

February 19 - 25, 2020

FREE

CITY PULSE

www.lansingcitypulse.com

Locally owned • A newspaper for the rest of us



FINDING THE PERFECT TATTOO IN LANSING

SEE PAGE 12

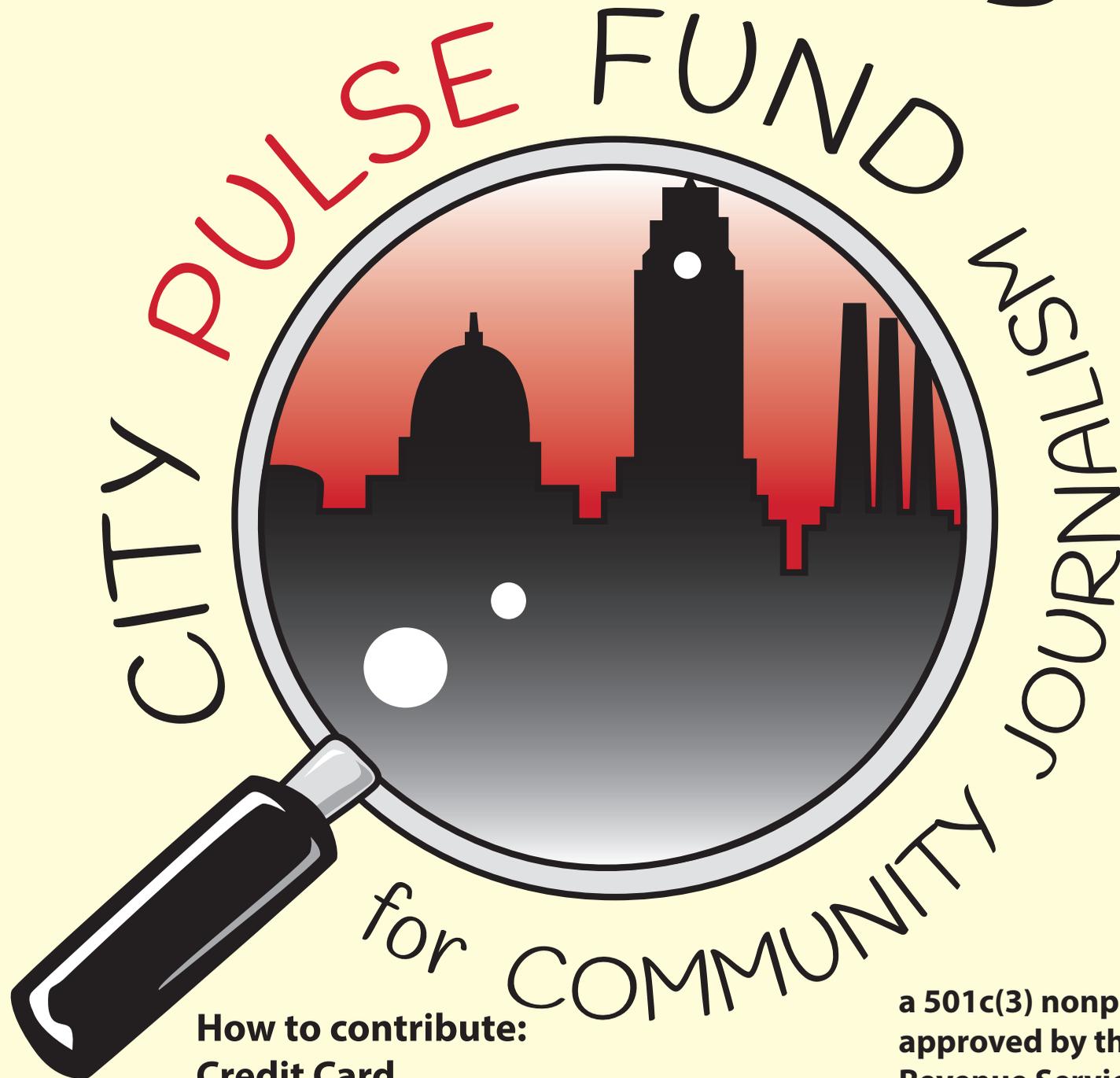
FOR EVERY
WRONG,
THERE IS A
REMEDY.



Andrew Abood

A BOOD
LAW FIRM 1956
517.332.5900 | #thisisntover

Announcing



How to contribute:

Credit Card

- Online at www.lansingcitypulse.com
- Call (517) 999-6704

Mail checks to:

City Pulse Fund
1905 E. Michigan Avenue
Lansing 48912

Please make checks out to City Pulse Fund
We will mail you a receipt

a 501c(3) nonprofit
approved by the Internal
Revenue Service.

**All gifts
are tax
deductible.**

Favorite Things

Jahshua Smith and his Star of David pendant

Lansing-based emcee Jahshua Smith has been a force in the Michigan hip-hop scene for years, having released a series of successful albums. In 2006, he debuted with "The Megaman Mixtape" under his former "Young the General" moniker. Soon, he dropped the stage name and unleashed a series of well-crafted albums, including "The Final Season" (2013), "The Fourth Wall" (2016) and, his latest LP, 2019's "They Don't Love You Like That."

From his hometown of Detroit to his current digs in Lansing, his conscious and sociopolitical lyrics have been heard everywhere from small clubs like Mac's Bar, to large stages opening for the likes of Wiz Khalifa. Over the years, he's also been a part of the Blat! Pack, a local hip-hop collective, and (during his time at Michigan State University) he was host of "The Cultural Vibe" rap show on Impact 88.9-FM. When he's not working on his music, the busy lyricist also works at the Michigan College Access Network. But

he found time to chat with City Pulse about a prized possession he proudly sports. Here's what Smith, 34, had to say:

My favorite thing is my late grandfather's Star of David pendant. It's solid gold on an accompanying 20-inch necklace. My grandfather was finding ground with his conversion to Judaism, as he practiced later in his life. He would wear it sporadically. I received it upon my grandfather's passing. It was something he promised me when I was a teenager, so it could be considered an heirloom at this point.



Smith

My grandfather's name was Evans Waller King, son of Maurice King, who was director of artist development at Motown Records for 10 years. If I had to describe my grandfather, I'd say he had a lot of presence the minute he walked into the room. Very vibrant. He loved to tell stories to the point you'd probably find his personality to be a bit bombastic, but you could also see he cared for people — even if you had to fight through his personality to get there.

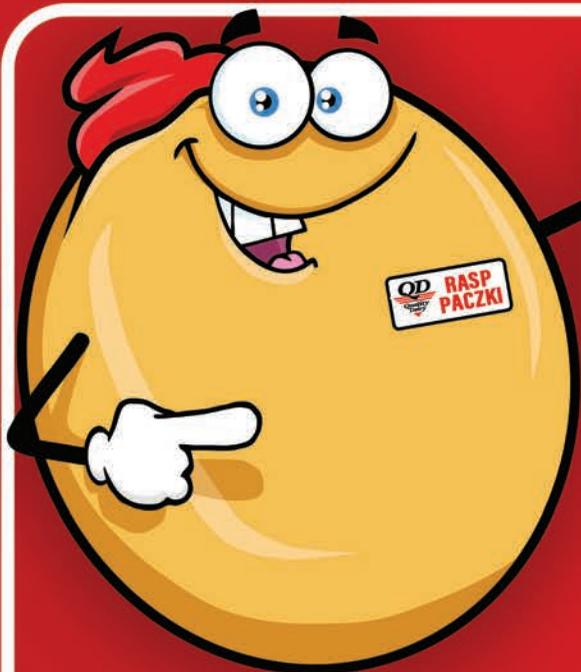
His passing back in September affected me a lot, because I realized I was losing the one man who had been in my life from birth without any interruptions. But I also had a great deal of comfort, as our last conversations let me know we had left no stones unturned. We knew how much we loved each other and that made it much easier. Soon after his passing, my grandmother found the pendant and asked me if I wanted it. I'll never be the type of person who looks

for money, jewelry or whatever when a family member passes, but since he was very clear in stating that he'd pass it down to me, I was comfortable with receiving it.

There are so many things I could choose, but this gives me a lot of strength to be better for myself and my family, so it's possibly my most-prized possession right now. I wear it almost every day. I try not to wear it when I know I'm somewhere that could result in me losing it. I'm not sure if I've performed with it on.

My reasoning for wearing it is that I think given its recognition as a symbol of Jewish identity in modern culture, it's the best way to show my grandfather I saw him for who he was. My faith is rooted in Christianity, and I think I'm fair and clear about the fact that I wear it to honor him, but I've had some great discussions about religion when people inquire about it.

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



**FAT TUESDAY
IS FEB. 25TH!**



**GRAB SOME
PACZKI
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!**

**PRE-ORDER
YOUR PACZKI AT
QDEXPRESS.COM
& GET NEXT DAY PICK-UP*
AT YOUR FAVORITE QD STORE!**

*QDEXPRESS.COM ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BEFORE 12 NOON FOR NEXT DAY PICK-UP!

CityPULSE

**VOL. 19
ISSUE 28**

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com

**Billionaire Buttinsky 2:
BLOOMBERG BOOGALOO**

REMEMBER HOW A YEAR AGO EVERYONE WAS FREAKING OUT ABOUT STARBUCKS CEO HOWARD SCHULTZ RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT?

HA, YEAH. GLAD THAT'S OVER!

URNS OUT THE LAST THING PEOPLE WANT IS A WALL STREET-FRIENDLY BILLIONAIRE BUYING THE ELEC—

HEY LADIES!

OH. MY. GOD.

CAN I GET A WOOP WOOP?

I'M NOT DIVIDING THE PARTY LIKE SCHULTZ. I AM THE PARTY!

IS IT JUST ME, OR IS THERE SOME REAL GRASSROOTS ENERGY HERE BETWEEN US?

WHEW! ENOUGH OF THAT!

HEY, DON'T FORGET ME!

© 2020 Jen Sorensen - Be a subscriber! jensorensen.com/subscribe



An eclectic collection of art at MSU Broad

PAGE 16



Headlining film for Capital City Film Fest announced

PAGE 18



Top comic book industry minds host conference at MSU

PAGE 21



Cover Art

Art by Harley Zeke

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

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

PRODUCTION • Abby Sumbler
production@lansingcitypulse.com
(517) 999-5066
STAFF WRITERS • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065
Kyle Kaminski • kyle@lansingcitypulse.com
(517) 999-6710

SALES EXECUTIVE
Lee Purdy • lee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064
Mike Piasecki • mike@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6707

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

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

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

Interns: Matthew Stine • stinem47@gmail.com

CITY PULSE
on the **AIR**

NOW AT 10:00 A.M. SUNDAYS on

WDBM
IMPACT
88.9FM

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

WELCOME BACK TO OUR NONSTOP COVERAGE OF THE RACE FOR THE BATTLE FOR THE NOMINATION FOR THE FIGHT TO POTENTIALLY BECOME PRESIDENT!

WHO'S GOING TO WIN? WHO'S GOING TO LOSE? WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE, NOW!

RESULTS FROM THE IOWA CAUCUS ARE FINALLY OUT, MORE OR LESS! IT LOOKS LIKE BUTTIGIEG PROBABLY WON, OR MAYBE SANDERS?

WHAT ARE NUMBERS, EVEN? THE IMPORTANT THING IS FOR THIS SMALL, UNREPRESENTATIVE STATE TO RETAIN ITS FIRST-IN-THE-NATION-TO-ATTEMPT-TO-SELECT-A-CANDIDATE-THROUGH-AN-INEXPLICABLY-BYZANTINE-PROCEDURE STATUS!

IT'S A POLITICAL TRADITION!

MEANWHILE, THE TOP STORY OUT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE IS OBVIOUSLY THAT **AMY KLOBUCHAR** WON **THIRD PLACE!** AND MAYOR PETE CAME IN **SECOND!**

SECOND AND THIRD PLACE WINNERS ARE ALWAYS THE LEAD STORY! THAT'S JUST HOW THIS WORKS!

STILL, IT IS TROUBLING THAT BERNIE SANDERS FINISHED TWO SPOTS HIGHER THAN THE COVETED THIRD PLACE FINISH, WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE COMPLICATED VOTE-COUNTING RULES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, TECHNICALLY MAKES HIM THE **WINNER!**

HOW CAN DEMOCRATS SELECT AN ELECTABLE CANDIDATE--IF SANDERS CONTINUES TO GET MORE VOTES?

FORTUNATELY THERE'S TIME FOR **MIKE BLOOMBERG** TO SAVE THE DAY!

HE HAS **BILLIONS** OF DOLLARS! ALL HE NEEDS NOW IS A WINNING MESSAGE AND A GROUNDSWELL OF POPULAR SUPPORT!

IF HE CAN OVERCOME THESE **MINOR OBSTACLES**, HIS VICTORY IS PRACTICALLY GUARANTEED!

COMING UP NEXT: WILL BERNIE'S PLAN FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE LEAD TO **MASS EXECUTIONS** IN CENTRAL PARK?

SOCIALISM IS A VERY SLIPPERY SLOPE!

FIRST THESE MESSAGES. FROM MIKE BLOOMBERG.

TOM TOMORROW © 2020

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Joan Jackson Johnson and beyond

Few people in the Capital region are unfamiliar with Joan Jackson Johnson, the former director of Lansing's Human Relations and Community Services Department and a highly regarded advocate for the poor, homeless and downtrodden. Last month, she was suspended by Mayor Andy Schor amid allegations of impropriety concerning her administration of city grant funds. She retired from her position shortly thereafter.

Through the years, Johnson has received countless accolades for her selfless efforts to improve the lives of the least among us. By all appearances, she is a woman of unimpeachable integrity who commands the respect and admiration of nearly everyone who knows her. That's why it was shocking, even unbelievable, when local media began reporting a story that suggested Johnson is something less than the heroic figure she appears to be.

The insinuation that she had engaged in serious misconduct, perhaps even a crime, cast an immediate pall over her reputation and legacy. While a federal investigation of her alleged misdeeds is underway, we think it is a good time to step back and take a closer look at what is known about the case and what could and should have been done to prevent it from happening in the first place.

Based on a forensic audit released by the city, Johnson clearly had multiple, longstanding conflicts of interest between her position as a city official and her role as an officer of several non-profit organizations that provide services to families, children and homeless individuals. As a city official she approved the expenditure of public funds, then managed the use of those funds by the nonprofits she controlled. This is a recipe for trouble because it opens the door to potential misuse of funds or even embezzlement.

Whether Johnson personally benefited from this arrangement, or if the funds were spent as intended on helping the less fortunate in our community, will be determined by the findings of the investigation. In either case, it's clear that Johnson's administration of the funds lacked appropriate internal controls and oversight that would have brought her conflicts to light much sooner.



The CP Edit Opinion

It is important to note that a conflict of interest is not, in and of itself, a crime, provided it is addressed transparently and resolved in a way that protects the public interest. At-Large Council members Kathy Dunbar and Carol Wood, for example, both lead local nonprofits that receive funding from the city. When the budgets for those expenditures come before the Council, both routinely disclose their roles in the nonprofit and recuse themselves from voting. Yet city money still flows to the organizations they lead, and they are free to manage those funds as part of their day-to-day business operations.

The key difference between these examples and Johnson's case is that she failed to recuse herself from the decision to disburse funds to her own nonprofit organizations, then failed to disclose her role in the organizations. These lapses in judgment are certainly regrettable, and may even rise to the level of a misdemeanor. However, no conclusive evidence has been presented to suggest that Johnson actually misused the funds or that she personally benefited from them.

Based on local media coverage, one could easily jump to the conclusion that she did. More than one news outlet grave-

ly intoned that Johnson had committed serious "misconduct" and "misappropriation" of public funds. Yet the audit report and related addendums obtained by City Pulse are inconclusive on this point. Nowhere in the documents is any claim that Johnson absconded with city funds. The reports note that it is a possibility, but that further investigation is needed to make a final determination.

Our intent is certainly not to vindicate Johnson; her fate will be determined by the ongoing investigation, which presumably will examine the flow of funds between the city, her nonprofits, and potentially Johnson herself. Until that investigation is complete, and unless a charge of criminal wrongdoing is ultimately brought against her, we remind the public and media that she is entitled to the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Perhaps equally important, this unfortunate episode suggests that the city's internal procedures for ferreting out conflicts of interest are flawed, if not broken. The current system is largely based on the voluntary disclosure of conflicts, an "honor system" if you will, that requires city employees and elected officials to be transparent about business dealings that may influence their official roles. The City Attorney's Office is principally responsible for vetting city contracts and the recipients of public funds to flush out obvious conflicts before they become a problem. While this review appears to have happened early on in Johnson's tenure, her conflicts were permitted to continue for many years without additional scrutiny and corrective action. This constitutes a clear failure by two consecutive city administrations that could easily have been remedied and perhaps could have prevented Johnson from getting into hot water in the first place.

While the investigation continues, we suggest Mayor Schor and his administration conduct a critical review of the policies and procedures that are intended to discover and resolve conflicts of interest and to implement the changes needed to ensure it never happens again.

SORE OF THE WEEK



1522 W. Holmes Road

This little white house on Lansing's southside has been up for sale for quite some time, according to officials in the city's Building Safety Department. But it's a real mess, so the city wants to tear the place down.

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing next month to give homeowner Larry Owens one last chance to explain why his house shouldn't be bulldozed. The city's Demolition Board ruled it unsafe last September and the place was red-tagged in February. Next month is Owens' last chance to speak up.

With about \$119,000 in estimated repairs and a value of about \$52,000, the building is likely to deteriorate further into a real safety hazard for the local neighborhood without improvements. Building safety officials and City Pulse haven't had any luck contacting Owens, so they're taking matters into their own hands.

The mold-covered exterior with boarded up windows and doors isn't pretty. The inside is worse. The electrical and plumbing are shot. Buckets are affixed to faucets. Trash is strewn about. The walls are cracked. The ceiling is collapsing. And Owens owes more than \$7,500 in back taxes and fees on the property. If Owens doesn't show up for a public hearing March 16, the City Council can order it demolished.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

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

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

Schor's self-assessment: Much done, more to come

(Andy Schor is the mayor of Lansing)

By **ANDY SCHOR**

It's been two years since I took office as the Mayor of Lansing and we have done so much. The pace is extraordinary, yet rewarding and exciting. I thank the City Pulse for the grade of B in their recent editorial (Feb. 12), and we have much more coming for Lansing!

I'm proud of the economic development projects that we have initiated and accomplished. We are continuously working with business, labor and our residents to increase vibrancy and create jobs in Lansing. Not only has my team helped bring economic development projects that were in motion before I was mayor across the finish line, we have also worked with public and private partners to initiate several important projects matching my priorities



for the City of Lansing. These new housing, retail, hotel, recreation, arts, grocery store and other projects will provide economic growth to the Lansing economy as soon as this summer. The pride that people have for this city is remarkable. The popular new logo and brand has created an avenue for residents to express their excitement for Lansing, for its future and for all of the great things happening throughout the city. We have been able to make progress on roads, despite the lack of significant new infrastructure investment from the state of Michigan, where the vast majority of our funding comes from. We have resurfaced several main roads throughout the city and have repaired thousands of potholes on neighborhood roads. Roads and infrastructure will continue to be a priority throughout my administration.

I am thrilled that we have created many new programs and resources for our neighborhoods and Lansing students - BOLD Lansing, SERVE Lansing, Neighborhood Resource

Summits and Citizens Academy to name a few. All of these resources help to build community wealth and economic mobility for our residents. We must always remember to focus on our people. Our neighborhoods are the heart of our city and we are proud to invest in our residents. These are things that I committed to prioritize when I ran for office. My team has delivered on many of these promises and will continue to work every day to grow all aspects of Lansing. The City Pulse did raise both City Hall and the City Market in its editorial, and I'm glad to provide this update. We do need a new City Hall, but we need to be able to pay for it without tying up taxpayer dollars that are necessary for other services. And we need to repurpose the City Market, but it needs to pay for itself without a subsidy from taxpayers. Now that we have won the lawsuit (which took 12 months), we are actively seeking and working on ideas and proposals, and I am confident that we will soon be able to repurpose the property into a sustainable and

exciting permanent tenant.

The City of Lansing celebrates and supports an inclusive community. I am extremely proud that my cabinet and staff continue to reflect the diversity of our great city. I have retained, hired and promoted people of all backgrounds - African American, Latino and Caucasian; male and female; LGBTQ and straight - to grow our city and reflect its rich and diverse culture.

It's disappointing to me that the City Pulse would state or repeat any claims that I am not comfortable working with people of color, as it is false. All these public officials, along with our city staff, should be praised for their work.

We have accomplished a lot in our first two years, and we will work just as hard over the next two years to continue to move Lansing forward. I welcome anyone, no matter what you look like or what you believe, to join me on this journey. Thank you to all who have supported me and the City of Lansing. Lansing's time is now, and for years into the future!

LETTERS to the editor

The religion 'excuse'

Every time I hear the religious argument for discrimination against LGBTQ people ("True love's kiss," editorial, Jan. 15), I want to ask the discriminator, "Do you deny non-Christian straight couples permission to use your services?". Shouldn't that be more bothersome than a Christian couple from the LGBTQ community? The truth is they simply are intolerant against these community members, and are using religion as a means to openly discriminate.

**Patrick Cooper
Lansing**

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com

• Snail mail: City Pulse,
1905 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing, MI 48912

• Fax: (517) 371-5800

• At lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information:

publisher@lansingcitypulse.com
or (517) 999-5061

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing 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:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1482, an ordinance to alter the definition of "to harass" in the code of the City of East Lansing.

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

CP#20-041

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**SLU-3-2019, 1315 Massachusetts Avenue
Special Land Use Permit - Parking Lot in the "B" Residential District**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, to consider SLU-3-2019. This is a request by Capital Area Community Services, Inc. for a special land use permit to construct a parking lot on the south 28 feet of the vacant property located at 1315 Massachusetts Avenue. Parking lots are permitted in the "B" Residential district, which is the zoning designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#20-040

Billboards lead to unlicensed pot shop in Lansing

Police investigating Jay Deez's Herbs for illegal sales

At least two billboards for Jay Deez's Herbs popped up in Lansing within the last few weeks. One in the Stadium District shows a picture of its owner, John Dinaso, along with a tagline for "medical and recreational marijuana" and custom glass pipes.

One problem: No recreational shops have been fully licensed yet to operate in Lansing.

This reporter tracked the business to a small home at 415 N. Fairfield Ave., wedged within a northside residential neighborhood on Monday. The door was locked, but Dinaso and another man welcomed me inside and said his home was the first "business" legally able to sell recreational marijuana within the capital city.

Dinaso's partner — also pictured on the local billboards — sold this reporter a \$30 eighth of StarDawg, a surprisingly potent sativa strain at a relatively affordable price. More than three grams of weed easily nets at least \$40 on the recreational market elsewhere. He also said edible products would be available later in the week.

That is, of course, unless the Lansing Police Department decides to actually enforce laws on black market sales.

An LPD spokesman said local authorities are actively investigating the business following reports of unlicensed marijuana sales to both medical and

recreational pot smokers. He declined to comment further.

"If it's at a residential address, they are definitely operating illegally," said City Clerk Chris Swope. "We don't have any retail sales allowed in residentially zoned areas. It's not possible to get licensed at a location like that."

Under state law, recreational marijuana sales are only permitted at fully licensed dispensaries. An exception is carved out for "gifting" marijuana, but money cannot legally be exchanged for unlicensed products. This reporter — among others, based on Internet reports — paid cash in exchange for weed.

Dinaso, who goes by a "business name" of Jay Deez, later told City Pulse that he was licensed by the state to sell recreational marijuana. A quick review of state licensing records showed that to be false. Dinaso hasn't applied for a license with the city either, say city records posted online.

"We're the first in the entire state to be legal," Dinaso insisted. "I have a letter from the state that said they don't regulate us at all. This is all planned out. I didn't go to the city either. I went to the state and bypassed the city. You have to have a good legal mind to be able to do all of this. These laws don't regulate my business at all."

Dinaso declined to expound on his legal theory, noting that others would be likely to "steal his trade secrets." But he said that his shop has been operational for at least 10 years and nobody has ever tried to shut it down.

"This is basically Lansing's best kept



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Although this billboards might suggest otherwise, Jay Deez's Herbs isn't licensed to sell recreational marijuana in the city of Lansing.

secret," Dinaso added. "We've been called the best herb shop in Lansing."

Relatively slim enforcement from both the Lansing Police Department and the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office in the wake of recreational legalization could help explain how Dinaso's business has been able to thrive.

In 2017, the Lansing Police Department made a total of 18 arrests related to illegal marijuana sales and cultivation. In 2018, those arrests increased to 24. But in 2019, after weed was legalized statewide for adult use, only two people have been arrested for illegal marijuana sales. Statistics for 2020 were not immediately available.

Since Dec. 1, 2018, the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office has issued five charges involving illegal marijuana sales. Four of them involved companion charges, such as possession of cocaine or assault on a police officer. The other involved a whopping 32 lbs. of marijuana that prosecutors suspected was set for illegal sales.

"Some Michigan prosecutors are getting involved with how recreational marijuana is handled on the local level," Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon explained by email. "I'm not.

My belief is that the businesses should be regulated like bars and other businesses, i.e., by municipal attorneys and regulatory bodies."

Meanwhile, city officials this week announced a list of conditionally approved recreational dispensaries as they prepare for a newly legalized market to take root in Lansing. And Jay Deez's Herbs certainly isn't on the list.

A total of 11 recreational retail licenses for marijuana have been conditionally approved by Swope's office. Those shops still require state approval and a certificate of occupancy before they can operate in Lansing, but it's one step closer to recreational availability in Lansing.

By city law, 28 dispensaries can participate in the recreational marijuana market. Several of those recently approved retailers are already licensed for medical sales, which could help streamline the process. Swope said recreational availability at those locations depend largely on how quickly the state can license them.

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for additional coverage as the Lansing Police Department continues its investigation.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

A City Pulse reporter tracked Jay Deez's Herbs to a small home at 415 N. Fairfield Ave. where he bought a \$30 bag of weed on Monday.

Lansing wrestles with legacy costs as reserve funds fall

Financial Health Team sees difficult days ahead, seeks 'immediate corrective action'

As unfunded costs for pensions and retirement benefits continue to rise, Lansing's Financial Health Team is warning city officials to stockpile cash into its reserve funds and prepare for difficult financial days ahead.

"Lansing continues to grapple with a variety of challenges that will require both one-time and structural changes — 'business as usual' simply is not an option," according to a letter sent on Monday from the Financial Health Team to Mayor Andy Schor, other top city officials and every member of the Lansing City Council.

"Reducing unfunded liabilities will be neither quick nor easy, and will require changes to health care and labor contracts. This is a long-term effort which must begin now. And in the short-term, it is essential the city take immediate steps to ensure the finance department is adequately staffed and to rebuild general fund reserves."

The FHT — an 18-member body initially appointed by former Mayor Virg Bernero in 2012 — set a threshold to keep the city's general fund balance above 12% of annual expenditures. That safety net ensures the city of Lansing can maintain a balanced budget and essentially serves as a rainy-day fund for unexpected expenses.

In 2018, that fund balance rested at about \$17.3 million, records showed. Unexpected costs and revenue shortfalls

forced those reserves to dip to about \$10 million over the last year. A recent budget amendment further trims those rainy-day funds to \$6.82 million — or only about 4.9% of annual expenditures — this year.

And as unfunded pension liabilities surpass \$736 million, officials are voicing cautious optimism as the next budget cycle approaches in March. FHT Chairman Ben Bakken said many positive structural changes have been made under Schor's administration, but he still called for "immediate corrective action" to keep up the pace.

"There have been some significant changes under this administration," Bakken explained to City Pulse. "Problems have been identified and dealt with. But sometimes things have to get worse before they can improve. However, we have a tremendously high level of confidence in this administration to keep things on track."

The latest budget amendment still needs to be approved by the Lansing City Council, but was triggered, in part, by the city receiving about \$2.4 million less in income taxes than initially anticipated as the budget passed last year. Ultimately, the amendment calls for a \$2 million revenue shortfall as expenses also continue to rise.

Schor plans to shift an additional \$560,000 to the city's police and fire departments to account for rising retirement contribution costs, among other additional appropriations in the amendment. If it's approved by the City Council, the maneuver would chip away another \$3.15 million out of the city's

remaining fund balance.

"We've had several one-time expenses to deal with," Schor explained. "With accounting, you can either push them down the field or tackle them head on. This year, we're not kicking the can down the road. We sort of dumped everything into this amendment to make sure our budget is structurally sound for the long-term."

Schor's next budget proposal will aim to ramp up the fund balance to bring it closer to the 12% mark, he said. But he knows that bolstering those reserves will come at a price. Residents shouldn't expect any shiny new programs or costly initiatives in the near future as the city tightens its purse strings, Schor added.

"We want to be stable while ensuring we have a structurally sound budget," Schor said. "People can expect that we won't be announcing any big new programs or other costly ventures. We'll continue to serve the public while recognizing our financial constraints. We'll be leaning on using a lot of our existing resources to get that done."

The FHT noted the city's finances remain "under considerable stress" but emphasized that Schor and the City Council have showcased a growing understanding of the enormity of the issues faced and the need for fundamental structural changes. Bakken said those changes will likely continue to impact retiree health benefits.

In 2006, the cost of unfunded pension and other post-employment benefits represented about 13.5% or \$25 million of the city's \$184 million revenue. In the city's last budget cycle, that

figure climbed to about 22% or about \$49.5 million of the city's \$226.4 million in annual revenue. Bakken said this year, it's closer to 30%.

"Reducing unfunded liabilities will be neither quick nor easy, and will require changes to health care and labor contracts," according to the recent letter from the Financial Health Team. "This is a long-term effort which must begin now. And in the short-term, it is essential that the city take immediate steps to ensure the finance department is adequately staffed and to rebuild general fund reserves."

Bakken also noted the hiring of Chief Strategy Officer Shelbi Frayer — which was initially suggested by the FHT last year — has already paid its dividends to the city. The letter notes that she has focused on a series of short-term reforms designed to realize immediate savings but also recognized that "much remains to be done."

"I appreciate the Financial Health Team for staying involved and committed to their mission of ensuring the financial health of the city," added Council President Peter Spadafore. "Problems must be identified before they can be fixed, and I think that's exactly what we're doing. This has certainly been a major priority at City Hall."

The Financial Health Team has requested to give a brief presentation to the City Council, possibly at a meeting of the Committee of the Whole next week. Visit lansingcitypulse.com for continued coverage from Lansing City Hall.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

What's on the March primary ballot?

Voters to decide on 7 local millage proposals

Editor's Note: This story focuses on only two of seven ballot proposals in Ingham County. The others were featured in the Feb. 5 print edition. Visit lansingcitypulse.com to view the complete listing.

Seven local funding proposals will be on the ballot at next month's presidential primary election. Everything (as always) could use some extra cash in Ingham County, officials said. But how do voters decide what deserves it? This primary election guide is designed to help in that decision.

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

Ingham County Health Services millage increase

This Ingham County millage proposal looks to re-authorize funding for basic health care and mental health services to low-income residents without medical insurance and those who are not eligible for Medicaid under the federal Affordable Care Act. The funding would help residents pay for access to doctor visits, generic medications, mental health services and essential care like treatment for cancer, diabetes, heart disease and more.

If approved, the millage would be renewed through 2023 and its rate would climb 0.63 mills to raise about \$4.8 million in the first year after its passage. And officials said the funding will help fill gaps in local health coverage.

"There are still thousands of people in our community without access to affordable, quality health care," explained County Commissioner Thomas Morgan. "This millage helps to fill that gap and ensure that people can get the medical care they need. This millage quite literally saves lives."

County records show the Ingham County Health Plan served more than

2,000 residents in 2018, with more than 1,500 residents considered eligible to receive funds through the millage. It also paid out nearly \$1 million in claims for appointments and more than \$150,000 to fill more than 17,000 prescriptions during that time period.

The expanded millage request would also help cover mental health services for low-income residents, offering around-the-clock crisis services, treatment planning, intensive support, psychiatric care, skills training and more.

"Investing in early intervention can ultimately save taxpayer resources in the long run, not to mention helping to prevent irreversible tragedies,"

See Primary, Page 10

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION NOTICE
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020**

**TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING,
COUNTY OF INGHAM, STATE OF MICHIGAN,
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
WILL BE HELD IN THE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
COUNTY OF INGHAM, MICHIGAN
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020**

**PLACE OR PLACES FOR HOLDING THE ELECTION IN SAID TOWNSHIP AS INDICATED
BELOW, VIZ:**

- PRECINCT 1 - First Christian Church, 1001 Chester Road**
- PRECINCT 2 - Asbury United Methodist Church, 2200 Lake Lansing Road**
- PRECINCTS 3, 4 and 6 - Waverly East Intermediate School, 3131 W. Michigan Ave.
(in the gymnasium)**

ALL POLLING PLACES ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

**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, viz:
(Please note, you must select ONE ballot type below)**

**Republican Party Presidential
Primary**

- (Vote for not more than 1)**
- Joe Walsh**
- Bill Weld**
- Mark Sanford**
- Donald J. Trump**
- Uncommitted**

**Democratic Party Presidential
Primary**

- (Vote for not more than 1)**
- Cory Booker**
- Pete Buttigieg**
- Julian Castro**
- John Delaney**
- Tulsi Gabbard**
- Amy Klobuchar**
- Bernie Sanders**
- Joe Sestak**
- Tom Steyer**
- Elizabeth Warren**
- Marianne Williamson**
- Andrew Yang**
- Michael Bennet**
- Joe Biden**
- Michael R. Bloomberg**
- Uncommitted**

**Proposal Section – County
Ingham County Potter Park Zoo and
Potter Park
Operational Millage Question**

For the purpose of reauthorizing funding for the operation of the Potter Park Zoo and Potter Park, including funding for operations, maintenance, and improvements, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Ingham, Michigan be increased by up to 50/100 (0.5000) of one (1) mill, \$0.50 per thousand dollars of state taxable valuation, for a period of six (6) years (2021-2026) inclusive? If approved and levied in full, this Millage will raise an estimated \$3,841,444 in the first calendar year of the levy, based on state taxable valuation.

YES or NO

**Countywide System of Trails and Parks
Millage Renewal Question**

For the purpose of renewing funding at the same millage level previously approved by the voters in 2014 for the creation and maintenance of a countywide system of recreational trails and adjacent parks, which may incorporate trails or parks created by local units of government, including Lansing's River Trail, and may acquire rights of way to connect and extend existing trails, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Ingham, Michigan, previously increased by up to 0.5000 mills, \$0.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value, be continued and renewed for a period of six (6) years (2020-2025) inclusive? If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$3,841,444.00 for the system of recreational trails and adjacent parks in the first calendar year of the levy based on taxable valuation.

YES or NO

**Ingham County
Health Services Millage**

For the purpose of reauthorizing funding for providing basic health care and mental health services to low-income Ingham County residents who are not eligible for Medicaid under the Federal Affordable Care Act, and who do not have medical insurance, including use of these funds to help pay for access to doctor visits, generic medications, mental health services and essential care such as preventive testing and treatment for cancer, diabetes, heart disease and

other serious illnesses, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Ingham, Michigan be increased by up to 63/100 (0.6300) of one (1) mill, \$0.63 per thousand dollars of state taxable valuation, for a period of four (4) years (2020-2023) inclusive? If approved and levied in full, this Millage will raise an estimated \$4,840,219 in the first calendar year of the levy, based on state taxable valuation.

YES or NO

**Proposal Section – Intermediate School District
Ingham Intermediate School District
Special Education Millage Proposal
(Restoration of Headlee Reduction)**

This proposal requests additional millage to permit the continued levy by the intermediate school district of the maximum mills for special education previously approved by the electors.

Shall the current charter limitation on the annual property tax rate for the education of students with a disability in Ingham Intermediate School District, Michigan, be increased by 0.2438 mill (\$0.2438 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 20 years, 2020 to 2039, inclusive (this increase will allow the intermediate school district to levy the maximum rate of 4.75 mills previously approved by the electors that has been reduced as required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963); the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2020 is approximately \$2,300,000 from local property taxes authorized herein?

YES or NO

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

Shall the previously voter approved millage of 3.007 mills (that being \$3.007 per thousand dollars of taxable value) be renewed and authorized to be levied by the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), for continued service, as provided for by Public Act 55 of 1963, as amended, on real and personal property located within the City of Lansing, City of East Lansing, Meridian Township, Lansing Township, and Delhi Township for the years 2021 through 2025 inclusive, which is a period of five years? (The current levy of 3.007 mills was approved by the voters in 2014 and is authorized through 2020.) Based on currently available taxable value data, if approved and levied, this millage would generate approximately \$18,986,240 in 2021.

YES or NO

The polls of said election will be open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will remain open until 8 o'clock p.m. of said day of election

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the Charter Township of Lansing office located at 3209 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917. Sample ballots can also be found at www.mi.gov/vote.

Absentee ballots are available for all elections; registered voters may contact the local clerk to obtain an application for an absent voter ballot.

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the township clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

Susan L. Aten, Clerk
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#20-042

Guns v. sexism

'20 campaign kicks off with appointment rejection

The Michigan Senate's rejection of Anna Mitterling to the Natural Resources Commission is the shot heard around Lansing as the start of the 2020 political season in town.

Before last Thursday's vote, the Republican-led Senate and Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer at least went through the motions of attempting to work together with bipartisanship spirit. There were conflicts.

The Senate rejected the governor's reorganization of the Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy. The budget standoff lasted forever. The governor had to sign off on changes to State Administrative Board.

But this was part of a high-stakes chess game. One side was trying to outfox the other in the arena of public policy and public perception.

Rejecting the appointment of a political neophyte without any previous smoke signals of trouble during the advice and consent process is different.

This is the biggest Republican political asset, the NRA, having a problem with Whitmer's appointment to the Natural Resources Commission, former Grand Rapids Mayor George



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Heartwell. As Mayor, Heartwell attempted to ban guns from city commission meetings, which ignited the ire of Second Amendment defenders.

In 2020, the issue that is moving conservatives is guns. With the rising tide of gun violence and Democrats picking up some public momentum on policies to put some restrictions on those viewed as a threat to themselves or others, pro-gun advocates are mobilizing.

Look at what's going on in the rural counties. Thirteen county commissions have recently passed what they are calling "sanctuary county ordinances." They are telling their sheriffs and prosecutors not to enforce laws that they feel inhibit a person's ability to own or possess a firearm. More counties are on the way, from Lapeer to Delta County.

The Republicans' attraction to the NRA and gun owners isn't new. But in 2020 this is their best issue at this time. This has their base riled up. That includes the nearly 100,000 people who have joined the Michigan for Second Amendment Sanctuary Counties Facebook web page since Christmas.

So, if gun owners have a problem with George Heartwell's political history on this issue, Republican's need

to look strong on protecting a person's right to bear arms.

They need political leverage. Anna Mitterling, who they arguably see as being a DNR rubber stamp due to her support of the deer baiting ban, among other things, is that leverage point.

They ask the governor to rescind Heartwell's appointment or they'll dump Mitterling. She says no. Republicans have no choice. They have to follow through on their threat and reject Mitterling on the last day they're allowed to do so. Otherwise, they look weak.

So why not reject Heartwell? Well, Heartwell has some political power. He was a fairly popular nonpartisan mayor in Grand Rapids who supports Democrats 75% to 80% of the time, based on his prior campaign contributions. He cut a check to Whitmer, for example.

But one Republican he likes is Jon Bumstead, a state senator he supported in an extremely competitive primary in 2018 and competitive general election. The Senate R's don't want to stick Bumstead with this Morton's fork: Vote against his friend and political supporter or vote against Second Amendment supporters.

Also, the Kent County treasurer's position is expected to open up this year. One name being circulated as a potential replacement is that of Senate Majority Floor Leader Pete MacGregor, who is term limited after 2022. Would MacGregor want to burn that bridge with Heartwell by voting to reject him from a state post?

You can see the conundrum Republicans find themselves in.

Clearly, the governor is unsympathetic. She is knee-capping the Republicans in a political sore spot — Sen. Pete Lucido and the on-going sexual harassment investigation. She's tying Lucido's troubles with the rejection of a woman who — on paper — is a qualified individual to the NRC. Whitmer is calling on Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey to end his "sexist partisan games."

Granholtz's communications director, Zack Pohl, continued this attack line on social media and state representatives, including like Laurie Pohutsky and Julie Brixie, picked up on it.

Now, Shirkey's calling the governor as "bat shit crazy" last November can't be seen as a one off. Even though he's treating the Lucido matter seriously with an independent investigation, the Democrats have their thread to pull. They're challenging the Republicans:

Go ahead and play your guns card. We'll play the sexist card. The political game has begun.

The governor and Shirkey's relations will not be the same. They'll agree to get a budget done. Some supplemental items and possibly some lower-profile policy matters will be settled this year. But discussion on fixing the damn roads with any type of revenue increase is likely iced until after the election at the earliest.

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

Primary

from page 8

Morgan added. "We can't wait for Republicans in the legislature to act. We must take care of one another here at home."

Potter Park Zoo Operational Millage increase

The Potter Park Zoo is also looking to boost maintenance efforts and tackle various park improvements

over the next six years by increasing its 0.41 millage to 0.5 mills through 2026. Zoo officials said the extra cash is essential to ensuring animals are safe, the zoo maintains its national accreditation and its facilities are kept up to date.

"We're hoping that voters recognize how the zoo as a really important community asset and contributes to a higher quality of life for people that live in Greater Lansing and Michigan as a whole," said Amy Morris-Hall, director of the Potter Park Zoological Society. "We really want to improve

this asset for generations to come."

Local voters have a history of supporting the zoo millage. It passed by 64% in 2006 and again by 69% in 2010. Officials said the latest millage approval in 2016 — which passed by 77% — set a new record for voter support. And with a nationally famous infant rhino now inside, zoo officials want to keep up the pace at the polls.

In addition to maintaining the national accreditation that makes activities like the rhino exhibit possible, Potter Park Zoo Director Cynthia Wagner said the millage increase will

help to replace vehicles, support the installation of new walkways, pay for some tree removal and help with the construction of a new, on-site animal hospital.

"If we don't meet accreditation standards, a lot of programs — especially the rhinos which are one of our more high-profile exhibits — would likely need to move to another facility," Wagner explained to City Pulse. "Without the funding needed for accreditation, we'd essentially just become another small-town zoo."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

B/20/071 LOCAL STREET CRUSH AND SHAPE 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 **MARCH 10, 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#20-044

RFP/20/077 PAYROLL SERVICES as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **March 5, 2020** at which time they opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#20-046

Darkest before the Don

A vindictive president, a pusillanimous party, a stooge at Justice, and a country at risk

It's all out in the open now.

That's not to say it was well hidden before. It wasn't; if you wanted to look, it was blindingly obvious. But if you'd rather not see what was right in front of you, there was at least a thin veneer of deniability. They're not even bothering with that anymore.

Post-impeachment, and with a craven party behind him, an emboldened and unchecked Donald Trump has made clear that he'll weaponize the powers of his administration — especially the obsequious Department of Justice — to punish enemies, reward allies, and gin up scandals and pseudo-scandals to aid his re-election. He won't try to hide it. He doesn't care if you know. He'll push the limits of presidential authority, and he knows Congress won't stop him.

Consider the last week: First, following a Trump tweet, Attorney General Bill Barr's office announced that it had overruled career prosecutors' sentencing recommendation for Trump henchman Roger Stone — who'd been convicted of obstructing Congress and witness tampering, and who refused to tell Robert Mueller what he knew about the Trump campaign's links to WikiLeaks — prompting them to quit in protest. Trump publicly congratulated Barr for "taking charge" of the case and went on a Twitter rant attacking the judge and the departing prosecutors.

We then learned that not only had Barr had similarly intervened on behalf of disgraced former national security adviser Michael Flynn, who'd pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI during the Mueller probe, but that he'd also assigned another prosecutor to review Flynn's case, yet another extraordinary example of political interference.

In addition, he also removed Jessica Liu, the U.S. attorney for Washington, D.C., who was overseeing the Stone case and — more important to Trump — an investigation into former FBI acting director Andrew McCabe, who'd authorized agents to investigate Trump for obstruction of justice



JEFFREY G. BILLMAN

INFORMED DISSENT

in 2017. The DOJ's inspector general had referred McCabe to prosecutors, alleging that he'd lied to investigators about a media leak. But Liu never brought charges, and on Friday, The Washington Post reported that federal prosecutors decided to close their inquiry. (Not coincidentally, Trump also rescinded her appointment to a top post in the Treasury Department.)

On Twitter — and reportedly in private, too — Trump has raged against McCabe and demanded his incarceration. And he's not the only one.

According to the Post, when federal prosecutors decided not to charge former FBI director James Comey over his handling of memos of his conversation with Trump, the president "complained so loudly and swore so frequently in the Oval Office that some of his aides discussed it for days."

In January, he similarly lost it when he learned that U.S. Attorney John Huber in Utah had shut down his fruitless years-long investigation — initiated by then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions at Trump's behest — into Fox-News-conspiracy allegations against Hillary Clinton and the Clinton Foundation and Uranium One. So now he's insisting that John Durham, another U.S. attorney that Barr appointed to investigate whether FBI or CIA agents broke the law during the Russia investigation, put some heads on pikes soon, in time for the campaign.

That's on top of his suggestion that the army punish Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman — whom Trump removed from the National Security Council — for the "crime" of testifying against him and his threat that Representative Adam Schiff, a "corrupt politician" and "very sick man," will pay a "price" for impeaching him.

And it's also on top of his demand that New York "stop all of its unnecessary lawsuits & harrassment [sic]" in order for the Department of Homeland Security to allow the state's residents to use the Trusted Travelers program. (The DHS forbid New Yorkers from using it in retaliation for a law that allowed undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses.) New York, of course, has

filed numerous lawsuits against the administration anti-immigration policies. More to the point, perhaps, the state's attorney general is also investigating the Trump organization and actively pursuing Trump's bank records.

The Post summed it up in a bone-chilling lede last week: "President Trump is testing the rule of law one week after his acquittal in his Senate impeachment trial, seeking to bend the executive branch into an instrument for his personal and political vendetta against perceived enemies. And Trump — simmering with rage, fixated on exacting revenge against those he feels betrayed him, and insulated by a compliant Republican Party — is increasingly comfortable doing so to the point of feeling untouchable, according to the president's advisers and allies."

This is banana republic territory — a wannabe despot eager to use the might of government to crush anyone who gets in his way.

Facing a backlash to his intervention in the Stone case, Barr tried to mount a defense. In an interview with ABC News, he insisted he wasn't Trump's stooge, that Trump hadn't

told him what to do, that he planned to change the sentence recommendation before Trump tweeted, that Trump needed to stop tweeting about DOJ matters because it was making his job "impossible," that he was "not going to be bullied or influenced by anybody."

The national media bought the charade, saying Barr was "pushing back" and asserting his independence. But Trump's reaction was the tell: "The President wasn't bothered by the comments at all and [Barr] has the right, just like any American citizen, to publicly offer his opinions," his press secretary responded.

This was, in other words, the only time the president had been publicly "rebuked" by a subordinate — by anyone, really — and not flown off the handle. He was, instead, magnanimous. The next day, he simply asserted that he'd tweet whenever and whatever the hell he wanted, and Bill Barr, who'd just said those tweets make his job "impossible," didn't quit.

Weird how that worked out.

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

MSU Music
TAYLOR JOHNSTON
Early Music Series
REBEL

Irregular Pearls: Musical Treasures of the 17th and 18th Centuries

TUE. FEB. 25, 7:30 P.M. FAIRCHILD THEATRE, MSU AUD.

One of North America's top-tier period instrument ensembles focuses on the irregular or misshapen aspects of music of the Baroque era in a program featuring well-known and more obscure composers.

In remembrance of Dr. Taylor Johnston, the College of Music would like to recognize his vision, passion and support for underwriting the Early Music Series.

TICKETS & MORE INFO
MUSIC.MSU.EDU/EARLY-MUSIC
517-353-5340

College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Blended ink:

LANSING'S INTERCONNECTED, EVOLVING TATTOO SCENE

BY SKYLER ASHLEY

In 2020, just about anything in the realm of tattooing has found a home in Lansing.

Are you looking for simple flash art that will have you in and out in just a few hours? Photorealistic portraits? Traditional style art of something righteously wicked, like a cracked skull or a medieval dagger? Or maybe you just want something nice and sweet — a quote from your favorite Disney movie in whirly, wine-mom Target art cursive. Lansing runs the full gamut from sleaze to class and back again. Even if you're already tatted and suffering from buyer's remorse, there are places to have your regret lasered into oblivion.

But who's behind some of Lansing's most popular and interesting shops, and how can we explain the mainstream breakthrough of tattoos? Veteran tattooists, apprentices and an MSU professor helped paint the big picture, poke by poke.



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Sean Peters, owner of Eclectic Art Tattoo Gallery, tattoos a client. You can check out his work on his Instagram account, @sean_peters.

EPIDERMIS CANVAS

Sean Peters, 45, tattoo artist and owner of Eclectic Art Tattoo Gallery, has been in the game since age 15, opting to drop out of Eastern High School to pursue tattooing full time. Putting all of his chips into tattoos was a gambit that has, so far, paid off handsomely.

"It was a new reality," Peters said. Suddenly, he had to tackle several wildly varied subjects in one day, from Tweety Bird to a photorealistic wolf. "I was used to making art on the side for bands," he said. "I quickly learned my vocabulary wasn't as vast as I thought. There's a whole set of rules that don't apply to any other medium."

A group of Peters' fellow Lansing beer drinkers and hell raisers introduced him to Dennis Baker, the original owner of Splash of Color. Baker told Peters he was interested in hiring a younger apprentice. Peters came by the shop with some work created while he was still in high school. Baker was immediately impressed. Peters took on an apprentice-

ship that morphed into a 30-year career.

Baker eventually became burnt out with running the shop. Peters became co-owner with Kris Lachance and helped oversee a period that saw Splash flourish into one of Lansing's most popular tattoo shops. Like many ambitious tattooists who walked through the halls of Splash, Peters splintered off, opening Eclectic in 2010 with Mike Riina — though Riina would go on to open his own shop, Lionfish Tattoo.

Peters' apprentice Harley Zeke, 28, is a self-taught artist, unless you count his attendance at the artsy Vivian Riddle Magnet School. While the apprenticeship at Eclectic allows him to pursue several creative interests, Zeke is focused on widening his scope in preparation to provide clients with any popular tattoo style they can throw at him. But translating one's skills with pencil and charcoal to the intimidating tattoo machine isn't easy. The machine was the hardest art tool Zeke ever worked with.

"None of it applies remotely to any surface the way nee-

Tattoo

from page 12

dles apply to skin,” Zeke said. “There is so much to consider, between the machine’s speed and hand movement speed. It’s so important, and it’s not prevalent in any of the art forms that I do normally.”

Greg Drake, 49, a tattooist for 25 years, is a fellow graduate of the Baker/Splash of Color apprenticeship — an experience he lovingly likened to being a member of the Addams Family. Like Peters and Riina, he runs his own shop, Local Tattoo & Laser Co., which he opened in 2010 with his wife, Monica Drake, 44. He recalls coming up at a time when tattoos would primarily be seen within fringe subcultures — the bikers, the rockers and the fellow tattoo artists. The so-called scene of shops was “non-existent.”

“The industry wasn’t as popular, there weren’t appointments,” Drake said. “You sat there and waited for people to come in. You were pretty lucky if you had tattoos to do.”

Drake said the mid-90s saw different, more “acceptable” types of celebrities prominently showing off tattoos, allowing the industry to begin chipping away at its taboo reputation.

“There were more artists, skateboarders and snowboarders instead of bikers and factory workers,” Drake said. “It became more art-influenced, rather than just existing as an underground art form.” Artists began sharing more information and tattoo conventions got big. “That was like college for a young tattoo artist,” Drake said.

Drake has done a lot of work on Chris Fox, 36, owner of Fish Ladder Tattoo Co.

“He’s kind of the guy that got me into tattooing,” Fox said. “I was getting tat-



Chris Fox/Fish Ladder Tattoo

Multiple angles of a sleeve tattoo by Chris Fox, owner of Fish Ladder Tattoo Co. You can see more of his work on his Instagram account @FoxTattoos.

tooed a lot by him when he was still working in Grand Rapids. He hooked me up with the guy that apprenticed me.”

Fish Ladder, founded by Eric Jenks and Chris Boilore, perennially receives high marks. It has won City Pulse’s Top of the Town contest several times. Fox began tattooing there in 2009 after his deathcore band See You Next Tuesday went on indefinite hiatus. “I was extremely lucky when I was asked to join. At the time, Chris’ work was highly influential to me.”

Fox eventually found himself in a position to take over as owner, a gig he

was grateful to accept. “Chris and Eric built this place from the ground up. I have a lot of travel experience, and I was able to use my connections to bring

in guest artists,” Fox said. “Fish Ladder used to be a Lansing thing. Now it seems to be more of a Michigan thing.”

BODY STYLE

Lauren Robison was inspired to tattoo in her teenage years after growing up watching popular shows like “Miami Ink” on television. Though Robison, 28, has only been tattooing in Lansing for two years, the scene has been overwhelmingly welcoming. She moved to Lansing from Ft. Wayne to tattoo full time after meeting Mike Riina, now owner of Lionfish Tattoo, at one of Robison’s guest spots with an Indiana tattoo shop. Starting at Eclectic when Riina was still co-owner there, Robison joined him when he left to open Lionfish.

“There used to be old school traditions, where if you shared information, that would be considered wrong,” Robison said. “Things are changing as the years are progressing. Everyone is friendly and wants to help everyone out.”

Robison said women tattoo clients often feel more comfortable working with a woman artist.

“I’ve been really lucky. My past has helped me get to the point where I don’t worry about too many stigmas of being a female tattoo artist,” Robison said. “Being a woman helps bring in female

See Tattoo, Page 14

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

Property Class	Eaton County 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

Property Class	Ingham County 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

Property Class	Clinton County 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

3056 Okemos Rd., Mason, MI 48854
517-349-9500

COUNTRY HOUSE Catering

Beautiful Banquets are our Specialty!

Our spacious banquet hall paired with our mouthwatering menu and experienced, friendly staff will make your next event your best!

Call us today!
517-349-9500
countryhousecatering.net



Tattoo

from page 13

clientele — they feel comfortable and get a more feminine touch to their tattoo.”

Therèsa M. Winge, an associate professor of fashion design and theory, is an expert in the vast and dense culture of tattoos. Her book “Body Style,” traces the social and cultural currents that underlie the art of tattoos, beyond the mere fact that they look cool.

“Facial tattoos used to belong to early Japanese culture and early indigenous North America,” Winge said. “They would tattoo marks that were identifiable to their family. Now, our facial tattoos don’t necessarily represent heritage, but they still construct identity.”

The widespread idea that tattoos have gone mainstream might be bouncing around in an echo chamber, as Winge isn’t quite on board.

“I haven’t found that tattoos or body modifications are actually acceptable to the degree that people under 30 think they are,” Winge. “But that kind of gives me hope. I find people use tattoos and body modifications to communicate and construct identity, and even get through difficult things in their life.”

It often happens that a young person gets a prominent tattoo only to have their beautiful feeling of self-expression squashed by the conformist uniformity



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

A smattering of ink bottles rests on a shelf at Eclectic Art Tattoo Gallery.

of the working world. “I am not confident everyone is accepting yet, but there was a tattoo renaissance in the ’70s and ’80s,” Winge allowed.

That’s when tattoos broke out of their stereotypical association with soldiers, sailors and prison inmates. As younger people got inked, that hardened image began to dilute and become less intimidating to suburbanites.

Winge likened the trendiness of tattoos to fashion trends. Today’s youth culture is highly susceptible to “influencers” on Instagram and YouTube, or copy the tattoo tastes of their favorite rappers. Post Malone, with face tattoos galore, might inspire many young peo-

ple to take a dip in the world of facial tattooing.

Winge isn’t sure if that’s a “good thing.”

“There might be some poor decisions that people are making,” Winge said.

But no matter how popular the extreme tattoos get, few shops will provide a face, neck or hand tattoo to somebody who isn’t already seriously inked. Even then, if you’re a failing SoundCloud rapper with a face tattoo, you can always visit a laser artist

like Monica Drake, who’s had success removing even the most obscene and poorly done tattoos.

NO GOING BACK

Some artists in Lansing use the tattoo industry as a gateway to other causes. Corey Warren, 30, co-owner of Ink Therapy, has a dual purpose for his tattoo and piercing shop. Warren opened Ink Therapy with his mother, Jacque Liebner, in 2016, and he runs a connected nonprofit organization, WAI-IAM, which works with several drug courts and post treatment centers, such as the RISE Recovery Community sober living house.

“I don’t know exactly why, but for so long there’s been a stigma where somehow drugs and tattoos are meshed together. That’s not the case,” Warren. “Ink Therapy was born out of the idea for a clean and sober shop where clients knew they were in good hands.”

Warren has spent his entire life intrigued by tattoos, getting his first at age 17, a shark cruising across his back. Taking the symbolic route that many people do when getting a tattoo, Warren’s shark represents an instinctual desire and motivation for constant forward movement, as the curvature of a shark’s pectoral fins limits its ability to move backward.

“People can take their journeys and stories, whatever they’ve gone through in life, and display it on their body and be proud of it,” Warren said. “And I have tattoos on my body that remind me of things I don’t want to go back to. There’s so much significance to them — tattoos have always inspired me.”

But no matter what your endgame is, there’s likely a corner of the Lansing tattoo scene for you.

“We definitely have higher prices in Lansing, but compared to other major cities where we’re doing the same caliber of work, we’re pretty affordable,” Fox said. “Lansing is a little city that has a lot to offer.”

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**Z-9-2019, 3440 N. East Street
Rezoning from “F” Commercial District to “G-2” Wholesale District**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on March 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider Z-9-2019. This is a request by Jeffrey & Sheryl Landgraf to rezone the property at 3440 N. East Street from “F” Commercial District to “G-2” Wholesale District, with a condition restricting the allowable uses. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit a medical marijuana safety compliance facility on the subject property.

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk’s Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#20-037

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on Thursday, March 12, 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 for the purpose of considering a request from Nicholas Tesseris, for the property located at 515 Division Street, to enclose the side entry of the house.
2. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Taylor Teachout, for the property located at 519 Park Lane, to replace existing windows with new replacement windows.
3. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Alexandre Bayleran, for the property located at 445 Abbot Road, to replace the casement windows on the east side of the house with new replacement windows.
4. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Emilio Esposito, for the property located at 32 University Drive, to replace a fence in the front yard with cedar replica.

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

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#20-043

LansINGout's
1st Annual
"Spring Sing Thing"

Join the LansingOUT Gay Men's Chorus at the historic Potter House for an evening of fun and music! Nibbles and drinks provided.

DATE: Saturday, March 21, 2020 **TICKETS:** \$25
TIME: 6:30 PM • Available beginning January 1, 2020
PLACE: The Potter House • Must be purchased in advance
1348 Cambridge Road • Proceeds support LanSINGout's participation in the 2020 national GALA Festival
Lansing, MI 48911

More info or to purchase tickets:
EMAIL: fundraising@lansingout.org
Make checks payable to
"LansINGout" and mail to:
P.O. Box 11146, Lansing, MI 48901

CITY OF LANSING PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020 ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the public test of the program, which will be used for tabulating the results of the Election to be held Tuesday, March 10, 2020 in the City of Lansing, will be conducted at the Lansing City Clerk’s Election Unit located at the South Washington Office Complex at 2500 South Washington Avenue on Tuesday, February 26, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

The public accuracy test is conducted to determine that the program used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

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

We must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk or by calling 517-483-4131.

The Lansing City Clerk’s Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave., 9th Floor, will be open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to issue absentee ballots to qualified electors.

The Lansing City Clerk’s Election Unit, 2500 S. Washington Ave (rear entrance), will be open:

- Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
- Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Sunday, March 8, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

to register voters and to issue absentee ballots to qualified electors.

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

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

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

CP#20-045

WHERE TO GO FOR INK

Eclectic Art Tattoo Gallery
615 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
eclecticarttattoo.com
(517) 485-7872

Expressions Body Art Studio
4617 N. Grand River Ave.
Lansing
facebook.com/E.B.A.S.TATTOOS,
(517) 993-5198

Fish Ladder Tattoo Co.
302 E. Grand River Ave.,
Lansing
facebook.com/
FishLadderTattoo
(517) 507-0353

The Gallery Fine Art & Tattoo Studio
2515 E. Jolly Road #2,
Lansing
Search Facebook for
"Gallery Fine Art &
Tattoo Studio"
(517) 853-8278

Ink & Needle
One location in East
Lansing, two in Lansing
Inkandneedleswe.com

Ink Therapy
2819 E. Saginaw St.,
Lansing
facebook.com/
InkTherapyLansing
(517) 614-6711

Lionfish Tattoo
3233 W. Saginaw St.
Suite C, Lansing
Lionfishtattoo.com

Liquid Tattoo
16583 Old US 127, Lansing
Search Facebook "Liquid
Tattoo Lansing"
(517) 346-7702

Local Tattoo & Laser Co.
2020 E. Michigan Ave,
Lansing
localtattoo517.com
(517) 708-7338

Lucky's Tattoos
1219 E. Cesar Chavez
Ave.
(517) 894-4710

Master Tattoo and Piercing
600 E. Cavanaugh Road,
Lansing
Search Facebook for
"Master Tattoo and
Piercing,"
(517) 377-5946

Ministry Ink Tattoo
610 N. Creyts Road,
Lansing
ministryinktattoo.com,
(517) 253-8746

Splash of Color
515 E. Grand River Ave.,
East Lansing
splashtattoos.com
(517) 333-0990

Vivid Ink
2375 N. Cedar St. #C,
Holt
vividinksingers.com,
(517) 694-0833



**FREE
LOANERS**



WE MAKE FRIENDS BY ACCIDENT

3200 W. Main St., Lansing, MI 48917
517-977-0955

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Everything out **OF** its **PLACE**

Broad Museum exhibit is a closet full of chaos

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

What is that bird doing here?

The odd sight of a burrowing parakeet from Michigan State University's ornithology research collection, stuffed and encased in glass among dozens of pieces of contemporary art, provokes one of a thousand uncomfortable questions at the Broad Museum's big new exhibit.

"Never Spoken Again: Rogue Stories of Science and Collections" fills the Broad's second floor with false leads, displacements, mind games and brazen stories of outright plunder.

On trial is the very act of taking something out of its context and putting it on exhibit.

"Never Spoken Again: Rogue Stories of Science and Collections"

Now through August. 23
MSU Broad
547 E Circle Dr.
East Lansing
(517) 884-4800
Tuesday–Sunday, 12–7pm
FREE ADMISSION
broadmuseum.msu.edu

A case full of colorful, ancient-looking shards and fragments catches the eye. Has the Broad started collecting Egyptian ruins?

You must be kidding. On closer look, the viewer learns that the "Egyptian artifacts" were dug up

from the Nipomo Dunes in Guadalupe, and were made for movie director Cecil B. DeMille's 1923 version of "The Ten Commandments." The owl in the middle of one case sat in a Napa Auto Parts store for many years.

Clues to the true age of the objects are provided by zigzag design elements more suited to Art Deco than Pharaoh Rameses II, and by a trio of cough syrup bottles, probably guzzled by bored extras in lieu of real booze during Prohibition.

This is one exhibit where you don't want to skip reading the labels. They really live up to the promise of "rogue stories." We learn that the



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Iraqi-American artist Michael Rakowitz used newspapers and sardine cans to re-create a 2,000-year-old artifact plundered from the National Museum of Baghdad in the wake of the 2003 U.S. invasion.

plaster in the artifacts is bound with hair, still visible, that was shaved from horses DeMille rented from the nearby Presidio army base in San Francisco. We also learn that the Guadalupe boy who wandered into the dunes and found the plaster owl was flogged by his father with a Hot Wheels track for missing work.

There's a bizarre sequel to the story, involving spiritualists who thought the existence of Egyptian artifacts in the California dunes meant aliens had visited the area.

The glass cases are set in a phony Egyptian room graced by large, kitschy murals discarded by the Luxor Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

There is a method to all of this madness. The Broad exhibit is the first stop in a traveling project put together by a young wave of museum curators, Independent Curators International.

"Never Spoken Again" candidly exposes the complicity of museums in exploiting and distorting non-Western cultures, but for these young curators, that is just a starting point. The exhibit is more than a hall of shame — its playful side, and its delight in a labyrinth of side paths and open doors, hints at a new wave of freedom in museum practice.

"Chac Pool," by Mexican-American artist Claudia Peña Salinas, interprets an ancient native artifact in a wild mixed media fantasia of brass, dyed cotton, obsidian, ostrich feathers, aragonite, coconut and postcards (of the original artifact).

The heart of the exhibit is a wall of sobering photographs taken in the 1980s at a museum built by Catholic missionaries.

Brazilian artist Maria Thereza Alves captured insensitive and depressing exhibits of native artifacts, including a plaster native trapped like a parakeet in a glass booth.

"What am I doing here?" he seems to be asking.

Between the photos, a series of panels recreate the eloquent testimony of Alvaro Fernando Sanpaio of the Turkana people, detailing the decline suffered by the native inhabitants of the Rio Negro after the arrival of Salesian Catholic missionaries in 1915.

Sanpaio describes in detail how evangelism and programs for education and national integration broke up native communities and stripped the natives of their myths and practices.

Among the sad results were poverty, addiction and prostitution.

"This would shock the nuns, as they are very sensitive when one speaks truths," Sanpaio dryly notes.

A shadowy video looping at the west end of the exhibit hints that native gods and spirits all over the world may someday wreak their revenge.

Iranian artist Mohreshin Allayaru's black and white video evokes Huma, a mid-level spirit from traditional Arabic and Muslim stories who thrives on flaming chaos that is completely antithetical to the sterile order of a museum.

"She is a monster and should be," goes the narration.

The video gives you the feeling that if Huma ever got in the mood, she could burn the whole place to the ground.

Until then, the parakeet from MSU will stay in its case, peering at the visitor with its piercing, false eyes, as if to ask, "what am I doing here?"



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Colombian artist Reyes Santiago Rojas riffs on the destructive cycle of sugar cane plantations that ruined the landscape in large swaths of Latin America and came back in the form of soda and other junk food.

CURTAIN CALL

'Into the Woods' serves up spectacle, charm, pizzazz

By TOM HELMA

Once upon a time, in my imagination, two precocious 5-year-olds decided to rewrite their favorite childhood fairy tales, as a musical, no less. Upon reaching adulthood, Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine decided, "Oh, what the heck? Let's go for it."

Enter "Into the Woods," now playing in the completely refurbished comforts of MSU's Fairchild Theatre.

Review

Through Feb. 23
Fairchild Theatre
542 Auditorium Road,
East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu/woods

The play takes great liberties with the original tales; fractured fragments remain, reassembled as a child might, into a new and more complicated story.

Scenic design director Brandon Barker's three hanging scrims have black and white projections of '30s-era Detroit skyscrapers splashed onto them. Dramaturge Laura MacDonald explains in program notes that Detroiters, starving to death in 1932, participated in the Ford Hunger strike on a bitter March day. They were met with police and firefighters wielding hoses, tear gas and guns. Four people died.

It might be a Nostradamus stretch to suggest that these now deconstructed tales draw a parallel to that time of great economic woe. No matter – the actors can sing; the singers can act. The result is spectacular. In this mix-match of lead characters, several individuals stand out. Cinderella, portrayed by Jacqueline Lee, has a lyrical soprano voice that pierces tender hearts, while Naomi Blansit as the witch combines a strong singing voice with vocal drama and dramatic pizzazz.

At the heart of this story is the



Courtesy Charles Benoit

Maeyson Menzel (front) and Naomi Blansit in "Into the Woods."

baker, played by Kevin Baker. He and his wife, played by Sarah Gramercy yearn for a child. Gramercy adds yet another powerful vocal performance, while Baker makes up for a lesser musical performance, stepping to the edge of the stage with a husky deeply emotional speaking/singing performance of "No More."

Barker's scenic design includes a backdrop with the big guy of Beanstalk fame, in which the whole stage shudders as we see a giant foot tumble over, on screen, behind the actors. Director Deric McNish has pulled it all together in this production, and it almost makes sense – especially if we can just suspend our hyper-adult critical voices and just sit back and enjoy the charm of it.

At the heart of this story is the

BetterHealth

MARKET & CAFÉ

BETTER FOODS. BETTER PRICES. BETTER YOU.

CV SCIENCE

PLUS **+CBDoil** ALL THE POWER OF WHOLE HEMP

New +CBD™ Oil Topicals

PlusCBD™ Oil full spectrum hemp products offer all the power of the hemp plant, including CBD and over 500 other compounds such as Vitamin E and Fatty Acids to benefit the body. We call this synergy the "HempTourage Effect." Whichever formula you choose, you'll reap the benefits of the whole plant.

25% OFF RETAIL



Better Your Life with Better Health

FRESH Organic Raw Juices



OUR BETTER JUICE IS:

- Cold-pressed raw juice
- Only organic fruits & vegetables
- Refreshing, revitalizing, results
- Rich in antioxidants
- 100% plant-based

Individual juices are available @ \$8.49/ea

Detox package blends include:

- **Kickstarter** (organic apple, organic lemon, & ginger)
- **Green Machine** (organic cucumber, organic kale, organic green pepper, organic spinach & organic celery)
- **The Refresher** (organic pineapple, organic cucumber, organic celery, organic lemon, & ginger)
- **The Miracle Cure** (organic apple, organic cucumber, organic carrots, organic beets, organic lemon, and turmeric)

3 day supply \$99 7 day supply \$229

INCLUDES 4-16 OZ. JUICES DAILY

Benefits of a juice cleanse

- Loss weight
- Increase energy and improve mental clarity
- Restore gut health
- Super nutritious
- Removes toxins

Prices valid through February 29, 2020.

East Lansing (Frاندor)

305 N Clippert Ave
Across from Frاندor Mall
517-332-6892
Mon-Sat: 8am-9pm Sun: 11am-7pm

Lansing

6235 West Saginaw Hwy
517-323-9186
Mon-Thurs: 9am-9pm Fri-Sat: 9am-8pm
Sun: 12am-5pm

www.BetterHealthStore.com

Connect with us:

Flint documentary to headline Capital City Film Festival

Organizers announce 10th annual film festival in downtown Lansing

By KYLE KAMINSKI

The Capital City Film Festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary as it returns to Lansing from April 9-18.

The annual festival celebrates artists from around the world by curating outstanding multimedia experiences for the local community and showcasing an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive exhibits and more. And a sneak peek at the lineup for 2020 certainly promises to entertain.

“Flint: Who Do You Trust” by Scottish director Anthony Baxter will be the headlining film for this year’s film festival, which organizers have affectionately dubbed CCF 10. The film, which makes its global premiere March 1, is billed as the definitive documentary about one of America’s most infamous pollution disasters.

Acclaimed actor Alec Baldwin narrates the movie, which was filmed over five years and unfolds through the perspectives of Flint’s residents. Emmy award-winning producer Sabrina Gordon, journalist Richard Phinney and scientist-turned-filmmaker Justin Weinstein also assisted Baxter in its highly anticipated production.

And while the full lineup for this year’s festival hasn’t yet been revealed, organizers said the opening film will also include a Michigan connection.



Courtesy photo

A still from “Flint: Who Do You Trust,” the headlining film of this year’s Capital City Film Festival.

“Once Upon a River” — directed by Haroula Rose — will kick off the festival with a story based on the bestselling novel of the same name, written by Michigan native Bonnie Jo Campbell.

That movie takes place in rural Michigan and some characters are from tribal communities. Organizers said the narrative will lead viewers on a theatrical journey that is lovely, but at times simultaneously heartbreaking. Though the film has already made its way around the country, CCF 10 will serve as its Michigan premiere.

Other announcements were also made for the festival’s 10th anniversary:

CCFF will kick off its 2020 Brew & View Series at The Avenue Cafe to get people warmed up for the festival. The first film — “Coming to America” — will be shown Feb. 28, followed by “Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion” March 27. Live music will also be included at both events. The Fortnight Film Contest, CCF 10’s competition for teams of amateur, student and professional filmmakers, is now accepting registrations. The contest will begin March 19 with films due April 2. Entries are judged by a panel of filmmakers and film lovers. Top films will be shown at the festival.

Organizers also announced a new poetry project for the festival. The program is designed to engage 20 local poets to respond to the festival’s films and events. A call for poets is open through March 5.

While some events are free of charge, tickets for most film events are \$5 at the door. The opening night feature is \$10. Concerts run from \$5-15. And all-access passes and patron passes are available for \$50 and \$100, respectively.

Visit capitalcityfilmfest.com for details — and a full line up — as the festival approaches.

Lucha libre action swoops into The Fledge

By ELLEN DOWLING

Mexican lucha libre wrestling, a bombastic high-flying spectacle of physical prowess featuring flamboyant masked wrestlers, is returning to The Fledge Saturday by way of Capital Pro Wrestling.

Capital Pro Wrestling

\$12
3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 22
The Fledge
1300 Eureka St., Lansing
[facebook.com/CPWLansing](https://www.facebook.com/CPWLansing)

“Lucha libre is the name of pro wrestling in Mexico,” Zack Macomber, CPW executive producer, said. “Historically, it’s more a display of good versus evil — a morality play. The superheroes often wear colorful masks in the

tradition of the Aztecs. We are taking concepts from lucha libre that we enjoy and are bringing it to our events.”

Macomber works alongside Joe Diaz and Joe Ranta at American Lucha Libre, the sanctioning body for CPW. Macomber has been working in the wrestling business for 17 years, getting his start filming wrestling showcases.

“Saturday will be the first round of the Great Lakes Television Title Tournament. Eight wrestlers will compete for the opportunity to be the first Great Lakes Television Champion,” Macomber said. “The wrestling event at the Fledge will be a taping of our episodic wrestling show, ‘The Great Lakes

Professional Wrestling Showcase,’” Macomber said.

CPW releases an episode each Thursday on its YouTube channel, Head Drop Productions.

Saturday’s tournament match will feature a mashup of some of the top underground wrestlers in the Great Lakes region, such as C.J. Ottgen, who will face off against the cartoonish The Fro-Gun D-Ray 300.

And what would a lucha libre show be without a luchador? The Mysterious Movado, a fan favorite, will also be in the house. “He exemplifies lucha libre wrestling,” said Macomber.

The wrestlers add their own ele-

ments to the traditional lucha libre style. Offering a more, “old school professional wrestling style. It doesn’t have as much of the glitz and glamour of the high budget sports entertainment, but many wrestling fans prefer the days of classic wrestling,” Macomber said.

Such performances of grand standing aren’t for all, but Macomber encourages everyone to see what wrestling is all about.

“I always say to people that you’re either a pro wrestling fan, or you just don’t know it yet. Everyone can find a wrestler that they can look up to, or one that they can boo,” Macomber said. “There’s nothing better than getting into a match and watching your favorite guy kicking butt. It’s one of those things you have to experience to understand.”

Poetry back on the rise in Greater Lansing

By **BILL CASTANIER**

It's a rare weekend when there isn't some type of poetry event in Greater Lansing. When I talked with Laura Apol, MSU writing professor and Lansing poet laureate, she was about to leave for a poetry workshop she was conducting in Grand Ledge. At the same time, poet Ruelaine Stokes was a featured writer at the Eaton Rapids Poetry Club.

Poetry has blossomed in the area and Apol attributes it to several factors. "We are living in a time when people need to have voices and give voice

to others. Poetry is happening everywhere," she said.

Apol said another reason for poetry's ascent is the Center for Poetry at MSU, which brings in major poets and conducts workshops.

She said the proposed state budget, which includes a slot for a state poet laureate, would further bolster poetry as an important piece of culture. The Library of Michigan would administer the post, which still has to be approved by the legislature.

"The position would empower local laureates," she said. "It's also about what a poet laureate would say about Michigan: That we are raising our children to appreciate the arts," Apol said.

Robert Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, which sponsors the Lansing area poet laureate position with the MSU Poetry Center and the Lansing Poetry Club, agrees with Apol. Trezise said he sees poetry as an important part of place making which he preaches as an economic tool for attracting new businesses.

At a recent literary event at REO Town's Robin Theatre, Trezise observed a packed house of young people listening to the spoken word. He said many of those in the audience were young REO Town business owners.

"We are making different kinds of connections," he said.

And that's one reason Trezise and the LEAP Board established a poet laureate position in 2017. The first poet laureate was Dennis Hinrichsen who served two years. Apol, only the second to hold the position, is noted for her poetry that engages directly with the



Courtesy photo

Lansing poet laureate Laura Apol.

lives of others and is often documentary in nature.

Her poetry collection "Requiem, Rwanda," published by MSU Press in 2018, is based on her work to help healing among the survivors of the 1994 Rwanda genocide. She is currently at work on a scholarly book on "poetic inquiry," which melds poetry and research.

Apol, who has held numerous workshops and readings in the community, said, "I wish there were four of us," referring to the position of poet laureate.

M.L. Liebler, an award-winning poet and Wayne State University professor, is also the poet laureate for St. Clair Shores, a post he's held since 2005.

"Being a poet laureate is more than just a title. A poet laureate's job is to help citizens of all ages understand that

literature and the arts is essential to one's growth and awareness to help create a healthy society," he said.

One of the characteristics of the poetry culture in Lansing — according to Rosalie Petrouske, a Lansing Community College writing professor and poet — is a lot of younger people of diverse backgrounds are getting involved.

She also cites the number of poetry groups and venues have increased for both "the stage and page" poets.

In addition to Writing at the Ledges, a writing group she helped found, there's the Lansing Poetry Club, the Poetry Place, the Blue Owl Reading Series and events by MSU Poetry Center.

"Poets in Lansing are finally getting recognized as significant," she said.

One other characteristic of the poetry scene is there is a group of dedicated poets who organize events. That long list includes Petrouske, who has put together the program Six Voices in Winter, a series of readings next Wednesday at the Okemos Library. Petrouske said each of the women offer a unique vision in their poetry. The women have picked five themes and will rotate between themselves, read-

ing one poem at a time.

"It will be fast-paced," she said.

The five other poets joining Petrouske: Mary Fox, who has published two volumes of poetry and was formerly a teacher at Fowler High School and LCC; Cheryl Caesar, who teaches writing at MSU and is an officer in the Lansing Poetry Club; Melinda Pope, who fuses poetry with her photography and mixed media art together; Margo Krusinga, who will present poetry inspired by the 60 acres of land surrounding her home, and Mary Anna Kruch, a career educator whose poetry is inspired by her Italian family and the family farm in Northern Michigan.

In a twist of poetic license, Petrouske said, "What could be better than six wonderful women on a warm winter night?"

SCHULER BOOKS

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.

LOCAL AUTHOR DAWN NEWTON
February 19 · 7pm

Dawn Newton joins us to share her brave and intimate memoir, *Winded*, in which she describes life with terminal disease.

Chapbook Press Presents BEATING THE ODDS WITH IRA CHILDRESS
February 23 · 1pm

The athletic director for Okemos High School until 2018 joins us to share his inspirational memoir, *Beating the Odds*.

KID'S STORY TIME
Saturdays · 11am

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

SchulerBooks.com / Event
Meridian Mall · Okemos

Curious Book Shop

307 E. Grand River, E. Lansing
332-0112 ♦ We validate parking
Mon. - Sat. 10-7 pm, Sun. 12-5 pm
www.curiousbooks.com

We have books you always wanted but never knew existed!

Quality Used Books at Great Prices!



Archives Book Shop

519 W. Grand River, E. Lansing
332-8444 ♦ Free Parking
Mon. - Sat. 11-6 pm, Sun. 12-5 pm
thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com

STORMY[®] KROMER

STYLES FOR EVERYONE!



Dogs & Babies, too!



Absolute
GALLERY
 AND CUSTOM FRAMING

307 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave
 Lansing
 (517) 482-8845
www.absolutegallery.net

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 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Acrylic Painting Workshop - 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. To register: 627-7014.

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. The MAC, 2900 Hannah Blvd, East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

Dawn Newton presents her memoir, Winded - 7 p.m. Schuler Books, 1982 Grand River, Okemos.

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

Miz Rosie Black History Month Storytelling - 6:30-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

EVENTS

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

Current Events - Keep up with local, national and world-wide news. 1-2:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors Program/Hannah Community Center,

819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Diabetes Support Group - 6:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing.

Harpo Howard at Allen Farmers Market - 5 p.m. Market is open 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

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

Lansing Codes : Cowork at The Grid. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The Grid, 226 E. Grand River Ave, Lansing.

The Last Butterflies: A Scientist's Quest to Save a Rare and Vanishing Creature. 7-9 p.m. Michigan Nature Assoc., 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos. 866-223-2231. ildoneslansing.org.

Line Dancing - No partner/experience needed. 1-1:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Live Animals in the Library (All ages) - Meet some live zoo animals! 1-2 p.m. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 N. Aurelius Rd., Holt.

Threads of Wisdom: Replenishing the Self. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministries, 5705 S. Washington, Lansing.

Winter Workdays at CCBS - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing. michiganaudubon.org.

ARTS

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

Into the Woods - MSU Department of Theatre. 7:30 p.m. MSU Auditorium, East Lansing. calendar.cal.msu.edu.

Intro to Drawing Class: Tools and Tactics. 6-8 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

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

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

MSU Professors of Jazz - 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, MSU, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

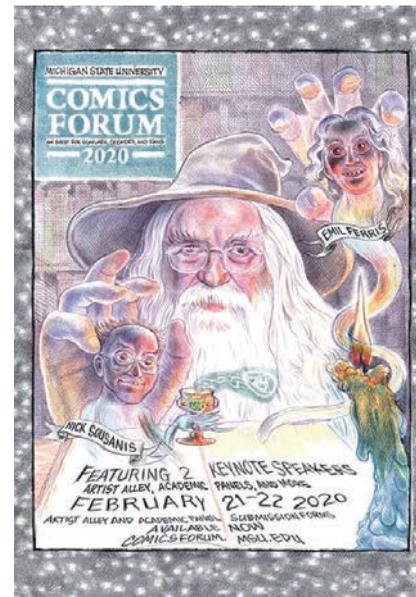
Thursday, February 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aqua Fitness - Fun for all fitness levels. 10:30-

Are you a fan of "Great British Bake Off?" Then check out the Great Spartan Bake Off. Attendees will experience a night of British-themed foods, while learning how to decorate from MSU bakers design staff.

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Case Hall, 842 Chestnut Road, East Lansing
[facebook.com/eatatstate](https://www.facebook.com/eatatstate)
(517) 884-0660



MSU Comics Forum

Excelsior! The MSU Comics Forum, a free two-day bonanza of artist allies and keynote speeches and academic panels from leaders and up-and-comers from the comics industry, returns to East Lansing. The keynote speakers this year are Emil Ferris and Nick Sousanis. Ferris is a writer, cartoonist and designer who made her publishing debut with the 2017 graphic novel "My Favorite Thing is Monsters," a coming-of-age story of a

young girl in '60s-era Chicago.

Sousanis is also an Eisner-winning author and an assistant professor of Humanities & Liberal Studies at San Francisco State University, where he is starting a Comics Studies program. Sousanis wrote his dissertation "Unflattening" at Teachers College, Columbia University. "Unflattening" argues for the importance of visual thinking and was published by Harvard University.

The artist alley features a score of local and traveling artists, who produce comics, prints and countless other forms of fascinating, comic-centric art.

Comics Forum

Free
Friday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m.
MSU Library
366 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing
[facebook.com/MSUComicsForum](https://www.facebook.com/MSUComicsForum)

11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

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

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

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

EVENTS

12th Annual Pizza Taste-off (Age 6 & up) - 4:30-5:30 p.m. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. cadl.org

Craft Night - Crafts and civil discourse. 7-9 p.m. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-657-5800.

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.

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

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

Minecraft Game Night (Ages 8-15) - Registration required; call 517-485-5185 or go to cadl.org/events 5-6:30 p.m. CADL Foster, 200

N. Foster Ave., Lansing.

ARTS

900 Miles to International Falls - 8-10 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S Putnam St. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

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

Into the Woods - MSU Department of Theatre. 7:30 p.m. MSU Auditorium, Lansing. calendar.cal.msu.edu.

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.

Taste of Jewelry: Cold Forming - 6:30-9:30 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2400 W. St. Joe, Lansing.

MUSIC

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

Concert Orchestra - MSU Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. music.msu.edu.

Keaton Garrett, Saxophone - 8 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Tina Gorter, Collaborative Piano - 6 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21 >> THE GREAT SPARTAN BAKE OFF



Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Decade in Review, Part 5" -- fun stuff from 2018 & 2019.

By Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Lip enhancer
- 6 Go through flour
- 10 Pale
- 13 Blue ___ (butterfly species)
- 15 ___ Shamrock McFlurry (McDonald's debut of 2020)
- 16 Ingested
- 17 Company that launched Falcon Heavy in 2018
- 18 Game that generated more digital revenue in 2018 than any game in history, per the Hollywood Reporter
- 20 "Nashville" director Robert

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13				14		15				16			
17						18			19				
			20			21			22				
23	24	25		26				27	28				
29			30		31		32	33					
34				35						36	37	38	
39						40			41	42			
43				44	45			46					
			47						48				
49	50	51					52		53		54		
55						56	57			58			
59				60	61				62		63	64	65
66				67				68					
69				70					71				

- 54 Indefinite quantity
- 55 "___ y Ahora" (Univision newsmagazine)
- 56 Amy's "Parks and Recreation" role
- 59 It held up a banana in Maurizio Cattelan's 2019 artwork "Comedian"
- 62 ESPN personality who retired in 2019 after being with the network since its inception in 1979
- 66 Little ___ (protagonist of Punch-Out!!)
- 67 Omen
- 68 Make angry
- 69 2001 Will Smith role (or a princely 2019 role opposite Will Smith)
- 70 Oil of ___
- 71 "Well, you're not looking ___ yourself ..."
- Down**
- 1 Sports execs, for short
- 2 Cut off, as branches
- 3 Pop singer and "The Masked Singer" (U.K.) panelist Rita
- 4 Animal advocacy org.
- 5 Knickknack perch
- 6 Den furniture
- 7 Monopoly token replaced by a cat in 2013
- 8 Two-___ (buy one, get one deal)
- 9 "Paw Patrol" watcher
- 10 Forfeit voluntarily
- 11 Lofty storage area
- 12 Hockey Hall of Famer Cam
- 14 Jamaican stew ingredient
- 19 It may be pressing
- 21 Broadway hit based on a Roald Dahl book
- 23 Senior's focus
- 24 Jason Bateman Netflix drama
- 25 Flying Disney character
- 27 ___ Schwarz (toy store that reopened in 2018)
- 28 Bedding purchase
- 30 Luau wear
- 32 Parking units
- 33 Gateway Arch site
- 35 Thing in a ring
- 36 Ancient Greek market
- 37 Type of M&Ms renamed "Milk Chocolate"
- 38 Partner of Abe, Thomas, and George
- 42 Buenos Aires loc.
- 45 Highly volatile fuel, for short
- 46 Words repeated after "Whatever" in a Doris Day song
- 47 Landed
- 49 "Top Chef" host Lakshmi
- 50 =
- 51 Big name in bags
- 53 Pride participants?
- 56 Org. for Madelene Sagström and Park Hee-Young
- 57 "___, meeny, miney, mo"
- 58 Spain's longest river
- 60 Chinese menu name
- 61 Be off
- 63 ___-di-dah
- 64 Anton ("Ratatouille" restaurant critic)
- 65 Nevertheless

©2019 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com)

Answers Page 24

SUDOKU

Advanced

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 24

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Feb. 19-Feb. 25, 2020

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do you feel ready to change your mind about an idea or belief or theory that has been losing its usefulness? Would you consider changing your relationship with a once-powerful influence that is becoming less crucial to your life-long goals? Is it possible you have outgrown one of your heroes or teachers? Do you wonder if maybe it's time for you to put less faith in a certain sacred cow or overvalued idol? According to my analysis of your astrological omens, you'll benefit from meditating on these questions during the coming weeks.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When she was alive more than 2,500 years ago, the Greek poet Sappho was so famous for her lyrical creations that people referred to her as "The Poetess" and the "Tenth Muse." (In Greek mythology, there were nine muses, all goddesses.) She was a prolific writer who produced over 10,000 lines of verse, and even today she remains one of the world's most celebrated poets. I propose that we make her your inspirational role model for the coming months. In my view, you're poised to generate a wealth of enduring beauty in your own chosen sphere. Proposed experiment: Regard your daily life as an art project.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Have you ever dropped out of the daily grind for a few hours or even a few days so as to compose a master plan for your life? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to give yourself that necessary luxury. According to my analysis, you're entering a phase when you'll generate good fortune for yourself if you think deep thoughts about how to create your future. What would you like the story of your life to be on March 1, 2025? How about March 1, 2030? And March 1, 2035? I encourage you to consult your soul's code and formulate an inspired, invigorating blueprint for the coming years. Write it down!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian novelist William Makepeace Thackeray (1819-1875) is famous for "Vanity Fair", a satirical panorama of 19th-century British society. The phrase "Vanity Fair" had been previously used, though with different meanings, in the Bible's book of Ecclesiastes, as well as in works by John Bunyan and St. Augustine. Thackeray was lying in bed near sleep one night when the idea flew into his head to use it for his own story. He was so thrilled, he leaped up and ran around his room chanting "Vanity Fair! Vanity Fair!" I'm foreseeing at least one epiphany like this for you in the coming weeks, Cancerian. What area of your life needs a burst of delicious inspiration?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Who loves you best, Leo? Which of your allies and loved ones come closest to seeing you and appreciating you for who you really are? Of all the people in your life, which have done most to help you become the soulful star you want to be? Are there gem-like characters on the peripheries of your world that you would like to draw nearer? Are there energy drains that you've allowed to play too prominent a role? I hope you'll meditate on questions like these in the coming weeks. You're in a phase when you can access a wealth of useful insights and revelations about how to skillfully manage your relationships. It's also a good time to reward and nurture those allies who have given you so much.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Doom and gloom dominate the forecasts made by many prophets. They experience perverse glee in predicting, for example, that all the rain forests and rivers will be owned by greedy corporations by 2050, or that extraterrestrial invaders who resemble crocodiles will take control of the U.S. government "for the good of the American people," or that climate change will eventually render chocolate and bananas obsolete. That's not how I operate. I deplore the idea that it's only the nasty prognostications that are interesting. In that spirit, I make the following forecasts: The number of homeless Virgos will decrease dramatically in the near future, as will the number of dreamhome-less

Virgos. In fact, I expect you folks will experience extra amounts of domestic bliss in the coming months. You may feel more at home in the world than ever before.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I don't require everyone I learn from to be an impeccable saint. If I vowed to draw inspiration only from those people who flawlessly embody every one of my ethical principles, there'd be no one to be inspired by. Even one of my greatest heroes, Martin Luther King Jr., cheated on his wife and plagiarized parts of his doctoral dissertation. Where do you stand on this issue, Libra? I bet you will soon be tested. How much imperfection is acceptable to you?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio comedian John Cleese co-founded the troupe Monty Python more than fifty years ago, and he has been generating imaginative humor ever since. I suggest we call on his counsel as you enter the most creative phase of your astrological cycle. "This is the extraordinary thing about creativity," he says. "If you just keep your mind resting against the subject in a friendly but persistent way, sooner or later you will get a reward from your unconscious." Here's another one of Cleese's insights that will serve you well: "The most creative people have learned to tolerate the slight discomfort of indecision for much longer, and so, just because they put in more pondering time, their solutions are more creative."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian philosopher Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) developed a vigorous and expansive vision. That's why he became a leading intellectual influence in the era known as the Enlightenment. But because of his inventive, sometimes controversial ideas, he was shunned by his fellow Jews and had his books listed on the Catholic Church's Index of Forbidden Books. Understandably, he sometimes felt isolated. To compensate, he spent lots of time alone taking wide-ranging journeys in his imagination. Even if you have all the friends and social stimulation you need, I hope you will follow his lead in the coming weeks—by taking wide-ranging journeys in your imagination. It's time to roam and ramble in inner realms.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Absolute reason expired at eleven o'clock last night," one character tells another in Henrik Ibsen's play "Peer Gynt". I'm happy to report that a different development is on the verge of occurring for you, Capricorn. In recent days, there may have been less than an ideal amount of reason and logic circulating in your world. But that situation will soon change. The imminent outbreak of good sense, rigorous sanity, and practical wisdom will be quite tonic. Take advantage of this upcoming grace period. Initiate bold actions that are well-grounded in objective rather than subjective truth.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Renowned Aquarian composer Franz Schubert (1797-1828) created more than 700 compositions, some of which are still played by modern musicians. Many of his works were written on and for the piano—and yet he was so poor that he never owned a piano. If there has been a similar situation in your life, Aquarius—a lack of some crucial tool or support due to financial issues—I see the coming weeks as being an excellent time to set in motion the plans that will enable you to overcome and cure that problem.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 1908, British playwright W. Somerset Maugham reached the height of success. Four of his plays were being performed concurrently in four different London theaters. If you were ever in your life going to achieve anything near this level of overflowing popularity or attention, I suspect it would be this year. And if that's a development you would enjoy and thrive on, I think the coming weeks will be an excellent time to set your intention and take audacious measures.

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Friday, Feb. 21

Q&A: KRISSEY BOOTH BRINGS MICHIGAN-MADE POP MAJESTY TO CULTURE CLASH



Krissy Booth performs Friday at Culture Clash at The Avenue Café. (photo by Emily Nagle)



Krissy Booth released four singles last year, and has new releases in the works for 2020. (photo by Emily Nagle)

Singer, songwriter chats with City Pulse

Friday, Feb. 21 @ The Avenue, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+. Free, 9 p.m.

Krissy Booth, known for her sleek-pop prowess, returns Friday to The Avenue Café to perform at Culture Clash, a monthly event highlighting diverse genres and art-forms. Sharing the bill are 616 and EssBe & Y'z Council. Booth grew up in Williamston, spent time living in Lansing and is now based in Detroit where she's prepping two "big projects" for 2020.

How has your sound evolved over the last few years?

Krissy Booth: What I'm writing and releasing right now is mostly dreamy pop. My older music is avant-garde pop that you'll love if you like St. Vincent and Kesha. What inspires me are people and my experiences with them ... and weird sounds. One of my favorite songs samples a bike spoke. It's called "FntsyGrl." I'll release that soon. All of my songs are love songs in some way. Everything I do is inspired by love.

Looking back, who's inspired your career path in music?

Grimes and Imogen Heap are both female producers, musicians and performers. I wanted to be able to be that kind of capable writer-performer.

Growing up, what pushed you toward music?

I always wanted to be a singer, or a mermaid ... When I was really young, my family was getting a divorce. I'd put on my headphones and listen to music — Britney Spears and Madonna — to escape, so it's always been a dreamy place for me where everything is OK. I loved Mariah Carey and took classical/operatic lessons so I'd be able to do some of the things she could do, and I was in choir through school. I also loved how Prince was able to play all instruments.

From there, you taught yourself piano and guitar and crafted your own unique sound. What led you to

booking your first show in Lansing?

I was really afraid of singing my actual songs in front of people for a long time. I didn't know if there was a place for my music, with all of the guitar rock here — but there is. I just had to take the chance and make that space. Since then, I've tried to push myself to be unafraid of performing and keep writing how I feel and doing what I want. Now, I want my friends and audience members to feel loved and empowered. I try to make each show more over the top than the last.

Release-wise, what can people listen to from Krissy Booth?

"Vivid" is an album I released in September 2017. Since then I've released a few singles: "Lose Sleep With You," "Intuition," "All The Way" and "Selfish," all in the past year.

You self-produced the "Vivid" LP, how was that venture?

It was long. I wrote and rewrote every

song, and tracked and retracked things in my parents' basement. Each song on "Vivid" is such a different huge emotion. I wanted it to feel like that. "Fire" is about a relationship falling apart and being upset you can't feel that anymore. "Go" is a song that feels so shattered and delicate. "Gold" is one where I wanted to have warm synths really reinforce this gold, always-love feeling. "Somewhere" is about feeling joy again and the rush of having a crush after being heart broken.

Tell me about "Selfish." What inspired that single?

It's about a love affair that was actually very sweet, but we both knew it wasn't a forever thing. Every time we were together, he'd say, "Sorry, this is so selfish and we're wasting our time." My song is about owning that feeling unabashedly. If you're enjoying your life, what's wrong with that?

For updates on her upcoming releases, follow facebook.com/krissyboothmusic.



Upcoming show? Contact Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Trivia Night: Animal Kingdom 10PM	Open Mic 8PM	Free DJ Show 9PM	Dark Arts Ball 8PM
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	Showdown 9PM	Showdown 9PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Karaoke	Avon Bomb 8:30PM	Mix Pack 8:30PM
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee			Live Music with Be Kind Rewind 8PM	Live Music with Shelby & Jake 8PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Electric Open Mic 7:30PM		Bass Night 10PM
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Violet Sol 9PM	Cloud District 7PM	Often Home 7PM	The Weak Days 7PM
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot, East Lansing			The New Rule 7PM	The New Rule 7PM
Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington			Weather Diaries: Broad Underground Film 7PM	Moonduck 8PM
Spiral, 1247 Center St.		The Collaboration w/Evah Destruction 9PM	Turn Up Friday 9PM	Mardi Gras 9PM
Urban Beat, 1213 Turner St.	Happy Hour with Sam Warren 5PM	Absolute Music Chamber Series 7:30PM	Group 2 Chamber Concert 7PM	Powerlight Band 7PM
Ucorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing	Open Mic 9:30PM		Live Music with Gina Garner Band 9PM	Live Music with Be Kind Rewind Duo 9PM
Wildlife Pub, 6380 Drumeller Rd., Bath			Open Mic 7:30PM	
Zoobies, 1200 N. Larch			Conor Larkin 8:30PM	Karle Delo 8:30PM

From Page 21

Friday, February 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Half Day LEGO EV3 Mindstorms Robotics with 4-H STEM Workshop! 1-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. Register at 517-627-7014.

EVENTS

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

Lansing Personal Injury Attorneys Meetup - 10-11 a.m. Cadillac Room, 1115 S Washington, Lansing. 517-798-6175. attorneykennugent.com.

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

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

Weather Diaries: Broad Underground Film Series. 7-9 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing.

ARTS

900 Miles to International Falls - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S Putnam St. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

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

Into the Woods - 8 p.m. MSU Auditorium, East Lansing. calendar.cal.msu.edu.

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

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

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

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

True West - 8-10 p.m. LCC Theatre, Music & Dance, Lansing Community College, Lansing.

MUSIC

Cheryl Wheeler - 7:30-10 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing.

Group 2 Chamber Concert - 7-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing.

Saturday, February 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Code Club - Bring your own laptop (Ages 7-17). 2-3:30 p.m. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

Collagraph Printmaking Workshop - 12-4 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing.

Dinos and Robots and Sharks, Oh My! - Print and take workshop. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. ALT Printing Co, 1139 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. altprintingco.com.

Etching and Stamping - 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

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

Nest Box Workshop with Gene Wasserman - Learn about cavity-dwelling birds in this hands-on

workshop! 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos.

Planning Your Garden Year - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Battle of the Books: Book Chat - Dive deeper into the themes, plots, and characters. 1-2 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Black History Month Event -Storyteller Miz Rosie (All ages) 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

Winter Reading Bingo - Stop in and sign up! 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main, Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

EVENTS

Black History Month Event- Zion Missionary Baptists Puppet Warriors (All ages). 2-3 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. cadl.org

Blood Drive - hosted by the Lansing Alumae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 5200 Pleasant Grove Rd., Lansing.

Dinner Dance - Dinner 5:30-7 p.m., \$10/\$4 for children 11/under). 5:30-10:30 p.m. Lansing Liederkranz, 5828 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing.

Find A Bae Speed Dating Valentine's Edition - 8-11 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Road, Okemos. 248-574-9093.

Greater Lansing Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale - 12-5 p.m. MSU Horticulture Conservatory, 1066 Bogue, East Lansing. 517-614-9120. greaterlansingorchidsociety.com.

Haven House Pancake Palooza - 8-10 a.m. Applebee's, 2450 Coolidge Rd., East Lansing. haven-house.networkforgood.com.

Into the Woods - 2-4:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855.

Minecraft Free Play (Age 8 & up) - Limited to the first 15-get a ticket at the info desk. 2-4 p.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos.

Scavenger Hunt Saturdays at the Michigan History Museum - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-420-1342.

Second Annual Love 365 Soirée - 6-9 p.m. East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

Walk For Warmth - CACS. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing, MI 48906, Lansing. 517-393-7077. cacs-inc.org.

ARTS

900 Miles to International Falls - 8-10 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S Putnam St. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

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

Reyna Garcia- Voces de Esperanza - 12-5 p.m. Casa de Rosado, 204 E Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. 517-402-0282.

True West - 8-10 p.m. LCC Theatre, Music & Dance, Lansing Community College, Lansing.

MUSIC

Jazz Weekend 2020 - 7-8 p.m. The Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Rd., Okemos. okemospres.org.

Meet the Maker: Greg Deering, Founder of Deering Banjo Company. 2-5 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-372-7880. elderly.com.

Motivation Workshop for Musicians - 9 a.m.-noon. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing. cms.msu.edu.

Sunday, February 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Collagraph Printmaking Workshop - 12-4 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing.

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

EVENTS

Greater Lansing Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 1066 Bogue, East Lansing. 517-614-9120. greaterlansingorchidsociety.com.

ARTS

900 Miles to International Falls - 2-4 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S Putnam St. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Into the Woods - MSU Department of Theatre. 2 p.m. MSU Auditorium, East Lansing. calendar.cal.msu.edu.

Reyna Garcia - "Voices of Hope/Voces de Esperanza" exhibit. 12-5 p.m. Casa de Rosado, 204 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing. 517-402-0282.

True West - 8-10 p.m. LCC Theatre, Lansing Community College, Lansing.

MUSIC

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

Jazz Weekend 2020 - 10-11 a.m. The Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Rd., Okemos. okemospres.org.

Molsky's Mountain Drifters - 7:30-10:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

See Out on the town, Page 25

SATURDAY, FEB. 22 >> MTG PIONEER WEEKEND AT EVOLUTION GAMES



Hear ye, card game wizards — Evolution Games is hosting a Magic the Gathering (Pioneer Format) tournament. First place gets to go home with a MTG box and four promo packs, additional prizes for other placings can be won as well.

\$10, 2 p.m.
Evolution Games, 932 Elmwood Road, Lansing
[facebook.com/evogames](https://www.facebook.com/evogames)
(517) 323-8600

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

G	L	O	S	S	S	S	I	F	T	W	A	N
M	O	R	P	H	O	O	R	E	O	A	T	E
S	P	A	C	E	X	F	O	R	T	N	I	T
		A	L	T	M	A	N			E	V	I
M	O	D		F	A	A		F	L	E	E	C
A	Z	U	L	I	T	S	S	A	I	D		
J	A	M	E	S	L	I	P	T	O	N	A	P
O	R	B	I	T	L	O	L	E	A	G	L	E
R	K	O		O	L	D	T	O	W	N	R	O
		A	N	N	A	S	U	I		G	R	I
P	E	G	L	E	G		I	L	L	A	N	Y
A	Q	U	I			L	E	S	L	I	E	
D	U	C	T	T	A	P	E		B	O	B	L
M	A	C		S	I	G	N		E	N	R	A
A	L	I		O	L	A	Y		S	O	H	O

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

Now Open

Breakfast and Brunch Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 6 am to 2 pm • Closed Wednesday
 Saturday 7 am to 2 pm • Sunday 8 am to 2 pm

Fresh Squeezed Juices!

2418 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48912 • (517) 574-4461

From Page 24

Monday, February 24

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.

Drop-in Homework Help (Grades 1-8) - Free tutoring in general subjects. 5-7 p.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos.

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

Group Dance Class - Beginning Nightclub 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.

EVENTS

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

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

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

ARTS

True West - 8-10 p.m. LCC Theatre, Music & Dance, Lansing Community College, Lansing.

Tuesday, February 25

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.

Ekphrastic Kenrtridge: A Writing Workshop. 3-4:30 p.m. LookOut Gallery in Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue, East Lansing. 517-884-1932.

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

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

Winter Seed Sowing Workshop - 6-8 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Discussion Group (Adults) - This month: "The River" by Peter Heller 7-8 p.m. CADL Webberville, 115 N. Main St., Webberville.

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

EVENTS

50th Annual Interfaith Day - This year's theme is "50 Years of Interfaith." 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 1701 E. Saginaw, Lansing.

Biology on Tap - Applied Microbiology. 7:30-9 p.m. The Loft, 414 E Michigan Ave, Lansing.

Breslin Recycling Sweep - Come volunteer with MSU Recycling after the basketball game! 9-10:30 p.m. Breslin Student Events Center, 534 Birch Rd, East Lansing. 517-432-1989.

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

Garden Club Tuesday Meeting - 1-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Greater Lansing 100+ Women Who Care - 5-6 p.m. The University Club of MSU, 3435 Forest Rd., Lansing. greaterlansing100womenwhocare.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.

Papercrafting (Adults) - 1-3 p.m. CADL Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Rd. #1, Williamston. cadl.org

True West - 8-10 p.m. LCC Theatre, Music & Dance, Lansing Community College, Lansing.

MUSIC

Rebel - Taylor Johnston Early Music Series. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. music.msu.edu.



JOIN MAYOR SCHOR AT THE
NEIGHBORHOOD SUMMIT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2020
J.W. Sexton High School
102 McPherson Ave
6:00 - 8:00 PM



Andy Schor, Mayor



CITY BUDGET FOCUS
Mayor Schor and the City Finance Team will be available to discuss City budget priorities for the coming fiscal year.

FREE PIZZA

GIVEAWAYS

**MEET WITH CITY OF
LANSING DEPARTMENTS**

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

PARTNERS



...and more!

SATURDAY, FEB. 22 >> MARDI GRAS AT SPIRAL DANCE BAR



Get into the Mardi Gras spirit at Spiral Dance Bar. There'll be over 700 sets of beads, music from DJ Elemnt, shot queens, gogos, drink specials and drag performances from Caj Monet, Nevaeh Rachét and Asio Aviance.

9 p.m.
No cover before 10 p.m., \$5 after for 21+,
\$10 for 18-20 all night
Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing
spiraldancebar.com
(517) 371-3221

Ingham County Animal Shelter

To adopt one of these pets from the ICAS call (517) 676-8370
600 Curtis St., Mason, MI, 48854 • ac.ingham.org

Sponsor a pet on the next Adoption Page for only \$35, \$6 goes to the shelter.
To sponsor, call 999-5061 now!! Adopt a pet on this page and Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.



Snuffleupagus

is 65 pounds of good natured tank! This adorable guy loves people and playing with sturdy kids. Who could resist that face?



Sponsored by Soldan's Pet Supplies
soldanspet.com

Lansing
6201 W. Saginaw Hwy
5200 S. MLK Jr. Blvd
Okemos
1802 W. Grand River Ave.
DeWitt
12286 Old U.S. 27
Charlotte
515 Lansing St.



Toby is a funny quirky old man, very sweet and lovable. He is working on his weight, is on thyroid meds, and would do best as the only dog or with an easygoing female.

Sponsored by
Anne & Dale Schrader



Princess Katalina is a reserved, dignified princess who enjoys the attention of her loving subjects! Fine with older kids and easygoing cats.

Sponsored by
Linn & Owen Jewelers



Pandora Look at this beautiful torti with the softest fur and pretty green eyes! She's a gentle kitty who loves lots of attention and enjoys being a lap cat.

Sponsored by
Schuler Books



Bob is a friendly, outgoing cat looking for a forever home. He headbutts for attention and does just fine with kids, other cats and maybe even a well behaved dog.

In memory of
Rodica's cats

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

HE ATE

SHE ATE



Airport Tavern

A comfy classic that ages oh so well

By **MARK NIXON**

While I can't say with absolute certainty, my hunch is that the Airport Tavern is the granddaddy of Lansing-area restaurants.

In a town where restaurants come and go with numbing regularity, there has been a restaurant on the tavern's site since the '20s. It's been called the Airport Tavern for a half-century.

The official name of the place is the Airport Tavern and Steakhouse. Its menu is heavily meat-centric — bliss for carnivores and blistering purgatory for vegetarians. Sure, there are several non-meat appetizers (this place calls them "airportizers") on the menu, but nearly everything else except the beer has meat in it.

Fortunately for meat eaters like me, the tavern's grill is well equipped to turn out some tasty steaks and burgers. In the course of multiple visits, the best tasting dish I had was the 16-ounce T-bone steak. This \$20 entree was grilled to order — rare. And it was slathered in juices that were ladled or brushed onto a nicely seared exterior.

Just for comparison, I looked at similar-sized and cut steaks in various other restaurants in our area. The prices ranged from nearly \$30 to more than \$50. The Airport Tavern's T-bone is an obvious bargain by local standards.

On another occasion I went for their version of an olive burger (\$8.50). Once again, they delivered. The burger was grilled medium the way I like it, and topped with a tangy olive sauce. It's one of the best olive burgers I've tasted in Lansing, a town known for olive burgers.

Rounding out my personal Top Three is the beef barley soup (\$3). I know, I know ... how can you possibly screw up such a basic soup? The answer, from experience, is plenty. Soups like this often simmer in a pot for so long that the result is a hot bowl of something that used to be soup but is now more like wallpaper paste.

The Airport Tavern has made sure the consistency is spot-on — thick but with plenty of thin broth remaining. The taste

and texture were pitch-perfect.

I give a slight "meh" to another entree I tried, the full rack of ribs (\$20). The portion was generous, but these are not barbecued ribs — unless you can manage to barbecue ribs without the necessary fire and smoke. No, these appeared to be slow-cooked in an oven, then topped with store-bought Sweet Baby Ray's barbecue sauce. The taste and tenderness were fine, but they fall short of authentic barbecue ribs found throughout Lansing.

I ordered hash browns with the ribs, and they turned out to be the biggest disappointment of anything we tried. These ovoid patties were clearly delivered through a secret process known as freezer-to-fryer-to-table. All you really need for good hash browns is a cast iron skillet, some freshly grated potatoes and some diced onions. It's not that hard. They should try it.

The Airport Tavern's longevity is a bit of a puzzle. It's not in a bustling part of town but resides in the quiet outskirts of northwest Lansing, near the entrance to the Capital Region International Airport.

Some have compared the tavern's architecture to a castle. To me, the arched facade is reminiscent of the Alamo. But there is no doubting the tavern's namesake. A sign outside includes a painting of an old biplane, those relics of the early age of aviation.

For that matter, the tavern's interior is bedecked with paintings of those early airplanes. And that makes perfect sense. Airplanes began landing at the Lansing airport in the '20s, roughly two decades after Wilbur and Orville Wright began their mastery of powered flight. So, it's fair to say that the biplanes featured at the Airport Tavern are symbolic footnotes of aviation history, and perhaps a small role this restaurant played in that history.

Salads fit for royalty

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

Dyed-in-the-wool Lansingites like to pass along "secret" restaurant information like it's the location of the Holy Grail. Tortilla chips and salsa from Handy's. Hippy hash from the Fleetwood Diner. And, unironically, the steak special at the Airport Tavern. The sizzler has devotees, lots of them, and while the interior of the building is befitting of the word "dank," some of the items coming out of the kitchen are anything but.

On our first visit, we started with an order of loaded steak fries. The thick-cut wedges were topped with crispy crumbled bacon and melted sharp cheddar cheese. The sour cream dipper was an odd touch, and although I claim to not understand the obsession with the stuff, ranch dressing would have been more appropriate and easier to actually dip something into.

I moved on to the steak salad. Yes, I'm one of those people who sometimes orders a salad from a fast food restaurant or a tavern, and I don't mean that as a humble brag. I love salads and am constantly on the search for big, beautiful platters of fresh, crunchy vegetables topped with a quality protein and some fun additions.

The chopped lettuce was crisp and crunchy, the red onion made me happy that I had concluded my client meetings for the day, and the blue cheese crumbles and grilled steak brought the flavor and the fat that I love in my salads. I would eat this for lunch any day of the week.

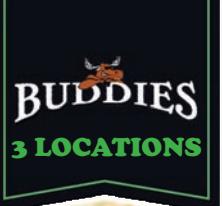
Mr. She Ate ordered a bacon cheeseburger, because he is decidedly not a salad fan unless I'm "forcing him" to eat his vegetables (I just want him to live forever, I remind him.) The burger, sadly, was unremarkable, but the previously frozen crinkle cut fries were even worse. Fries demand salt, unless otherwise request-

Airport Tavern
Monday-Wednesday
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Thursday & Friday
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday noon to 11 p.m.
Sunday noon to 9 p.m.
5000 N Grand River Ave,
Lansing
(517) 321-3852
facebook.com/
AirportTavernandSteakhouse



CRAZY CRAB
CAJUN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

3700 S. Waverly Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911

Buddies
3 LOCATIONS

Fresh food
Family fun!



East Lansing - 3048 E Lake Lansing Rd • (517) 333-9212
Monday - Saturday: 11am to 2am • Sunday: 12pm to 1am

Holt • 2040 Aurelius Rd #13 • (517) 699-3670
Monday - Saturday: 11am to 2am • Sunday: 9am to 1am

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

CARNIVORES LOVE MEAT!

AWARD WINNING BBQ • 18 TAPS
OF PURE GOLDEN JOY = A GREAT TIME!

18 ROTATING CRAFT, MICHIGAN MADE AND
3 DOMESTIC BEERS ON TAP

580-4400 | MEATBBQ.COM
1224 TURNER ST. OLD TOWN. LANSING

Meat
SOUTHERN B.B.Q. & CARNIVORE CUISINE

BATTER UP bistro

*"A cozy and beautiful haven.
I will be back again and bringing friends."*

Stefanie Pohl - Blogger
Mostefinitely.com

Breakfast & Lunch on Weekdays 7-2pm
Brunch on Weekends 8-1pm

621 E Michigan Ave - Downtown Lansing
(517) 575-6717 • batterupbistro.com




Fidler's
ON THE GRAND

Lansing's Neighborhood Kitchen
Featuring regional
Foodie Favorites
Family owned and operated




4805 N Grand River Ave.
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 580-7202



BUY ONE. GET ONE FREE

Fish & Chips

ALL DAY - EVERY MONDAY!
OPEN AT 11AM

EASTWOOD TOWNE CENTER
2900 Towne Center Blvd | Lansing, MI 48912
517-484-2523 • claddaghirishpubs.com/lansing

*with the purchase of any two beverages

Appetizers

**WANT YOUR RESTAURANT LISTED?
CALL 517-999-5064**



Fidler's On the Grand
4805 N. Grand River Ave.,
Lansing
(517) 580-7202
facebook.com/
Fidlersonthegrand

DINER FOOD DONE RIGHT. Come to Fidler's on the Grand for a meal cooked right with the tender loving care it deserves. Our food will take your brunch to the next level with our breakfast burritos, biscuits and gravy and broasted chicken. Just don't forget to wash it down with a cup of our Biggby's Best fresh roasted coffee.



Buddies Holt
2040 Aurelius Rd, Ste 12
Holt, MI 48842
(517) 699-3670
www.buddiesbars.com

DISCOVER YOUR NEW FAVORITE SPOT!
Traditional classics and great drinks. Burgers, Mexican entrees, pizza and appetizers. Five versions of loaded tots and Buddies Bowls you can't get anywhere else. Locally owned and operated for over 20 years.



Claddagh Irish Pub
Eastwood Towne Center
2900 Town Centre Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 484-2523
www.claddaghirishpubs.com

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



Batter Up Bistro
621 E. Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 575-6717
www.batterupbistro.com

WE START WITH HANDMADE, ARTISAN BREAD along with only healthy, organic ingredients in all of our unique recipes. We then bring out the best of each element and layer them together to create something amazing for you. Open for breakfast and lunch Mondays through Fridays, and for breakfast on Saturdays.



Frank's Press Box
7216 W. Saginaw Hwy.
Lansing, MI 48917
(517) 886-1330
frankspressboxwest.com

GREAT FOOD AND THE PERFECT GAME DAY SPOT! Fifteen microbrews on tap and more in bottles, too! Happy Hour from Monday - Friday from 3-7PM features 75¢ wings. Sports all year round, Chicago-style deep dish pizza and more on our expansive menu! Pool tables, too, for your entertainment!



Amanecer Mexicano
2418 E. Michigan Ave.
Lansing
(517) 574-4461
facebook.com/
AmanecerMexicano1

TRY THE CROWN JEWEL OF LANSING'S FOOD TRUCKS. Serving the Lansing community for 13 years, we extend an invitation to all those to give us a try to find out why we were voted the best food truck in Lansing's 2019 Top of The Town Contest.



Crazy Crab
3700 S. Waverly Rd. Ste. G
Lansing
(517) 887-3888
facebook.com/
Crazycrablansing/

COME TRY A DELICIOUS one-of-a-kind cajun seafood boil. Nothing like it! You are guaranteed to leave satisfied. Lunch specials of seafood plates including corn and potatoes and fried baskets, too. Dinner combinations of fresh seafood made to order with seasonings you'll love!



Meat Southern BBQ
1224 Turner Rd.
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 580-4400
meatbbq.com

WE BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES GREAT BBQ. Award winning BBQ. Ribs, French fry bar, chili, sides including BBQ pit baked beans, mac n' cheese. 18 rotating taps of craft, Michigan made beers. Craft cocktails. We cater, too!



Airport Tavern
5000 N. Grand River Ave.
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 321-3852 FB:
@AirportTavernandSteakhouse

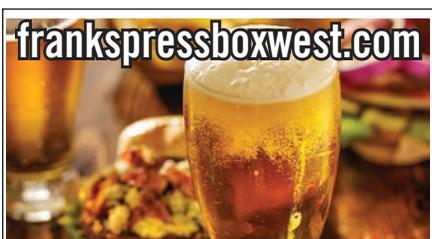
FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS, Airport Tavern & Steakhouse has been a staple of Lansing's community. Full bar, prime rib weekends, daily lunch and dinner specials. Ribs, steak, burgers and salads are all crowd pleasers at this neighborhood establishment.



Eastside Fish Fry
2417 E. Kalamazoo St.,
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 993-5988
eastsidefishfry.com

GUY FIERI APPROVED! We were featured on Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. Our fried home-style classics and fresh seafood are some of the best to be found in Lansing. We've got the classics: fried chicken buckets, chicken wings, exotic fare, like frog legs and alligator tails and fresh seafood. Desserts, too!

frankspressexpress.com



MID-WEEK SPECIALS

TUESDAYS \$2 OFF
All Pint Beers

WEDNESDAYS \$1.99
All Domestic Bottles

FRANK'S PRESS BOX

7216 W Saginaw Hwy.
Lansing • (517) 886-1330

DIVORCE FAMILY LAW



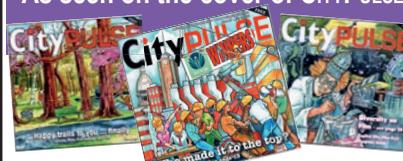
Divorce
Custody • Visitation
Child Support
Alimony
Property Distribution
Domestic Partnership Agreements / Separation

40 YEARS -
AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION
EFFECTIVE MEDIATION

LAW OFFICES OF
STUART R. SHAFER, P.C.
Former Assistant Prosecutor

487-6603
1223 Turner St., Ste 333, Lansing
www.stushafer.com

Art by Nevin
As seen on the cover of CITYPULSE



Illustrations • Murals • Graphic Design
Signs • Banners • T-shirts
nevin@nevingraphics.com

f ARTBYNEVIN i ART_BY_NEVIN

Easy Living
Cleaning Service

Commercial & Residential
Fully Insured



Call Joan at:
(517) 881-2204

Déjà Vu
SHOWGIRLS

Free Admission and Free Drink
when you present this coupon.

1000 West Road | Lansing, MI | 517.882.0237
www.dejavu.com

DON'T FORGET • WE'VE GOT
Rates start at \$24 for 4 lines

THE PULSIFIEDS
BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

FIND A HOUSE! Advertise Your Service! Sell Your Stuff! Find a Job!

Submit your classified ad to Suzi Smith: 517-999-6704 or suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

CityPULSE Contract rates available, all rates net. Classified ads also appear online at no extra charge. Deadline for classifieds is 5 p.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday's issue.

Home of the World Famous Sizzler

1/2 OFF
LUNCH OR DINNER



Buy one lunch or dinner and receive a 2nd of equal or lesser value for 1/2 off

Valid Sunday-Thursday Only. Dine-In Only. Valid with coupon Only. Void if reproduced. Not valid with any other offers or discounts. Expires 3/3/20.

5000 Airport Tavern
FOOD LIQUOR

voted **TOP 3**
Top of the Town —2019—

5000 N. Grand River
(517) 321-3852

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR SUMMER
RESERVE A SPOT NOW FOR ONE OF CMS' SIX SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS



Community Music School
College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

www.cms.msu.edu • (517) 355-7661
4930 S. Hagadorn Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823

GREAT LOW



It's good for you!

Apple Sales Apple Service

CAPITOL Macintosh | www.CapMac.net | (517) 351-9339