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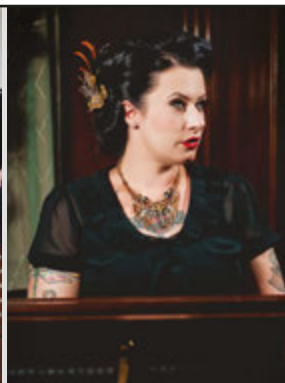
December 20-26, 2017



GHOULTIDE GREETINGS FROM TY HORROR HOST SYENGOOLIE

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, January 10, 2018** 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 an application from Speedway, LLC dba Speedway221 for Special Use Permit approval for the property at 111 West Lake Lansing Road. The applicant is requesting approval to allow the sale of packaged beer and wine.

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

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#17-325

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, January 11, 2018** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Mark and Kathy Oppenhuizen, for the property at 405 University Drive, to replace all windows in the home with units to fit within the existing window openings.

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.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#17-326

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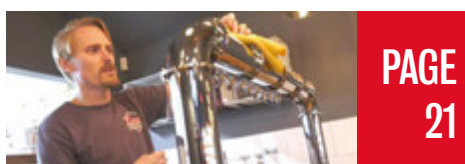
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Meridian farmers market moves indoors for winter



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Museum installation celebrates Michigan artists of all kinds



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New eateries and craft brews around Lansing



**Cover
Art**

Photo credit: Jim Roche/Svengoolie

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**NOW AT 10:30 A.M.
SATURDAYS on**

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

Panel 1: **WAIT--WHERE'S THE YEAR IN REVIEW? I LOVE THE YEAR IN REVIEW!**
Penguin: TRUMP BROKE IT.

Panel 2: **WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THERE'S \$0 MUCH MATERIAL!**
Man: YES, THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

Panel 3: **LOOK, EVEN SPREADING THOSE CARTOONS OVER TWO WEEKS AND SQUEEZING AS MUCH INTO THE SPACE AS PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE, WE ONLY END UP WITH ABOUT THIRTY PANELS.**

Panel 4: **THAT USED TO WORK FINE, BUT IN THE ERA OF TRUMP? IT WOULD COVER ABOUT TWO WEEKS, IT WOULD BE "THE FIRST HALF OF JANUARY IN REVIEW."**

Panel 5: **BUT LOOK--YOU WANT A YEAR IN REVIEW? HERE'S A YEAR IN REVIEW--**

Panel 6: **--2017 SUCKED.** Man: **YEAH, I GUESS THAT ABOUT SUMS IT UP.**

Panel 7: **ARE WE EVEN SURE IT WAS JUST ONE YEAR? FEELS MORE LIKE TEN.** Man: **GOOD POINT.**

Panel 8: **HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE, EVEN THE LOSERS AND HATERS!**

Signature: TOM TOMORROW © 2017



Mixed-use complex to replace old downtown YMCA building

\$25 million, 4-story plan offers 145 apartments, 7,000 sq. feet of commercial and retail space

After years of stop and go attempts to develop the old downtown YMCA location, property owner Julie Lawton-Essa said Monday that she has financing for a four-story, \$25 million apartment, commercial and retail development. The old Y, opened in 1951 and closed since 2003, will be torn down.

The new project, dubbed Metro Place, would be 122,130 square feet. Ground-breaking is projected in spring 2018.

It will have 145 apartments (30 studios, 69 one-bedroom and bath units, 29 two-bedroom and bath units and 17 two-bedroom and two-bath units). Approximately 6,925 square feet of commercial and retail space will be on the ground level, along with some apartments. The project also includes 154 surface parking places for apartment residents.

Lawton-Essa said the current, six-story building configuration would not support repurposing for apartments.

The project would preclude using the



Courtesy image

property for parking for the nearby Veterans Memorial Courthouse. That option was discussed by city and Ingham County officials as they consider whether to move 54-A District Court to the courthouse if the plan to convert City Hall to a hotel goes ahead.

Under the proposal, Lawton-Essa will voluntarily pay prevailing wage, which adds an additional \$2 million to the project. "That's important to us and to the city," she said.

The apartments will be marketed to young professionals and their families, she said. With the new city hall proposed just down the street at the now vacant Lansing State Journal building, and Reutter Park less than a block away, she said she also expects the new living spaces will trigger a neighborhood revitalization, including food trucks.

Bob Trezise, CEO of Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP), confirmed the



Capital Area District Libraries

A four-story, \$25 million complex of apartments and commercial and retail space would replace the old YMCA, closed since 2003, in downtown Lansing on Kalamazoo Street.

project was moving forward. "It is within a month of a huge redevelopment announcement," he said. "It's in the very final stage."

He said Lawton-Essa will be using a Brownfield plan approved by City Council 10 years ago but never finalized in the development. The state has to approve that incentive, which would see the developer get some of its cost back.

— **TODD HEYWOOD**

BWL plans \$500 million power plant; scope and timing questioned

The BWL's big announcement Monday that it plans to build a \$500 million natural gas plant drew a mixed response.

Depending on whom you ask, it's either the utility's biggest step yet toward a clean energy future or a premature, oversized beast the Lansing Board of Water and Light should have proposed to the community and not imposed upon it.

BWL plans to start building the plant, the biggest project in its history, on the site its Erickson Power Station in Delta Township in January 2019 and hopes to flip the switch in early 2021.

BWL General Manager Dick Peffley said that with the new plant on line, the utility will be completely coal-free by the time the aging Erickson Station closes in 2025. The utility's other baseload generator, the Eckert Station, is set to close in 2020.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero proudly pointed to the contrast between progressive locals and regressive feds at Monday's announcement. BWL's plans to get off of coal run counter to the Trump administration's oft-stated support of coal-burning

"At a time when we have climate change deniers in power in Washington, we have our local utility embracing an environmentally sustainable future for metro Lansing."

— **Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero**

plants.

"At a time when we have climate change deniers in power in Washington, we have our local utility embracing an environmentally sustainable future for metro Lansing," Bernero said.

BWL also announced Monday that the utility is moving its Hazel/Penn service facility to a new building on a portion of the long-vacant GM Verlinden plant on Lansing's west side.

The move promises to kick-start economic development in both the old and new locations, and was a shiny distraction Monday, but the \$500 million main event left some observers with a gassy cramp.

James Clift, policy director at the

Michigan Environmental Council, felt a sense of déjà vu. "It wouldn't be the first time we've seen the utility rush into a decision that wasn't well thought out," he said.

The rollout of a new plant has been widely expected for years, but the specifics of the project were under wraps until now.

"This is a municipal electric," Clift said. "We're supposed to make decisions as a community. We'd like to know why it wasn't more of a community decision versus a top-down decision."

Peffley said the BWL worked with a nine-member citizens' advisory committee for six months in 2015 and 2016 to work out its Integrated Resource Plan, or IRP. Customer surveys and informal meetings

with stakeholders were also taken into account.

According to the final report, the citizens' committee recommended one out of seven options presented by BWL and refined in discussions with the group.

Jeffrey Pillon, a member of the citizens' committee, said Monday's announcement was the "culmination" of that process. Pillon is director of energy assurance for the National Association of State Energy Officials.

"We were encouraging the board to take a look at how they might expand the renewables and energy efficiency, and they did

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BWL

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that,” Pillon said.

Peffley said nearly 85 megawatts of wind will be added to the BWL’s already existing 20 megawatts of wind next year and the utility will generate 120 megawatts of solar power by 2030, “making the BWL Michigan’s leader in solar energy.”

While pushing for clean energy, the citizen’s committee also recognized the need to make up for the capacity lost when Eckert and Erickson retire, and found that gas was the cleanest option, according to Pillon.

In 2016, natural gas-fired generators surpassed coal to become the nation’s leading power source, with 42 percent of the operating electricity generating capacity in the United States.

The BWL plan falls squarely in line with statewide energy trends. In October 2017, the state’s Public Service Commission endorsed two gas-fired plants in the Upper Peninsula costing a combined \$277 million. The plants would produce a combined 183 megawatts and go into service in 2019, replacing Marquette’s Presque Isle Power Plant, which is scheduled to close in 2020.

Energy giant DTE is planning a 1,100-MW natural gas power plant in St. Clair County on about 100 acres east of its huge, coal-fired Belle River Power Plant in East China Township. The new plant would provide power for about 850,000 homes beginning in 2022.

But the energy landscape is changing fast. As coal-fired plants age out of useful life, communities across the country are adopting a nimble strategy, combining renewable energy with “smaller, modular gas-fired units as you need them,” Clift said.

“If Erickson is running through 2025,

when is this plant needed? Why are we rushing to build it earlier?” Clift asked. “This plant might be more than the community needs, long term.”

Lansing has been here before.

In 2008, the BWL rolled out a plan for a new \$1 billion plant powered primarily by coal. Clift led the charge to switch to “Plan B,” as he called it in a series of community presentations.

Blowback from community members and environmentalists induced the utility to change direction and build a smaller-scale, 100-megawatt gas-fired cogeneration plant in REO Town.

The era of “distributed” power generation from multiple, smaller sources, rather than large baseload power plants like the one BWL is proposing, has already dawned.

Renewable energy is competitive in price with fossil fuels, battery technology is swiftly improving and medium-sized businesses are already getting off the grid.

“We’re seeing many utilities that are looking to diversify their mix,” Clift said. “Even the concept of ‘baseload’ is starting to fall out of the vocabulary.”

At Monday’s announcement, Peffley said the utility’s Delta Township solar array, the largest tracking solar array in Michigan, will go on line in 2018. The utility is under contract to get 100 MW of wind power from the Thumb area, also set to go on line in 2018.

With a surge of investment in renewables, a hulking new plant may not be necessary in five to 10 years, Clift said.

“We see lots of opportunities for a cleaner mix of less risky investments,” Clift said. “We’re not seeing a plan that is the lowest risk.”

Peffley agreed that the era of decentralized energy production is nigh, but not soon enough to avoid building a new power plant.



Courtesy Lansing Board of Water & Light

(Top) Lansing’s BWL plans to build a \$500 million, 250-megawatt gas-fired power plant near its current Erickson Station, to be completed by early 2021.

(Lower) BWL also announced Monday it will move its Penn/Hazel service complex on the Red Cedar River to 50 acres on the RACER Trust site, formerly General Motors’ Verlinden plant, off of Saginaw and Stanley streets on Lansing’s west side.

“Not too many years down the road, storage capacity will come into play,” Peffley said. “But there’s nothing on an industrial scale.”

The citizens’ committee advised BWL to monitor emerging technologies and re-evaluate its energy portfolio every four years, but it would be hard to reverse Monday’s big decision once the first shovel is turned.

However, Peffley said it’s “99 percent likely” that the proposed plant will be the last baseload plant BWL will ever build.

All parties agree on the environmental and health benefits of switching from coal to gas.

About 50 percent of the toxic mercury poisoning in the Great Lakes region comes from coal-fired power plants, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions, or “sox and nox,” are expected to go down 90 percent or more with the switch from

coal to gas. Carbon emissions will be cut by 50 percent.

A 2011 report prepared for the Michigan Environmental Council traced 180 premature deaths a year in Michigan (and 660 in the Midwest region) to nine old coal-fired plants in the state. The Eckert plant was not included in the study, but it is “comparable” to those that were, according to 5 Lakes Energy consultant Douglas Jester. The study also traced 68,000 asthma attacks and \$1.5 billion in health-related damages to the same 9 coal plants in Michigan.

But a large gas plant has its drawbacks as well.

Andrew Sarpolis, director of Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal campaign, praised BWL for deciding to close Eckert and Erickson, but he called Monday’s announcement “a long term investment in fossil fuels” that “may

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Green grab

Most pot license applicants not from Lansing

The marijuana cash run is on, and an analysis of publicly available data on applicants shows that only 37 percent of the business applicants have a Lansing mailing address. Most of the applications are obscured by limited liability corporations, making it difficult to identify who the investors are behind the applications, or even if they are from in-state.

Local dispensary owners expressed concern that deep-pocketed interests without Lansing ties will push them out. The scoring system the city will use does not give any preference to local ownership.

On Monday, Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope released a spreadsheet to City Pulse which included the type of license sought, the address for the marijuana operation and the address for the applicant. A preliminary analysis of the data showed:

- Fifteen applications were for medical marijuana grow operations. Twelve of those applicants were from entities out of the city.
- Three applications were for medical marijuana processing operations. All three applicants have a business address outside the city of Lansing.
- Eighty-six businesses applied for provisioning center licenses. Of those, 35 had

Lansing business addresses.

Each license application was accompanied by a \$5,000 licensing fee. If an applicant is not granted a license, half of that is returned. The application fees alone will result in a net gain of \$545,000 for the city.

Swope will have to whittle the 86 provisioning center applications to 20 licensed facilities during this first application phase. Five more can be approved next fall.

There is no limit to the number of licenses that can be administered for any facility types other than provisioning centers, and as of Monday, the city will continue to accept applications for growers, processors, transporters, and safety compliance facilities. No applications were received for secure transporter or safety compliance facilities.

The rush came after nearly a month of inaction on the part of area marijuana entities. Friday marked the end of the city's initial application period, which started on Nov. 16, yet as of last Wednesday afternoon, Swope's office had still received zero applications.

Had no one applied by Friday's deadline, all medical marijuana businesses within city limits would have been forced to shut down by the end of the year. All dispensa-



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Applications fill a bookcase at the Lansing City Clerk's Office from would-be operators of medical marijuana dispensaries and related enterprises.

ries would have been required to close in two days. Now, only businesses who did not apply will face these deadlines.

Mike Barron, marketing director of Got Meds dispensary, 3405 S. Cedar St, said he was worried about the impact the lack of Lansing-based applicants would have on the city's medical marijuana industry.

Barron said he is concerned that

deep-pocketed, out-of-state corporations will be able to secure licenses based on their financial potential alone, pushing out established Lansing businesses.

To comply with city requirements, it will cost at least \$11,000 in city and state application fees. Applicants must also have

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not be a good path to Lansing's energy future."

The Sierra Club is calling the BWL's new plant a "fracked gas plant," referring to the controversial method of hydraulic fracturing, or cracking open layers of deep rock by injecting chemicals mixed with water to extract oil or natural gas. As of 2010, about 60 percent of new oil and gas wells in the U.S. was obtained via fracking.

Fracking has turned gas into a cheap and plentiful fuel, but studies on its health and even seismic consequences have pointed to a range of harmful effects on groundwater and human health.

However, unless a utility owns its own gas field and pipeline, Peffley said, there's no way to ensure gas hasn't been obtained via fracking.

Jester, of Five Lakes Energy, said, "You can't sort the molecules."

"You're stuck with what's available in the pipeline," Jester said. "They are all interconnected and you don't get a direct delivery."

"Right now, there is no other basket to put your eggs in," Peffley said. "We're not big enough to have a nuclear plant.

The only fuel supply to run a plant other than coal is gas."

There is plenty of room for a gas plant on the Erickson site, Peffley said. The site, purchased in the 1970s was meant to house two large coal plants.

Peffley said the utility will issue bonds in summer 2018 to pay for the plant. The plant is similar to the REO Town cogeneration plant in design, only it is divided into a 170 MW combined cycle plant and two 40 MW "peakers," or self-contained units that can be turned on quickly to back up renewables.

The "peakers" will be portable. In the event of a catastrophic failure at the BWL's REO Town gas plant, a "peaker" can be yanked from the new plant and installed within 24 hours to back up steam generation. Up to now, the Eckert Plant has served as backup for the REO plant, but Eckert will be off-line by the time the new gas plant will be up and running.

Earlier this month, the BWL board approved a hike in residential electric rates of 3.9% for 2018, 2019 and 2020, an average monthly increase of \$3.16 the first year. Peffley said the new rate structure will be enough to pay for the plant without further surcharges.

The BWL plans to start construction in January 2019. The new plant is expected to

begin operation by the first quarter of 2021.

"I'll bet they beat that," Peffley said. "The sooner they do, the sooner we can get out of the coal business."

Doubts raised by Clift, Sarpolis and others concerned about the size and timing of the project may lead to another round of blowback and adjustment by the BWL.

"There are progressive voices in the community pushing us to do better, and a locally owned utility is responsive to its customers," Bernero said at Monday's announcement.

Along with Monday's rollout came a second, less controversial announcement that the BWL will move its Penn-Hazel service complex at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Hazel Street to a 50-acre portion of the long-vacant Fisher Body site off of West Saginaw and Stanley Street in west Lansing.

The complex is home to line and water departments, central services, fleet services and a warehouse. Peffley said the utility is moving the complex to free up the riverfront for better uses and get its equipment out of the Red Cedar River floodplain.

BWL Commissioner David Price said he hopes the new service complex will boost economic development in the west side area, particularly near its shuttered auto plants, in the same way the BWL's REO

Town cogeneration plant has helped to change the face of Lansing's REO Town district.

Vacating the old complex, along with a sprawling lot heaped with utility poles and other equipment, frees up a stretch of prime riverfront that is already seeing a major warehouse-to-commercial conversion on the opposite bank of the Red Cedar River.

Together, the moribund Eckert station and the Penn/Hazel complex take up about a mile of riverfront property.

"That's a lot of valuable real estate to have industrial sitting on," Peffley said.

"Now that rumors are leaking out, we've had developers reach out to us already for the property," Peffley said. "We believe Eckert and Penn/Hazel will develop into a showplace for the city, with commercial and residential."

Peffley said the Eckert station will not be torn down. He said one developer even proposed micro-apartments to go into the Eckert Station's three iconic smokestacks, Wynken, Blynken and Nod, but he doubted such a scheme was feasible. Developers will have to wait for the decommissioning process to play out, though. Peffley said the utility won't issue a request for proposal until 2021, after the plant has been shut down.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing

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Licenses

from page 7

\$300,000 in liquid assets to operate a provisioning center in the state.

"I hope that the locals get a shake at it," Barron said. "We've been here, we've been doing great for our community, and to not be here for financial reasons I think would be heartbreaking for the city."

The scoring rubric that Swope's office will be using to assign licenses is scored on 100 points. Job creation and financial stability account for 27 possible points; no consideration is given to an applicant's ties to Lansing.



Swope

Barron also said he was worried larger businesses might be able to get away with declaring lofty, overstated job creation projections, given their financial resources.

"What if I wrote I was going to hire 1,000 people?" Barron said. "Does that give me more points? I'm really never going to unless we get that big."

The 66 provisioning center applicants that will be denied licenses have the option of re-submitting their applications during the second licensing phase, during which the final five licenses will be distributed.

Meanwhile, incoming City Councilwoman Carol Wood, who is expect-

ed to be president, cited what she called a loophole in the new ordinance regarding delinquent property taxes.

She said nothing in the law prevents applicants from renting property on which back taxes are due. That matters, she said, because the city will have heightened costs for inspections on properties for which it may not be receiving tax revenue.

Swope confirmed that the ordinance does not prevent applicants from renting places with overdue taxes.

The city ordinance that authorized the licensing of marijuana businesses does not allow applicants who owe money to the city to receive licenses. City Attorney James Smierkta said, however, that Swope could waive that provision. Swope said he has not made a formal decision, but he said he has allowed applicants for other licenses to get caught up. Applicants apparently may rent from landlords who are delinquent on property taxes.

There were outstanding 2016-'17 property taxes for the addresses of buildings that 22 applicants want to rent.

Edgewood Wellness LLC, which is applying for a provisioning center license, listed its proposed operating address as 134 E. Edgewood Blvd. The owner of this property, JNNF LLC of Walled Lake, Michigan, owes nearly \$100,000 in back taxes accrued since 2016. The amount owed on the Edgewood property was by far the largest balance of any delinquent property.

At least one delinquent property is owned by the same corporation applying for a license, disqualifying the entity from receiving one. 1517 Family Holdings LLC is applying for a provisioning center license at 3520 N. East St. That corporation owes \$2,362.51 in taxes on the property from 2016, according to Ingham County records.

There are also two delinquent properties that have owners with business addresses that match addresses given on a licensing application. However, the listed business names are different. It is unclear whether the applicants are the same entities operating under different names.

Lansing Provisioning Center Inc. submitted a provisioning center application for the property at 6510 S. Cedar St., which is listed as the company's business address, yet the address is also claimed by Fanta Anj LLC, according to county records. Fanta Anj owes a total of \$24,825.49 in taxes on the property from 2016.

M & H LLC also submitted a provisioning center application for two suites at 925 E. Kalamazoo St., which M & H also lists as its business address. City records shows the property as being owned by Gedeon Brother LLC, a corporation operating from the same address. Gedeon Brother owes \$10,638.47 to the city and Ingham County dating back to 2016.

— MAXWELL EVANS

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Sue Hickmott discusses the wines from her brother’s winery, CurrAnt Mist Winery near Owosso, with Shirley Harding of Okemos.

**Biweekly meet up
Winter no problem for
Meridian farmers market**

Christina Miller from Meridian Township’s Farmers Market sat smiling Saturday morning as she watched people bundled in winter wear trundle past her to the tables of 30 vendors hawking their wares in the Meridian Mall.

Across the way from her sat Santa Claus doing pictures with children.

Behind her to the right was a table piled

high with fresh veggies. To her left was a new Farmers Market vendor, CurrAnt Mist Winery from Owosso.

“This is our first day here. I will be coming back every day until my boss — my brother — says otherwise,” said Sue Hickmott, an employee of the winery, with a laugh.

She said the indoor market was booming for their offerings. She stood offering tasting samples.

On the opposite end of the market, Adam Ulbin, bakery manager for Stonehearth Bakery of Brooklyn, Michigan, stood over an array of baked goods. He chatted up customers as they viewed his bread, particularly

when they looked at specialty breads like chocolate raspberry bread or cinnamon raisin bread.

He conspiratorially told each person that the specialty breads can be made into the best French toast without using eggs. He smiled as he told them to use melted ice cream rather than eggs.

“It saves you on the cholesterol,” he said to one shopper. “And it saves on the sugar. Because the ice cream caramelizes as you put it in the pan. There’s no need for syrup even.”

It’s a recipe a former employee of the bakery shared with him years ago. That former employee had been a garbage man but was laid off. So he took up baking. Ulbin said

that employee was so good at the baking and cooking, the team at the Stone Hearth Bakery encouraged him to go to culinary school.

He did. And he returned with this French toast secret telling Ulbin and the team the ice cream concoction had create award-winning French toast in the northeastern U.S.

He said his business has been operating in the indoor market since it started up, seven



Greens from Williamston: Kameel El Haddad of Williamston Florist and Greenhouse adds a pinecone to a greens display Saturday at the business’ Meridian Farmers Market booth in the Meridian Mall.



Todd Haywood/City Pulse

Bread for Sale: Adam Ulbin, bakery manager for Stone Hearth Bakery, discusses specialty bread and French toast as Kaitlin Mata of Lansing (left) and Ashley Draves of Canton wait to purchase bread from him.

years ago. He originally wanted to have the market every weekend because of the heavy traffic in the mall. But organizers overruled that and are currently operating the market every two weeks.

The next market will be Jan. 6 in the JC Penney wing of the Meridian Mall.

“Being in the mall is great,” he said. “It gets us out of the cold weather.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

CHRISTMAS IS SCARING

A coffin-side chat with horror host Rich Koz, MeTV's Svengoolie

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Deep in a luridly lit dungeon in the heart of Chicago lurks one of the last of a long lineage of local, late-night lunatics.

Only he's not so local anymore.

Rich Koz (pronounced "Koze"), 65, has donned the top hat and punch-in-the-eye face paint of Svengoolie for 40 years, on and off. Generations of Chicago fans stop him on the street to thank him for a weekly break from reality, but he never foresaw the level of exposure he is enjoying now.

Beginning in 2011, the nostalgic rerun network MeTV exploited the digital broadcast sub-channels mandated by the FCC to assemble the largest "diginet" in the United States — over 160 broadcast affiliates reaching 96 percent of US households.

There is no escape from Svengoolie now.

When MeTV unleashed Koz onto an unsuspecting nation in, viewers fluttered toward the glowing screen like moths.

The "Svengoolie" set is piled with loving effigies of the host in every medium imaginable, from toddlers' crayon scrawls to Lego Svengoolies to dolls crocheted by grandmas. Far-flung fans send in pictures of themselves in Svengoolie shirts at the Grand Canyon and the Taj Mahal.

Koz is swamped by requests for personal appearances, especially in the run-up to Halloween. In December, he pops up in comic shops and malls around Chicago, dressed as "Sventa Claus," because — why not?

There is a limit to his shameless instinct for self-promotion, however.

"People always ask me to do weddings, but I do not do weddings," he said. "Funerals — I haven't done any of those, either, because they're worried their relative will get up out of the coffin."

National fame has brought Koz some high-profile admirers. He thought it was a prank when "Star Wars" icon Mark Hamill got in touch with him a few years ago. He emailed Hamill back, asking him to post something on his verified Twitter account so he could be sure it was real.

"I said, 'I'm a bottom feeder celebrity and people pretend to be me,'" Koz said. "If this is really you, I apologize."

It really was Hamill. "He put up a tweet about how one of the things he discovered that summer that he was so thrilled about was the Svengoolie show," Koz said.

Halfway through our talk, Koz got a text message from another fan, former WWF wrestler Jerry Lawler.

"I'm just overwhelmed that there are people all over the country who are enjoying what we're doing," he said. "It would have been nice if this had happened when I was younger and had more energy and I was healthier, but I'll



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Lack of makeup doesn't stop Rich Koz from mugging in front of his new coffin, lovingly carved for nationwide, digital broadcast via the MeTV network, WSYM47.2 in Lansing.

still take it."

From Vampira to The Ghoul

In 1954, the dark form of Finnish-American actress Maila Nurmi emerged from a foggy studio hallway and delivered a blood-curdling shriek.

"Screaming relaxes me so," she sighed.

Lounging on a couch in fishnet stockings, garnishing her drink with an eyeball, the sexy beatnik persona of Vampira freaked out parents and other guardians of morality.

Something strange was stirring in the basement of split-level, Eisenhower-era America. Cellar dwellers like Vampira were calling a recess from the antiseptic, white-toothed prison of network TV.

At the same time, a package of Universal horror films, including "Frankenstein," "Dracula" and "The Wolf Man," was made available to local TV stations for the first time, under the rubric "Shock Theater." Local hosts, many of them little more than disembodied voices, were hired to introduce the films, in the manner of 1940s radio shows such as "Lights Out" and "The Inner Sanctum."

Nurmi was the first of these hosts to ap-

pear on camera. She was quickly followed by a long list of oddballs like the zombie-like Zacherley (New York's John Zacherle), Count Gore de Vol (Richard Dyszel of Washington D.C.), the Amish-bearded Dr. Creep (Barry Hobart of Dayton, OH), Stella (Karen Scioli) of Philadelphia's "Saturday Night Dead" and Elvira (Cassandra Peterson of Los Angeles, a campier version of Vampira).

By the time Sir Graves Ghastly, Cleveland-born actor Lawson J. Deming, ran on WJBK, TV2 in Detroit from 1967 to 1982, most of the hosts were sinking into campier material.

The saga of Svengoolie goes back to 1960s Cleveland horror host Ghouardi, played by Ernie Anderson. (Anderson is the father of film director Paul Thomas Anderson, whose production company is still called Ghouardi.)

Ghouardi was a wisecracking beatnik in a goatee and fright wig who disparaged the movies he featured and blew a variety of objects up on camera, including a rat.

Detroit-area fans have fond memories of The Ghoul, Ghouardi's successor in Cleveland, played by Ron Sweed, who established

a strong presence in the Detroit market on WKBD TV 50 and is still a Michigan legend.

But Sweed's run-in with the original Svengoolie was a real-life horror show.

Sweed took Ghouardi's stream-of-consciousness style to falling-down-stupid extremes, knocking over walls and cameras and shoving random objects into his nose, leaving viewers wondering whether a pestilence hadn't wiped out the studio, leaving one staggering stoner to run the show.

Meanwhile, in Chicago, polished radio announcer Jerry G. Bishop was slumming as a horror host on "Screaming Yellow Theater," dressed as a zombie hippie who called himself Svengoolie.

Bishop got the inspiration for the name from Ghouardi.

In 1973, network execs axed Bishop's Svengoolie character and replaced him with Sweed's Ghoul when Kaiser Broadcasting took over Chicago's WFLD-TV.

Koz, then a college-age Svengoolie fan, was shocked when Bishop was "unceremoniously fired" and he wasn't alone.

The Ghoul may have been a legend along Lake Erie, but he sealed his fate with Chica-

go viewers in his first week as a non-resident haunt. “Svengoolie is a no-talent rip-off and we made him leave,” Sweed gloated on the air.

He was off the air in Chicago within a year.

The sordid episode could have been curtains for Svengoolie. Bishop, a TV journalist and announcer, wasn’t keen on revisiting the character.

“He thought he might someday run for office in this area,” Koz said. “He didn’t want his opponent holding up a picture of him as Svengoolie saying, ‘this is a man you’re going to vote for?’”

But Bishop had a young protégé with no such qualms.

My Darling Frankenstein

As a student at Northwestern, Koz sent jokes to Bishop and was thrilled to see Svengoolie use them on the air. Bishop invited Koz on the set, where the young fan ended up doing off-camera voices and writing full sketches.

“It wasn’t in my mind that I’m trying to get a job with this guy,” Koz said. “It was so cool that he liked what I did.”

In 1979, Bishop tossed the keys to the coffin to Koz and authorized him to become The Son of Svengoolie.

An early audition shows Koz in Bishop’s hippie-zombie headband and flared pants, but the look was clearly passé.

Koz grabbed some costume stuff he had laying around, including a top hat, an Edwardian jacket and a “Charlie’s Angels” style wig from K-Mart. He based his look on a still photo of Lon Chaney, Sr., from a lost film, “London After Midnight.” Koz grew up looking at that image, used to introduce “Creature Feature” on Channel 9 in Chicago.

“There was never anything in my mind saying, ‘Yeah, when it gets to be about 2018, I’ll still be dressing like this,’” Koz said.

There were some stakes in the heart along the way.



Courtesy photo

Koz modeled his “Svengoolie” look after Lon Chaney, Sr.’s top-hatted hypnotist/killer in the lost 1945 thriller “London After Midnight.”

After six and a half years, WFLD became part of Rupert Murdoch’s Fox network and Koz was given his walking papers.

“The way it was presented to me was, ‘We don’t think your show is suitable to be part of our network offerings,’” Koz said. “Of course, the Joan Rivers show was, and that didn’t last long.”

In 1995, TV executive Neil Sabin, soon to become architect of the MeTV network, pitched a plan to make WCIU-26 in Chicago a throwback to the independent stations he knew in his youth — stations that rolled along on comfort food like “Star Trek” reruns and horror movie hosts.

Sabin was also a Svengoolie fan. He asked Koz, who was freelancing at various shows, to open the coffin one more time.

Though Svengoolie was 13 years dormant, a week hadn’t gone by without a fan asking Koz to bring him back.

“I figured, if it meant that much to people, sure, I’ll do it,” he said.

Woooo

“Svengoolie” is a staggering amount of work, especially for a man who sleeps standing up in a coffin. He writes all the sketches and does most of the voices, playing many scenes with himself. When I visited the studio in late November, Koz, producer Jim Roche and director Chris Faulkner were bent over a bank of monitors, working on post-production.

Koz screens and researches each film he shows beforehand, often delving into arcane trivia.

In a recent show, he intercut 1960s Folgers Coffee commercials with “The Mummy’s Curse” to show that Virginia Christine, the young and haunted woman resurrected from ancient Egypt, later became the middle-aged coffee pusher Mrs. Olsen.

Snark, sarcasm and shock are no longer in short supply, as they were in the 1950s. Comforting ritual, from the clarion call of “Clear the airwaves” at the opening of the show to the throwing of the rubber chickens at the end, is at the heart of “Svengoolie.” More often than not, Koz is the butt of his own humor. Far from scaring viewers, he frequently reverts to a beleaguered, deer-in-headlights expression immortalized in lots of heavily merchandised apparel.

Among the show’s most sacred rituals is the film-specific song of the week, with musical director Doug Scharf adding a solo on keyboard and/or trumpet. For “Tarantula,” Koz wove new lyrics into a real Italian tarantella, a dance said to ward off the effects of a tarantula bite. “Bride of Frankenstein” gave him an excuse for a tour de force love ballad, “My Darling Frankenstein.”

Koz is not above tweaking sponsors. Liberty Mutual Insurance, a regular Svengoolie advertiser, was the target of a recent spoof commercial tied to “The Car,” a 1977 film about a killer car. For the 1945 Lon Chaney film “Pillow of Death,” frequently seen ads for MyPillow were spoofed as DiePillow.



Jim Roche/Svengoolie

After a hectic Halloween season, Svengoolie pops up as Sventa Claus in public appearances around Chicago every December.

Recently, some of the most off-putting ads, most notoriously for medical devices like catheters, have disappeared, but Koz said they weren’t yanked deliberately. (Ow, ow, OW!)

“I don’t know how to put this nicely, but more higher-end type sponsors wanted to buy time,” he said.

The jokes are often groaners, but they are tempered by a film historian’s zeal and a compassionate heart. Along with pointing out zippers on monster suits, inadvertent mirror reflections of vampires and wires attached to flying saucers, Koz often calls out racial stereotypes or animal mistreatment in the films he shows.

He took a long break during the 1946 film “House of Horrors” to detail the troubled life of actor Rondo Hatton, whose acromegaly was exploited by Hollywood.

For the history segment of “Godzilla,” he listed members of the all-Japanese cast, including Haruo Nakajima, the man in the rubber suit, and pointed out their other significant roles, just as he would for Bela Lugosi or John Agar.

“You want to show proper respect for people,” Koz said. “People are like, ‘Even in these movies?’ Yeah. Some of these people are excellent actors and this was the break they got.”

Despite the retro feel of the show, the cheap sets used by horror movie hosts of yore wouldn’t fly in the era of digital broadcasting. Svengoolie’s MeTV-era set, by Chicago’s Acme Design, is a gorgeously lit coral reef of steampunk apparatus and monster memorabilia. The classic Universal horror films, now re-mastered, show up splendidly on digital home screens.

“There are people who complain, ‘Oh, it’s in black and white,’” Koz said. “To me, that’s the worst complaint anybody can make. The

atmosphere those movies create, with the lighting and the shadows — they’re shot so well.”

The weekly grind isn’t getting any easier for Koz as he gets older, but he considers himself “extremely lucky” to be where he is. A cardiac arrest five years ago was the worst in a series of health problems he’s dealt with in recent years.

“I was dead a couple of times,” he said. “They had to use the paddles. I was unconscious for several days.”

Shortly before the heart attack, Svengoolie’s old coffin, dating back to the days of Jerry G. Bishop, was retired and enshrined in Chicago’s Museum of Broadcasting, to make way for a spook-tacular, digital-ready new model.

Koz cracked to his cardiologist, “I’m sure that there aren’t many of your patients who have had two coffins.”

“You almost had three,” the doctor replied.

“It’s like — wooooo,” Koz said, partly in horror-host parody, partly in earnest. “But it was funny.”

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ARTS & CULTURE

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Art of destruction

A collection of work by Jim Shaw and Mike Kelley

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The Broad Art Museum's latest installation, "Michigan Stories: Mike Kelley and Jim Shaw," is an atypical celebration of Michigan culture and the important artists that were born from it.

This exhibition, which will run until Feb. 25, is an expansive collection of works by punk rock artists Mike Kelley and Jim Shaw that celebrates the ugly and worships the corpse of post-flower power rebellious rock 'n' roll.

Kelley and Shaw have been globally recognized both for their experimental art and their influential noise rock band Destroy All Monsters. Kelley died in 2012 but is survived by his paintings and photography, which have been displayed in galleries internationally.

You're not going to see the usual artifacts of Michigan life, which have long since become a cliché. Instead you're

invited to what Shaw calls "The Hidden World," the underbelly of middle-class, suburban Christian life. Shaw uses the juxtaposition of a wide variety of images to conjure a dystopian view of the Midwest, where the influence of televangelists is both sinister and widespread.

His obsessive collection of 20th century artifacts include: the bizarre outfits worn by cultish religious groups, tarot cards, local Michigan church t-shirts and endless tapes of TV preachers, all of which are on display. The exhibition also features Shaw's series of illustrious surrealistic landscapes, which seem to have a particular interest in the foreboding aesthetics of vacuum cleaners.

The Destroy All Monsters Collective consists of Kelley, Cary Loren and Shaw. Peer at some selected works from the exhibit collected here.



(Above)

One of Jim Shaw's many collections of Xeroxed images, this one from 1975. The chaotic images fit well with the disorder one could expect from any given Destroy All Monsters concert. These shows were often improvised with several unconventional instruments, which were often household objects retooled to make as much noise as possible. The band's original incarnation never managed to record a proper studio album, but many archived recordings are still available for listen and purchase.



(Above)

"Aahh... Youth," by Mike Kelley. A lineup of stuffed animal figures in tattered condition, a symbol of lost innocence. Kelley in his younger years appears in the lineup with a subdued look and posture. These particular images were used by Destroy All Monsters acolytes Sonic Youth for the packaging of their critically acclaimed 1991 album *Dirty*.

(Left)

Mall Culture by Destroy All Monsters Collective. A garish depiction of the band inside of a shopping mall. If the mall is to represent the complacency within rock music, then this depiction of the band fittingly portrays how out of place they truly were.

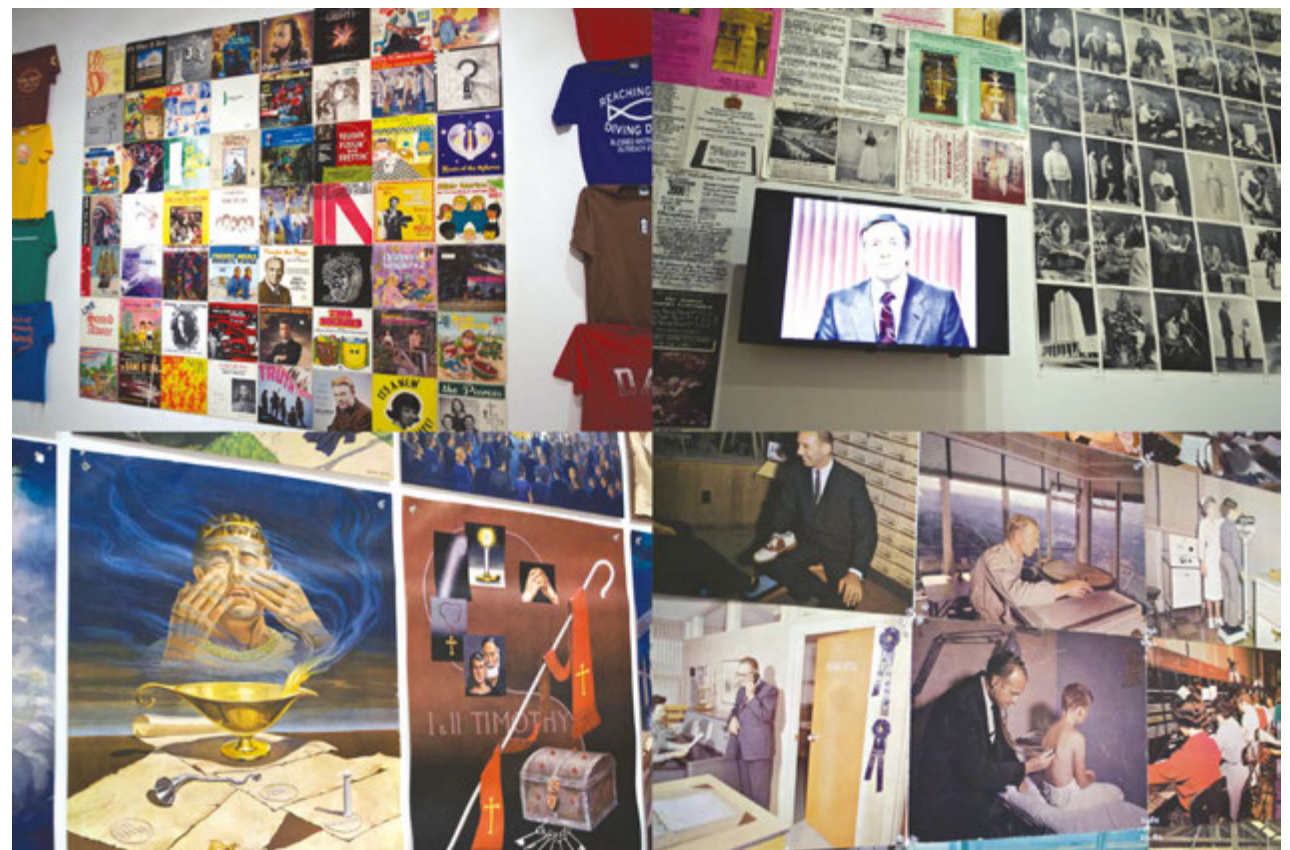


(Above)
 "Greetings from Detroit," by Destroy All Monsters Collective. One of two landscapes

that celebrate Detroit media figures. Included are: The Stooges, Grand Funk Railroad, Sun Ra, George Clinton, The Up and Scott Richardson.



(Above)
 Amazing Freaks of the Motor City by Destroy All Monsters Collective. Michigan poet and activist John Sinclair is given a saint-like depiction, surrounded by portraits of notable musical figures such as Iggy Pop and Ted Nugent.



(Above)
 Various images collected by Jim Shaw. A juxtaposition of the various things Shaw believes influence mundane Midwestern life. A constantly running tape of various televangelists, a collection of religious records and t-shirts, disturbing bible paintings, medical diagrams and photos from doctor's visits create the imagery for a world where spiritual fast food has become its lifeblood.

**Michigan Stories:
 Mike Kelley and Jim Shaw**

Through Feb. 25
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Risqué business

Super Happy Funtime brings its wild variety show to the Loft

By DYLAN TARR

A lot of people try to put Super Happy Funtime in a genre, but after a decade on the road, writer, director and host Corey Ruffin still hasn't got any better at describing exactly what they do.

There's live music, there's burlesque, there's comedic theater and they usually take their clothes off. One thing Ruffin is certain of is his group's knack for ruffling political feathers. Exhibit A: The group

Super Happy Funtime

Friday, Dec. 22
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
18+, \$12, \$10 adv.
theloftlansing.com

regularly performs an act called "Betsy DeVos, Cum Gargler."

"I'm writing a song right now for our next tour called

"The Gun Is Good, The Penis Is Evil," said Ruffin, who is always impressed by the crowds who turn out to witness their spectacle. "You'd think crazy people would come see us," said Ruffin, who performs more than 100 shows each year. "But it's just a freakin' data entry guy and his wife who are like, 'You're saying what we're thinking, but

can't articulate.'"

And articulate they do. Amidst a gun-crazed Michigan and an overall political nightmare, Ruffin and the dozen or so members of Super Happy Funtime perform a brand of bastardized burlesque, bent on obliterating sexual repression.

"People in power are so afraid of the freedom that comes with just being comfortable with one's self, that's what we try to put an eye on," Ruffin explained, before recalling one of the many times his vision was drastically misinterpreted.

"Once, in Grand Rapids, the cops showed up and the guy in charge thought that the word 'burlesque' meant live sex with caged animals," he said. "How could you imagine stuff like that? How boring is your life?"

That incident is nothing new for Super Happy Funtime. The group is often met with disapproval from tourist bureaus, city officials, and every bureaucrat that catches wind of a traveling band of pastie-wearing theater maniacs descending on their town. The last time the group played in St. Joseph, they fielded visits from the city attorney and the sheriff, both of whom threatened to shut down the venue.

After haggling with city officials and a call to the ACLU, Super Happy Funtime finished its set, though it was punctuated by visits from roving police officers sent to "check-up" on the show.

"It's just the people who have their hands on the leash that are terrified of us," Ruffin said. "It's those people who are truly sick ... The city attorney of St. Joe sees a video of our show and she's suddenly con-



Courtesy Photo

The members of the Super Happy Fun Time troupe pose for a picture. The collective of performers mixes the sleazier elements of burlesque and theater to satirize issues ranging from sexuality to national politics.

fronted with all the horrible things inside of herself that she wants to stop us."

Sure, it's disheartening that government officials are still wary of rock 'n' roll attitude in 2017, but the good news is Ruffin and his crew aren't throwing in the towel anytime soon. They're having too much fun.

"What's the point of having a day job and slaving at Meijer 40-hours a week for the rest of your life when you can travel across the country in a bus and take your clothes off for strangers?" Ruffin asked. "Obviously one is more important than the other."

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2018 City Pulse book club celebrates the 50th anniversary of 1968

By **BILL CASTANIER**

1968 was unlike any year before it. Historians have said it left an “indelible” mark on the American psyche. The daily news was filled with images of death, destruction and dissidence.

The assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy, along with the graphic execution of a Viet Cong prisoner, are seared into the collective American consciousness.

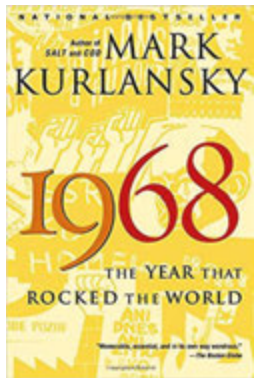
When the nation wasn't struggling with the growing violence of the world, it was entranced by the heavenly images of planet Earth sent back by the Apollo 8 space mission.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of that watershed year, City Pulse is sponsoring a monthly book club that will run through all of 2018.

Each book club meeting will be held at Schuler's Eastwood Towne Center location on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Exceptions come when the Thursday falls near a holiday, when the book club will meet on the second Thursday of that month.

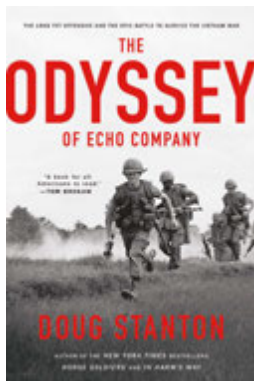
Jan. 4

1968: “The Year that Rocked the World” by Mark Kurlansky. A good introduction to the pivotal year in American history. Kurlansky tells a straight forward history of the events that changed the world.



Feb. 1

“The Odyssey of Echo Company” by Doug Stanton. Perhaps one of the best looks at the Tet Offensive, as seen through the eyes of the soldiers who fought it. The book is intense, brutal and honest. Stanton's two previous works, “In Harm's Way” and “The Horse Soldiers,” will come to the big screen in 2018.



March 1

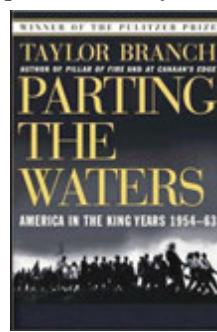
“My Lai: Vietnam, 1968, and the Descent into Darkness” by Howard Jones. This nail-biting and



exhaustive narrative places the My Lai Massacre within the wider context of the Vietnam War.

April 5

“Parting the Waters: America in the King Years” by Taylor Branch. An in-depth look at the early activist life of Martin Luther King Jr. and the emerging Civil Rights Movement.



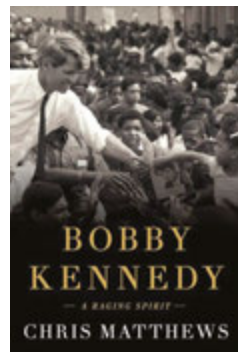
May 3

“Myra Breckinridge” by Gore Vidal. Deemed pornographic in 1968, it explores sexual norms and what was then called transsexuality through satire. A movie of the same name starred Raquel Welch.



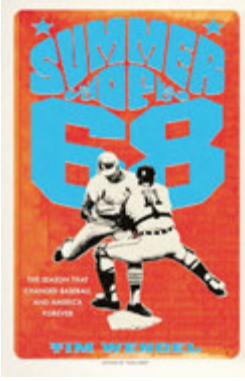
June 7

“Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit” by Chris Matthews. The host of MSNBC's Hardball writes an unusual biography of Bobby, taking into consideration the many moral conflicts of one of America's most famous political martyrs.



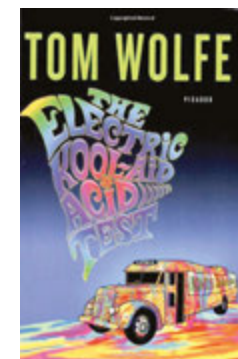
July 12

“Summer of 68: The Season that Changed Baseball and America Forever” by Tim Wendel. This book delves into the Detroit Tigers' 1968 World Series run told against the backdrop of a changing America.



Aug. 2

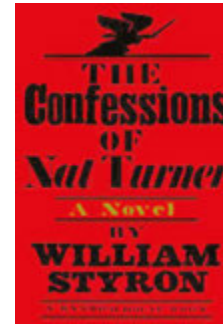
“The Electric Kool Aid Acid Test” by Tom Wolfe and/or “Slouching Toward Bethlehem” by Joan Didion. Two of the foremost writers of the “new journalism” movement explore the



counterculture of the 1960's.

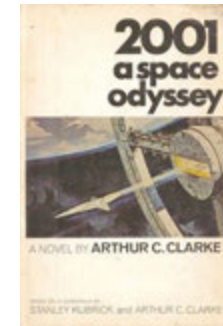
Sept. 6

“Confessions of Nat Turner” by William Styron. A Pulitzer Prize winning look at the 1831 Virginia Slave Revolt through the eyes of Nat Turner.



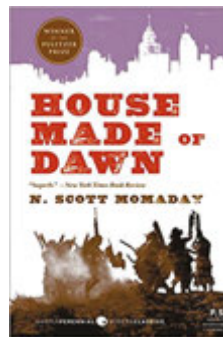
Oct. 4

“2001: A Space Odyssey” by Arthur C. Clarke. Introduced many Americans to science fiction and the possibility of rogue computer intelligence. A film of the same name directed by Stanley Kubrick was released almost simultaneously.



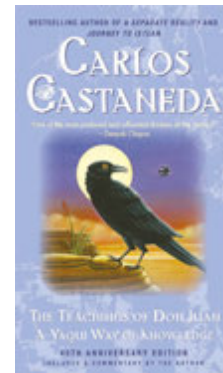
Nov. 1

“House Made of Dawn” by N. Scott Momaday. Won the Pulitzer Prize for its exploration of Native American life, beliefs and customs in modern day America. It is considered a breakthrough book for Native American literature.



Dec. 6

“The Teachings of Don Juan: A Yaqui Book of Knowledge” by Carlos Castaneda. The first in of series of books exploring the inner mind with the help of hallucinogens and a sorcerer.



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The stockings were hung by the chimney with care knowing a book would fit perfect in there!

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LANSING ASSOCIATION
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

LGBTQIA News

Community and Identity in Art

By Savannah Smith

"The shortest statement of philosophy I have is my living, or the word 'I.'"

—Audre Lorde

As an artist, I find that the most direct reflection of my identity can be found in my art. Whether that art is about me or not, it is drawn from me and consistently, in some way, reflects who I am. Identity and how a person identifies is more than just personal — if that person chooses for it to be so, it can be political. But identity, for me, has been more than an internal struggle; it has also been a struggle of what the world dictates you are. When you are presented with one perspective, that is often the only perspective there is. Even growing up in a time when there is so much at our fingertips, it is easy to find ways to tune out the noise and only take in what is in front of you.

As a young artist, my biggest concern is not filtering my art. Creating without perceived borders or limits. As an even younger artist, my biggest concern was what other people thought of my art. My biggest influence as that artist was my interactions with other artists like me — seeing their art and having them affirm mine. When your peers affirm your art, they also affirm your identity. And while I am confident and comfortable in my identity now,

I wasn't always. In my most recent film, "Don't Touch Me," the character I played in the film identified as non-binary. The film focused on Jay, my character, who was finding out that they were demisexual. These identifications, both demisexual and non-binary, felt and sounded like me, but it was only on screen that I was able to ease into those identities and tell my story. I didn't realize I was using this film as a stepping stone, but looking back it was a major moment in my life as an artist and as a queer person. I can explore myself in my art. Having a community of queer and POC (People of Color) artists that support that is incredibly important to making sure more queer and POC artists can have their voices heard.

In the undergraduate film program at Michigan State University, many of my classmates were cis and many of my classmates were white men. This made getting constructive and meaningful feedback on queer films difficult. Many of their questions had to do with concepts I had already assumed and explored. It wasn't until my senior year, when I was making "Don't Touch Me," that I received feedback that I felt was truly helpful. I was given the opportunity to present my film to a group of queer students and faculty at Michigan State at a symposium called "Queer Con-

See Art, Page 17

Message from the Board

Friends, this will be our last issue of the LGBTQIA newsletter in the City-Pulse. We're incredibly grateful that they've been a steadfast supporter of our organization and for giving us an outlet when we needed one. If you want to stay current with the latest and greatest LAHR and community news, we recommend subscribing to our mailing list at <http://eepurl.com/cVOekH> or visiting www.lahronline.org. If you're interested in volunteering your time (or your dollars), email communications@lahronline.org. We'll hook you up.

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First Presbyterian Church of Lansing
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Welcomes and Affirms the LGBTQ Community

Worship Service: Sunday at 10:00 am

510 W Ottawa St, Lansing, Michigan 48933
(517) 482-0668 info@lansingfirstpres.org
www.lansingfirstpres.org
Facebook: LansingFirstPresbyterian

Surviving the Holidays

By Tashmica Torok

The holiday season has arrived and adult survivors of child sexual abuse will once again be navigating festivities where their perpetrator may have a seat at the table.

It is common for survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence to skip family reunions, birthday parties, funerals, weddings, and holiday dinners to avoid having to share these experiences with the person who sexually abused them, while other family members act like nothing ever happened. If they choose to speak up and set appropriate boundaries, they are often ignored, victim blamed, and shamed. Survivors are asked to offer forgiveness and trust without ever being offered a process

for accountability and justice.

They won't be alone. The holidays are incredibly difficult for trans people, people of color, people with disabilities – people on the margins. That's why it is critical to have a concrete plan of action to safeguard the vulnerable people in your life.

Here are some steps you can take to be a good ally to the survivors of child sexual abuse and other forms of oppression this holiday season:

Review your guest list and reflect on who will be around your table. A quick review will likely reveal that you already know who is most likely to do harm and to whom. Spend some time talking with the survivors or vulnerable people you've invited to dis-

cuss what you can do to support them and then do those things.

In some cases, you may have to rescind a few invitations. If you know that there is a survivor of child sexual abuse who will be triggered by a guest's presence or behavior, choose the survivor. Always. They are the ones who get to determine when and if it will ever be appropriate for them to have their perpetrator at the same table with them. They get to choose the boundaries and your job will be to support them.

If you know that a guest will not respect the pronouns or gender identity of your queer or trans loved ones, let them know that they are welcome to eat at a different table this holiday season. They can spend the next year doing their own work to educate themselves so that they won't have to miss the next shindig.

It is your job, as the host, to set clear expectations about how people are to be

treated. This is your opportunity to flex your ally muscles. You can send out educational resources and be a resource for folks who have questions about anything before they do or say something harmful.

You're not done yet. Once everyone has arrived and the party has begun, it is now your job and the job of other allies in attendance to intervene if any of your guests behave in a manner that upholds rape culture or any other system of oppression including but not limited to: white supremacy, rape culture, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, or xenophobia. We all have a lot of learning to do and it's important to foster an environment where we can all learn how to treat each other with dignity and respect.

This year, make sure that the people who need safe, loving community the most are sitting at your table.

Cheers!

Why We Kneel

By Isaac Torok

If you haven't been paying attention, students at Lansing Catholic High School (LCHS) and Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) have been using their voices to protest racial injustice and police brutality — largely by kneeling at sporting events and during the pledge of allegiance. The result? The schools have taken drastic steps to discipline these students for exercising their free speech. At LAHR, we believe that providing a platform for these students' voices is critical in supporting their efforts.

One student, Isaac Torok, tried to circulate this petition at Immaculate Heart of Mary in November 2017. (It's been revised, just a tiny bit, for publishing clarity).

The reason we kneel during the pledge of allegiance is to bring attention to a type of racism called police brutality. It is not bad to kneel or disrespectful to the people who fought in wars. We know this because a military veteran named Nate Boyer talked with the original player who kneeled,

Colin Kaepernick. Nate is a teammate of Kaepernick and said that soldiers respect other soldiers that died by kneeling at their grave.

I have been sensing racism in both schools (LCHS and IHM). IHM is doing it more calmly by telling the kids they can't kneel. But they do make sure that we recognize that police brutality and racism is happening and are doing a prayer but they don't seem to understand that extra is good. Even though in school they say that extra credit can only HELP your grades.

You can help support Isaac — and his classmates. Write, call, or email Fr. John Byers and Principal Angela Johnston at Immaculate Heart of Mary, and carbon copy Sean Costello of the Lansing Diocese and Bishop Earl Boyea. To email the Bishop, you have to use a contact form (<https://www.dioceseoflansing.org/user/122/contact>).

Principal Angela Johnston
3830 Rosemont Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910
517-882-8631
johnstona@ihmlansing.org

Fr. John Byers
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
3815 South Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48910
517-393-3030
frjbyers@ihmlansing.org

Sean Costello
517-342-2483
scostello@dioceseoflansing.org

And kneeling is like the extra credit. Now for LCHS: LCHS is kind of like IHM but LCHS is a high school. So one of the games I went to they said if the players kneeled then they would have consequences. They said things that implied that they could be EXPELLED! Not very funny. No kids did get expelled, but that was still a bad thing to tell kids.

So I am getting a petition of names to send to

students, it would help his principal understand his motivations. The letter was confiscated by school staff after gathering only three signatures and Isaac was told that he was not allowed to circulate petitions on school grounds. Since then, the school has released a policy threatening disciplinary measures if children continue to kneel during the pledge of allegiance.

Isaac and other students were recently recognized by the Lansing City Council for their bravery at their schools. The LAHR Board recognizes that the injustices being demonstrated within these schools infiltrate our entire community. We join the students in solidarity.

the Diocese of Lansing.

He thought that if he wrote a petition and gathered the signatures of his fellow

Art


from page 16

versations." It was here that, for the first time, I felt the things my classmates would take time to understand were openly accepted. This allowed us common ground to discuss the technical and creative ways I was exploring these concepts. It was also the first time I had shown any work to a completely queer audience. While I don't blame my classmates for their lack of interest in gender and sexuality, it was an incredible experience to be able to talk to queers about this queer-ass movie. It was affirming and exhilarating. It is this kind of networking and collaboration that inspires young artists to keep creating.

These artists and teachers helped me connect with an identity that grounded me. When your experience is never talked about, it is easy to assume it does not exist. I didn't realize there were other queer people of color making art about themselves. I didn't realize it was something I could do until I saw someone else doing it. Having a community of artists that I feel a part of is, at times, as important as creating that art. It gives me the power to go on when things feel bleak. Sometimes it feels like creating art isn't fighting at all. But when I see my mentors and peers fighting the same fight by simply existing, it inspires me to not give up.

That's why starting the Nameless Collective in Lansing was a huge moment in my art community. At Nameless Collective, we have hosted numerous events that feature

art from local and national artists, with the main goal being raising the voices of marginalized artists. All it took was one person sending a message to other queer and POC artists. We found solace in each other and in the things we cared about. We not only sought to raise up other marginalized artists, but also each other. At our first event, "Art Grl Starter Pack" we featured the art of women, non-binary folks, of all backgrounds and colors. Artists local and beyond. While Nameless made the event, it was the support of the community and each other that made it magical. Support and community has made projects that I didn't even know were possible, possible. Having a community of artists who you affirm and affirm you, is, without a doubt, the most valuable truth I have found as an artist.



SUITS AND THE CITY
We would love to see you at our
next event

Wednesday, January 3
5:30-7:30 p.m.
at The Turner Dodge House!

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Lansing, MI 48906
www.suitsandthecity.org

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 Ella at (517) 999-6704.

Wednesday, December 20

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Essential Oils - Senior Discovery Group. From 10 a.m. to noon FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

Mindfulness. From 7 to 9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Lansing.

Practice Your English. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

Tavern House Jazz Band. From 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Square Lansing.

EVENTS

Cooking with Kids. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Family Storytime (Ages up to 6). From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Williamston Branch, 201 School Street Williamston. 517.655.1191.

Holiday Storytime (Ages 1-6). From 10 to 10:30 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 North Foster Lansing. 517.485.5185.

Holiday Storytime (Ages up to 6). From 11:15 a.m. to noon FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. 517.521.3643.

Thursday, December 21

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly . At 6 p.m. First meeting FREE.. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St. Haslett. A Course in Miracles. From 7 to 9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.

Free Yoga for Kids and Youth. From 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. FREE for Youth ages 6-13. Parents pay usual rates. . Bikram Yoga Capital Area,

1355 E. Grand River Ave East Lansing. 517-862-8926.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. At 5:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Spanish Conversation Group. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

New Horizons Community Band. From 9 to 11 a.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

Waterfronts Open Mic/Jam. From 6 to 10 p.m. free and kids are fine until 9. Waterfront Bar and Grille, 325 City Market Drive Lansing.

EVENTS

12-Step Meeting . From 12 to 1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome.. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St. Lansing.

Drop-in LEGO Club (Age 4 & up). From 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. 517.521.3643.

Film Movement Series (Adults & mature teens). From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club . From 9:30 to 11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly dues fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing.

Lunch at the Meridian Senior Center. From 12 to 1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested for ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Party Bridge. From 1 to 4 p.m. \$1 Members/\$2 Public. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

ARTS

Ballroom Lessons (Pasodoble). From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$42 per couple; \$21 individual. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St. Jackson. (517) 784-2389.

Friday, December 22

EVENTS

Teen Hot Chocolate Bar. From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Sunday, December 24

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Charlotte Yoga Club. From 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Charlotte. Juggling. From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St. East Lansing.

HOLIDAYS

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. From 5 to 6 p.m. Salus Center, 624 E. Michigan Ave Lansing.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance . At 6 p.m. \$8 dance, \$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave. Lansing. (517) 321-0933.

Monday, December 25

See Out on the Town Page 21

Pinball wizards welcome at Silver Balls in the City



Dec. 27

The array of pinball machines on the upper balcony of The Avenue Cafe. Participants will play on these machines and their entry fees will be donated to charity.

“Star Wars,” “Ghostbusters,” “Star Trek,” “The Simpsons,” “Lord of the Rings,” and numerous other familiar titles sit neatly in rows on Lansing’s East Side—but not in a video rental store, they’re pinball machines lining the walls of the Avenue Café.

On Dec. 27, it’s likely all 23 of the café’s machines will be feverishly flashing and chiming during the annual Silver Balls in the City charity pinball tournament.

This is the third year the Lansing Pinball League will host the annual Capital Area Humane Society (CAHS) benefit. Each entrant pays a \$10 fee to play, but it’s not about turning a profit, according to event organizer Heather Kendrick.

“I don’t take any of my costs out, [the CAHS] gets all of that,” said the frugal Kendrick, who even designs and creates the awards to save on costs. “I make holiday-themed trophies. They’ll be painted with glittering silver paint and have Christmas knick-knacks on top,” she added.

Being the host to this, and other pinball events, comes naturally to Kendrick, a devotee to the game.

“My favorite game at the Avenue Café is ‘Attack From Mars,’” said Kendrick, who spends hours traveling the state chasing her hobby. “I play a lot of pinball. I’m in four leagues.”

Kendrick, 43, is also senior lecturer of philosophy at Central Michigan University, which further ties into her love of animals. Her teachings include “ethics as it pertains to animals” and “animal welfare issues,” she explained.

“It’s a charity I believe in,” said Kendrick, who’s owned two rescue rabbits – Hazel and the General – from CAHS. “Animals are a part of my professional and private life.”

Until recently, Kendrick had another rescued rabbit named Columbo.

“He died very suddenly,” she said. “I hope the tournament will be an opportunity to honor his memory with a big donation to CAHS.”

For those looking to partake in the round-robin tourney, each participant will have a few chances to take the crown and score some real recognition, since the Lansing Pinball League is endorsed by the International Flipper Pinball Association, a badge of honor the local league acquired in November 2014.

“The tournament forum is three strikes, you play until you have three losses,” Kendrick said. “The tournament is also officiated and sanctioned, so people can get world ranking points.”

First timers are welcome to say hello to Kendrick at the Silver Balls event, and she won’t be hard to spot, either. “I’ll be wearing a deer antler hat,” she promised. “I don’t need much of an excuse to wear something goofy.”

Kendrick, who has lived on Lansing’s East Side since 1999, lives with her husband Joseph Nebus, a fellow league member. Kendrick, who said “Michigan is considered one of the big states for pinball,” is ranked 814th in the world and 16th in the state, but you don’t have to be a pinball wizard to sign up for the Lansing Pinball League. The casual and fun group meets two Tuesdays each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Avenue Café. The next gathering is Jan. 9. For the complete schedule, visit lansingpinleague.com.

“We welcome people of all skills and levels,” Kendrick said. “It’s a chance to play with a variety of players and anyone who plays in it will become a world ranked pinball player.”

—DAVID WINKLESTERN

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S
MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

Sat., Dec. 23

DASTERDS



It's Shitmas at Mac's Bar

Saturday, Dec. 23 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$8, \$7 adv., 6:30 p.m.

A pre-Christmas celebration stocked with local punk and indie-rock bands takes over Mac's Saturday. Performing the all-ages show are the Plurals, Corduroy Heart, Foxhole and Stop Bobby Hatch. Also taking the stage are Dasterds, a Lansing-based punk trio that released its five-song "Un-Cooler" EP in March. The Dasterds debuted in the summer of 2016 with its amped-up three-song debut, the "Wet Hot Garbage" EP, both are streamed in full at dasterds.bandcamp.com. Meanwhile, Stop Bobby Hatch, led by Troy Burris, is a Grand Ledge-based rock outfit that just released "Baby Hatch," a Christmas-themed EP. Prior to that, the band released the raucous "New Money" LP, the group's sophomore effort, in September 2016. That disc, and a collection of lo-fi, stripped-down demos, like the piano ballad "Mississippi Misses," are streamed at soundcloud.com/stopbobbyhatch.

Fri., Dec. 22

BRENT LOWRY



Brent Lowry & the Drifters at Tequila Cowboy

Dec. 22-23 @ Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing. 21+, FREE, 8 p.m.

Brent Lowry & the Drifters return to Tequila Cowboy in the Lansing Mall for a two-day run of free shows this weekend. Since its formation in 2016, the five-piece country-rock act has warmed up stages for the likes of David Allan Coe, Parmalee and Josh Thompson. The band comprises Brent Lowry (lead vocals, guitar), Seth Lambert (lead guitar), Steve Geroski (bass), Andrew Lewallen (drums) and multi-instrumentalist Wade Wedge on banjo, pedal steel, mandolin and more. This year, the Ohio-based outlaw-country band hit a few more milestones after opening for Toby Keith and Rodney Atkins and is releasing its second EP, "The Drifter," in May. Over the summer, Lowry and his band traveled to Skaggs Place Studio in Nashville and began work on its next EP, due out this year. Fans of Hank Williams Jr. and Waylon Jennings might want to check out Lowry.

Fri., Jan. 12

JOSHUA DAVIS



Joshua Davis at the Ten Pound Fiddle

Friday, Jan. 12 @ MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing. All ages, \$20, \$18 members, \$5 students.

Next month, former Steppin' In It front man and NBC's "The Voice" finalist Joshua Davis returns to the Ten Pound Fiddle. Since his 2015 run on the hit television show, Davis remained in Michigan and cut a new full-length Americana record, "The Way Back Home." Released in September, the 11-track LP was recorded locally by Glenn Brown. Lyrically, the new disc reflects honest, blue-collar stories – spanning triumphant and to the dark periods. Also featured on the record is Jack White's bassist Dominic John Davis (a fellow Steppin' In It veteran), pianist Mike Lynch (who's worked with Willie Nelson, Leon Russell) and drummer Mike Shimmin. A Michigan folk vet, Davis cut his teeth for years playing weekly gigs at the Green Door, but has also shared stages with the likes of Pete Seeger and Arlo Guthrie.

UPCOMING SHOW?

CONTACT

ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night,	Open Mic	Karaoke Pajama Party	Man vs Wild
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Jackalope	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Pool Tourny, 7:30 a.m.	Alskn "walleye" AYCE	DJ, 9 p.m.
Darb's Tavern, 117 S. Cedar St.				Greg Smith
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	Blue Haired Bettys	Be Kind Rewind
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze!!	Soulstice	Festivas Party w/ Global Village
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Super Happy Fun Time	Christmas Jam
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Endeavors 5pm/ Jorbsmas 9pm	Dasterds
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			The New Rule, 7pm	The New Rule, 7pm
The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave.		Luke Winslow King, 7pm		
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Brent Lowry & the Drifters, 8 p.m.	Brent Lowry and the Drifters, 8pm
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.			Capital City DJ's	Capital City DJ's

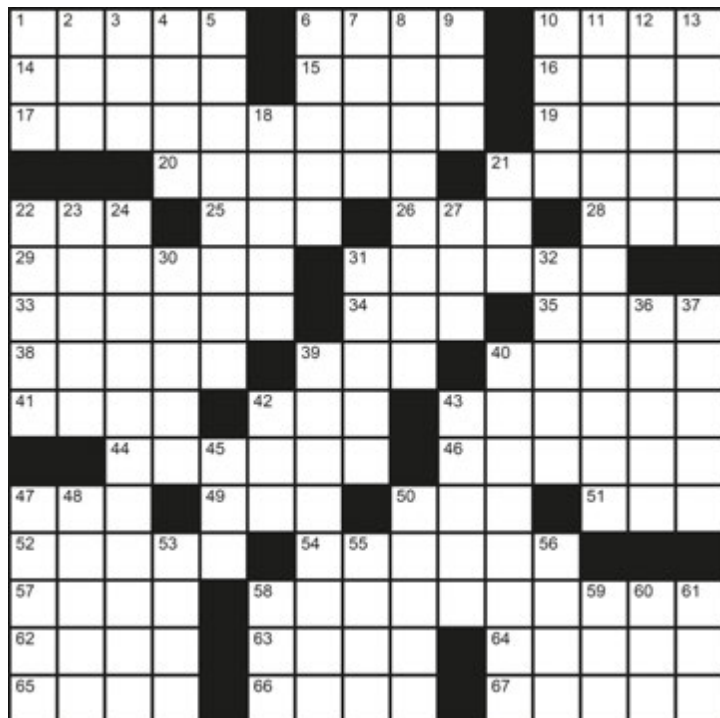
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Not That Exciting"--no wait, the puzzle's exciting, I promise!

Across

- 1 Actor Oscar of "Ex Machina"
- 6 Like some potato salads
- 10 Rating unit
- 14 "That Girl" actress ____ Thomas
- 15 Felt bad about
- 16 It works in the wind
- 17 Carrie Underwood's 2005 debut album
- 19 Apple that turns 20 in 2018
- 20 The next U.S. one will be in 2020
- 21 Donizetti work, e.g.
- 22 "____ you serious?"
- 25 66, for one (abbr.)
- 26 Uncooked
- 28 Where pagers were worn
- 29 Showtime series about a killer of killers
- 31 Cash, slangily
- 33 Figure at the pump
- 34 Slippery, as winter roads
- 35 "One" on some coins
- 38 Go pop
- 39 Word that I guess is hidden in the theme answers, but whatever
- 40 Scribbled down
- 41 Picked-over substances
- 42 Animal in the Bacardi logo
- 43 Magna ____ (1215 document) (var.)
- 44 Field docs
- 46 "Annie" star Quinn
- 47 Low digit?
- 49 Stamp pad stuff
- 50 Montana hrs.
- 51 Like some wines
- 52 One of the Coen



- brothers
- 54 Overdid the acting
- 57 Football
- 58 Dwelling with a skeleton of timbers
- 62 Type of year 2020 will be?
- 63 Letterman's rival, once
- 64 Earliest stage
- 65 What turns STEM to STEAM?
- 66 See 3-Down
- 67 Cold weather range
- Down**
- 1 Contacts via Skype, maybe
- 2 ____ TomE and Prince
- 3 66-Across's location
- 4 Current "Match Game" host Baldwin
- 5 Making sense
- 6 Get rid of
- 7 Spiritual advisor of sorts
- 8 Makes a lot of dough
- 9 Fabric measures (abbr.)
- 10 Leave out
- 11 Long-standing, like many traditions
- 12 Pong creator
- 13 Sum up
- 18 ____ nous (confidentially)
- 21 Be indebted
- 22 Marinade in some Spanish cuisine
- 23 Make a comeback
- 24 Health problem on some summer days
- 27 Random quantity
- 30 CafE au lait container
- 31 Regiments that may be faddish
- 32 Out in the country
- 36 Say
- 37 John Irving's "A Prayer for Owen ____"
- 39 Holy fish?
- 40 Glowing brightly
- 42 Coal receptacle
- 43 Rigid social system
- 45 "You're a better man than I am, Gunga ____!": Kipling
- 47 Elon Musk's company
- 48 Sleek river swimmer
- 50 Jason of "Game of Thrones"
- 53 Smartphone programs
- 55 Michael who directed "Miami Vice"
- 56 Over it
- 58 Reason for a shot
- 59 Expend
- 60 Title for Doug Jones of Ala.
- 61 Aliens, for short

©2017 Jonesin' Crosswords • For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. **Answers Page 21**

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

December 20-26

Aries (March 21-April 19) Your life in the first half of 2018 will be like a psychological boot camp that's designed to beef up your emotional intelligence. Here's another way to visualize your oncoming adventures: They will constitute a friendly nudge from the cosmos, pushing you to be energetic and ingenious in creating the kind of partnerships you want for the rest of your long life. As you go through your interesting tests and riddles, be on the lookout for glimpses of what your daily experience could be like in five years if you begin now to deepen your commitment to love and collaboration.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) You'll soon have a chance to glide out into the frontier. I suggest you pack your bag of tricks. Bring gifts with you, too, just in case you must curry favor in the frontiers where the rules are a bit loose. How are your improvisational instincts? Be sure they're in top shape. How willing are you to summon spontaneity and deal with unpredictability and try impromptu experiments? I hope you're very willing. This may sound like a lot of work, but I swear it'll be in a good cause. If you're well-prepared as you wander in the borderlands, you'll score sweet secrets and magic cookies. Here's more good news: Your explorations will position you well to take advantage of the opportunities that'll become available throughout 2018.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) These days it's not unusual to see male celebrities who shave their heads. Bruce Willis, Dwayne Johnson, Seal, Tyrese Gibson, and Vin Diesel are among them. But in the 20th century, the bare-headed style was rare. One famous case was actor Yul Brynner. By age 30, he'd begun to go bald. In 1951, for his role as the King of Siam in the Broadway play *The King and I*, he decided to shave off all his hair. From then on, the naked-headed look became his trademark as he plied a successful acting career. So he capitalized on what many in his profession considered a liability. He built his power and success by embracing an apparent disadvantage. I recommend you practice your own version of this strategy in 2018. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to begin.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) In the Northern Hemisphere, where 88 percent of the world's population resides, this is a quiescent time for the natural world. Less sunlight is available, and plants' metabolisms slow down as photosynthesis diminishes. Deciduous trees lose their leaves, and even many evergreens approach dormancy. And yet in the midst of this stasis, Cancerian, you are beginning to flourish. Gradually at first, but with increasing urgency, you're embarking on an unprecedented phase of growth. I foresee that 2018 will be your Year of Blossoming.

Leo (July 23-August 22) If you've had an unfulfilled curiosity about genealogy or your ancestors or the riddles of your past, 2018 will be a favorable time to investigate. Out-of-touch relatives will be easier to locate than usual. Lost heirlooms, too. You may be able to track down and make use of a neglected legacy. Even family secrets could leak into view -- both the awkward and the charming kinds. If you think you have everything figured out about the people you grew up with and the history of where you came from, you're in for surprises.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) Most of us regard our ring fingers as the least important of our digits. What are they good for? Is there any activity for which they're useful? But our ancestors had a stronger relationship with their fourth fingers. There was a folk belief that a special vein connected the fourth finger on the left hand directly to the heart. That's why a tradition arose around the wedding ring being worn there. It may have also been a reason why pharmacists regarded their fourth fingers as having an aptitude for discerning useful blends of herbs. I bring this up, Virgo, because I think it's an apt metaphor for one of 2018's important themes: A resource you have underestimated or neglected

will be especially valuable -- and may even redefine your understanding of what's truly valuable.

Libra (September 23-October 22) In fairy tales, characters are often rewarded for their acts of kindness. They may be given magical objects that serve as protection, like cloaks of invisibility or shoes that enable them to flee trouble. Or the blessings they receive may be life-enhancing, like enchanted cauldrons that provide a never-ending supply of delicious food or musical instruments that have the power to summon delightful playmates. I bring this up, Libra, because I suspect that a similar principle will be very active in your life during 2018. You'll find it easier and more natural than usual to express kindness, empathy, and compassion. If you consistently capitalize on this predilection, life will readily provide you with the resources you need.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) Like all of us, you go through mediocre phases when you're not functioning at peak efficiency. But I suspect that in 2018 you will experience fewer of these blah times. We will see a lot of you at your best. Even more than usual, you'll be an interesting catalyst who energizes and ripens collaborative projects. You'll demonstrate why the sweet bracing brightness needs the deep dark depths, and vice versa. You'll help allies open doors that they can't open by themselves. The rest of us thank you in advance!

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) The blunt fact is that you can't be delivered from the old demoralizing pattern that has repeated and repeated itself -- until you forgive yourself completely. For that matter, you probably can't move on to the next chapter of your life story until you compensate yourself for at least some of the unnecessary torment you've inflicted on yourself. Now here's the good news: 2018 will be an excellent time to accomplish these healings.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) In 2018, one of your primary missions will be to practice what you preach; to walk your talk; to be ambitious and masterful in all the ways a soulful human can and should be ambitious and masterful. Live up to your hype in the coming months, Capricorn! Do what you have promised! Stop postponing your dreams! Fulfill the noble expectations you have for yourself! Don't be shy about using exclamation points to express your visions of what's right and good and just!

Aquarius (January 20- February 18) Years ago, when I started my career as a horoscope writer, my editor counseled me, "Always give priority to the Big Three. Romance, money, and power are what people care about most." After a few months, he was disgruntled to realize that I wrote about how to cultivate psychological health and nourish spiritual aspirations as much as his Big Three. He would have replaced me if he could have found another astrology writer whose spelling and grammar were as good as mine. But his edict traumatized me a bit. Even today, I worry that I don't provide you with enough help concerning the Big Three. Fortunately, that's not relevant now, since I can sincerely declare that 2018 will bring you chances to become more powerful by working hard on your psychological health . . . and to grow wealthier by cultivating your spiritual aspirations . . . and to generate more love by being wise and ethical in your quest for money and power.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) What binds you? What keeps you closed down and locked up? I urge you to ponder those questions, Pisces. Once you get useful answers, the next step will be to meditate on how you can undo the binds. Fantasize and brainstorm about the specific actions you can take to unlock and unclog yourself. This project will be excellent preparation for the opportunities that the coming months will make available to you. I'm happy to announce that 2018 will be your personal Year of Liberation.

SUDOKU

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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 21

Out on the town

from page 18

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

A Course in Love. From 1 to 2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.

MUSIC

New Horizons Community Band. From 6 to 8 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

EVENTS

Ask the Lawyer at the Meridian Senior Center . From 9:30 a.m. to noon FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Chess, Cribbage, Hand & Foot. From 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Social Bridge. From 1 to 4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road Lansing.

ARTS

Monday Night Life Drawing. From 7 to 9 p.m. \$10 per session (\$5 for students) to cover the model and studio.. O'Day Studios, Suite 115 1650 Kendale Blvd. East Lansing.

Tuesday, December 26

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. At 7 p.m. FREE for visitors.. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 367-6300.

Duplicate Bridge . From 1 to 4 p.m. \$2 members, \$3 non members . Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Yawn Patrol Toastmasters. From 7 to 8:30 a.m. FREE for visitors.. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St. Lansing.

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's. From 7 to 10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

EVENTS

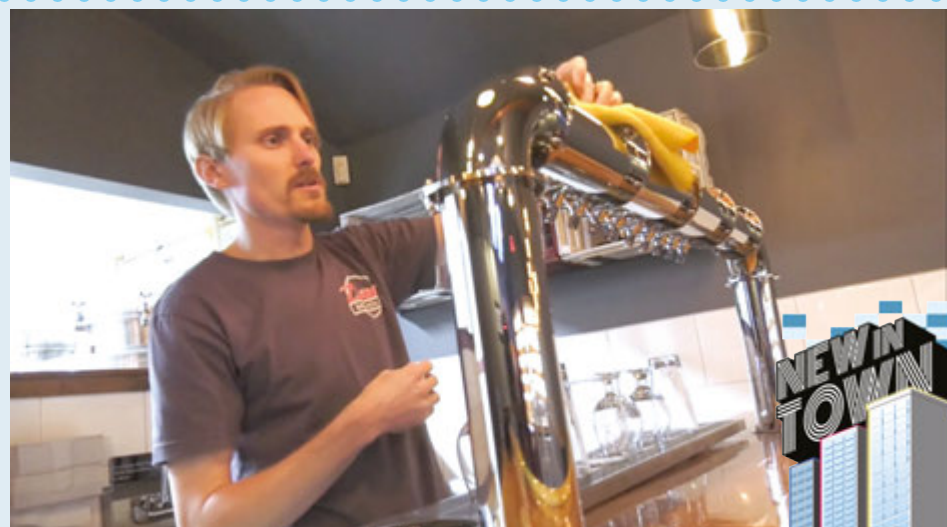
Baby Storytime (Ages up to 2). From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Bingo, Bridge, and Euchre. From 1 to 4:30 p.m. Cost Varies . Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Game Night at UrbanBeat. From 7 to 11 p.m. FREE. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing.

LCC West Toastmasters. From 5 to 6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive Lansing. 5174831314.

Overeaters Anonymous. At 7 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road., Okemos. (517) 349-9536.



GREEN DOT STABLES / LA COCINA CUBANA / DIME'S BREWHOUSE

Allan Ross/City Pulse

Green Dot Stables opened last week on Lansing's east side. Owner/operator Jacques Driscoll spent more than \$1 million and year and a half transforming the former Whiskey Barrel Saloon into the restaurant, which specializes in creative slider burgers. Work included building a replica barn in the middle of the dining room that serves as a semi-private room.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Within a week of each other, and just in time for office party season, Metro Lansing is getting two new restaurants along with a craft brewery. Interestingly, each one is owned and operated by a husband-and-wife duo, throwing all warnings of pens and company ink out the window.

First out of the gate was the racetrack-themed craft beer and slider bar **Green Dot Stables**, which opened last Thursday south of the Frandor Shopping Center. It's the second North American location for co-owners Christine and Jacques Driscoll, who also run a Green Dot location in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood as well as two other restaurant concepts. But even with years of experience in the business, the packed dining room on opening day left owner and operator Jacques Driscoll in awe.

"I've never served this many people before," he said, surveying the 12,000-square-foot dining area that can seat about 350 guests. "This is bigger than my other three restaurants combined. I can't believe this."

The tight menu consists of 24 varieties of mini-burgers, five types of fries, including the gravy-and-cheese curd specialty, poutine, and a few selections of sides, salads, soups and desserts. The kitchen is overseen by Cordon Bleu-trained chef Les Molnar, who adds a touch of elegance to the deceptively unpretentious menu.

Everything, including the bar menu, is priced at \$3 or less, yet it all smacks of culture. Slider offerings include pork belly char siu, lamb vindaloo and chicken cordon bleu and there's a chicken paprikash soup—let the "too much pepper" jokes begin.

Craft cocktail options include the obvious mint julep, to match the equestrian theme, and the Tom Izzo Collins, a creative local twist on an old bar standard.

The Driscolls invested about \$1 million to upgrade the former country-western bar, Whiskey Barrel Saloon. A set of booths on each side of the room have been fashioned to resemble horse stalls, while a massive barn was erected on the former dance floor.

"Yeah, we built a barn," Jacques Driscoll said. "It's what every restaurant in Lansing was missing."

Cuban flair

Monday marked the grand opening for **La Cocina Cubana**, the brick-and-mortar version of Iliana Almaguer's 3-year-old Cuban food truck. She and her husband, Tobia, now have a prime location in downtown Lansing, giving capital workers and

downtown denizens authentic Caribbean cuisine within walking distance.

"I always envisioned this as a restaurant," Almaguer said. "But starting as a food truck was a great way to connect with the community first."

The new location allowed Almaguer to nearly double the size of her menu, including adding lamb and beefsteak options. She also has breakfast and dinner dishes, as well as authentic Cuban coffee and a line of Cuban sodas.

"I'm excited to be downtown," Almaguer said. "I hope to see a lot of new faces."

Dimes drops

Following a lengthy build-out, **Dimes Brewhouse** is set to open Thursday, Dec. 21, in downtown Dimondale. Husband-and-wife team Chad and Michelle Rogers transitioned from careers in chemical engineering to the trade of craft beer brewing. Chad Rogers had been home brewing for eight years and decided to take a professional leap into his passion.

"We've always been interested in the engineering side of things," Chad Rogers said. "It seemed like a brewery would be a perfect match between what we had learned in school and what we enjoyed to do on our free time."

He's a Dimondale native who moved back to his hometown five years ago. The brewery is set up inside a former florist, which the pair spent over two and half years transforming into a brewing facility and tasting room.

"I've been looking at this beautiful equipment just sit there for a long time," Chad Rogerd said. "I'm really anxious to start using it."

Green Dot Stables

410 S. Clippert St., Lansing
11 a.m.-midnight Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Thursday-Saturday; noon-10 p.m. Sunday
(517) 574-4214, greendotstables.com

La Cocina Cubana

123 S. Washington Square, Lansing
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday
(517) 894-3079

Dimes Brewhouse

145 N. Bridge St., Dimondale
3-11 p.m. Thursday-Friday; noon-11 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; closed Monday-Tuesday
dimesbrewhouse.com

Allan I. Ross is a weekly contributor to the Lansing City Pulse. If you know of any new businesses in town, contact him at allan@lansingcitypulse.com.

DEC. 22 >> FOUNDER'S CANADIAN BREAKFAST STOUT TAPPING PARTY

The Avenue Cafe will have the coveted Founder's Canadian Breakfast Stout on tap this Friday at 5 p.m. Ruckus Ramen, which operates out of the Avenue Cafe, will join the celebration by introducing two new breakfast themed ramen bowls. There will also be free pinball and pool upstairs. Founder's Canadian Breakfast Stout is one of the highest rated beers nationally and has been kept under wraps for six years. It is expected to disappear quickly, so arrive early.

5 p.m. at the Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing., avenuecafelansing.com

DEC. 26 & 27->WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS AT POTTER PARK ZOO

Wonderland of Lights is a yearly holiday themed exhibit at Potter Park Zoo that will feature thousands of lights shaped to create images of animals and holiday displays. The event features cookies, crafts and encounters with animals that can be enjoyed by children of all ages. It is still outdoors, so make sure to bundle up.

5 - 8 p.m. at Potter Park Zoo, Admission: \$7 for adults, \$5 for kids, free for children under 3, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing, potterparkzoo.org

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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HE ATE

SHE ATE



Capital City BBQ

Expect the unexpected

By **MARK NIXON**

There it sits on a busy westside street corner, drab as a fire hydrant. Imagine the bewildered looks from hungry newcomers who step inside and see ... a cell phone store. Welcome to Capital City BBQ, a place I fell in love with almost instantly, once my bewilderment melted away.

Yes, indeed, this tiny restaurant shares the same roof as the Sunshine Cellular store. Which, oddly, makes it more endearing.

It's hard to wrap my head around a restaurant that blends Southern barbecue with humble Vietnamese cuisine. Maybe this is common. Maybe I simply don't get out enough. I choose to call it inspired.

On the Southern end of the food spectrum are items like smoked beef brisket (\$12.95 for a half-pound) and baby back ribs (\$30.95 for a full rack, plus two sides). I maintain that Saddleback BBQ in REO Town sets the gold standard for smoked meats in this town. But Capital City BBQ comes very close to that mark.

Smoke permeates the menu. Indeed, on one visit they were hawking smoked meat loaf. I began salivating. Alas, that special was scheduled for the following week when I wasn't around.

On the other end of the spectrum is Vietnamese fare. They have seven kinds of Banh Mi, a Vietnamese sandwich, for \$5.95. I tried the grilled lemongrass pork Banh Mi, a concoction of pulled pork and coleslaw tucked into thick slices of baguette-like bread. The taste and texture were outstanding.

Just days before Thanksgiving and with family in town, I ordered a huge amount of takeout food to feed the clan (since in-house dining is very limited, I noticed most customers order takeout).

Per usual, I ordered too much food. The Vietnamese spring rolls, six for \$11.95, were practically an entree unto themselves. Here you have shrimp, cilantro, rice noodles and cucumber sheathed in a translucent rice wrap. They look like museum pieces under frosted glass. Dip one end of the spring roll in the accompanying peanut sauce and you have a pure taste of humble Vietnamese cuisine. The freshness of the ingredients, the aromatic bite of the cilantro and the toasty notes of peanut sauce make a perfect symphony.

It was so good that it inspired our two-year-old grandson, Keelan, to call out for another thick sliver of "doo-dum-buh" — cucumber.

Keelan's mom raved about one of the sides: cornbread. "The cornbread was delicious—not an easy thing to do, to get flavor properly balanced with moistness. I hate crumbly cornbread," RYANNE said.

Her partner Luis — no stranger to foreign cuisines — complimented the fare as fresh and authentic. "The food is like what you could make at home, if you made that sort of food at home."

Capital City BBQ offers an impressive array of sides — I counted 12 — that accompany dinners and sandwiches. The family's verdict was mixed on the baked beans. I loved them because they contained bits of smoked pork.

Less inspiring was the Mac and Cheese (a \$1 up-charge for a side). Capital City BBQ needs to work on the creaminess and cheesiness and make the topping crumblier.

The grilled lemongrass chicken with rice noodles (\$8.95) was the least inspiring item I tasted. It was packed with fresh flavors, but overall the taste lacked any wow factor. Because my order was so large and was made a week earlier, the restaurant mistakenly forgot I had ordered Vietnamese egg rolls — \$8.95 for six egg rolls with pork, shrimp, carrots and green onions. I didn't discover the omission until I got home. A pity. They sounded good.

Besides cooking savvy, Capital City BBQ brandishes marketing savvy. The names

BBQ joint lives up to Guy Fieri-hype

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON LAWRENCE**

Let's get one thing straight — the location is atypical.

Positively wedged into a corner lot at the intersection of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Saginaw, Capital City BBQ is a one-stop shop if you need a cell phone or lunch.

That's right, this place has both. If you hadn't heard of it before, that might have changed a few months ago when the aggressively blonde, highly obnoxious Guy Fieri came to town and featured the Banh Mi on his Food Network show. Ignore that. Go there anyway, because the food is good and the location is weird. Don't we like things to be a little bit weird in Lansing?

We started with an order of Vietnamese spring rolls, traditionally one of my favorites. I love the clear wrapper, which lets you see the fresh, colorful ingredients like cucumber, cilantro and shrimp — all are included in this version. Unfortunately, my excitement to try these died with my first bite, as these were totally devoid of flavor.

Beautiful, yes. Flavorful, not so much. My lunch continued with a bowl of pho, eaten at a table in my office because our order was to-go.

A word on this — seating at the restaurant is extremely limited. As in, there might be 10 seats in the place, and parking is even worse.

During a subsequent trip for takeout, when I went inside to collect our food, I heard more than three groups of people mention a 25-minute wait for sandwiches and there was no seating. They left to go somewhere else. I understand there isn't much that can be done about logistics, but I hate to see a small business hemorrhage its customers like that.

My pho (Vietnamese noodle soup, pronounced "faux") was brothy, rich, meaty and had lots of accoutrements, just like it should. The broth came in a separate container than the bean sprouts, Thai basil, thinly-sliced jalapeno pepper, lime wedges, fish sauce and beef slices. The idea is you toss your preferred additions into the broth and let the heat meld everything together. That is great, in theory, but it proves to be extremely difficult when you're eating out of

Styrofoam containers that are too small to contain the broth plus anything else of substance. Also, my food safety-conscious husband (personally, I have the stomach of a rabid dog) was concerned that the vegetables were in the same container as the raw beef. A fair criticism, especially when the pho-eater is nine months pregnant.

Yes, I'm still pregnant and no, it's not twins.

His Awesome Mess sandwich with a side of fries boded well for us. The smoked pork was tender and topped with a tangy coleslaw and spicy/sweet BBQ sauce. The fries were the star of the show, because they were hot, crispy and seasoned. If you've followed the grievances of Mr. She Ate through the years, you'll recall that an unseasoned fry sends him into despair, but these are properly salted. He said they didn't even need ketchup, which I think is insane.

On our next visit, we ordered the Sweet Chick and Steer Clear sandwiches to share. The Sweet Chick — smoked chicken topped with BBQ sauce, lettuce, tomato, and onion — was too sweet. The chicken didn't have enough smoky flavor to stand up to the cloying sweetness of the BBQ sauce and there was no acidity to it. The Steer Clear was much better — beef brisket was topped with a red-onion jam, smoked-Gouda cheese and bourbon-BBQ sauce. The onion jam was perfect and, since we Hoovered this sandwich a few weeks ago, I've been making a quick apple-and-onion jam to serve with pork chops. The combination of onion and the richness of the meat was out

Capital City BBQ

11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Closed Sunday

1026 W. Saginaw St., Lansing

(517) 775-8500

facebook.com/capitalcitybbq



Gabrielle Johnson Lawrence/City Pulse

Capital City BBQ is a quirky wedge of a building crammed with Southern Barbecue and Vietnamese cuisine.

He ate

from page 26

of their sandwiches are whimsical in a down-on-the-farm sort of way: Awesome Mess, Steer Clear, Barnyard, Moo Over and Forgotten Thanksgiving are among the cleverly named offerings.

And not to let publicity go to waste, this place has played its 15 minutes of fame to the hilt. A few months ago, Guy Fieri, the host of the Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives," dropped by Capital City BBQ and it was later featured in one

of Triple D's episodes.

The restaurant seized on the publicity — who wouldn't? When I dropped in for my first visit, I noticed T-shirts hanging from a wall: "Guy Ate Here. Have you?" On my second visit, I noticed a minimalist drawing of a goateed Fieri lording over the scene.

Despite its Plain Jane looks, Capital City BBQ seems delighted with the notion that it's here to help its patrons enjoy life... like a good friend having you over for dinner. The adage "don't judge a book by its cover" truly applies. Open the book, turn the page, expect the unexpected.

She ate

from page 26

of this world. If you want that sandwich (or anything else on the menu) for lunch, you'd better call in early. Our orders each took at least 30 minutes to complete, which was double the time that we were given on the phone. Service is slow.

Beyond that issue, the menu is extensive, with over 20 sandwich offerings, various salads and a Vietnamese section featuring everything from a Banh Mi

(essentially a Vietnamese hoagie) to pho and egg rolls. There is also a display case full of desserts and we couldn't help but try a slice of chocolate cheesecake. It wasn't particularly chocolatey, so I had to follow it with some Christmas cookies.

I hope Capital City BBQ finds a better way to serve as many people as it aims to serve, or a way to streamline its process. Until then, what it offers is unique and adds an interesting dynamic to the local food scene.

Keith Buchele: Soup Spoon's unconventional manager

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

The interview that led to Keith Buchele's eventual position as Soup Spoon manager was unconventional. "My interview process was unique," Buchele explained. "The owner and I had a five minute chat on the sidewalk."

Meeting by chance in front of the Soup Spoon restaurant on Michigan Avenue, owner Nick Gavrilides made a quick decision. "He asked me what I was doing Friday," Buchele said. "I showed up in my chef uniform."

For six months Buchele was just a prep guy, until one weekend when Gravrillides asked him to run the floor. Now, for the past seven years, Buchele has been Soup Spoon's evening manager, a feat he performs in, what he calls, "1960's business casual," a look that includes: tie tacks, skinny ties, tweeds, wool pants and polished shoes.

As for the job description, Buchele likens what he does to herding cats.

"I'm a cat herder," Buchele explains. "I try to get a bunch of people to do the same thing. I try to get a bunch of cats to go down a mountain pass."

This "herd" includes 43 regular workers in a 76 capacity restaurant that can serve up to 500 customers a night.

Buchele said his experience working with large groups began at Grand Valley University, where he majored in Japanese and minored in Chinese. He had a group of 30 close friends, who all enjoyed going out for lavish meals.

"Not a lot of kids handle large dinner parties," Buchele said. "We had 35 people

sitting at a table for Christmas."

Though he studied Asian languages, Buchele has always worked in restaurants. His humble beginnings as a teenager saw him washing dishes. Since then, he's sharpened his skills while travelling everywhere from Japan and India to New Orleans and Manhattan.

Buchele eventually returned to Michigan and began working in Grand Rapids for the Gilmore Collection. This stint began with him working in the kitchen, but eventually he was tapped to work the front of the house.

Though this change initially frightened him, the experience prepared him for his current position at Soup Spoon, a role he has "real passion for."

"There's a lot of love here," Buchele said. "We love the people who come in."

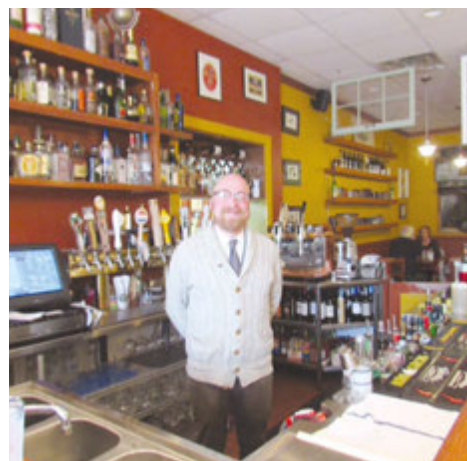
Buchele said he averages about seven hugs a night and knows about 75 percent of the patrons' first names. "I know their dogs' and kids' names," Buchele added. "I like to build relationships."

So what does he do when he isn't building relationships? Buchele heightens his expertise on spirits and distilleries.

"Benedictine," Buchele begins. "It was made by Benedictine Monks who have been making it the same way with the same recipe. This is holy in some way."

If you'd like to contact Buchele, you'll have to stop into Soup Spoon, as the dapper manager isn't on social media.

"I don't do Twitter, I don't do Facebook," Buchele added. "My dog, Thelonious Monk, has a Facebook page. I don't."



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