended by a person who is present in the front yard of any single-family or two-family residence. Horses may be kept for private use in those areas of the city zoned agricultural. No person, except for law enforcement officers acting in the course of their official duties or as otherwise authorized pursuant to a parade permit, may ride or lead a horse on public property.

(b) No person shall place outdoors, or in any other place readily accessible by stray cats, more than one-half pound per day of cat food or food intended for consumption by cats.

(c) No person shall have at any time outdoors on their property or property leased by them, or in any other place readily accessible by stray cats, more than one-half pound of cat food or food intended for consumption by cats.

(d) No person owning or in control of any dog shall allow the dog to enter upon any public sidewalk, street, or any other public property unless the dog is being held by a responsible person with a physical leash that does not exceed eight feet in length.

(e) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, persons may keep chickens if done so in conformity with all of the following:

(1) Any person who keeps chickens in the city shall obtain a permit from the city prior to acquiring the chickens. Application shall be made to the city clerk with a fee as determined by council resolution.

(2) Permits expire and become invalid five years after the date of issuance. A person who wishes to continue keeping chickens shall obtain a new permit on or before the expiration date of the previous permit. Application for a new permit shall be pursuant to the procedures and requirements that are applicable at the time the person applies for a new permit.

(3) Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the city, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over a permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds. A permit issued to a person whose property is subject to private restrictions that prohibit the keeping of chickens is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.

(4) A person who keeps or houses chickens on his or her property shall comply with all of the following requirements:

- a. Have been issued the permit required under subsection (1) of this section.
- b. Keep no more than four chickens.
- c. The principal use of the person’s property is for a single-family dwelling.
- d. No person shall keep any rooster.
- e. No person shall slaughter any chickens.

f. The chickens shall be provided with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or an adjoining fenced enclosure at all times. Fenced and covered enclosures are subject to all provisions of chapter 50 (zoning).

g. A person shall not keep chickens in any location on the property other than in the backyard as defined by the zoning code.

h. No covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall be located closer than 10 feet to any property line of an adjacent property.

i. All enclosures for the keeping of chickens shall be so constructed or repaired as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from being harbored underneath, within, or within the walls of the enclosure. A covered enclosure or fenced enclosure shall not be located closer than 40 feet to any residential structure on an adjacent property.

j. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens that are likely to attract or to become infested with or infected by rats, mice, or other rodents shall be protected so as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with them.

(5) If the above requirements are not complied with, the city may revoke any permit granted under this section and/or initiate prosecution for a civil infraction violation. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

(6) A person who has been issued a permit shall submit it for examination upon demand by any police officer or code enforcement officer.

(7) This section shall not regulate the keeping of chickens in those areas zoned residential agricultural district, RA, or agricultural-A, where the raising of poultry is a permitted principal use when conducted in compliance with the Michigan Right to Farm Act and the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices promulgated thereunder.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#20-022

Slotkin wants nominee who attracts base, swing voters

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Holly, hasn't made up her mind on who her Democratic presidential nominee pick will be. She said she'll probably

keep her choice to herself when she does.

What the 8th Congressional District freshman will say, however, is she's

CITY OF LANSING THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF LANSING ENTERTAINMENT AND PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY

The City of Lansing adopts this Third Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority pursuant to the provisions of Act 31, Public Acts of Michigan, 1948 (First Extra Session) as amended.

1. Article V, Section 1 of the Articles of Incorporation of the Authority is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

ARTICLE V

Section 1. The Authority shall be directed and governed by a Board of Commissioners known as the "Commission." The Commission shall contain nine (9) voting Commissioners and three (3) non-voting Ex Officio Commissioners. The Mayor and the members of the City Council shall not be eligible for membership or appointment to the Commission.

One (1) voting Commissioner shall be designated by the governing board of the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau ("CVB"), or any successor to the CVB as recognized by the Mayor of the City of Lansing ("Mayor") in the Mayor's sole discretion. Should the CVB cease to exist as an organized entity, and no successor entity is recognized by the Mayor, then, in any such event, the Mayor shall appoint a voting Commissioner, with the advice and consent of the Lansing City Council, to fill the vacancy in the Commission.

Except for the CVB designated Commissioner as provided immediately above, voting Commissioners of the Commission shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Lansing City Council. Each Commissioner shall serve for a term of three (3) years beginning on July 1 and expiring June 30 of the last year of such term. The terms of the Commissioners shall be staggered so that the terms of three (3) Commissioners will expire in a given year. Any Commissioner in office when this Third Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation is adopted shall be considered appointed and qualified to continue to serve until the Commissioner's current term, as contained in the records in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, expires. The reservation that one (1) Commissioner be a vendor of the Lansing City Market is extinguished.

A Commissioner whose term of office has expired shall continue to hold office until the Commissioner's successor has been appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council.

Subsequent Commissioners shall be appointed in the same manner as original appointment at the expiration of each Commissioner's term of office. The Finance Director of the City, the Internal Auditor of the City and the Director of Economic Development and Planning of the City shall serve as non-voting Ex Officio Commissioners. The terms of the Ex Officio Commissioner shall continue as long as such Commissioner holds office as Finance Director, Internal Auditor, or Director of Economic Development and Planning of the City and shall expire upon expiration of the non-voting Ex Officio Commissioner's service as a public official. In the event of a vacancy in one of said offices, the person fulfilling the duties of said office on an interim basis shall serve on the Commission.

2. The City Clerk of the City shall cause a copy of this Third Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation or a summary thereof to be published once in the Lansing State Journal or the Lansing City Pulse, being a newspaper circulated within the City as provided in Act 31, such publication to be accompanied by a notice that valid amendment of the Articles of Incorporation of the Authority shall be conclusively presumed unless questioned in a court of competent jurisdiction as provided in Act 31.

3. The City Clerk shall cause a copy of the Third Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority to be published once in the Lansing State Journal or the Lansing City Pulse, being a newspaper circulated within the City as provided by Act 31, such publication to be accompanied by a notice the valid amendment of the Articles of Incorporation of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority shall be conclusively presumed unless questioned in a court of competent jurisdiction as provided in Act 31.

4. This Third Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation shall become effective and be in full force and effect as provided in Section 6 of Act 31 ten (10) days after their adoption by City Council.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the City of Lansing, Michigan has adopted and authorized to be executed this Third Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation on behalf of the City, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Michigan, by its Mayor and City Clerk.

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

CP#20-027

looking for someone who believes it's important to get both base voters and swing voters.

"That's, to me, the primary lesson of 2018 in Michigan, and it's the primary lesson from decades and decades of watching Michigan politics," she said. "Presidents win when they get the base and the swing voters. For me, it has to be someone who appeals to both."

Coming from someone who did the exact same thing in winning a congressional district that was solidly in the Republican column for years, Slotkin's comments make sense. Trump won in her Ingham/Livingston/northern Oakland county district by seven

points in 2016, making her one of 31 Democrats nationwide in 2018 to win their seats in districts Trump won.

Slotkin said she believes the country needs to elect a new president in 2020 and that has to be the primary "mission" for Democrats going into the election year.

"That has to be the focus," she said. "Not these back-and-forth battles among Democrats. No one likes the vitriol between the candidates. I just don't believe that's how leaders should act.

"As I've been saying to everybody, we need someone who unites people, not divides people."

Dems do well in Michigan

Who is that person? Based on the recent polling of the Democratic field, Joe Biden and Michael Bloomberg do marginally better against Trump than Elizabeth Warren or Bernie Sanders. But, honestly, in Michigan it might not matter.

A survey conducted by Oakland University and two other Midwest colleges found that based on responses from 1,023 Michiganders, a generic Democratic presidential candidate beats Trump in Michigan 46.8% to 33.9%, a nearly 13-percentage point gap.

The margin in Michigan was wider than a 12-point gap in Wisconsin, a 10-point gap in Pennsylvania and a 5-point gap in Ohio, the three other states the trio of OU, Baldwin Wallace University and Ohio Northern University tested.

The Jan. 8-20 survey also found that 49.1% of Michigan voters agreed with the statement, "I am almost certain to vote against Donald Trump no matter whom the Democrats nominate for president.

Only 29.0% agreed with the phrase, "I am almost certain to vote for Donald Trump no matter whom the Democrats nominate for president."

A different survey using a different universe of Michigan likely voters found a tighter race and with most Democratic candidates all winning outside of the four-point margin of error. EPIC-MRA had Michael Bloomberg beating Trump by 7 percentage points, Biden by 6 points and Sanders by 5. Warren defeated Trump by 3 points within the Detroit Free Press poll.

Warren backers making case

Still, Elizabeth Warren supporters are making the case that their candidate "is the most electable Democrat here in the heartland."

Two Macomb County Democratic Party powerbrokers — former U.S. Rep. Sander Levin and Macomb County Democratic Party Chair Ed Bruley — were on the opposite ends of arguments over the year, but they have a common presidential favorite in Warren.

Levin's son, new U.S. Rep. Andy Levin, D-Bloomfield Twp., former U.S. Rep. David Bonior, state Sen. Mallory McMorrow and state Sen. Stephanie Change, D-Detroit are among those onboard Team Warren.

"The groundswell of grassroots organizing for Elizabeth Warren and elected officials endorsing her at every level of government shows me that her message will drive the voter turnout we need in 2020 to defeat Trump," said Andy Levin.

Former Michigan Democratic Party Chairman Mark Brewer is among the more than 3,000 progressive elected leaders and movement leaders, who are speaking out in coordination with the Warren-aligned Progressive Change Campaign Committee.

Bloomberg's air war

The Michigan Campaign Finance Network reported that Bloomberg has aired 13 different ads more than 7,600 times in the state. So far in 2020, ads from the former New York City mayor are 79% of all political advertisements on Michigan television.

By comparison, at this time in the 2016 primary, Bernie Sanders had 676 ads and more than \$320,000 in Michigan by late February. Bloomberg is spending an average of \$741,000 a week in 2020. He's on pace to outspend all his fellow Democratic presidential candidates combined in television ads.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Hunting for a president

Early voting starts next week. What should we look for in a candidate?

After 15 interminable months, God knows how many debates, thousands of campaign ads, a million polls, a billion VERY URGENT fundraising emails, frontrunners collapsing (sorry, Kamala), nobodies becoming somebodies (heya, Pete), flashes in the pan burning out (Beto!), should-have-beens never being (we'll also have that housing plan, Julian Castro), and billionaires making TV stations rich—after all of that, voting in the Democratic primaries finally (finally!) begins this week.

I have no idea what's going to happen over the coming weeks or months. But early voting is under way, so after months of procrastination and vacillation, I've got a decision to make.

Ideologically—according to those myriad online quizzes—I most align with Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. But ideology isn't my primary motivator. My decision is more rudimentary, framed by one key principle: Donald Trump and the authoritarian movement that brought him to power is a malignancy that has infected the Republican Party; the longer he remains in power, the more likely it is to corrupt the entire body politic.

Which brings us to the most important thing I'm looking for in a candidate: Someone who can win.

Right now, polling generally shows Joe Biden outperforming the rest in head-to-heads with Trump, but not by enough to matter, especially after Trump's propaganda machine makes the Ukraine conspiracy theory Hillary's Emails 2.0. Besides, Biden hasn't raised a lot of money or generated much enthusiasm. He does, however, appeal to the Trump-wary suburbanites who won Democrats the House in 2018. (So does Mike Bloomberg.) But he'll have problems marshaling the base.

Bernie Sanders won't. If he's successful in turning out new voters, he'll fundamentally reshape the electorate. But it's a high-risk, high-reward proposition: After a billion dollars of hammer-and-sickle ads, those suburbanites might stick with the devil they know. Elizabeth Warren, meanwhile, is trying to split the difference, reaching out to

Bernie's voters while playing footsie with the party establishment—a strategy that's pleased editorial boards but hasn't seemed to pay off otherwise.

As 2016 taught us, winning more votes isn't enough. You have to win the right votes in the right places. This year, that will mean Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Arizona, and Florida.

Which brings us to the second thing: Someone who can win the Senate.

When this era's history is written, there will be no greater villain than Mitch McConnell. And as long as he's running the Senate, any Democratic president will be hamstrung—not just on ambitious things like Medicare for All and the Green New Deal, but on judicial nominations and budgets, too. Assuming Doug Jones loses in Alabama, Democrats will need four pickups to win control. Maine and Colorado look doable, but Senate victories in North Carolina, Arizona, and Georgia will require a strong top-of-ticket showing. These are redder states where Dems have traditionally run as pragmatic moderates.

Then again, in my state of North Carolina, millennials and Gen Zs comprise 36 percent of registered voters, up from 30 percent in 2016 and 32 percent two years ago. In 2018, when the state's Democrats narrowly outvoted Republicans, about a third of them showed up, while two-thirds of baby boomers did. If a candidate can double their turnout, you can throw out the old playbook.

Number three: Someone who will democratize our democracy.

By 2040, 70 percent of the country will live in 16 states, which means 30 percent of the country—mostly white, rural, and conservative—will have a supermajority in the Senate. They'll also have an outsize say in the Electoral College, which means they'll have an outsize say in judicial nominations, too. Ours will be a government by a minority dictated by geography.

This isn't just a future problem: The last two Republican presidents claimed the White House after receiving fewer votes than their opponents. The 53 Republican senators represent 15 million fewer Americans than the 47 Democrats. The next president needs to put this democracy gap front and center—beginning with a push for

the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and statehood for Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C.

There's a lot more on the next president's agenda, of course: Trump's racist and environmentally calamitous executive orders need to be shredded. Alliances need to be rebuilt. Democratic guardrails need to be reestablished. And yes, we urgently need to address climate change and universal health care and socioeconomic inequality and criminal justice reform.

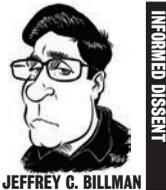
To do any of that, the Senate needs to kill the filibuster. Warren and Pete

Buttigieg are on board, and Sanders and Amy Klobuchar are open to it; Biden, who is laboring under the delusion that he can turn the GOP sane, is a no. Even then, the next president will need the likes of Joe Manchin to get legislation through the Senate. That will constrain the realm of the possible.

Ultimately, big structural reforms will require big reforms to our institutional structures.

First things first, though: We have to excise the cancer.

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



JEFFREY C. BILLMAN

INFORMED OPINION

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

To the qualified electors of the City of East Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of East Lansing will hold a Presidential Primary Election on March 10, 2020.

For the purposes of nominating candidates for the following office:

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Also, to vote on the following proposals:

INGHAM COUNTY POTTER PARK ZOO AND POTTER PARK OPERATIONAL MILLAGE QUESTION – Precincts 1-16

INGHAM COUNTYWIDE SYSTEM OF TRAILS AND PARKS MILLAGE RENEWAL QUESTION – Precincts 1-16

INGHAM COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES MILLAGE QUESTION – Precincts 1-16

CLINTON COUNTY MILLAGE PROPOSITION COUNTY-WIDE E-911 EMERGENCY DISPATCH QUESTION – Precinct 17

CITY OF EAST LANSING BALLOT QUESTION – Precincts 1-17

INGHAM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL (RESTORATION OF THE HEADLEE REDUCTION) QUESTION – Precincts 1-16

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CATA) MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION QUESTION – Precincts 1-17

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office, 410 Abbot Road, Room 100, East Lansing, MI 48823. Sample ballots can also be found at www.mi.gov/vote.

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the East Lansing City Clerk; the office of their County Clerk; a Secretary of State Branch Office, or other designated state agency. Qualified electors who have a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID, may register online at <https://mivc.sos.state.mi.us/>. Registration forms may be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed or dropped off at the office of the East 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 East Lansing City Clerk's Office is 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 location and times:

East Lansing City Clerk – City Hall 410 Abbot Road, Room 100 East Lansing, MI 48823
Regular Business Hours: Mon-Fri from 8 am-5 pm
Additional Hours: February 25 and 27 from 5 pm-8 pm
 March 3 and 5 from 5 pm-8 pm
 March 7 and 8 from 8 am-4 pm

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS:

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

The East Lansing City Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office or online at cityofeastlansing.com.

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 March 9, 2020 must be requested and voted in person at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, March 10, 2020, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office.

Jennifer Shuster
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#20-025

VISIONS OF WILDLIFE

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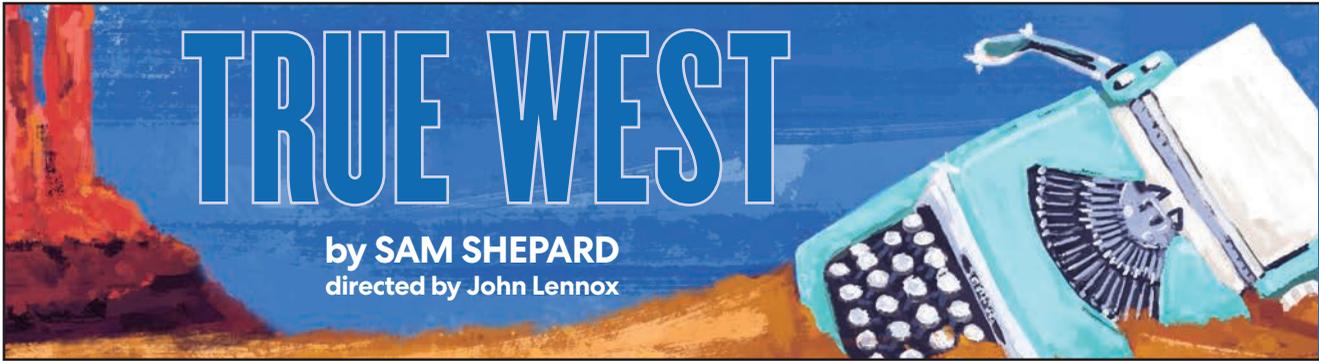
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Blood, feces, urine and hope

Potter Park Zoo brings a baby rhino into the world

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

This spring, Lansing's Potter Park Zoo will trot out the biggest tiny attraction in its history — Jaali, the Eastern black rhino, born Dec. 24 to a chorus of "awwws" heard around the globe.

It's an international triumph for a small-town zoo and a perfectly timed cause for celebration. The one-in-a-million Christmas gift came just in time for its 100th anniversary year.

A peppy baby rhino, barreling at you like a tiny tank with floppy ears, is more than a cuteness overdose. Seven-week-old Jaali is a precious bundle of rhino genes, a fragile lifeline from the near-total massacre of his species in the 20th and 21st centuries to a better future.

Jaali's rubbery mug is more than an irresistible draw. It's the face of the 21st century zoo, as it evolves from the exploitative, circus-like big tops of the past to indispensable arks of conservation, research and education.

The eastern black rhino is critically endangered, with fewer than 5,500 animals left in the wild and 54 in zoos. Relentless poaching and human encroachment drove their numbers down by 98 percent from 1960 to 1995, to less than 2,500.

With the help of MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine, data collected in Lansing from Jaali and her mother, Doppsee, during courtship, mating and pregnancy will help zookeepers and scientists around the world plot a course for the black rhino's long-term survival.

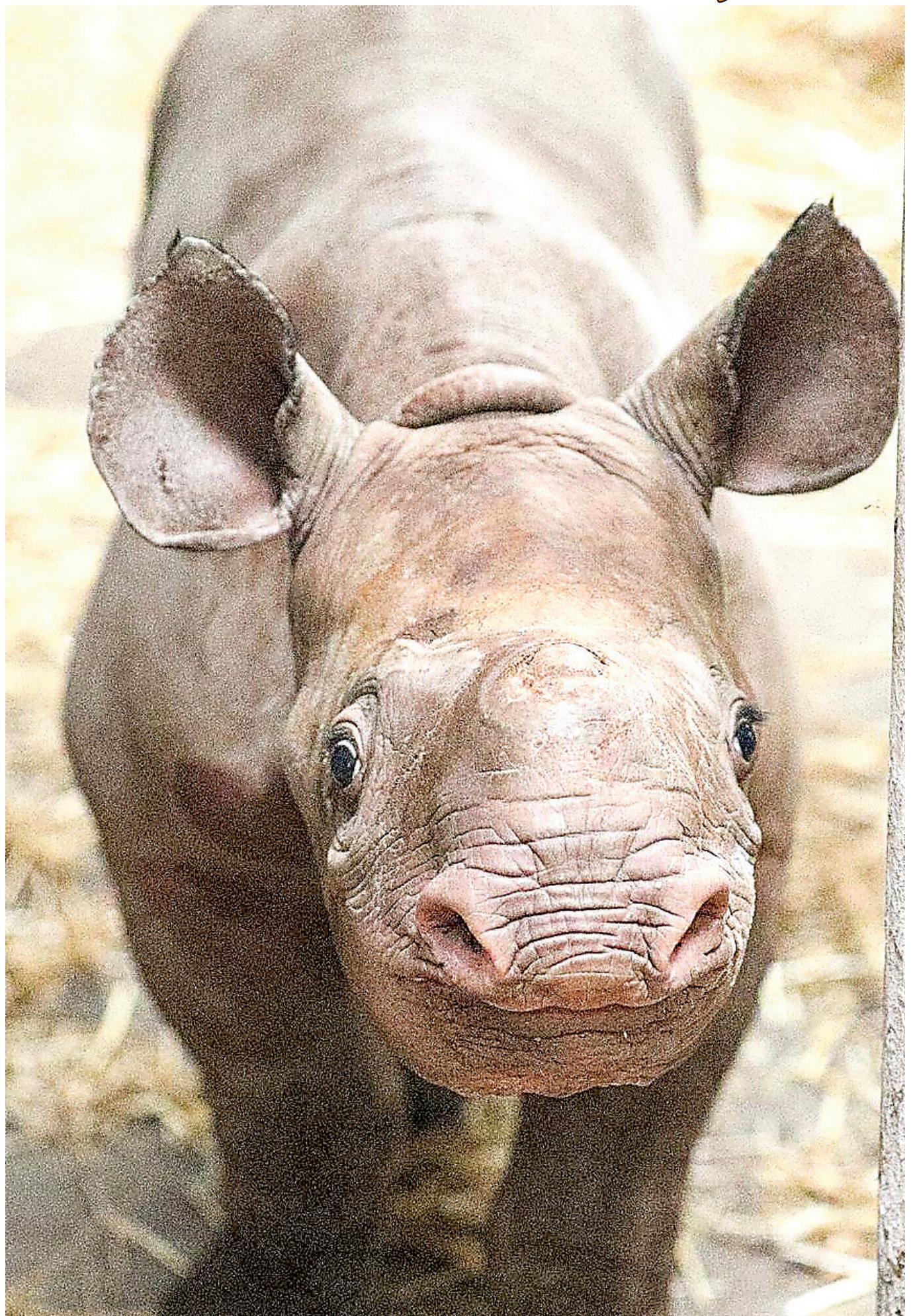
There was some messy, outsized biology to be managed along the way. From refereeing rough rhino sex to taking rectal ultrasounds to poking for blood samples from an animal that can trample and impale you, it has been an adventure the zoo staff will never forget.

Gift to the world

On the night of Dec. 23, 2019, head zookeeper Pat Fountain slept on his living room couch, so he wouldn't wake up his wife if he got a call from the rhino barn at the Potter Park Zoo. Security staffers were looking in on Doppsee, then near the end of her 16-month pregnancy, every hour on the hour.

The call came at 3:30 a.m. Dec. 24, in the wee hours of Christmas Eve.

"Something is coming out of her," a staffer said to Fountain. He rushed to



Kaiti Chritz/Potter Park Zoo

The name Jaali ("powerful" in Swahili) was chosen by a vote that raised \$11,000 for Potter Park Zoo's animal health program.

See Rhino, Page 16

Rhino

from page 15

the barn and called a dozen key zoo staff members, including the zoo veterinarian, Ronan Eustace.

They checked to see if Doppsee was all right, tiptoed away and retreated to a heated tent just outside the barn to watch the birth on closed circuit TV.

“That way, we could celebrate the first moments of this baby’s life and still give the mom as much space as possible,” Fountain said.

It took years of study, patience and hard work to get to this point, but it was too soon to celebrate. Eustace and the zoo staff went over their contingency plans in case Doppsee had a dystocia, or a difficult birth.

“Nobody’s done a Caesarian successfully on a rhino,” Eustace said. Anesthetics were on hand in case they had to pull the baby out by force. They talked about doing a rapid assisted delivery, a technique used for horses.

“But their skin is so thick and their guts weigh so much, that if we had to make an incision there was a real risk it wouldn’t heal,” Eustace said.

Supplies were ready to hand-rear the baby in case Doppsee, a first-time mom, turned out to be an indifferent or hostile parent.

Rhino labor usually lasts one to three hours. After only half an hour of labor, Doppsee gave birth at 5:45 a.m. Dec. 24. The baby’s birth weight was estimated at a normal 75 pounds. In about 90 minutes, the baby was taking his first steps and began nursing soon after. To Eustace’s relief, none of the contingency plans had to be carried out.

At about 8 a.m., the same time the keepers normally show up in the barn, the lights were slowly turned on and the zoo’s daily routine resumed.

Within a half hour, Doppsee was gobbling up sweet potatoes and welcoming the staff into the barn, as usual, with the baby wobbling unsteadily around her legs.

There was no going back to bed for Fountain and Eustace, as they fielded calls from The New York Times, NPR and ABC-TV.

“It’s one of the biggest things I could imagine being a part of,” Fountain said. “But for the zoo — how can I put this? We’re not the biggest zoo in the world. But the fact that we can do all of this work with rhinos and show the rest of the world — even the biggest zoos out there can see what we do. To be able to share this with everyone is so huge.”

Cup on a stick

From the first day Doppsee arrived at Potter Park Zoo in 2011, zookeepers noticed something unusual about her. She seemed to enjoy human company.

“That’s unusual,” Fountain said. “The black rhino is a ‘charge first and ask questions later’ kind of rhino.



Kaiti Chritz/Potter Park Zoo

Zookeeper Ashleigh Winkelmann shares a moment with Jaali in mid-January, when he was about 2 weeks old.

But with her, we clicked as soon as she got here.”

Doppsee’s mild disposition gave Potter Park zookeepers and national researchers a unique chance to track the cycle of rhino mating, pregnancy and birth.

The more time the keepers spent with Doppsee, the more she let them train her.

Often, when Fountain brought Doppsee her breakfast in the morning, she didn’t eat it right away.

“She’d just stand there and lean into the bars and wait for you to put your arm over her head and give her a little scratch on the ear,” Fountain said. “Then she’d go and eat her food, like she needed you to acknowledge her and say ‘good morning’ before she even wanted to eat.”

A rhino is still a rhino. Keepers always have an exit strategy if they get in the yard with Doppsee. Inside the barn, keepers stay on their side of the bars.

“If she gets nervous, she can spin on a dime,” Fountain said. “She can run 35 miles an hour if she gets upset. They just tend to move slow, so it’s hard to imagine it until it happens. We still do everything as carefully and as safely as possible.”

Monica Stoops, a specialist in rhino reproduction at Cincinnati’s Lindner Center for Conservation and Wildlife, said she has never seen anything like the rapport between Potter Park zookeepers and Doppsee.

“She’s amazing to watch,” Stoops said. “They cue her.

They are the only facility I’ve

every worked with that they can get urine samples on command.”

Stoops has worked with rhinos for 15 years. Her work includes artificial insemination techniques and sperm freezing for rhinos that can’t breed naturally. Her research team has helped eight rhinos get pregnant, including an expecting mother in Denver who is due to give birth in March.

Stoops can track a female’s estrus cycles by testing urine samples, a less invasive procedure than a blood test.

Keepers noticed that Doppsee frequently urinated on one wall of the barn. They began to wait there for her and feed her treats whenever she urinated, to reinforce the behavior. Before long, it became routine. The keepers put a cup on a very long stick to catch some of the urine almost daily.

In another experiment, Stoops deposited some male rhino dung in the yard to see if it would get a rise out of her.

As soon as Doppsee smelled the stuff, she stretched her head high, bared her upper teeth and sniffed the irresistible aroma in a behavior called the “flehmen response.”

“In the wild, dung piles are like Twitter,” Stoops said. “It’s how rhinos learn who is doing what. She was

See Rhino, Page 17

B/20/072 MOTOR CONTROL CENTER 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. 13, 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.

#20-033

B/20/056 IMPRINTED T SHIRT ETC BID as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING PURCHASING OFFICE, C/O LBWL, 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **Feb. 20, 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#20-029

B/20/068 SANITARY SIPHON #2 REPLACEMENT 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. 27, 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#20-024



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Rhino

from page 16

probably thinking, ‘Oh, it’s an 8-year-old male.’”

Playing hard to get

Confident that Doppsee was ready to begin dating, zoo staff started looking for a suitable male. (Jello, the last male rhino to be housed at Potter Park, was euthanized in 2015 at about 12 years old after battling a rare seizure illness.)

Rhino matchmaking is all about genetics and kinship. The goal is to keep the gene pool viable despite the very small population. Lisa Smith, coordinator of the Species Survival Plan for the black rhino, analyzed kinship patterns in available male rhinos and recommended Phineus, a 12-year-old male the same age as Doppsee, then living at the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler, Texas.

Stoops’ lab collected semen from Phineus to verify that he was mature.

Rhino courtship can get rough. Eustace, Fountain and the staff worried about subjecting the Potter Park Zoo’s most charismatic denizen to the untender mercies of a 2,500-pound male. (Doppsee weighs about 2,800 pounds.)

There was also the chance that Doppsee’s 18-inch-long horn could do some damage to Phineus, especially if she positioned her head under his belly.

The Potter Park staff enlisted the experienced eye of Randal Pairan, head

keeper at the Cincinnati Zoo’s rhino reserve, to observe the breeding pair. Pairan has been involved in five black rhino births spanning two generations of black rhinos.

Rhino management is not the most lucrative gig. After 29 years of working with rhinos, Pairan is still hanging on to his second job, installing alarm systems.

“I do this job for the love of the animals,” he said. “There’s nothing more rewarding than seeing a little rhino calf and knowing you’ve been a part of that.”

Pairan said that when it comes to rhino sex, zookeepers have to be extremely cautious, but they can also be too cautious.

“You kind of just put them together until they figure it out,” Pairan said. If they start going at it, it can look pretty bad, but this is what they’re built for. This is what they do in the wild.”

He told the Potter Park staff he has seen some frightening wounds inflicted in the name of love, but it’s all in the game.

“We bring them in, clean them up, put a little salve on them and the next day they’re back at it,” Pairan said nonchalantly. “I wish I could heal up that fast.”

Pairan checked out Potter Park’s rhino barn and yard, watching for slopes, ponds or other barriers that may cause problems if a flirtatious chase broke out. “They had some rocks in front of the yard that we didn’t want them running on,” he said.

When the time came for the Doppsee

and Phineus’s first date, in October 2017, keepers had fire extinguishers and air horns on hand in case a sudden distraction was needed. Others were stationed at the barn doors in case they needed to be opened fast.

“It seemed like everybody on their staff was there the first couple times,” Pairan said.

Keepers put some food out for Doppsee to distract her while Phineus slowly sauntered onto the scene.

Phineus is a tough guy when keepers or visitors are around, Fountain said, but he behaved differently with Doppsee.

“The minute he saw her, he was a bit

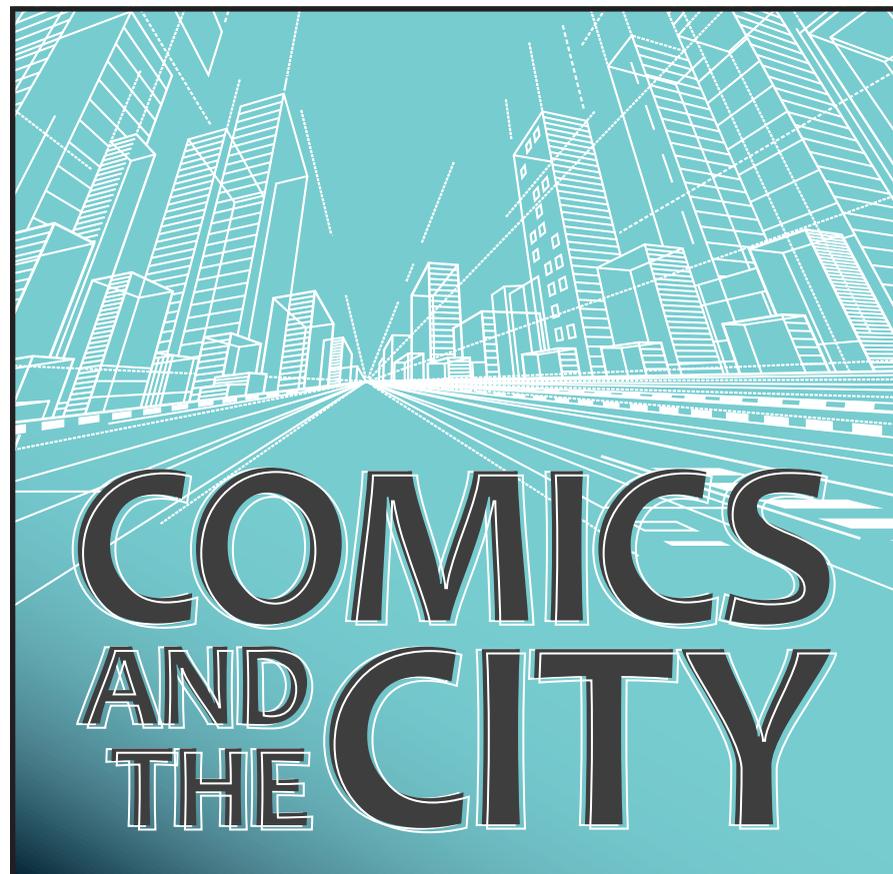
more of a gentleman. He was a little bit more timid,” Fountain said. “They did do quite a bit of sparring, but for the most part, he wasn’t interested in pursuing her any more than she would allow.”

Doppsee and Phineus growled, snorted and sparred. The yard resounded with the smack of horn against horn. There were several rounds of confrontation, chasing and wary standoffs.

Over time, Doppsee gradually dropped her hard-to-get attitude.

“She would kind of half-heartedly spar with him,” Fountain said. “If he hit

See Rhino, Page 18



On Exhibit in the MSU Main Library now through February 24

Comics have played a central role in shaping our collective understanding of urban life. This installation features several comics and creators whose work captures the complexity of urban life from diverse perspectives. The selected pieces also reveal how the city is imagined and reimagined in a variety of global and historical contexts.

Co-Curated by

Julian Chambliss
Professor, MSU Depts.
of English and History



Zack Kruse
Ph.D. Candidate,
Department of English

In conjunction with the MSU Comics Forum 2020
comicsforum.msu.edu

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Rhino

from page 17

her, she'd run around for a minute and then she'd present herself to him and sometimes almost back up into him, almost like, 'Hey, this is what we're supposed to be doing.'

She never flinched

Two years ago, Doppsee and Phineus were both first time breeders, and so was the Potter Park Zoo, but by now all parties seem to have it down pretty well. The pair first mated in October 2017 and most recently on August 25, 2019.

It takes three months after rhino sex to learn whether the female is pregnant. Stoops' lab tracked Doppsee's estrus cycles via urine test, but Fountain didn't need lab results.

"The staff at Potter Park Zoo is just outstanding at knowing their animals and looking for behavioral cues," Stoops said.

"She'd come over to you, you'd pet her once, and then she'd lie down, like 'I'm done with life,' and want you to love her," Fountain said. "She'd want even more attention than normal. It was still subtle, but obvious to the keepers that she was in heat."

Near the end of August 2019, Stoops confirmed via blood samples that Doppsee was pregnant.

Doppsee's uncanny equanimity as Eustace ushered her into the world of ultrasound tests and blood draws during her pregnancy is already a legend in the close-knit rhino research and zookeeper community.

Bridget Walker, a third-year student in MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine, spent much of the summer of 2019 working with Eustace and the Potter Park Zoo. The zoo and MSU's vet school, where Eustace serves as an adjunct faculty member, have been closely collaborating for over 40 years.

"We don't have a huge budget, but because we're so close to the school, we're able to do a lot more than we would otherwise," Eustace said. "It's a great relationship."

If Eustace needs some help reading the EKG of an anteater, he calls on the vet school. In exchange, the students get some unique and unforgettable experiences.

During Doppsee's pregnancy, Eus-



tace invited nearly 100 MSU veterinary students observe or participate in her care. One of them took six pokes to get a blood sample, but Doppsee never flinched.

After two months of watching Eustace do blood draws, Walker did one herself.

Rhinos have very sensitive skin, despite their rugged appearance, but she seemed to like the attention.

"It's my favorite moment of my career so far," Walker said. "She didn't move. She's better at it than I am."

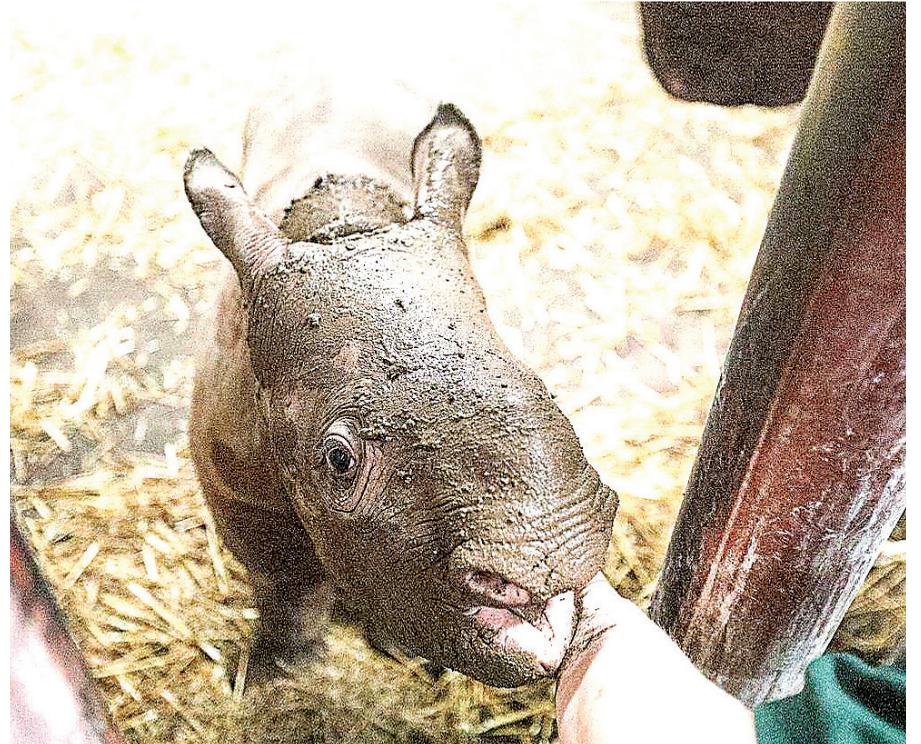
It gets better. In the early stages of pregnancy, before the baby is pushed downward to the pelvis, Eustace had to perform trans-rectal ultrasounds to get an image.

The rectum of a rhino is very long.

"I'm 6 feet tall and I'm going in as far as I can," Eustace said, holding his arm out.

Throughout the tests, the door to the barn chute was open and Doppsee could leave whenever she wanted. She never did.

"I don't like saying she likes rectal ultrasounds," Fountain said. "That makes me feel dirty. But she enjoys training. She would literally position her butt and back up perfectly for us and just put it in the perfect spot and just eat



Kaiti Chritz/Potter Park Zoo

(Above) Not all rhino mothers act maternal, but easy-going Doppsee and feisty Jaali seem to have a solid filial bond.

(Below) Last week, zookeepers gave Jaali his first mud bath, a cooling and skin-protecting ritual rhinos enjoy all their lives.

some treats and hang out."

Later, Eustace switched to trans-abdominal ultrasounds, which have their own hazards.

"Their epidermis and dermis is very thick. I have to push, really, really hard. It's physically exhausting," Eustace said. "There's still a lot of trust because if I've got my arm in there and she wants to walk or lean into it, she'll break my arm."

Ultrasounds showed a healthy mother and baby, and, with time, a heartbeat began to show up.

When she heard the news of Jaali's birth, Stoops was busy at her duties in Omaha, but she was proud as anyone to have taken part in Lansing's big adventure. "For a researcher, they are a gold star facility, because of their dedication to the species," she said.

The long game

The Potter Park Zoo staff will put off any decisions on Jaali's future for at least a couple of years. Chances are, Jaali will take his turn at being paired

with a female at another zoo, as his father, Phineus was.

Stoops said it's necessary to build up the captive population before risking repatriation.

For the black rhino, things look bleak outside the zoo yard.

About 98 percent of black rhinos in the world are in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Namibia. Political unrest and lack of resources in the area have long hindered efforts to combat widespread poaching. According to the journal *Science*, the value of rhino horn has surpassed that of gold. The demand is driven by widespread beliefs, especially in Asia, that rhino horns work any number of miracles, from curing cancer to enhancing sex drive.

Those are formidable political and cultural challenges that may take generations to solve. That leaves it to AZA accredited zoos like Potter Park to help get black rhinos through their deadly current bottleneck until conditions im-



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Rhino

from page 18

prove.

Walker, in tune with modern zoo practice, is training as a scientist as much as an animal doctor. Her main project last summer involved measuring thyroid levels in Potter Park's red pandas.

"There's been a huge shift in zoos from being primarily an entertainment facility to serving much more a purpose as far as conservation and research," Walker said. "One of the biggest hopes is that a lot of the animals we work with in captivity can one day be reintroduced into an environment where they can live out their lives naturally."

There are already species, like Panamanian golden frogs, that are completely extinct in the wild and only maintained in zoos.

Potter Park Zoo is home to several ongoing conservation projects, including the critically endangered Puerto Rican crested toad, the only toad native to the island and the first amphibian to get a Species Survival Plan. It sounds like a cakewalk compared to rhino mating, but getting these little guys to breed involves providing them with fungal baths, hormone injections, round-the-clock recordings of toad calls and other amenities most Airbnbs don't have. The zoo has sent thousands of tadpoles to Puerto Rico, including a batch of 2,000 last August, in hopes of bringing them back from the brink.

What is the long game for the black



Kaiti Ghritz/Potter Park Zoo

Potter Park zoo veterinarian Ronan Eustace drew blood from a patient Doppsee to test hormone levels during pregnancy.

rhino? In quieter moments, Randal Pairan and Monica Stoops have talked about a time, perhaps 100 or 200 years from now, when poaching and political turmoil in Africa is a memory and the descendants of Jaali and Doppsee and Phineus roam where they will, perhaps in vast sanctuaries, perhaps in the wild.

"Jaali is one step in trying to make sure that population will still be around in 100 years," Stoops said.

For now, the gene pool of some 54 rhinos in the United States is like a seed bank in a bunker, awaiting one of two outcomes — a world of more evolved humans or a world cleansed of them, and therefore freed from humanity's relentless encroachment and willful

slaughter.

Last week, Walker met Jaali for the first time. It struck her that rhinos are always much bigger than you expect, but rhino babies are much smaller.

"He was taking a nap and he stood

up," she recalled. "He's definitely inherited some of his mom's personality. He pricks up his ears and comes right up to you for a few scratches. It's crazy to look at such a tiny animal and know that he has such a big impact."

NOTICE

The Board of Review of the City of Lansing will meet in regular sessions in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, City Hall for five days on March 09, 10, 11, 12, & 13 2020 at 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON and 1:30PM to 4:30PM. EXCEPT for Wednesday, March 11 from 1:30PM to 4:30PM and 6:00PM to 9:00PM to review the assessment roll and hear appeals from taxpayers. Taxpayers are permitted to file his or her protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. Protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal if your property is residential or agricultural. An appointment is suggested and must be scheduled before 3:00PM, March 12, 2020. If you do not make an appointment, you will have to wait for the next available opening in the schedule. Letter appeals must be received in the Assessor's Office by 4:30PM, March 12, 2020. City of Lansing will also hold its Organizational meeting on Tuesday March 3, 2020 at 2pm; no appeals may be heard at this meeting. Please call the City of Lansing Assessor's Office at (517) 483-7624 for information about your assessment and/or to make an appointment.

RATIO AND TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTORS FOR 2020

Eaton County		
Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	43.81	1.1413
Industrial	50.28	0.99444
Residential	44.65	1.11983
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Ingham County		
Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	45.67	1.09481
Industrial	47.41	1.0547
Residential	46.09	1.08484
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Clinton County		
Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	43.46	1.1505
Commercial	43.71	1.1439
Industrial	46.98	1.0643
Residential	N/C	
Timber-Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	
Personal	50.00	1.0000

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BLANKETED IN SOUND

DIY fest seeks comfort through music

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The typical image of a barroom concert is anything but relaxing. We've all been victims to overblown guitars and cross-talk that seems to continuously amplify until reaching a volume comparable to standing beneath a helicopter.

Cozy Fest 2020

Saturday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.
For more details search "Cozy Fest" on Facebook

Enter Cozy Fest, a musical event that takes place in a humble

house draped in blankets and pillows. It's the blanket fort of your dreams, and there's more than a dozen bands set to perform. Cozy Fest's 2020 lineup reflects an interest in joining together spoken word poetry, somber ambient electronic, hip-hop and punk rock. Acts are encouraged to perform a stripped-down set. Even the usually loud-as-hell Scary Women will down-scale to acoustic instruments for a hushed sound.

Cozy Fest founder A.J. Glaub began the now yearly tradition in 2016 out of an east-side Lansing apartment.

"Cozy Fest is an annual holiday where artists are invited to gather, stay warm and perform," Glaub said. "It's something they can look forward to in the winter, and something that's uniquely theirs."



Courtesy photo

Lansing band Hardigrade performs entwined in a blanket fort at Cozy Fest 2019.

Glaub was inspired to host a concert in a several-adult-size blanket fort in 2005, after playing a show similarly dubbed Blanket Fest. But the design of Blanket Fest was hardly ideal.

"It wasn't the roaming blanket fort that I was envisioning," Glaub. "So I dreamed of creating a version of what that event could have been."

Blankets for the original Cozy Fest were supplied by Lansing's thrift shops and as the years passed, Glaub and his collaborators acquired a hefty supply of blankets.

While the original Cozy Fest was de-

signed to only have a few performers, it quickly began to feature larger bills. Glaub met with a Lansing band called Dirt Room that had several members with solo projects, all of which wanted to perform Cozy Fest. Glaub rolled with it and the event upscaled its volume and variety of acts.

But Glaub isn't handling Cozy Fest 2020. He's passed the torch to his friend Nathan Hallman, who's hosting it at his house for the first time. Hallman enlisted help from his two bandmates, Jaxon Kolhoff and Bilal Baeza. And, of course, all three are perform-

ing sets at Cozy Fest.

"I've always wanted to do it. I thought it was one of the coolest events in Lansing I had ever been to," Hallman said. "I really loved the DIY aesthetic, 'cause I don't really like going to bars."

Kolhoff, now 21, went to the original Cozy Fest when he was 16 after spending an afternoon finding somebody to drive him there from Eaton Rapids. It became a yearly tradition for him.

"Even though you're shoulder-to-shoulder, everyone is so friendly," Kolhoff said. "There's so much energy."

"It's like you're at your grandma's, dude, we're gonna be serving tea," Baeza added. "We're gonna be calm and chilling — it's all about taking a break from the cold winter."

Cozy Fest's other direct contrast to the bar rock show atmosphere is its emphasis on creating a safe environment for sobriety. "It's welcoming to people that are younger, and people who have problems with substance abuse," Hallman said.

While having moved on from the hosting gig, Glaub is optimistic about the local enthusiasm to keep Cozy Fest alive.

"I think it's really cool that it's been picked up by Nathan," Glaub said. "And if you have a space in your life, do your craziest idea right inside there. It doesn't have to be at a bar, or a theater. You can do it in your living room."

Why I stopped reading 'American Dirt'

By LEV RAPHAEL

Given the national uproar swirling around the new novel about Mexican immigrants, "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins, you'd think Congress might have launched an investigation. Or that the president might be moving some Pentagon funds to build a wall around the book. Well, maybe that's happening since her book tour has just been canceled.

The part-Hispanic author is being pilloried far and wide for many things: ignorance, stereotyping, shallowness, whitewashing, appropriation, trauma porn, inaccuracy and saviorism. And

what seems to infuriate some of her detractors most is Oprah Book Clubism, making-a-lot-of-moneyism and movie dealism.

How dare this literary impostor tread on sacred Mexican/Mexican-American ground when apparently only someone of that ethnicity could handle that subject matter? Doesn't she realize that her book must represent the entire rich reality of Mexican culture, not just some sordid aspects of it?

There's apparently a Literary Geneva Convention that stipulates restrictions like these that I must have missed while I was publishing and teaching over the

last few decades.

Some of the strongest protests attack her for daring to make money, lots of money, when there are apparently so many more deserving authors who are being ignored and should be doing better. Maybe they deserve a telethon.

I've been a published author for a long time, and guess what? The world of publishing is wildly unfair and complaints about who does well and who doesn't reek of jealousy and childishness. Books have their own karma and whining about how a certain book hits a cultural sweet spot while others languish is a total waste of time. Likewise

besieging an author because she happened to write a popular or noteworthy book at the right time.

All the furor made me sample the book on Amazon and I gave up at the end of the first chapter. The writing bugged me in various ways, partly because it seemed too sophisticated in describing what a kid was feeling. But what truly turned me off were the closing lines after a scene of major gunfire:

"Outside the window he hears Mami's tentative footsteps, the soft scuff of her shoe through the remnants of something broken. A solitary gasp, too windy to be called a sob. Then a quickening of sound as she crosses the patio with purpose, depresses the keys on her phone."

See *Dirt*, Page 21

Local charity art project celebrates the aesthetic of Michigan

By **KAITLYN KELLEY**

Cedar Street Art Collective's Mitten Project, which tasks local artist to produce a swath of Michigan and Lansing-centric art, is gearing up for an auction and exhibition, which donates all of its proceeds to Love Lansing, a grassroots charity fund that donates to the Lansing School District's arts programs.

Cedar Street Art Collective artistic director Andrew Sandstedt remembers his days

Mitten Project Exhibit

Sunday, Feb. 9, noon to 5 p.m.
Cedar Street Art Collective
1701 S. Cedar St., Lansing

Love Lansing

Fundraiser Party

Sunday, Feb. 16, 2:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
The Green Door Bar & Grill
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

as a young student at Eastern High School, falling in love with his art classes. He's worked on the Mitten

Project for the past two years, and said this latest fundraiser is helping build the artistic community in Lansing by providing young students with exposure and access to art.

"A lot of us actually grew up in Lansing, went to Lansing schools and were a part of those programs," Sandstedt said. "I'm a graduate from Eastern High School, and I was there in the late-'80s and early-'90s, and we had phenomenal art

Dirt

from page 20

This is a hot mess. How does this kid know that the steps are tentative? What are the remnants of something broken? Is that poetic or a reference to objects of some kind? Bodies? Something else? And why would she be scuffling through them, why wouldn't she avoid them? How can he possibly know that his mother is crossing "with purpose"? And finally, if he's inside, how can he see her depressing the keys of her phone? Is he some kind of superhero with X-ray vision?

Sloppy point of view kills a book for me because I lose faith in the author's ability to tell a story deftly and clearly. In the many years I reviewed for the Detroit Free Press, The Washington Post and half a dozen other newspapers, magazines and radio stations, I learned to trust those warning signs. Maybe the novel gets better, but I'd rather not continue when a book raises serious doubts in the very first chapter.

Lev Raphael is the author of 26 books in genres from memoir to mystery and teaches creative writing workshops online at writewithoutborders.com.

programs. I want to see that continue to grow."

Witnessing firsthand the impact the fundraiser has on the students and teachers is Sandstedt's favorite part of being involved with the Mitten Project.

"We're helping not only to raise money, but to advance young people's love of art and their art education," Sandstedt said. "It's great to see how excited they are, and to build that community relationship."

Sandstedt also said the art is unique and affordable for people to purchase. "You're not only going to get a great piece of art, but you're also helping a great cause," he said.

For the first time, there will be an

actual exhibition for the Mitten Project's art at the Cedar Street Art Collective.

"We have received invaluable feedback from artists and supporters over the years, and believe that the Mitten Project deserves its own exhibition," the project's mission statement reads. "Moving the mittens to a separate space will increase the visibility of the artists and their work and expand Love Lansing's reach to a broader audience."

The annual Love Lansing fundraiser was created by artist Paul Vetne, and more than \$31,000 has been raised since its foundation, which has provided art materials, summer art camps and scholarships to Lansing students.

"Without public schools exposing

young people to the arts, creative forces in Lansing might not exist," the fundraiser's website reads. "We recognize this, and with the help of local musicians, artists, volunteers, and local businesses, we pledge to do our part in making sure that art in Lansing sticks around."

While you check out the art produced by the Mitten Project at the Cedar Street Art Collective, you can also participate in a meet-and-greet with the artists.

"This will be a great way for people to spend a little more time seeing the pieces," Sandstedt said. "To be able to see some of these kids, you know they have talent but the resources aren't there. If we can do something as artists to help directly help them, that's why we do it."

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When life is a mosaic: The musical journey of John Dale Smith

By TOM HELMA

He doesn't ever quit. Is he indefatigable? He ended 2019 by conducting three performances of the Riverwalk Holiday Cabaret concert and hasn't shown any signs of slowing down.

Reviewing John Dale Smith's life's work in music, we see a constellation of starring performances — a musical mosaic that spans more than an entire generation.

The glue that holds every musical production together behind the scenes is its musical director and the pit orchestra. I can easily imagine Smith, waving his glue gun around like a baton, and then quickly holstering it to pound away on the piano keys.

The audience never witnesses this feat — pit orchestras and directors are tucked away backstage. And, truth be told, they do not capture the entirety of our attention. Worst-case scenario? Vocalists drowned out by the musicians. Best case? When the musical direction and the musicians themselves are fantastic.

While City Pulse does mention them in reviews, and pulsar judges also acknowledge them, they do not get a level of appreciation equal to their contributions.

It is not likely that anyone has contributed more music to local theater than John Dale Smith. He became hooked on the craft while a junior in high school.

"It was 'West Side Story' and then, one year later, a Gilbert and Sullivan production. I was blown away by the caliber of excellence in the pit and onstage," Smith said. "My first directing experience was as musical director for 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' at the Okemos Barn Theatre."

Since that first job, Smith has been music director for productions in multiple theater venues. Lansing Community College, Riverwalk Theatre, several local high schools, Peppermint Creek, BoarsHead, and Spotlight Theatre have all called upon him to contribute.

And that's without counting the churches. Smith's the director of music at Plymouth Congregational Church and pianist for Catholic Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church/St. John Church & Student Center.

Does this suggest that Smith has a passion for his work? Smith smiles. "I don't do musicals to make a living, I do it because I love the process. I love creating a final product that is close to professional."



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

John Dale Smith mans his familiar spot at the piano during a Rotary Club meeting at the Lansing Center.

One senses that, perhaps, music is his proverbial higher calling.

"I do get bored at times repeating sections of music 16 times in rehearsals, but repetition is what creates perfection," Smith said. "The interaction with the production team, the constant growth of the cast, the process, from

auditions to closing night, seems so complete to me."

Does Smith have a bucket list? His eyes light up. "Just 'Les Misérables.' It's my belief that if we held auditions, 250 people would show up wanting to be in the chorus. That is an amazing compilation of songs."

Nutritious shake shop opens location downtown

By SKYLAR ASHLEY

Soul Nutrition is a new spot downtown that wants its smorgasbord of gluten-free smoothies to become an addition to your post-workout routine. As with its affiliate locations dotted across Michigan, including Central Nutrition on Cedar Street, its main good is its wide array of recipes for vitamin-and-mineral-packed shakes and energizing teas.

Opened in Mid-December by Olivia Ricketts, a former student-athlete at Olivet College, Soul Nutrition became her career after she was impressed by the setup and business model of Lake Michigan Nutrition in Grand Rapids.

"It was a vision of mine while I was at college. I was pursuing insurance but I visited Lake Michigan Nutrition, and I was instantly attracted by the opportunity to create a space to connect with people and help them," Ricketts said. "I always knew I was going to help people, I just didn't know through what avenue in life it was going to be."

Ricketts spent last Spring tracking down a brick-and-mortar location for Soul Nutrition before settling on



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Soul Nutrition owner Olivia Ricketts wants to serve Lansing health-conscious shakes with a friendly café environment.

its downtown home on Washington Square.

"I feel like when you walk into a place, you'll know that's where you want to create whatever you want to create. It was all about being patient, and staying

aligned with the vision I had."

Soul Nutrition's menu lists a dizzying variety of bases and flavor combinations. There are seven main bases: banana caramel, café latte, chocolate, cookies & cream, mint chocolate, dulce

Soul Nutrition

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7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday,
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SoulNutritionn



de leche, vanilla, pralines & cream and fruity flavors. All are gluten free, except cookies & cream and mint chocolate.

You can add from three to well over a dozen additional flavors to the base. Additional charges open up the option of adding components such as fat burners and protein to your shake.

Other beverages include protein coffee and sweetened — or unsweetened — tea. These drinks can be upgraded with energy shots and B-vitamins.

While Soul Nutrition continues to undergo renovations, Ricketts hopes to generate a cozy, familiar neighborhood vibe she compared to the still somehow inescapable sitcom "Friends."

"We want couches up front, and I'm trying to invite a local artist to come do a mural, I just haven't found one yet. We want somebody that understands the vision of Soul Nutrition," Ricketts said.

A Rally of Writers brings in talent for workshops, networking

By **BILL CASTANIER**

“Write” in your own backyard — Lansing is becoming, or maybe already has become, a place for writers to learn their craft and flourish.

On April 4, A Rally of Writers will host its annual writers’ workshop and networking event. This year features Michigan Notable Book Award-winning authors such as Lansing’s Erin Bartels, author of “We Hope for Better Things,” and Michael Zadoorian, who won in 2019 for “Beautiful Music.”

The keynote speech will come from New York Times best-selling author Doug Stanton. Stanton is also co-founder of the National Writers Series in Traverse City, which attracts some of the world’s most important writers. Stanton has written extensively about men in war and his 2010 book “Horse Soldiers” was made into a major movie in 2018.

A word of caution: Don’t dawdle along this year waiting to register. Ever since A Rally of Writers was named one of the best writing conferences in the nation by The Writer — a periodical that is a practical guide to writing and getting published — it’s pretty much a guarantee the workshop will sell out early this year.

It is also one of the best bargains, featuring 16 sessions and costing only \$90 for general admission and \$50 for students. You can register online at arallyofwriters.com.

Also available for one young writer is a chance to win the Richard Bradley Scholarship, which provides admission and lunch for one winner of an essay contest. It was named for Dick Bradley, a high school teacher and writer who co-founded the Rally in 1987.

Winning is not as hard as it might sound.

Applicants must be 22 years of age or younger and submit an essay of up to 200 words that explains their interest in writing, and tells why the rally is important to them. Deadline for submission is Feb. 17 and the winner will be notified by March 2.

Writers should also note that Ann Arbor author and writing coach Ken Wachsberger will be at Everybody Reads Feb. 27 for a launch of his new book, “You’ve Got the Time: How to Write and Publish That Book in You.”



Stanton

Wachsberger has an interesting history as a writer, including working on the underground newspaper The Joint Issue and teaching writing at Lansing Community College. He published his first book, “Beercans on the Side of the Road: The Story of Henry the Hitchhiker” in 1987, which chronicles a fictional cross-country road trip based on his own experiences of thumbing it in the ’70s. His interest and experiences working in the underground press while studying at MSU in the ’60s resulted in “Voices from the Underground: Insider Histories of the Vietnam Era Underground Press,” a two-volume history of the phenomena, published by MSU Press in 2012.

He said he chose the title of his new book for the practical reason that “not enough time” is the No. 1 reason people say they can’t write the book they want to write.

Of late, he also has been helping other people write their own books.

“Seeing how their lives were transformed compelled me to write this book to help others. There’s never been a better time to self-publish your own story,” he said.

Wachsberger’s own writing career was transformed when he worked with a writer on his memoir “Never Be Afraid: A Belgian Jew in the French Resistance.”

He still recalls asking the author the simple question, “What did you do that night,” which elicited a break through into the author’s repressed memories of a terrible, but necessary act he committed during the resistance.

“He broke down and sobbed and sobbed once he remembered, and it allowed him to not take sleeping pills to go to bed,” Wachsberger said. The author died shortly after publishing his book for family members only.

In addition to his own writing, Wachsberger also markets himself as the “The Book Coach,” who can help others write. Find him at ken-thebookcoach.com

Wachsberger said he will use the book in his speaking engagements and workshops on writing. His new book covers everything from writing and interviewing techniques, to using the self-publishing companies to get your book in print. The author is vice president of marketing for the National Speakers Association-Michigan and knows the value of

having a book to promote oneself.

“It’s like a calling card,” he said.

Many authors are proud to claim Wachsberger as their writing coach, and on his website Kristi Lynn Davis, author of “Long Legs and Tall Tales: a Showgirl’s Wacky, Sexy Journey to the Playboy Mansion and the Radio City Rockettes,” says “he turned me into a writing ninja.”

The event at Everybody Reads is free and Wachsberger’s book will be for sale.



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February 20 • 6pm

C.M. Gleason returns with her third installment in the *Lincoln’s White House Mysteries* series, *Murder at the Capitol*. In July 1861, just months after the Battle of Fort Sumter plunges the young nation into civil war, President Lincoln’s top priority is to unite the country, while Adam Quinn finds himself on the trail of a murderer...

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.

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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, February 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Kids' Robot Zone (Ages 5-8) - Play and learn with our robots. 4-5 p.m. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 N. Aurelius Rd., Holt.

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

Threads of Wisdom: Altar building workshop. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington, Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

Book Group - Read along and chat in person or online at Goodreads.com (under ERADL Book Group). 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main, Eaton Rapids.

EVENTS

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

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

Line Dancing - 1-1:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Mayor Andy Schor's State of The City Address - 6-6:30 p.m. The Abigail, Former School For The Blind - 715 W. Willow St, Lansing. lansingmi.gov.

Prospective Family Night at Lansing Catholic High School - 6:30-8:30 p.m. 501 Marshall St., Lansing. 517-267-2102. lansingcatholic.org.

ARTS

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

Intro to Drawing Class - 6-8 p.m. Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. 50807. blackbaudhosting.com.

Low-tech Screenprinting - 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. all week. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington, Ste. 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

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

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

MUSIC

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

Thursday, February 6

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.

The Art of Protest - 3-4 p.m. Room 303 International Center, MSU, 427 N Shaw Lane, East Lansing.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

American Sign Language Storytime (Ages 3-7) - Incorporating ASL into storytime helps foster early literacy skills. 5:30-6:30 p.m. CADL Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Rd. #1, Williamston.

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

EVENTS

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

Get into the spirit of Valentine's Day with the Old Town Chocolate Walk.

Chocolate Walk

Sunday, Feb. 9, noon to 5 p.m.
Old Town Lansing
1232 Turner Road, Lansing
(517) 485-4283
iloveoldtown.org

a chocolatey, seasonally-relevant scav-

Bath. bathtownship.us.

GAAS Monthly Meeting - Grassland Management. 7-9 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing.

Capital Area Audubon Society - 7-8 p.m. Michigan Nature Association Education Room, 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos. capitalareaaudubon.org.

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

Gift of Heart - Offering support for parents of foster children or adopted. Free childcare provided 6-8 p.m. Allve, 800 W Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. myalive.com.

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

Old Town Annual Meeting & Winter Mixer - Please join us as we kickoff another great year in Old Town and thank our supporters, volunteers and sponsors. 6-9 p.m. Old Town Marquee, 319 Cesar E Chavez, Lansing.

Slavery to Freedom: Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Murrell. 5-6 p.m. Kellogg Center, Auditorium, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

ARTS

Another Artists' Networking Event - presented by Opportunity Artst. 7-9 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Rd., Okemos.

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

Crafternoon for Kids-Valentine Edition (Ages 7-12) - Register 517-676-9088 or cadl.org events. 4:30-5:30 p.m. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason.



Old Town Chocolate Walk

enger hunt, which doubles as a delightful self-guided tour through Old Town. Tickets to the chocolate walk supply one with an empty, two-pound box eagerly awaiting to be filled with chocolate. Customers are also granted a punch card and a map of participating locations. It's a gold foil opportunity to check out some local shops and score some sweet Valentine's Day candy.

Crafting with a Cause - A gathering to support and serve our community. 4-5:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Learn 517 Lesson - 1:30-3 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Smarts Workshop - Taylor Haslett as she walks you through the many different benefits of Arts Council membership. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. MICA, 1210 Turner St, Lansing.

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.

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

Friday, February 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

MSU Libraries' Special Collections Pop-Ups - 12-2 p.m. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing.

EVENTS

February Wake Up Old Town - 8:30-10 a.m. Great Lakes Art and Gifts, 306 E Cesar Chavez Ave, Lansing.

GEM Social Club - For ASD Teens and Young Adults. Join us for an evening of friendship, socializing, food & fun! 6-8 p.m. The Peoples

FRIDAY, FEB. 7 - SUNDAY, FEB. 9 >> MID-MICHIGAN WOMEN'S EXPO



This year's Mid-Michigan Women's Expo will fill the Lansing Center with exhibits, seminars, vendors and fun events tailored toward women and their families. Different products and services highlighted: health and wellness, fashion, style, beauty, fitness, finance and education.

\$10

Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lansing Center

333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

facebook.com/MidMichiganWomensExpo

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Decade in Review, Part 3"—fun stuff from 2014 & 2015. by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Archipelago components
- 7 NBA or NHL stats
- 10 [We meant it this way]
- 13 Prepare to serve, as a pizza or pie
- 15 French street
- 16 Sheep's mother
- 17 Country that Conchita Wurst represented in the 2014 Eurovision Song Contest
- 18 Fairway club not often found in a bag
- 20 ___ Martin (sports car)
- 21 Her self-titled album was named the best of 2014 by The Guardian and Entertainment Weekly
- 23 John of 2020's "The Grudge"
- 24 Fire pit leftovers
- 25 Some endoscope users
- 26 Dorothy of the "Road" pictures
- 28 Buenos Aires loc.
- 29 TV show whose climactic episode "Ozymandias" was turned into a mini-opera premiering in 2014
- 33 Slippery ___ (herbal remedy source)
- 36 Teddy ___ (1980s bear that played cassettes)
- 37 Baby's slipper
- 39 Music booster
- 40 Late night host who filmed in Cuba in 2015, the first to do so since Jack Paar in 1959
- 44 Biblical preserver

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14		15			16		
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57							58	59				
60				61			62					
63				64				65				

- 46 Battery terminals
- 47 Trig curve
- 49 Beam of happiness?
- 50 Robin's "Mork & Mindy" costar
- 53 Hit indie RPG of 2015 with notable music, jokes about puzzles, and multiple endings
- 55 Miller who played the younger daughter in "The Descendants"
- 57 Tarantulas, e.g.
- 58 Award-winning 2015 movie whose title is Spanish for "hitman"
- 60 "Chicken Run" extra
- 61 Night flyer
- 62 Soccer forward
- 63 Amsterdam-based financial co.
- 64 "Wow" feeling
- 65 Highest North American peak
- 2 Semi-wet snow
- 3 Ready, in Spain
- 4 ___-1 ("Ghostbusters" car)
- 5 Migratory seabird
- 6 Fashion designer Anna
- 7 "Ignorance is bliss," e.g.
- 8 North African capital city
- 9 No longer hidden
- 10 National park in Tanzania
- 11 "___ let you down!"
- 12 They're shown after the decimal
- 14 Hand down
- 19 Writer on a birthday?
- 22 Criminal tough guy
- 24 Acid class
- 26 Resting cat's spot
- 27 "I Get ___ Out of You"
- 28 Acrobat software company
- 29 Word after sports or training
- 30 Zombie spirit
- 31 Like the universe, cosmologically
- 32 Domicile
- 34 Finch's creator
- 35 Game pieces
- 38 Hosp. areas
- 41 Yoga studio greeting
- 42 Indigo dye source
- 43 At a minimum
- 45 Lou of the Velvet Underground
- 47 Food on a belt
- 48 Show-offy way to solve crosswords
- 49 A metal one is reusable
- 50 Heavy jacket
- 51 The Little Mermaid
- 52 Haka dancer
- 54 "Fancy" singer McEntire
- 55 Nice-sized lot
- 56 Principal
- 59 "___ be my honor"

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Answers Page 27

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 27

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Feb. 5-11, 2020

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You now have the power to make connections that have not previously been possible. You can tap into an enhanced capacity to forge new alliances and strengthen your support system. I urge you to be on the lookout for a dynamic group effort you could join or a higher purpose you might align yourself with. If you're sufficiently alert, you may even find an opportunity to weave your fortunes together with a dynamic group effort that's in service to a higher purpose.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Victory won't come to me unless I go to it," wrote the poet Marianne Moore. In other words, you must track down each victory you're interested in. You must study its unique nature. And then you must adjust yourself to its specifications. You can't remain just the way you are, but must transform yourself so as to be in alignment with the responsibilities it demands of you. Can you pass these tests, Taurus? I believe you can. It's time to prove it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): While at the peak of his powers as an author, Gemini-born Nobel Prize-winner Jean Paul Sartre consumed an array of mood-shifters every day. He quaffed at least a quart of alcohol, smoked two packs of cigarettes, and drank copious amounts of coffee and tea. His intake of pills included 200 milligrams of amphetamines, 15 grams of aspirin, and a handful of barbiturates. I propose that we make Sartre your anti-role model during the next four weeks, dear Gemini. According to my analysis of your astrological indicators, your ability to discover, attract, and benefit from wonders and marvels will thrive to the degree that you forswear drugs and alcohol and artificial enhancements. And I'm pleased to inform you that there could be a flood of wonders and marvels.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I don't think I'm boring. How could I be? I have an abundant curiosity and I love to learn new things. I've worked at many different jobs, have read widely, and enjoy interacting with a broad range of humans. Yet now and then I've had temporary relationships with people who regarded me as uninteresting. They didn't see much of value in me. I tend to believe it was mostly their fault—they couldn't see me for who I really am—but it may have also been the case that I lived down to their expectations. Their inclination to see me as unimportant influenced me to be dull. I bring this up, my fellow Cancerian, because now is an excellent time to remove yourself from situations where you have trouble being and feeling your true self.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Soprano Helen Traubel and tenor Lauritz Melchior performed together in many productions of Wagnerian operas, often at the Metropolitan in New York City. Friends and colleagues but not lovers, they had a playful relationship with each other. A favorite pastime was figuring out tricks they could try that would cause the other to break into inappropriate laughter while performing. According to my quirky reading of the astrological omens, Leo, the coming weeks will be a propitious time for you to engage in similar hijinx with your allies. You have a poetic license and a spiritual mandate to enjoy amusing collaborative experiments, playful intimate escapades, and adventures in buoyant togetherness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Eighteenth-century author Samuel Johnson singlehandedly compiled the influential "A Dictionary of the English Language", which remained the definitive British dictionary for 170 years. We shouldn't be surprised that it was a Virgo who accomplished such an intricate and exhaustive feat. As a high-minded Virgo, Johnson also had a talent for exposing hypocrisy. In commenting on the Americans' War of Independence against his country, he noted that some of the "loudest yelps for liberty" came from slave-owners. I propose that we make him one of your role models in 2020. May he inspire you to produce rigorous work that's useful to many. May he also empower you to be a candid purveyor of

freedom.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Is there a project or situation you'd love to create but have lacked the confidence to try? Now is a time when you can finally summon the necessary courage. Is there a long-running dilemma that has always seemed too confusing and overwhelming to even understand, let alone solve? Now is a favorable time to ask your higher self for the clear vision that will instigate an unforeseen healing. Is there a labor of love that seems to have stalled or a dream that got sidetracked? Now is a time when you could revive its luminosity and get it back in a sweet groove.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Was there a more influential 20th-century artist than Scorpio-born Pablo Picasso? He was a revolutionary innovator who got rich from his creations. Once, while visiting a gallery showing of art made by children, he said, "When I was their age I could draw like Raphael [the great Renaissance artist]. But it took me a lifetime to learn to draw like they do." In accordance with your current astrological omens, Scorpio, I suggest you seek inspiration from Picasso's aspiration. Set an intention to develop expertise in seeing your world and your work through a child's eyes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I know a Sagittarius man who has seen the film "Avengers: Endgame" 17 times. Another Sagittarian acquaintance estimates she has listened all the way through to Billie Eilish's album "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" 135 times. And then there's my scholarly Sagittarian friend who has read the ancient Greek epic poem the "Iliad" 37 times. I have no problem with this behavior. I admire your tribe's ability to keep finding new inspiration in sources you already know well. But in my astrological opinion, you shouldn't do much of this kind of thing in the coming weeks. It's high time for you to experiment with experiences you know little about. Be fresh, innocent, and curious.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Athens was one of the great cities of the ancient world. Its vigorous art, theater, philosophy, architecture, and experiments in democracy are today regarded as foundational to Western culture. And yet at its height, Athens' population was a mere 275,000—equal to modern Fort Wayne, Indiana or Windsor, Ontario. How could such a relatively small source breed such intensity and potency? That's a long story. In any case, I foresee you having the potential to be like Athens yourself in the coming weeks and months, Capricorn: a highly concentrated fount of value. For best results, focus on doing what you do best.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): According to my analysis, the year 2020 will be a time when you can have dramatic success as you re-evaluate and re-vision and revamp your understandings of your life purpose. Why were you born? What's the nature of your unique genius? What are the best gifts you have to offer the world? Of the many wonderful feats you could accomplish, which are the most important? The next few weeks will be a potent time to get this fun and energizing investigation fully underway.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Physicist Niels Bohr won a Nobel Prize for his insights about quantum mechanics. But he was humble about the complexity of the subject. "If you think you understand it, that only shows you don't know the first thing about it," he mused. I'm tempted to make a similar statement about the mysteries and riddles that are making your life so interesting. If you think you understand those mysteries and riddles, you probably don't. But if you're willing to acknowledge how perplexing they are, and you can accept the fact that your comprehension of them is partial and fuzzy, then you might enjoy a glimmer of the truth that's worth building on.

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

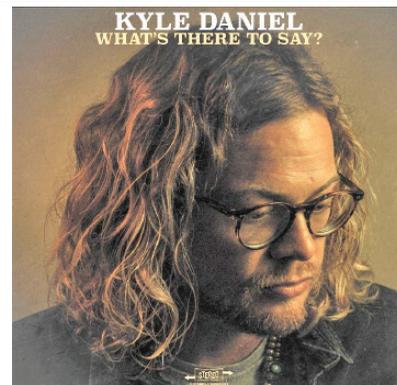
BY RICH TUPICA

Saturday, Feb. 8

Q&A: FROM DANSVILLE TO NASHVILLE WITH SETH RENTFROW



Guitarist and songwriter Seth Rentfrow returns home for a show alongside his bandmate Kyle Daniel. The band headlines Saturday at The Loft. Rachel Curtis opens. (photo by Sean Marshall)



Kyle Daniels' "What's There To Say" EP art. The 2019 release features local native Seth Rentfrow on guitar.

Lansing-area native returns for gig with Kyle Daniel

Saturday, Feb. 8 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12, 7 p.m.

This weekend, when the Nashville-based Kyle Daniel headlines The Loft, fans of the emerging Americana-rock band will see a familiar face next to Daniel: Seth Rentfrow. From 2005 to 20016, Rentfrow, now 28, cut his teeth in Lansing's music scene fronting Way to Fall. The Dansville native now lives in Nashville, working as a not only the guitarist for Kyle Daniel's band, but also its tour manager, music director and songwriting collaborator.

Looking back, how do you view Lansing's music scene?

It felt like there was so much happening around us and the bands that were coming up were doing really interesting things. The Hard Lessons, Joe Hertler, Elliot Street Lunatic and so many others. I really learned a lot about community and how we're supposed to uplift and inspire the artists around us.

How did you wind up living in Nashville?

I started playing with a country project

(Bear Creek Brothers), which was way out of my comfort zone. My friends needed a player and the money was good. One thing led to another, and we ended up moving to Nashville to see if we could do the damn thing. I started to find my voice as a songwriter in Nashville. I discovered a whole new musical aesthetic.

Americana music became your thing, why so?

I feel so at home in it because it feels like the punk cousin of my Top 40 Country friends. One thing I've learned here, and as I've matured, is that pop music needs counter-culture just as much as counter-culture needs pop. One without the other just creates a world of one-dimensional expression. I used to be bitter about the pop world, now I embrace it.

You met Kentucky-native Kyle Daniel at a songwriter's round in Nashville. What's kept you together?

He and I have a very yin-yang type of relationship. We balance each other out

very well. We push each other to embrace differing ideas or styles. We also both fully understand what this project is and what it should be. It's about the song. It's about the musical atmosphere. It's about the live performance and how it elevates the other two.

The tunes are Southern, honest and soulful. Where does that come from?

We all bring our own flavor to it. Everybody in the band comes from different backgrounds and places. It's like a big ol' pot of Jambalaya. We've got classically trained musicians, songwriters, jamband guys. We have guys from Sweden, Louisiana, Kentucky and Michigan. Plus, we try to draw as much inspiration as we can from the places we go and people we meet.

Where have you toured?

In year one, we were able to touch Texas three times, hit most of the Southeast and Northeast and play shows at some iconic

venues in London and Germany. Being able to share stages with icons like Marshall Tucker Band and Charlie Daniels—and with friends like Cadillac Three, Tyler Bryant & The Shakedown, Black Stone Cherry—it's been amazing. We're hitting it hard the next few months all over the Northeast and Southeast. Hopefully going out West, too. We're headed back to Europe for the Country 2 Country Festival in Berlin and London where we'll be performing with Luke Combs and Eric Church.

How many recordings do you have so far?

We've done two EPs and a single so far with more in the works. Our latest EP is called "What's There To Say?" All the tunes are very close to my heart and really showcase the shared narrative Kyle and I have created together through honesty and vulnerability in songwriting, which is something the world needs more of these days.



Upcoming show? Contact Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Trivia Night: Tarantino Movies 10PM	GTG Free Show Hunky Newcomers 8PM	The Love Match 8PM	Free DJ Show 9PM
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.				The New Rule 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	The Corzo Effect 9PM	CloudHoppers 9PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Karaoke	Star Farm 8:30PM	Star Farm 8:30PM
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee			Live Music with the Avon Bomb 8PM	Live Music with Jimmy Likes Pie 8PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Twenty9XX Nick Galecki 9PM	Kyle Daniel 8PM
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Funknight presents Chirp 8PM			Vandalay 5PM
Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington			The Fabulous Heftones 7:30PM	Dixon's Violin 8PM
Spiral, 1247 Center St.			Age of Aquarius 25+ 9PM	Spotlight Party 9PM
Urban Beat, 1213 Turner St.				Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet 7PM
Unicorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing	Open Mic 9:30PM		Live Music with Laura Rabell 9PM	Live Music with The Band Medusa 9PM
VFW #701, 123 N. Rosemary			The New Rule 8PM	
Wildlife Pub, 6380 Drumeller Rd., Bath			Open Mic 7:30PM	
Zoobies, 1200 N. Larch			Conor Larkin 8:30PM	Corey Kapanka 8:30PM

From Page 24

Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

Howl at the Moon: Guided Night Walk. Dogs welcome! 7-8 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

Michigan Tobacco-Free Coalition for People Living with HIV (MITCH+) - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Forest Community Health Center, 2316 S Cedar, Lansing. 517-887-4597.

Night to Shine - Cohosted by Faith Fellowship Baptist Church & Reachout Christian Center Church. 6-9 p.m. 5628 Wise Rd, 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

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

John Lucas and Claudia Rankine: Situations, Opening Reception. 6-8 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

Kelly Hansen Exhibition and Opening Reception - "It's What's on the Inside" an exhibition by Kelly Hansen. 5-7 p.m. Arts Council of Greater Lansing, 1208 Turner St, Lansing.

Robin Hood - 7 p.m. All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre, Hannah Community People, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing.

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

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

Drop-in Valentine Craft (All ages) - Supplies provided by the Friends of Lansing Libraries. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing.

MUSIC

The Fabulous Heftones (Ten Pound Fiddle Concert Series) - 7:30-10 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

Jazz Octets and jazz pianist Bruce Barth - 8 p.m. Demonstration Hall, MSU, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Saturday, February 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Introduction to Dog Sledding for Adults - Come learn about the history of the Iditarod and of the Samoyed dog breed. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Mushing Camp for Kids - Come learn about the history of the Iditarod and of the Samoyed dog breed. 1-2 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

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

Winter Tree I.D. Workshop - 1-4 p.m. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Evergreen Haiku Study Group - All are welcome to join. 1-3:30 p.m. C201 Snyder Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. 517-884-1932. poetry.rcch.msu.edu.

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

EVENTS

Darwin Discovery Day - 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-355-2370.

Drop-in Valentine Craft (All ages) - Supplies provided by the Friends of Lansing Libraries. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. cadl.org

Ingham County Sheriff Dept K-9 Unit Charity Dinner - 4-12 p.m. Mason Holt Eagles #3734, 1111 N. Cedar St, Holt.

Psychic Fair Fundraiser - Get readings from a variety of psychics and readers. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

Second Saturday Supper - 5-6 p.m. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. 517-484-3139.

Singles Full Moon Walk - Join us for a fun evening! 7-9 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing.

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

ARTS

Mount Hope Quilters - Mount Hope Quilters comes together at Custom Quilts on Saturdays to do projects together. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 5676 Okemos Rd., Okemos.

Robin Hood - 3 p.m. All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre, Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

Tapestry Weaving - Create a wall hanging and learn tapestry weaving. 12-2 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

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

MUSIC

Dixon's Violin at The Robin Theatre - 8-10 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

Don Julin Mandolin Workshop: Experiencing the Power of Pentatonic Scales. 3:30-5 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington, Lansing. 517-372-7880. elderly.com.

Don Julin Workshop: Improve Your Groove - 1:30-3 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-372-7880. elderly.com.

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

Sunday, February 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Broad Wellness: Yoga - 11 a.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

The Poetry Room Open Mic Presents The Family Room - 6:30-8:30 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Rd., Okemos.

EVENTS

Black History Month Event - Storyteller Miz Rosie - Rosie Chapman performs as Sojourner Truth. 2-3 p.m. CADL Downtown, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Darwin Discovery Day - Free family event celebrating Charles Darwin's birthday. 1-5 p.m. MSU Museum, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

"Kaffee Haus" Luncheon and Bake Sale - features brats, German potato salad, and sauerkraut. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing. 882-6330.

Old Town Chocolate Walk - Come celebrate Valentine's Day with the Old Town Community. 12-5 p.m. Old Town, Lansing. iloveoldtown.org.

Winter Open House - Hosted by the Lansing Model Railroad Club. 12-5 p.m. Lansing Model Railroad Club, 5309 Old Lansing Rd, Lansing.

ARTS

Robin Hood - 3 p.m. All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre, Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing.

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

MUSIC

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

Brunch & Jazz: Frenz - 2-3:30 p.m. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St, Charlotte. 517-541-5690.

Family Series - Join LSO bassist Jonathan Reed, as he showcases the bass. 3-4 p.m. CADL - Downtown, 401 S Capitol Ave, Lansing.

Hank and Frank: A Tribute to Mancini and Sinatra. 5-8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing.

Lansing Symphony Family Series - 3-5 p.m. Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7 >> VISIONS OF WILDLIFE AT ABSOLUTE GALLERY



Absolute Gallery presents wildlife photographer D. Eric Johnson of Visions of Wildlife. Johnson's passion for animal photography has taken him across the world, and a portion of the proceeds from photo sales will go toward conversation efforts.

Friday, Feb. 7, 5 p.m.
Absolute Gallery
307 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing
Absolutegallery.com
(517) 482-8845

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 25

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 25

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See Out on the town, Page 28

SATURDAY, FEB. 8 >> DARWIN DISCOVERY DAY AT MSU MUSEUM



Michigan State University Museum is hosting its 16th annual Darwin Discovery Day. MSU scientists and students guide visitors through Darwin Discovery Day's vast and unique science-themed activities and tours, which will be held throughout the museum.

Saturday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
MSU Museum
409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing
(517) 355-2370
museum.msu.edu

From Page 27

Monday, February 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

Father Patrick Desbois: "Holocaust by Bullets: Model for the Modern Genocide" Lecture. 7-8:30 p.m. Kellogg Center, 219 S. Harrison, East Lansing. 517-432-3493.

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 - 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.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Read to a Dog (Ages 6-8) - Read aloud to a specially trained, library-loving dog! 4-5 p.m. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing.

EVENTS

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

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

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

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

MUSIC

Bassoon Studio Recital - Free. 5:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Free and Low-Cost Resources to Improve Your Technology Skills - Adult Event (Ages 18+) - 2-4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids.

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 - Learn basics of humorous illustration/cartooning. 1-3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

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

The Poetry Room Open Mic: Family Business - signup list will be at the door. 7-9:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

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

EVENTS

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

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance Support Groups - 7-8:30 p.m. The MAC, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-643-7671.

Sweetheart Ball - 7-8:30 p.m. East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

ARTS

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

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

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

MUSIC

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



Tuesday, February 11

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.

FRIDAY, FEB. 7 >> KELLY HANSEN EXHIBITION AND OPENING RECEPTION



The Arts Council of Greater Lansing is presenting "It's What's on the Inside," an exhibition by Kelly Hansen. Hansen's collection of acrylic paintings explores "the complexities of being human and the relationship between inner story and physical appearance."

Friday, Feb. 5, 5 p.m.
Arts Council of Greater Lansing
 1208 Turner St., Lansing
 (517) 372-4636
[facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL)



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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Combating gatekeeping in the wine industry

A stunning California cabernet franc had me thinking about a complicated food and beverage issue for a few days.

First of all, the wine is lovely. I will unquestionably drink this wine again, and soon. It's the I. Brand and Family 2016 cabernet franc. It retails for about \$30, and hails from Paicines, California. And it tastes like a wine worth twice its price.

So, we can take a glimpse through the lens of this wine and the winery: The story of the Brand family. How Ian Brand is an upcoming superstar. How cabernet franc has not often been the star of the show from the west coast. How cabernet franc's varietal success from its home of Chinon has barely registered with American palates.

Or we can just say the wine is awesome. It's big, robust, but balanced. The black and red fruit tendencies to this wine don't feel like overstuffed jam on toast. It feels full of flavor and complexity. And any oak aging does hit you over the head like a vanilla bomb.

Occasionally a wine just reminds me that I need to shut up and just enjoy the drink. I know good descriptions do matter. Wine descriptions make total sense when you taste a wine that is being described: "Blueberries? Cassis? Yeah I can see that!"



Justin King

I. Brand & Family's Cabernet Franc

Other times they may come across as bloated at best, self-serving at worst: "Crystalline? Pristinely delineated? What the hell does that even mean?"

Giving the benefit of the doubt, I tend to read these ham-fisted attempts as failures to articulate because the writer tried to get too, too specific.

When it doubt, be simple:

Is the wine good?

Is it worth what it costs?

Can this please be explained as simply as possible?

What kind of consumers will like it? (Is it

worth discussing for a particular audience?)

Our relationship with consumers at large is the whole point. Food criticism has a similar mountain to climb. With seemingly limitless bounds of culture foraging that wrangle with the mess of infinite information access, many food lovers — spurred by Food Network and problematic food critics — are on a quest for perfect authenticity.

I'm trying to imagine a world where it matters how precise my completely unimportant wine verbiage is, and I'm trying to imagine a world where it's important for a white person to go on record and rank another culture's restaurants on the authenticity continuum. Neither of these food or wine exercises seems particularly helpful to exposing people to tasty things. It doesn't read like criticism to me; it reads like condescension.

It's a fool's errand that is right in line with the nauseating gatekeeping vocabulary that wine writers often use. Favorite chefs like Massimo Bottura or David

Chang have made worldwide reputations on their work, but not that much of it has to do with authenticity. But they are still well loved in chef circles, and for good reason.

They do not seem to concern themselves with that silly debate.

The (implied) wine elitism is a complaint that still rings true to a lot of industry folk. Simply put: If you're trying to sell something and it seems like people don't care what you're saying, please stop talking. Let them eat dinner.

Learning to read the room is important for anyone selling anything; though I would say as a frequent diner that hearing the words "Are you still working on that?" is still legitimately the worst thing in the world.

Wine writing has traditionally stayed in this direction. Sometimes we use this flowery language with little discernible relationships with day-to-day smells and tastes. This sort of preciousness may be useful in wine studies, but seems to have an adverse effect when talking about wine to people just looking to drink something good without getting poetic.

As someone who's been in this industry for almost two decades: I apologize if I contributed to that.

The concept of gatekeeping is an old one, and it's something that all food and wine writers need to bust the gates open on, as soon as possible. There is too much great stuff out there. We should let the wine speak for itself, as best as we can, especially this cabernet franc. Because I really think you should try it.

Justin King is an Advanced Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers, and owner of Bridge Street Social, a wine-and-cocktails focused restaurant in DeWitt, and also Bar Mitena, a Spanish winebar opening soon on Lansing's Eastside.

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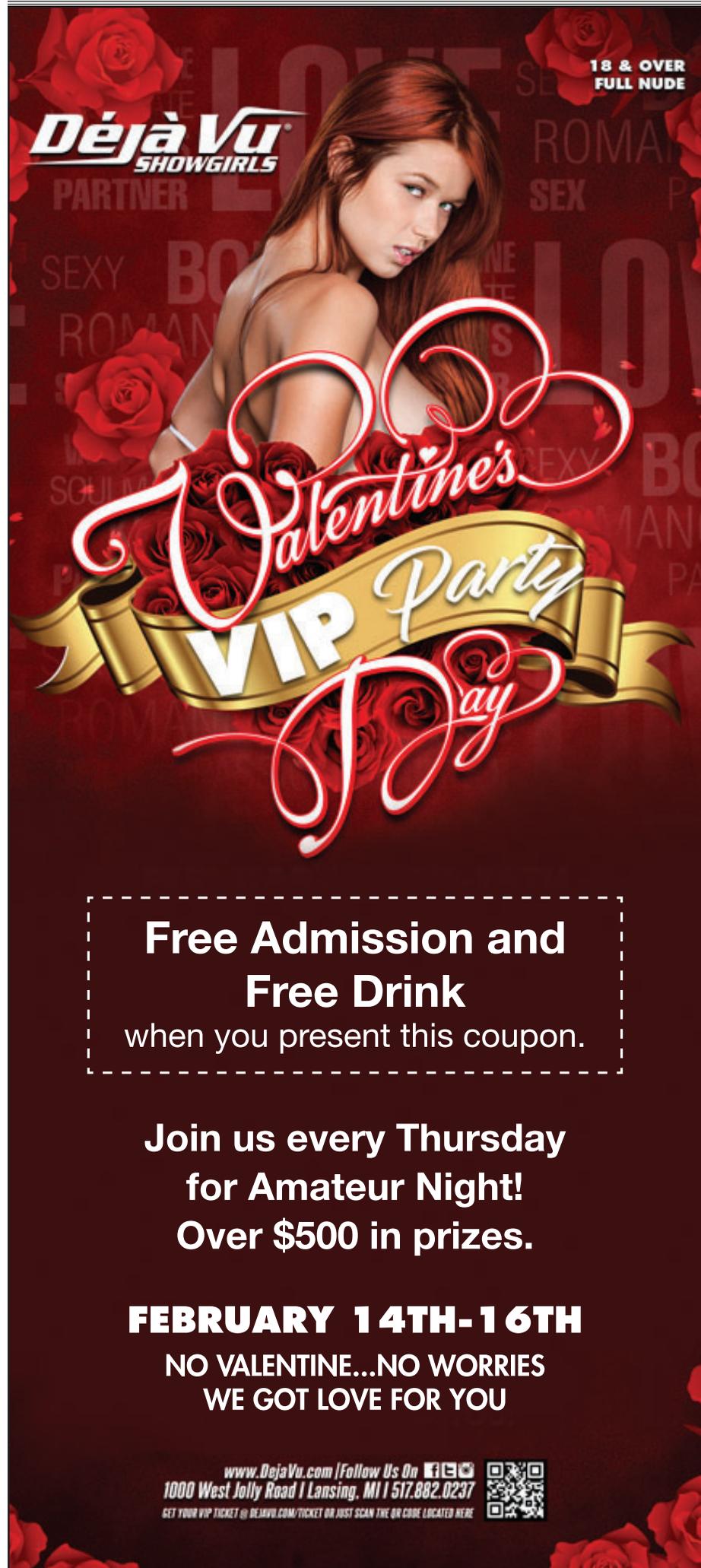


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 <p>Claddagh Irish Pub Eastwood Towne Center 2900 Town Centre Blvd. Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 484-2523 www.claddaghirishpubs.com</p>	<p>MONDAYS - BUY ONE GET ONE FREE FISH & CHIPS with the purchase of 2 drinks. ALL DAY Mondays. Happy Hour - Monday-Friday 3-6PM with "Half Off" Pub Bites and deals on house wines, pints and cocktails. Themed Trivia Thursdays at 7:30PM</p>

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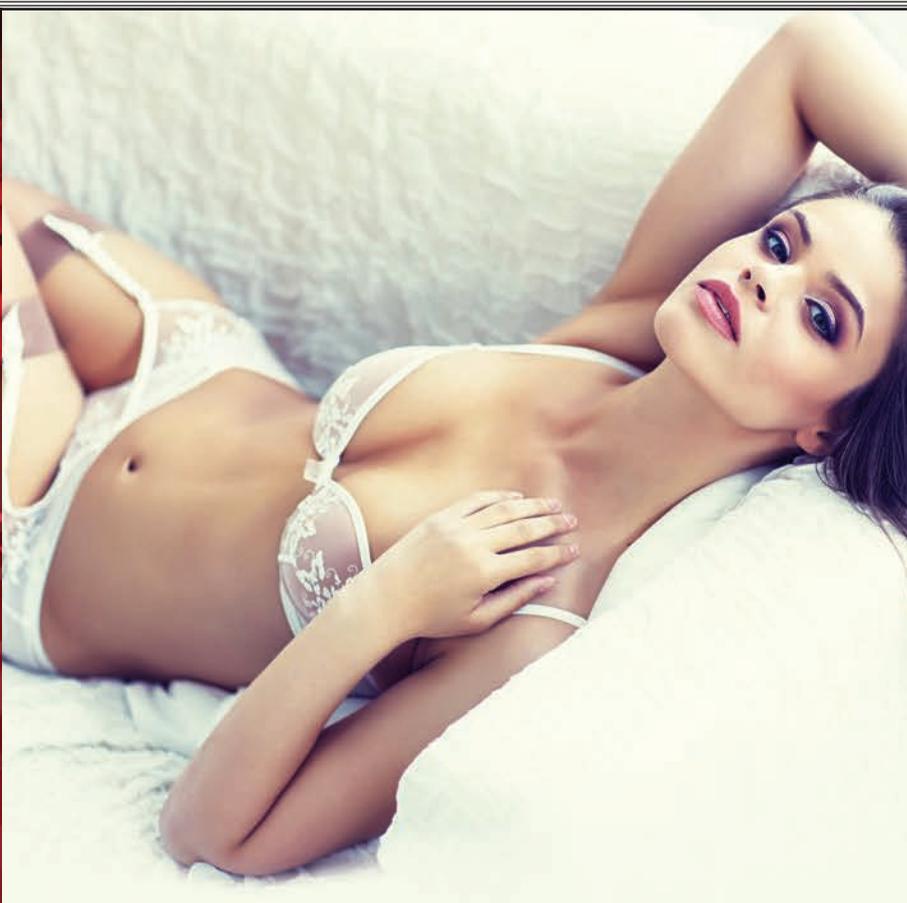
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