

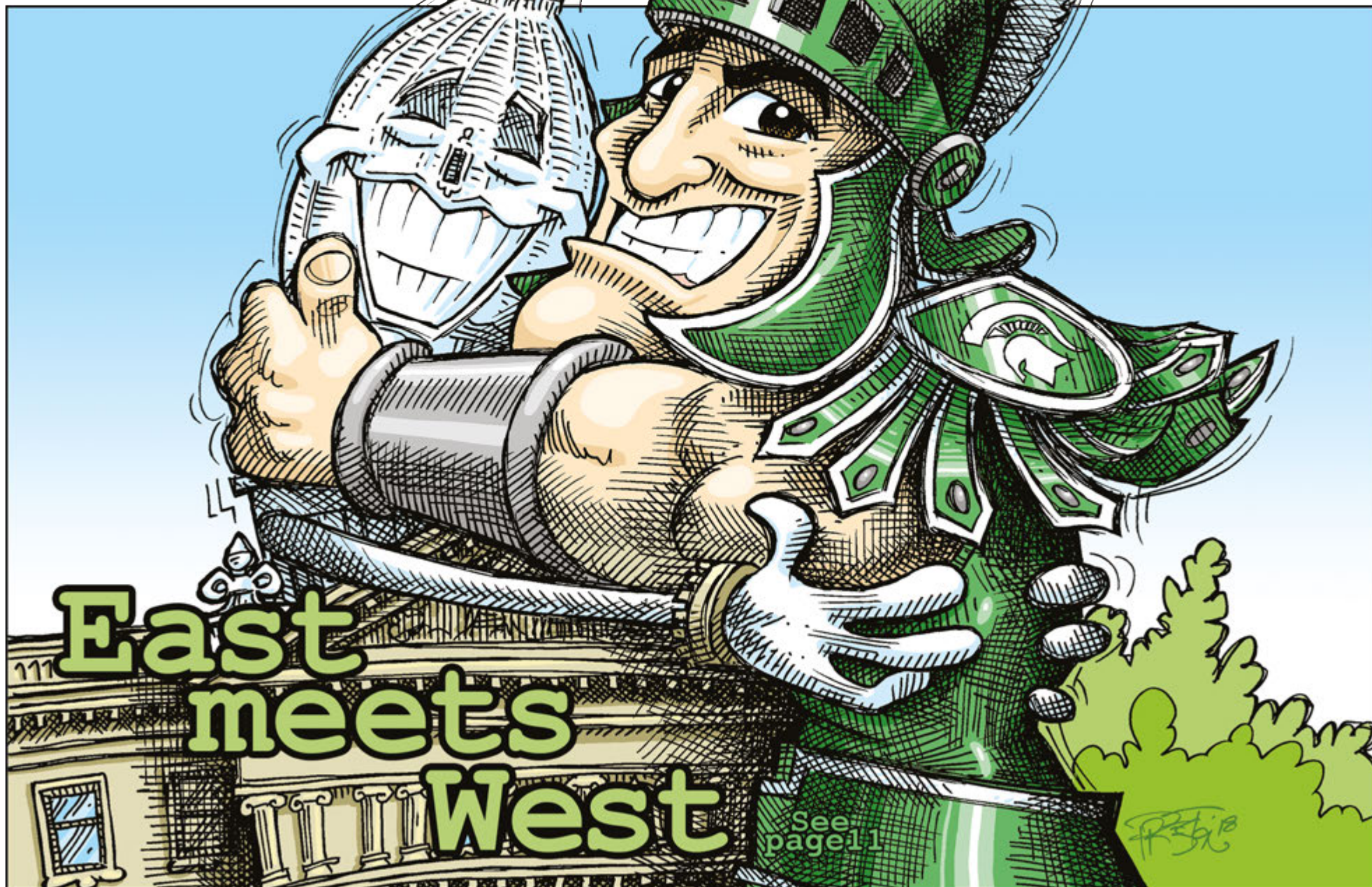
www.lansingcitypulse.com

FREE

CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

February 28 - March 6, 2018



W H
A R T
O N



MOON MOUSE, A SPACE ODYSSEY
PRESENTED BY LIGHTWIRE THEATER

Join Marvin the mouse on a fun glow-in-the-dark adventure!

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 1:30PM & 4:00PM

whartoncenter.com • 1-800-WHARTON

Sponsored by Granger; Jackson National Life Insurance Company; Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and National Endowment for the Arts; and SuttonAdvisors, PLC. Media Sponsor WKAR.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
**WHARTON
CENTER**
FOR PERFORMING ARTS



Get Legal, Get Your Card!

“Everyone in the office was personal, professional and efficient. It was a very nice experience.”

- Marsh I.

The
**Card
Clinic**
.com

517-706-1309

Discreetly and
Conveniently Located
In Haslett

*Hours vary weekly
by appointment only,
please call ahead.

CASH

MasterCard

VISA

Discover

AMERICAN EXPRESS

INGHAM COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER'S SAVE A LIFE *Soirée*

BENEFITING THE ANIMAL CARE FUND

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018

6 P M - 10:30 P M

KELLOGG HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF
FOOD, FUN, AUCTIONS, AND
ENTERTAINMENT

Tickets On Sale Now!

<https://tinyurl.com/SALS2018>

or

email ashaffier@gmail.com

Sponsored By



ANIMAL BLOOD RESOURCES
INTERNATIONAL

ROSIE
2018 SOIRÉE
SPOKESMODEL



WANTED

METAL ROOF CUSTOMERS

If your ROOF is 10-15 years or older, it's URGENT that you call METAL MASTERS CONSTRUCTION today for your free inspection! We have a METAL ROOF for any home at AFFORDABLE PRICES. GUARANTEED! Prices COMPARABLE to ASPHALT SHINGLES, so even if you've had other expensive metal roof estimates, think again. We're making VERY ATTRACTIVE OFFERS to homes in your AREA.

We also offer LOW INTEREST & \$0 down.
FINANCING with a LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT.

**METAL MASTERS
CONSTRUCTION**

1-888-253-9402

www.metalmastersroofing.com
office@metalmastersroofing.com

810-824-4523

15th Annual Grand Ledge St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration

Friday, March 16th at the Opera House 6pm-10pm

Saturday, March 17th Parade in Downtown Grand Ledge
at 2pm, celebration immediately following at the
Opera House



Festivities include
traditional Irish Dancing,
& live music

Check out www.facebook.com/GLStPats/
for more information



LET US CRUSH YOUR PAIN THE RIGHT WAY!

ALL FIRST TIME PATIENTS RECEIVE A FREE GIFT BAG

KING SIZE PRE ROLLS \$5-\$10 Donation

**Follow us on
Weed Maps,
Instagram and
Facebook**

**All
Meds
are Lab
Tested**

BIG NEWS
We only carry top shelf meds!
For \$10 Donations All day Everyday
Over 50 Strains to
choose from!

King Caviar Cones
Organic Caviar Cones 2 sizes to
choose from \$10 or \$15 Donation
6 grams top shelf shatter
\$100 Donation

5025 South Pennsylvania Lansing MI 48910
on the corner of Pennsylvania and Jolly
517-708-0288

Platinum vape
(indica-sativa-hybrids)
4 for \$100 donation.

We carry a variety of medical cartridges

- The Claw • Keif
- The Clear • Flavor RX

***Try our house vapes,
they are awesome!***

We carry a variety of all
CBD products offering **\$5 off**
your donation on all CBD products.

**GREEN
CRUSH**



CRUSH pain the Right way

Security Staff. Provision center is clean, safe and professional.

Must have valid ID & valid Michigan Medical Marijuana Card.

You may purchase CBD Hemp Products without a Medical Marijuana Card.



How have the first two months of being mayor gone for Andy Schor?

Check out an exclusive interview with City Pulse's Berl Schwartz on Facebook and at www.lansingcitypulse.com coming Thursday

STATE OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

In the Matter of: Angel Acres Drain

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, composed of Fred Cowles, Cheryl Risner, Walt Sorg, and Lisa Wilson (Alternate), will meet on **Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Alaiedon Township Hall, 2021 W. Holt Rd., Mason, MI 48854** to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated April 24, 2017, to clean out, relocate, widen, deepen, straighten, tile, extend, improve, provide structures, mechanical devices and pumping equipment, add lands, add branches, and a relief drain and/or relocate along a highway to the drain known and designated as the Angel Acres Drain, are necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare of Alaiedon Township, in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended, and for the protection of the public health of said Alaiedon Township, and further, to determine whether it is necessary to add lands to the Angel Acres Drain Drainage District pursuant to Section 197 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, and you are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Ingham within ten (10) days of the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the project. An owner of or party of interest to property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: February 20, 2018

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
Phone: (517) 676-8395

CP#18-038

CityPULSE

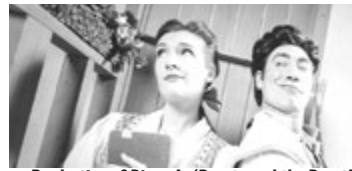
**VOL. 17
ISSUE 29**

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



**PAGE
19**

Rent Strike's new album release means party at Robin Theater



**PAGE
24**

Production of Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast' comes to Owosso



**PAGE
29**

Michigan corn makes whiskey better



**Cover
Art**

By Dennis Preston

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5061
or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com
CLASSIFIEDS: (517) 999-5066

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER • Mickey Hirten
mickey@lansingcitypulse.com

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Skyler Ashley •
skyler@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068
EVENTS EDITOR • Ella Kramer

ella@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704

PRODUCTION MANAGER • Abby Kelly

production@lansingcitypulse.com

STAFF WRITERS • Lawrence Cosentino

lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com

Todd Heywood

todd@lansingcitypulse.com

SALES EXECUTIVE

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

Contributors: Andy Balaskovitz, Justin Bilicki, Daniel E. Bollman, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Mary C. Cusack, Tom Helma, Gabrielle Lawrence Johnson, Eve Kucharski, Terry Link, Andy McGlashen, Kyle Melinn, Mark Nixon, Shawn Parker, Stefanie Pohl, Dennis Preston, Allan I. Ross, Dylan Tarr, Rich Tupica, Ute Von Der Heyden, David Winkelstern, Paul Wozniak

Interns: Kelly Sheridan, Shruti Saripalli, Sherry Min-Wang

Distribution manager: Paul Shore • (517) 999-5061

Delivery drivers: Frank Estrada, Dave Fisher, Jack Sova, Richard Simpson, Thomas Scott Jr.



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

**WDBM
IMPACT
88.9FM**

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

POST-TRAUMATIC DISCOURSE

1. THE SENSIBLE CENTER

WE MUST **RESPECT** GUN CULTURE-- AND LET PEOPLE WHO HAVE **NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER** IN ANY FORM OF GUN CONTROL LEAD THE WAY ON GUN CONTROL!

PERHAPS BOTH SIDES CAN **COMPROMISE--** ON SLIGHTLY FEWER MASSACRES!



2. SECOND AMENDMENT SOLUTIONS

WE NEED **ARMED SCHOOTEACHERS** TRAINED TO RESPOND UNDER FIRE WITH THE STEELY PRECISION OF **NAVY SEALS!**

WAIT, WHAT? I'M NOT SURE-- YOU'LL BE GREAT!



3. PUBLIC ENEMY #1

PRESIDENT TRUMP IS **RIGHT--THE F.B.I.** IGNORED WARNINGS ABOUT THE KILLER BECAUSE THEY WERE **TOO BUSY WITH THE RUSSIA HOAX!**

PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THE F.B.I. IS JUST A COUPLE OF GUYS IN A STOREFRONT OFFICE IN ALEXANDRIA! THEY'RE **VERY EASILY** DISTRACTED!



4. THOSE DARN MEDDLING KIDS

WHY ARE THESE PAMPERED SNOW-FLAKES WHO JUST WITNESSED THE SLAUGHTER OF THEIR CLASSMATES SO **UPSET?**

CLEARLY THEY HAVE BEEN **BRAINWASHED** BY THE LIBERAL MEDIA INTO THIS INEXPLICABLE **ANTI-GUN BIGOTRY!**



5. EXTREMELY PLAUSIBLE THEORIES

THOSE GUN-HATING STUDENTS ARE ACTUALLY PROFESSIONAL **CRISIS ACTORS** WORKING FOR THE **DEEP STATE!**

IT'S AMAZING HOW WELL-ORGANIZED YET COMPLETELY INEFFECTUAL THIS VAST CONSPIRACY HAS BEEN! WHAT'S YOUR POINT?



6. WHAT THE N.R.A. WOULD LIKE TO SEE

IN BREAKING NEWS--THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER MASS FATALITY INCIDENT WHICH **HAPPENED** TO INVOLVE GUNS, BUT COULD JUST AS EASILY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH SOME **OTHER HYPOTHETICAL IMPLEMENT!**

OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE VICTIMS, THAT'S ALL WE'RE GOING TO REPORT ABOUT THIS STORY.



PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Dems, GOP shifting focus from MI-7 To MI-8

There's been a sea change in Washington when it comes to picking the Michigan congressional districts that are worth national attention.

For several cycles, literally millions of dollars poured into the Lansing media market and Eaton County for control of the 7th Congressional District, which Democrats won in 2008 only to lose again in 2010 and every election thereafter.

But after U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg, R-Tipton, blew out a well-funded and well-organized Gretchen Driskell by 15 points during an election in which Democrat Hillary Clinton was supposed to carry Michigan, the national Dems aren't trying to entice the Blue Dog Democrats in mostly rural farm districts ... for now, anyway.

Instead, they are going after the suburban moms and dads who find nothing endearing about Trump's potty mouth and general improper behavior.

That's leading D.C. to the 11th Congressional in Southeast Michigan and, closer to home, the 8th Congressional District. MI-8 is home to not only the increasingly liberal bastion of Ingham County, but a growing number of Rochester and Rochester Hills suburbanites who don't think the answer to school gun violence is arming teachers.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is super excited about a fresh face who has emerged in MI-8 and who "checks all the boxes," so to speak.

Elissa Slotkin:

- was born and raised in northern Oakland County (where a plurality of the voters live)

- is the offspring of the inventor of the Ball Park Frank hot dog (what's more American than that?)

- worked for the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department as a Middle East analyst, which led her to be deployed to Baghdad, (OK, that's more American than a Tiger Stadium hot dog.)

- Has raised more money in the last couple campaign cycles than incumbent U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, and is close to matching him in cash on hand (\$971,645 to \$709,599).

- Is a female candidate with backing from pro-choice women's cash cow, EMILY's List. AFSCME, the carpenters, electrical workers, Michigan Education Association and a bunch of other progressive groups are backing her, too.

All this may spell trouble for Bishop in



Slotkin

a 56 percent Republican-leaning district where Trump performed well but not great compared to the 7th or the 1st, another place the Republicans and Democrats once dropped a lot of money.

The National Republican Campaign Committee, Bishop's folks and Republicans aren't waiting around for Slotkin to catch fire.

They are hitting her where they feel she's more vulnerable — her Michigan residency. While a Holly native who graduated from a Bloomfield Hills private school, Slotkin has spent most of her adult life in Washington.

It wasn't until last May that Slotkin became an "inhabitant" of Michigan when she registered to vote. She announced her candidacy for office two months later. Still, she's kept her D.C. home and claimed a homestead exemption there last fall until the "error" was caught and she refunded the money.

Republicans are claiming the Democrats parachuted this resumé-perfect carpetbagger into MI-8 to take out a public servant in Bishop, who has worked and raised a family in the district for years.

"What the Democrats are doing across the country is implanting D.C. insiders like Slotkin, who are good fundraisers, in place like Michigan," said Sarah Anderson chief of staff of the Michigan Republican Party. "They want this to increase their chances of winning, but it's not going to work."

For her part, Slotkin makes no apologies for returning to the family farm to start her



Bishop

new consulting firm after years of serving her country in Iraq and the nation's capital.

"Every time you hear them use the carpetbagger label, especially for someone who grew up in Michigan, your ears should perk up that they literally have nothing to run on," Slotkin said. "If a sitting representative needs a pat-on-the-back issue, they have nothing they are proud of."

Slotkin first needs to win the Democratic nomination in August. She has at least one announced opponent in Michigan State University criminal justice instructor Chris Smith, who grew up in East Lansing and returned to the area 24 years ago.

He's a "grassroots" candidate who lines up with Bernie Sanders policy-wise — single payer healthcare and campaign finance reform, for example. The \$40,500 he reported in the bank at the end of the 2017 is well short of what Bishop or Slotkin amassed, but he's working.

And Driskell is back. She believes that the political winds likely will be blowing in a different direction in 2018 so she's diving into Walberg rematch with another aggressive campaign that's raising as much money as the incumbent.

But for the first time in many years the national spotlight isn't shining brightest on her MI-7 race. It's moved north to MI-8.

— KYLE MELINN

(Melinn is editor of MIRS, a newsletter covering politics and state government.)



SORE

OF THE WEEK



Old Holmes Street School 1030 S. Holmes St., Lansing

The three-story brick building looms over the surrounding neighborhood. Building permits from 2012 hang weathered and fading from shattered glass on one of the front doors.

It's a shell of the shattered dreams of a highly touted redevelopment project that was supposed to bring high-tech operations to the neighborhood tucked in between I496 and Pennsylvania Avenue. Former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and economic development officials struck deals with Spartan Internet in 2008. From 2009 to 2013 the city paid the tech company \$1.5 million in fees.

The number for the company was disconnected when City Pulse called Tuesday morning to talk to Ryan Vartoogian, the 36-year-old president and CEO of Spartan Internet. Online property records show the company has been consistently late with property tax payments to the city for years.

— TODD HEYWOOD



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

Join Google for free workshops to help you grow your skills, career, or business.

WHEN:

March 9th–10th*

WHERE:

Lansing Community
College

Gannon Building
309 N Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

Simple Steps to
Online Safety
Get Started with Code
Get Started with
Email, Spreadsheets,
and Presentations

RSVP:

g.co/GrowLansing



Grow with Google

LANSING, MI



*Please note March 10 is an educator-only session.

Join Google for **free workshops** to help your students build skills for the future.

WHEN:

March 9th–10th*

WHERE:

Lansing Community
College

Gannon Building
309 N Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

Collaborative Digital
Tools for Teachers

Applied Digital Skills
Instructor Deep Dive

Build an Applied Digital
Skills Lesson

Coding for Kids

RSVP:

g.co/GrowLansing



Grow with **Google**

LANSING, MI



*Please note March 10 is an educator-only session.

Join Google for **free workshops** to help you prepare for your next job opportunity.

WHEN:

March 9th–10th*

WHERE:

Lansing Community
College

Gannon Building
309 N Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

Get Started with
Email, Spreadsheets,
and Presentations

Intro to Online Marketing

Get Started with Code

RSVP:

g.co/GrowLansing



Grow with **Google**

LANSING, MI



*Please note March 10 is an educator-only session.

Join Google for **free workshops** to help you grow your business.

WHEN:

March 9th–10th*

WHERE:

Lansing Community
College

Gannon Building
309 N Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

Get on Google Search
and Maps

Intro to Online Marketing

Using Data to Inform
Your Marketing

RSVP:

g.co/GrowLansing



Grow with **Google**

LANSING, MI



*Please note March 10 is an educator-only session.

Pot licensing process ‘fair and efficient’

By CHRIS SWOPE

Guest Column

When I was assigned the task of selecting the most qualified 25 medical marijuana provisioning centers (a.k.a. dispensaries) by the City Council in fall 2017, I stated that my goal is for this process is to be as fair and efficient as possible. We want centers that protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the city using the criteria set forth in the ordinance. I have not wavered in that goal.

I have taken many steps to provide opportunities for the public to understand the medical marijuana application and approval process within Michigan and city of Lansing laws’ limitations.

Anyone can see the list of applicants, addresses of the proposed sites and the application type at the website, www.lansingmi.gov/marijuana.

My office has been updating the list as new applications come in.

Since the passage of the ordinance, I have hosted a public meeting and posted the selection criteria for the provisioning center selection process at lansingmi.gov/marijuana so that the public and applicants can see how these valuable licenses will be distributed. The criteria are still available for review.

All applicants, their stakeholders and employees must pass a background check completed by the Lansing Police Department. All applicants are subject to a building plan review by the Economic Development and Planning Department and the Fire Department. Applicants



Swope

and their stakeholders must have paid all city taxes as verified by the city treasurer. Applicants must have proper insurance protecting the city against liability as well as other legal documents which are reviewed by the Law Department as required by city ordinance. Since these are new laws, rules and procedures, this review process has taken several weeks to complete and is almost done. So far, the city has denied seven applications for lack of compliance, with two so far appealing the decision.

Furthermore, the 85 provisioning center applicants must be scored on criteria in Lansing’s ordinance and detailed in the selection criteria I have made available. I am not making these selections all by myself without input from other experts. I have reached out to experts from across the city’s departments to review applications in their area of expertise like impact such as public safety and traffic to provide feedback based on the scoring criteria available on the web.

In determining who has the strongest business plans, investment impact and job creation, I have selected a national firm, ICF Inc., which has worked across the country in selecting medical marijuana establishments and setting up medical marijuana procedures in Maryland, Massachusetts and California. With all of these expert opinions looking at each application fairly, I believe that I will have the best information available to make decisions.

The Medical Marijuana Ordinance also provides two levels of appeal for applicants who feel they have been denied incorrectly. With public meetings of the Medical Marijuana Commission to hear the second level of appeals, it provides another level of due process.

My office has been providing periodic

updates on the review and selection process. If you are interested in getting those updates, please sign up at lansingmi.gov/marijuana or call my office at 517-483-4131 and ask to be put on the Medical Marijuana Updates List.

I have provided much information and sunlight to this process, but I am limited on what application information I can share. The Michigan Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act (MMFLA) and the City of Lansing’s Medical Marijuana Ordinance both exempt licensing information from the Freedom of Information Act. The Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act states, “Information a municipality obtains from an applicant under this section is exempt from disclosure under the freedom of information act MCL 333.27205(4).”

Lansing’s Medical Marijuana Ordinance goes further than exempting information from the Freedom of Information Act by declaring the information to be “confidential.” Specifically, the ordinance states, “To the extent permissible under law, all information submitted in conjunction with an application for a license or license renewal required by this chapter is confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act ...” (Section 1300.8 (A)).

I certainly wish that this review process could move more quickly. However, I want to make sure that the city gets it right, and selects provisioning centers which can serve their patients and be good partners with the city and its residents.

(Chris Swope is the city clerk of Lansing.)

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by adding a new Section 884.13 for the purposes of providing for an extension of a service charge in lieu of taxes for ninety-eight (98) low income elderly dwelling units in a project known as the porter senior apartments, pursuant to the provisions of The State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, As Amended.

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

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

CP#18-041

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF AVAILABILITY
CITY OF LANSING
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN, FY 2018

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing proposes to present notice of availability on the City of Lansing’s Annual Action Plan for FY 2018 (7/1/18-6/30/19). A draft of the document will be available for public review and comments during the 30-day comment period from March 1 – March 30, 2018.

Copies of the document and the proposed use of Community Development funds are available for review at the City Clerk’s office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave.; the Capital Area District Library, 401 South Capitol; the Department of Economic Development and Planning, Development Office, 316 N. Capitol, Suite D-2, Lansing, MI or on the City of Lansing’s website at: www.lansingmi.gov/development

All written comments submitted by citizens of Lansing will be considered and reviewed for possible inclusion in the final Annual Action Plan for FY 2018 to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) no later than May 14, 2018. A summary of all comments received will be attached to the final document.

For information regarding the City of Lansing’s Annual Action Plan Action Plan please contact:

Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner
City of Lansing, Michigan
Department of Economic Development and Planning
316 North Capitol, Suite D-2
Lansing Michigan 48933-1236
Telephone (517) 483-4063
doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov

CP#18-039

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-1-2018 - Rezoning from “H” Light Industrial District to “G-1” Business District

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider the following requests by GG Acquisitions, LLC:

Z-1-2018: Rezone the property bounded by E. Michigan Avenue to the north, Barnard Street to the south, S. Larch Street to the west and the railroad property to the east from “H” Light Industrial to “G-1” Business district, with the following exceptions (property not included in the rezoning): 628 E. Michigan Avenue, 629 Barnard Street and the adjacent parcel to its east, the parcel of land located at the southeast corner of E. Michigan Avenue and S. Larch Street (formerly addressed as 608 E. Michigan Avenue), 119 S. Larch Street, except the north 16.5 feet thereof and the 2 parcels located immediately south of 119 S. Larch Street.

The purpose of the rezoning and alley vacation is to allow for future mixed use development of the site.

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

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

CP#18-042

Hands across the water

Red Cedar project surfaces after years of delays

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Last week, an orange kayak floated across the icy water flooding the former Red Cedar golf course on the eastern edge of Lansing, near MSU.

The man beached his tiny craft, scattering a few ducks. Two years hence, at the same spot, guests will pull up to a high and dry hotel, if the most long-awaited development agreement in Lansing's history, announced last week, is approved by the city.

Make that two hotels, five restaurants, 170 family housing units, 112 assisted living and memory care units, 1,248 beds of student housing, and village-esque amenities such as an amphitheater, an ice skating rink and a "main street."

It will cost \$77.9 million out of the estimated \$242 million cost of the Red Cedar Redevelopment project — sometimes called Red Cedar Renaissance — just to



Looking north toward Michigan Avenue, with water features, fountains and a connection to the Lansing River Trail.

business and recreating by the thousands, smack dab at the border of Lansing and East Lansing, at the midpoint of the Michigan Avenue corridor linking MSU to Michigan's Capitol, has kept the project alive through years of delays, lawsuits and logistical holdups.

About 22 acres out of the 61 are in a floodway, where nothing can be built, and will remain a park, maintained in perpetuity by the developers. The parks board

will review the evolution of the park and use the \$2.2 million from the sale of the property for city parks.

Paired with the epic Montgomery Drain project — an overhaul of storm water management and environmental engineering scaled to Roman aqueducts and the hanging gardens of Babylon — Red Cedar is a project like no other in the area's history.

BELT OF BLAH

For decades, Lansing has suffered from Columbus complex, an unseemly green and white envy of the bustling corridor from Ohio State University campus to the Ohio state Capitol.

The Red Cedar team even brought in a Buckeye with megabucks, Columbus-based developer Frank Kass, in 2013, to show how it's done.

"Our company has always tackled transformative projects, in Columbus, Pittsburgh, Toledo, Nashville, Charlotte, and now in Lansing, that make a long-term difference," Kass said. "We have been a big part of everything going on in the connector, High Street, from downtown to Ohio State. This all fits our M.O. has been and that's why we like it."

Beginning in the 1980s, the River Trail



Looking west along Michigan Avenue, with retail, apartments and hotel. The sculpture and water feature in the meridian are part of the Montgomery Drain and Art in the Wild projects.

get the ground ready. Engineers have come up with podium-like parking structures that hold hundreds of cars, channel storm water and, most important, lift all those college kids and old folks and casual diners and everything else above the floodplain.

In God's name, why bother?

One thing alone has drawn city officials and developers for more than five years to move heaven and earth — but mostly earth — to plant one of the biggest projects the city has ever seen on a few forlorn, frequently flooded former fairways.

It's the classic real estate formula — location, location, location — times 10 thousand.

In developer-vision, Red Cedar is a cosmic wormhole — or at least a doggy door — between two hitherto unbridgeable worlds.

The prospect of people living, doing



Looking south along Michigan Avenue, with hotel at right and apartments and retail at left.



Looking east, along Michigan Avenue, with proposed senior housing in foreground.

pioneered a non-motorized link between Lansing with East Lansing. But the landward, Michigan Avenue route remains a jumble of barriers, from chain link fences around the old golf course to the dusty I-127 overpass.

A wasteland of grim east side business (eczema and hair loss remedies, sweeper repair, instant cash) have done little to enhance the belt of blah between Lansing and East Lansing.

A 2009 study by MSU's School of Planning, Design and Construction said the corridor "is not meeting its full potential," calling it "unattractive" and troubled with "dysfunctional land uses."

Revitalizing the Red Cedar Golf Course and the Frandor shopping center across the street was one of 10 key recommendations in the report.



10,000 B.C.
Mastodons wallow
in Red Cedar flood-
plain

June 1928
Red Cedar Golf
Course built



2007
Golf course closed
as Lansing tight-
ens budget

2011
Voters approve sale
of 12.5 acres along
Michigan Avenue

2012
Voters approve sale
of the remaining
48.5 acres

July 2012
Lansing, LEAP
select Joel Ferguson
and Chris Jerome's
redevelopment pro-
posal out of five pro-
posals to develop
Red Cedar



Dec. 2013
Ferguson and
Columbus-based
developer Frank
Kass announce new
Red Cedar partner-
ship, excluding the
Jeromes

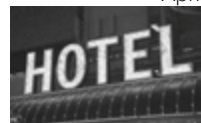
Dec. 2013
Jeromes file a law-
suit in Cook County
against Kass and
Ferguson alleging
breach of contract,
tortious interfer-
ence with business
expectancy and civil
conspiracy. The suit
is later dismissed

Sept. 2016
The Jeromes file
a second lawsuit
in Grand Rapids
charging developer
Joel Ferguson, Mayor
Virg Bernero with
racketeering



Feb. 2018
Developers and city
reach agreement to
build \$242 million
development, using
\$10.7 million in city
funds, to Lansing
City Council, hoping
for approvals by
April

Oct. 2016
Drain Commissioner
Pat Lindemann
unveils preliminary
plans for \$22-30
million, eco-friendly
Montgomery Drain
project, to be built
alongside Red Cedar
project



2020
First phase of Red
Cedar Renaissance
to be finished

Summer 2018
Construction of
subterranean plinth
(parking structure) to
begin

2021
Second phase to
be finished

Red Cedar

from page 11

A 2004 study by a former city parks board chairman and longtime urban planning wonk, Rick Kibbey, for the Allen Neighborhood Center said a “gateway” image for the corridor will be essential to its success. Former Lansing Mayor David Hollister used the same word.

“The potential for making that a gate-
way and connecting MSU to the Capitol
would be a dream fulfilled,” Hollister said.

Hollister said he dreamed of doing
something special with the area for “15 or
20 years.”

“We were never able to get that stretch,”
Hollister said. “We took care of the sin
strip downtown. We moved the marker.
We cleaned up down to Sparrow Hospital.
My dream was to have that developed all
the way to the university.”

“That area is a wall, a major gap,” said
Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the
Lansing Economic Area Partnership.
“Not a lot of people east of that gap are
willing to keep moving down the road
into the city.”

By packing thousands of residents,
acres of maintained parks and the buzz
of hotels and restaurants into a resur-
gent Red Cedar, the city saw a chance
to activate the energy potential of other
Capitol-to-college corridors in Madison,
Wisconsin, and Kass’s stomping grounds,
Columbus.

To raise the ante, the moribund Sears
store across the street from the golf
course, where developer Pat Gillespie
owns the land, is likely to free another of
the corridor’s most conspicuous parcels
soon.

“It would really blow up that corridor
if Sears goes away and Pat’s able to step
in and build a cousin-type development
across the street,” developer Christopher
Stralkowski of Ferguson Development
said. “Now you’d have bookends as you
are coming through.”

But the road to Red Cedar has been an
unusually long one for Kass, a wealthy
man with a private jet, a yacht and a pen-
chant for doing big things fast.

“I’ve never spent this much money on
the front end of a project and I’ve never
taken five years,” Kass said. “It’s not any-
one’s fault other than nature — the ter-
rain, the flood plain. But LEAP has stuck
with us, and the city has city has stuck
with us.”

When considering places to invest such
large sums as those involved in the Red
Cedar project, developers like Kass look
for “drivers.”

“A driver is a state capital and a major



The floodway and floodplain under the former Red Cedar golf course were dramatically evident last week.

university,” Kass said. “Being across from
retail is a driver. Lansing is all of those
things.”

Pittsburgh’s Waterfront, a billion dol-
lars’ worth of developments completed by
Kass’s company in 2004, turned a sprawl-
ing, polluted former U.S. Steel works into
2 million square feet of retail, restau-
rants, hotels, offices and apartments on
two miles of the Monongahela River, with
pedestrian walkways to the river.

“Frank’s made a major statement in
Pittsburgh,” co-developer Joel Ferguson
said. “That’s what he’s here in Lansing to
do.” Ferguson Development is Kass’ local
partner for the Red Cedar project.

Stralkowski, Ferguson’s associate and
son-in-law, called Kass’ Pittsburgh proj-
ect “a classic example of how to do urban
riverfront development.”

When it came to taking on the Red
Cedar project, Kass said “no” before he
said “yes.”

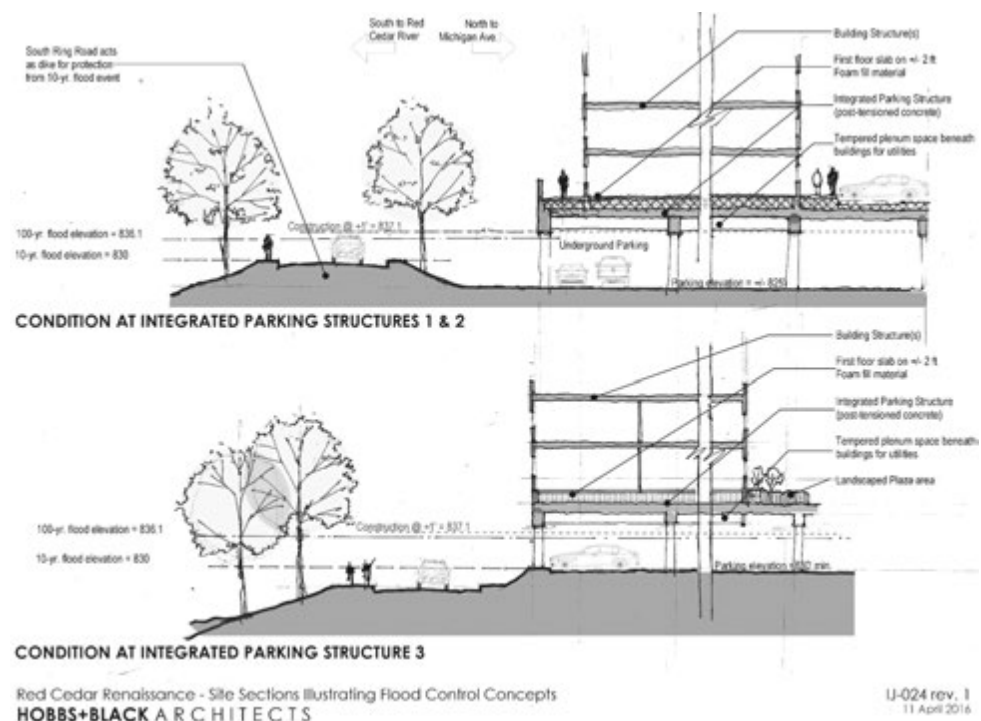
It’s a long soap opera. Sometime before
2012, Leo Jerome, owner of the Story
Olds dealership on Michigan Avenue,
and son Chris contacted Hallmark, a
student housing company affiliated with
Kass. When Oldsmobile went the way of
the passenger pigeon, the Jeromes saw a
chance to scrap the dealership and put up
student housing close to MSU.

The Jeromes had longstanding ties to
Lansing and Michigan Avenue, but little
experience in development.

“We had no trust at all that they had
any idea what they were doing,” Kass said.
“These guys never developed anything.
Chris Jerome couldn’t run a Lionel train.
I said no.”

ALL MY DEVELOPERS

See Red Cedar, Page 14



Integrated parking structures will lift the project out of the floodplain and channel
stormwater. Cars would have to evacuate in the event of a 25-year flood.

Kass: Red Cedar will be ‘the epicenter of your universe’

Columbus-based developer Frank Kass, 75, flew to Lansing Monday to present an agreement to the City Council reached by developers and the city to purchase and develop the former Red Cedar Golf Course into a \$242 million mixed-use development. City Pulse caught up with Kass at the offices of his local partner in the venture, Joel Ferguson. The below Q&A is a composite of Monday's visit and an exclusive press briefing with city leaders and developers last week, with Kass participating via telephone.



Kass

chicken is involved and the pig is committed! I'm not in the business of losing all that money when there is a real good project that can be out there.

Considering the topographical problems you're dealing with, why is it so crucial to build here?

If this gets done the way we want it, this becomes the epicenter of your universe here.

You're surrounded by the university to the south and the east; the Capitol and the hospital aren't far away. You've done some stuff on the riverfront — and I've talked with the mayor many times, and you're going to do a lot more on the riverfront in the next three or four years.

This piece of land is bringing zero dollars to the city now, and when it's done, it will set the standard for what people can do. Think about Michigan Avenue if Sparrow Hospital hadn't stayed and expanded like they're doing. What would you have, of any stature, between the state capitol and MSU? The first time I came here, what you had was about nine marijuana dispensaries. With Sparrow, with this, and what they're going to do on the river, you're setting the standard for better development.

Columbus is often cited as a comparable campus-to-Capitol corridor. Is the comparison apt?

In Columbus today, we have an area called the Short North, the two miles that connect campus to downtown. It's 100 percent filled up. It's the single reason Columbus is growing like a weed, because the young people covet it, and so do people my age. It has every good restaurant, galleries, hotels. We started that 25 years ago. We took a three-and-a-half acre blighted parking lot and put up the coolest project there. The convention center got built, High Street was widened to 200 feet and we built something called 'the cap' on top of High Street. We understand this kind of stuff.

What has been the most difficult part of the project so far?



The North Shore mixed-use development is part of Frank Kass' billion-dollar series of projects on vacant industrial land in Pittsburgh.

You've stuck with this project for five years. What's kept you on the hook?

I met Joel [Ferguson] and Christopher [Stralkowski, executive project manager of Ferguson Development] five and a half years ago and enjoy the relationship. I have a lot of fun with them. I don't think that in those five years, there's very many days we haven't talked, mostly about bullshit. I've stayed at their house. They've stayed at my house. Chris writes my dogs letters. He's a sick person.

I love what I do. I don't think I've worked a day in my life. Loving what I do has more to do with who I'm involved with than where I am.

Secondly, it was the challenge of this particular project. Not many projects, ever, have been built on an integrated parking structure, or IPS. It involves the drain commissioner, the Department of Environmental Quality, so many things we hadn't done before. We've worked on a floodplain before, but usually, you just fill it.

How does that work?

On a 10-year floodplain, like you just had last week, the parking will be OK. On a 25- or a 50-year, there will have to be an evacuation on the parking, but never on the buildings. We've learned so much working on this project. The negative is that we're out of pocket \$2.5 million, and you know how much of that is transferable to another project somewhere? Zero. In bacon and eggs, the

The hard thing has been the challenge of figuring out how to finance almost \$80 million worth of infrastructure [mostly to build the integrated parking structures]. If the land were a flat table, we'd be having this meeting inside the hotel, because it would be done by now. All the developers are forking out \$17-18 million toward this \$79 million. In addition to that, we're doing a \$43 million Brownfield Tax Increment Financing bond. [The bond captures increases in tax dollars resulting from development to reimburse the developers for environmental cleanup and other eligible costs.] Of that \$43 million, the developer is guaranteeing \$33 million. So the city's entire stake in what will be over \$250 million when it's done is \$10 million — not bad leverage for the city.

Red Cedar Renaissance includes 1,248 beds of student housing. MSU is in crisis mode over the Larry Nassar sexual assault scandal and the university's reputation has taken a big hit worldwide. Does this give you pause?

This crisis will dissipate. We're not in this for the short term. We're not going to have anything open for another two years and this will have all sorted itself out long before then.

People draw parallels between this and the crisis at Penn State, and Penn State seems to have recovered fully from whatever they went through at that time.

We're not putting our anchor into

Lansing and/or MSU proximity for the short term. We believe in the city of Lansing, we believe in MSU, we believe in the people we're working with.

The hotel operator, the senior living operator, nobody seems to have walked away, and neither has the lender.

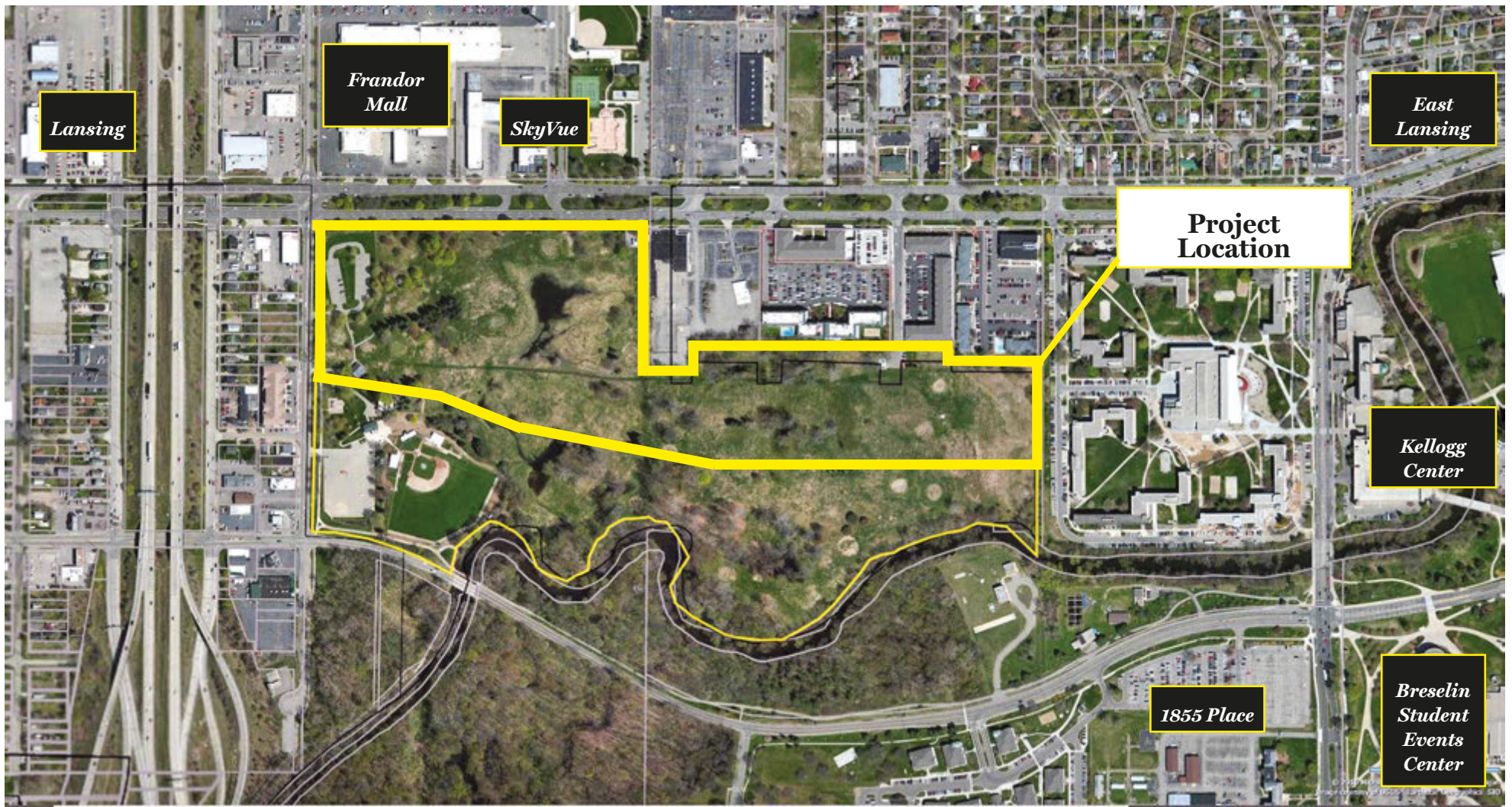
How does Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann's Montgomery Drain project fit into the picture?

It's paramount to the success of our project. Had the drain commissioner not been involved in this from the beginning, and had the capacity to manage the water situation you have here, and help us with our infrastructure, and clean the river — I'd have no interest at all in spending all this money to look at a polluted river. When you look at what he's proposing to do here now, with a clean fishing river, with bike paths and all the beautiful water streams running down to it, and what he's going to do with Michigan Avenue's boulevard, with public art and landscaping — it's a wonderland.

Lindemann warned that frogs will wake up the people in your hotels.

That's fine with me. I live in the coolest condominium of all time, a little one I built right in my home town, and I get woken up three times a week by Rumpke Waste Management.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO



Red Cedar

from page 12

Kass was out of the picture temporarily, but his personal jet will return shortly.

A partnership with Ferguson made more sense for the Jeromes, at least at first. Leo Jerome met Ferguson in the 1970s, when Ferguson was a teacher and about to become the first African-American, and the youngest person, to be elected to the Lansing City Council. Ferguson visited the Olds dealership on occasion, eating chicken soup out of a cup for lunch in the lean times before he drove a Bentley.

Leo Jerome recalled in 2012 that Ferguson bought an Oldsmobile but ruined the engine because he never changed the oil. "I changed the engine and we became friends for life," Jerome said. "The relationship has been there for over 50 years."

The cast of characters in the Red Cedar drama kept growing. Throw in Mayor Virg Bernero and Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann, Jerome said in 2012, and "we're going to have to have meetings in Spartan Stadium to accommodate all the egos."

As things turned out, the Colosseum might have been better. The Jeromes were

heavily invested in the project and felt proprietary about it. "People with their eggs all in one basket typically get things done," Chris Jerome said.

According to Stralkowski, Chris Jerome demanded a corporate credit card, a car allowance, a \$1,000 housing allowance, and, most important, voting rights for himself and Leo — meaning Ferguson would be voted down two to one whenever a disagreement came up. Ferguson, an accomplished housing developer, member of the MSU Board of Trustees and civil rights pioneer in Lansing, had no interest in taking a back seat.

In Stralkowski's account, Bernero walked into a December 2012 meeting with a baseball bat, demanding that the parties reach a deal, but they split up anyway.

Meanwhile, Ferguson and a banker pal, John McCoy, were zipping off to Las Vegas now and then with Lansing lobbyist Gregory Eaton and another friend, Ohio meat mogul Michael Bloch.

Bloch was the lightest of a trio of heavy hitters. (Michael's *Finer Meats & Seafoods* is a massive meat and seafood processing operation with a 2,700-gallon tank that

'We believe we're tearing down walls'
—Lansing Area Economic Partnership CEO Bob Trezise

holds a ton of live lobsters.)

Ferguson met McCoy in 1993, when both men served on the board of Freddie Mac. McCoy had

impressed Ferguson with his acumen at Chase Bank. "He took them from \$7 billion to \$187 billion in assets," Ferguson said.

President Bill Clinton appointed Ferguson to the Freddie Mac board after lobbying him, unsuccessfully, to be the U.S. ambassador to Jamaica.

Ferguson said he's fine with missing out on Jamaica because he met McCoy, who, as it turned out, went to kindergarten with Kass.

In 2013, Ferguson and McCoy went to Scottsdale to attend a surprise birthday party for Bloch.

Two days into the party, Ferguson and Kass found themselves at the same table and hit it off.

Soon after, Kass flew his jet to Lansing, met with Ferguson and embarked on their Red Cedar adventure.

The new partnership, dubbed Continental/Ferguson, was announced in 2013. Mayor Virg Bernero praised Kass' team as "deeply experienced in mixed-use projects and urban revitaliza-

tion, including riverfront developments." "We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get it right," Bernero said. "We believe we have found the best possible partners."

But the split between the Jeromes and Ferguson churned up some white water. In September 2016, former Attorney General Mike Cox filed a federal lawsuit accusing, among others, Ferguson, Bernero and Trezise of racketeering, contending they were improperly cut out of the project as a reward from Bernero to Ferguson for political favors.

The suit is still tied up in federal court, but a pre-motion hearing in February 2017 did not bode well for Cox and the Jeromes. U.S. District Judge Janet Neff lambasted the plaintiffs for a rambling complaint full of "irrelevant, conclusory statements" and "stream of consciousness" passages that "appear to be an outpouring of emotion and anger."

"If I were in your shoes," Neff told Cox, "I'd probably go south somewhere and put my head in the sand."

The lawsuit still isn't settled and the drama of Red Cedar's changing dance partners isn't over yet. As a longtime member of the MSU Board of Trustees, Ferguson's stock in the Lansing and MSU community plummeted considerably

**THANK YOU FOR VOTING US TOP THREE
MARIJUANA DISPENSARY
IN THE 2017 CITY PULSE
TOP OF THE TOWN CONTEST**

**GOT
MEDS?**

**517.253.7468
3407 S. CEDAR ST. LANSING
CORNER OF CEDAR ST. & HOLMES RD.**

Red Cedar

from page 14

in early 2018, in the wake of the Larry Nassar sexual assault scandal.

The trustees have been assailed for the scandal and its aftermath, a tire fire of sordid behavior and official mishandling that has drawn ugly attention to MSU around the world. Ferguson's comments disparaging victims and minimizing the scandal as "that Nassar thing" provoked calls for him to be removed from the board.

Kass took the long view in an interview last week.

"We're not in this for the short term," Kass said. "We're not going to have anything open for another two years, and this will have all sorted itself out long before then. People draw parallels between this and the crisis at Penn State, and Penn State seems to have recovered fully from whatever they went through at that time."

Ferguson's comments in this story come a Jan. 18 interview, before calls for him to step down reached their zenith. At a more recent meeting with City Pulse about the project last week, Trezise, Stralkowski and city development director, Brian McGrain were present, along with Kass (by phone), but Ferguson was absent.

"Joel has another role in the community, and he's focusing on what he needs to do as a leader at MSU," Trezise said.

His name was only mentioned at last week's meeting as half of the Red Cedar developing entity, Continental/Ferguson. Even then, Trezise seemed to minimize Ferguson's role.

"Well, Continental is the majority holder of the company, substantially," Trezise said.

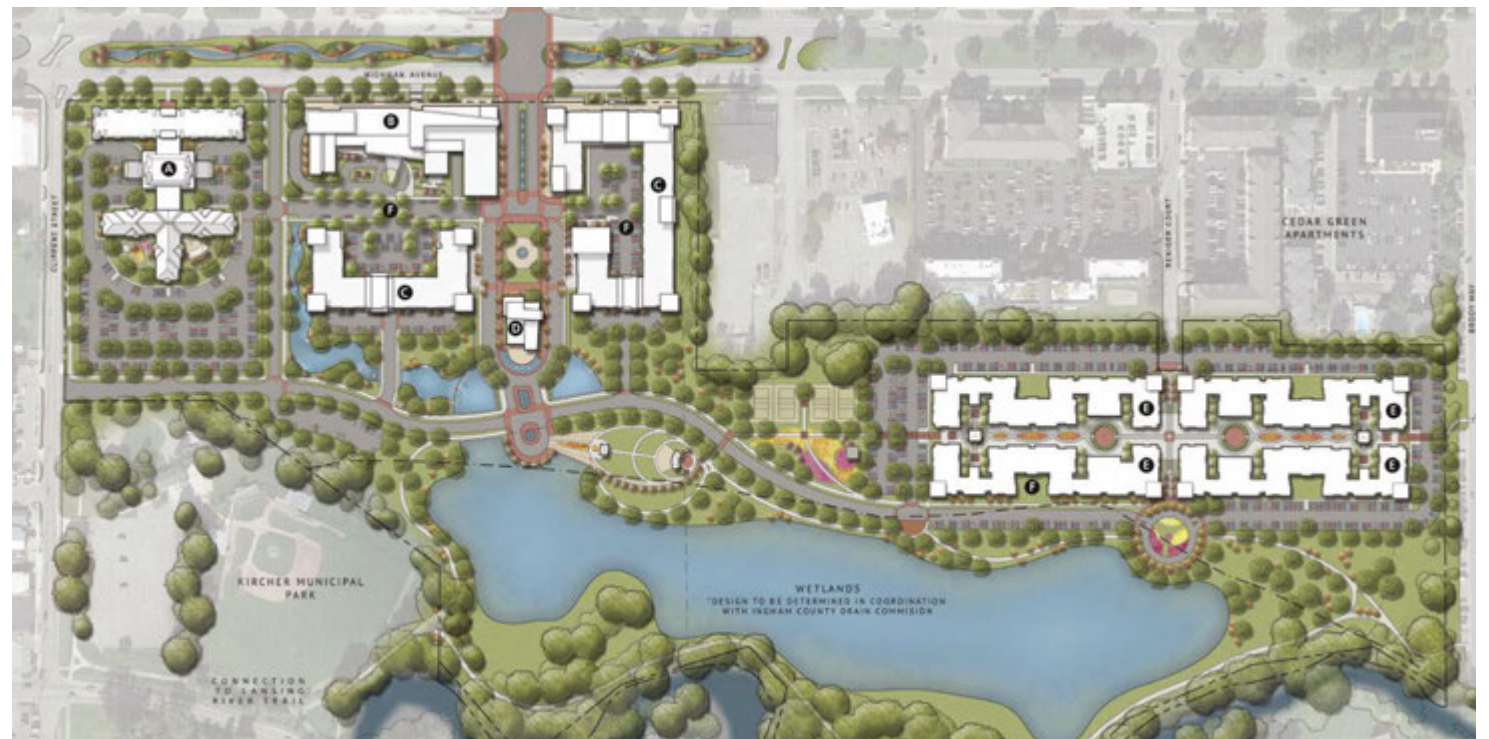
EMPIRE

With Kass on board, the Red Cedar project took on a solidity and national heft that helped it weather the delays and financial wrangling to come. (For a detailed look at the developers' negotiations with the city, see related article on page 16.)

Continental, the master developer, has assembled a blue-chip portfolio of "operating partners," all new to Michigan, each of whom will run its own part of the project.

"Everybody uses the term 'mixed-use development,' and it's become one of the worst catchwords there are — like saying someone has potential," Kass said dryly. "Well, we actually do that."

Each of his operating partners amount to small empires in their own right. A company with strong ties to MSU, Concord Hospitality of Raleigh, North Carolina, will run the hotels. Mark Laport, the founder and CEO of Concord, is an MSU alumnus who was named the hospitality



industry's "Leader of the Year" in 2015. Kass said about a third of Laport's management team graduated from MSU.

The senior living portion will be run by Leo Brown Group, an Indianapolis-based giant with a billion dollars of senior living and post-acute care facilities across the nation. The apartments will be run by Columbus-based Coastal Ridge Real Estate, with about a \$1.5 billion portfolio of apartments in 22 markets.

Kass said the operating partners will all "have money in this deal and will have their entire operating partnership at risk with us. That's what they do."

As "master developer," Kass will build the buildings, but not operate them.

"We've brought a lot of expertise to Lansing and Red Cedar," Kass said.

Trezise said Kass' portfolio of partners was one of the reasons the city welcomed his participation in the project.

"We couldn't do this without him," Ferguson agreed. "He's got the hotels and the people, the rapport with everybody, from his own reputation."

The developers haven't announced tenants yet, but Stralkowski predicted a mix of national "fast casual" restaurants like Houlihan's and local restaurateurs. Stralkowski said he plans to reach out to locals like Zane Vicknair, formerly of Golden Harvest and now chef/owner of Street Kitchen on the east side, and Sam Short of the Creole and Cosmos restaurants in Old Town.

Retail will be minimal, in part to avoid completion with nearby Frandor, but mostly because brick-and-mortar retail is under siege in the era of Internet shop-

ping.

However, Red Cedar's multi-generational "village" approach to housing is new to this area, at least on the scale proposed. At the planning charrettes for the Red Cedar project in 2012, residents of Lansing's east side pointed out the need for housing for MSU alumni and retired staff who are empty nesters or whose spouses have died.

McGrain explained that the buzz phrase "aging in place" is commonly used for seniors who enjoy the cultural life and green space of a university campus but don't want to maintain big houses and lawns.

"A lot of people want to stay, but we don't necessarily have a place for them to stay," McGrain said. "This addresses the full life cycle, from students to families to seniors."

Unlike other big projects in the Lansing area's recent history, such as the renovation of the majestic Ottawa Power Station and the Art Deco Knapp's building, or the angular Broad Art Museum, Red Cedar has no architectural statement to make.

Stralkowski said the look of the buildings would be "traditional brick, glass and metal," with "nothing trendy, nothing out of Dr. Suess," referring to the particolored developments Pat Gillespie has built on each end of town.

The 80-foot height of the buildings facing Michigan at Red Cedar would allow for "dramatic landscape and lighting." He said the architects are going for "a crisp, clean look" similar to the new 1855 development across from MSU's Breslin Center.

'You'll see smallmouth bass going crazy in that river when I'm done with it.'

—Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann

FIREFLIES AND RESTAURANTS

If generic commercial architecture and mixed uses don't thrill, there is one other thing, besides location, going for the Red Cedar project, and it involves large numbers of insects.

If Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann and the developers are to be believed, the synergy of the massive Montgomery Drain project and Red Cedar will result in a unique place that is half Eden, half Metropolis.

"The drain commissioner, and what he's doing to the Red Cedar to help our project and all of that area, is just paramount for the success of this project," Kass said.

"It's an extraordinary opportunity to put private dollars to work in Lansing," Lindemann said. "It's an impressive attempt to upgrade Lansing by going backwards in time, trying to recreate the ecosystem and live next to it."

In the 10 years the golf course has been idle, many local residents have come to enjoy its overgrown meadows and trees. But Lindemann, one of the state's most vociferous environmentalists, called the park a "dead zone" ecologically, poisoned by decades of golf course fertilizers, especially where the tees and greens used to be.

"If anybody thinks that space is natural, they're wrong. There's nothing natural about it," Lindemann said.

The synergy between the two projects is also practical. Lindemann likes to say they "don't want to move the same bucket of dirt twice."

But unique opportunities open up when two big projects are happening at the same time.

Even in the project's early design phase, Lindemann advised the developers to position their main restaurant at a corner overlooking parkland, where fireflies lay eggs in vast numbers and put on a spec-

City and developer hammer out transformative Red Cedar plan

For years, residents and politicians have heard the Red Cedar project is just a month away; shovels would be in the ground by spring. But finally, after nearly six years, the decommissioned Red Cedar Golf Course is at the center of a development economic and political leaders call “transformative” for Michigan Ave.

“It was a tough negotiation,” said Bob Trezise, CEO and president of Lansing Economic Area Partnership and key negotiator on the deal. “We had one united front. ‘Do what’s best for the city.’”

And it did.

The initial proposal from developer Joel Ferguson was pegged at \$380 million and included a large Sparrow Hospital professional building to complement housing, hotels, restaurants retail shops. It would have required the city to underwrite at least \$38 million in bonds to construct the massive concrete platforms needed to build above the Red Cedar River floodplain in addition to tax abatements and other incentives. Developers would have paid the city \$7.5 million for the property.

The new, more modest plan, moving forward without Sparrow, requires the city to issue only \$10.7 million in bonds to defray just over \$77.9 million needed to build infrastructure platforms to mitigate flooding. Now, developers will pay \$2.1 million for the former golf course.

During 6 years of negotiations, Ferguson and his partners, first Leo Jerome and later, Frank Kass, pushed the city for more concessions than it and LEAP were willing to offer. They tried to convince Ingham County to subsidize some of their project. That approach also failed.

The process frustrated all parties. Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero moved it along but ultimately left office without accomplishing what could have been his crowning development achievement.

Andy Schor stepped in.

“We asked everyone to come to the table,” said Schor, who took office as mayor on Jan. 1. “We said, ‘You’ve been working on this for four years. There are disagreements.’ I had people who wanted me to just rebid the whole project. I said, ‘We’re four years down the road.’ We’ve put a lot of city dollars and hours into this. The developers put a lot of money into this. Let’s get to the table and see what the issues are.”

Schor said it turned out there were fewer issues preventing a deal than he originally thought.

“We thought we had a deal in early November,” said Trezise. “We thought we were a week away from announcing it. But then they rejected the proposal and went ice cold.”

Ferguson and his team didn’t come back to the table until mid-December, Trezise said. And the deal that was inked between the city and the developers “had no substantial changes” to the November draft.

Negotiating with Ferguson and his team was over small details at the end, Trezise said. For example, as with other development deals, the developer as a matter of course pays the city for its legal expenses incurred in putting together the deal. Trezise didn’t have a final number on that cost, only that it was “at most a couple hundred thousand dollars,” but Continental/Ferguson didn’t want to pay that. Under the terms of the signed agreement, they are paying it.

Bernero extolled Trezise and two top aides, Randy Hannan and Chad Gambill, for what they achieved. In an uncharacteristically muted statement in relation to the process and final deal, he said, “I am extremely proud of my entire team and the extraordinary work they did to position the Red Cedar project for success, while protecting the best interests of Lansing taxpayers and ensuring that the final product meets the high expectations and standards we demand.”



City Pulse archives

Developer Joel Ferguson, Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann, developer Frank Kass (at podium), Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, and Lansing Economic Area Partnership CEO Bob Trezise at a Dec. 12, 2013, announcing Kass’s entry into the Red Cedar Renaissance partnership.

“We drove a hard bargain and secured the best possible deal for the city and its residents. I make no apologies for that and look forward with great anticipation to this transformational development finally coming to fruition and sparking even more economic development along the vital Michigan Avenue corridor.”

The project would include a 130-room full service hotel, costing \$29.7 million; a select service hotel, with 120 rooms costing \$25 million; 40,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space costing \$9.1 million; 170 market-rate apartments costing \$19.3 million; 1,248 beds of student housing costing \$55.5 million; and a

See Development, Page 17

Red Cedar Renaissance | Proposed Public & Private Investment

Infrastructure Investment | \$77.9 million
(32.2%)

+

Private Investment | \$164.1 million
(67.8%)

= **\$242 Million+/-**

Publicly Financed Improvements

- \$10.7 million
- Reimbursed through Brownfield Tax Increment Financing
- Prioritized Reimbursement
- Conservative Tax Revenue Estimates
- General Obligation (GO) Bond
- Prevailing Wage Commitment

Privately Financed Improvements

- \$67.2 million
- Reimbursed through Brownfield Tax Increment Financing and Private Sources
- Secondary Reimbursement
- Non-Recourse Revenue Bond
- Prevailing Wage Commitment

Full Service Hotel

130 Rooms - \$29.7 million

Select Service Hotel

120 Rooms - \$25.0 million

Retail/Restaurant

40,000 SF - \$9.1 million

Multi-Family Housing

170 Market Rate Units - \$19.3 million

Student Housing

1,248 Beds - \$55.5 million

Assisted Living & Memory Care Facility

112 Units - \$25.5 million

388

Estimated New Direct Jobs

\$242+/-
million

Total Private and Public Investment

PRIVATE INVESTMENT \$231.3 million (95.6%)
PUBLIC INVESTMENT 10.7 million (4.4%)
TOTAL INVESTMENT \$242.0 million



Proposed Public and Private Investment is contingent upon the necessary approvals by the Lansing City Council, Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Development

from page 16

112-unit long-term assisted living facility costing \$25.5 million. That's \$164.1 million.

Including the costs to for the integrated parking structure, which is the platform on which the development will be built, the cost will be \$242 million, developers and economic development officials said. The program will also create an estimated 388 permanent full-time jobs once it's complete. An added bonus to this will be income tax captured by those living in the market rate apartments and the student housing.

The terms of the development agreement includes a possible Brownfield Tax Increment Financing deal for the developers. Under such a deal, they pay the new, higher property value to the city based on the new development. However, that money is then used to pay back various expenses incurred by the developers including the city issued bonds, which get paid first; and any environmental remediation costs done to clean up the site.

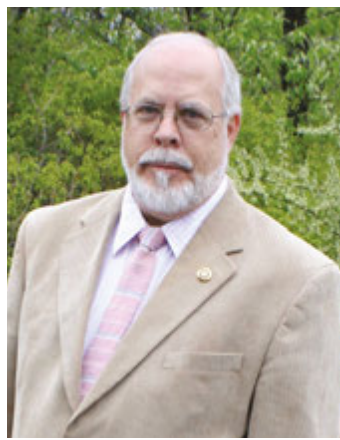
"They have a lot of incentive to keep on schedule," said Trezise of the developers. "If they don't, they are on the hook for costs and not seeing their investment paying back."

He characterized the deal as having one carrot for the developers and "nine sticks" of enforcement choices for the city.

Schor said, "Any incremental taxes that come in on that property, which includes not only our taxes but state



Ferguson



Lindemann



Bernero



Trezise

taxes, county taxes, everybody who is making increased tax dollars comes in to pay for that. If there's not enough to pay for it, the developers have to pay the city's share," said Schor of the deal involving the city issued and backed bonds. "There is not one tax dollar on the hook here. If we do nothing, there are no increased tax dollars. If we do this, you have increased property taxes that help to pay the bonds plus you have increased city income tax, so the city is making money."

Schor said he anticipates criticism that the city could have gotten more for the property, which was assessed at more than \$7 million. But he contended the overall shape of the deal, particularly that the city has a big say in what the final result will be, is worth the tradeoff.

Trezise said the negotiations over the repayment of the bonds took "two years." Indeed, Ferguson and Trezise even approached the county to underwrite and issue \$35 million in bonds. The thinking was that the county's high-er credit rating would save millions in

interest payments.

But county officials rebuffed the move, sending a laundry list of requirements and documentation before they would even enter into negotiations over the idea of issuing the bonds. Those demands were never met and the developers stuck with negotiating with the city.

At the same time this Red Cedar project is being constructed, Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann will be revamping the Montgomery Drain, which flows through the former golf course. While Trezise and the developers said the two projects were separate and not reliant on each other, the development agreement requires the drain plans be "substantially completed" before the construction can proceed.

Also hanging over the project is a lawsuit brought by Leo and Christopher Jerome. The Jeromes originally proposed the Gateway Project and were selected by the Bernero administration. Ferguson was brought in by the Jeromes, who had no experience with a large-scale development like the one they proposed. It

would have included similar mixed use buildings, but it would have spanned across Michigan Avenue to include the former Story Olds property where SkyVue is.

The partnership between the Jeromes and Ferguson soured.

Ferguson said that was because Christopher Jerome was "making unrealistic demands." Among them, he wanted to be the project manager as well as be given a housing and car allowance.

As a result, Bernero retracted the deal with the Jeromes and blessed a Ferguson Kass union. The Jeromes sued Kass, Bernero, Ferguson and others in Chicago. That lawsuit was boot by a judge there. So the father son duo hired former Michigan Republican Attorney General Mike Cox to represent them in a federal lawsuit in Grand Rapids. That suit, which is still being litigated in federal court, accuses Ferguson, Kass and Bernero as well as others of racketeering among other things.

— TODD HEYWOOD

Red Cedar next steps

With a development agreement signed, the deal is not yet complete. It's going to require more review, public input and votes by public officials before the shovels can hit the ground. Here's what has to happen before the construction can begin:

— Impact study: Public Sector Consultants will spend the next 30 days on an economic impact study of the proposal. It will forecast the prevailing wage income revenue attributable to the 388 full-time equivalent positions the developers have promised. Also, it will also review how much income tax revenue will be generated by the 1,248 student and 170 market-rate apartments at the develop-

ment when completed.

— City Council: Lansing's City Council, which must approve the development deal, will have a public hearing in 30 days on the proposed agreement. A vocal minority opposed to the project is likely to raise two issues. First, why is the city using its credit to float a private development in a floodplain? Second, how will the bonds affect the city's long-term debt?

— City Planning Commission: The proposal and site designs will go to the planning commission. That body will review it and either approve it, reject it or request modifications. That will also require the plans to be reviewed by city staff. The commission will look to ensure

that the project meets zoning requirements and its compliance with the city's master plan.

— Lansing Parks Board: Since most of the project is on park land, the Parks Board will weigh in on the plan. While it won't have a final say, its acceptance or rejection of the proposal has to be ratified by the City Council. If the Council backs a dissent from the Parks Board, Continental/Ferguson will have to redraft the park designs and re-submit them for review and approval before that body.

— Brownfield site approval: Economic

development officials will work the developer to take the Brownfield plan to state and local officials to sign off.

That approval will create the necessary financial structure to capture the taxes and repay city taxes payers for bonds as well as the developers for some of their expenses in remediating the golf course and making it build ready.

— Final City Council approval: Once all these approvals are done, City Council will vote to approve the issuance of \$10.7 million in bonds.

— TODD HEYWOOD



How have the first two months of being mayor gone for Andy Schor?
Check out an exclusive interview with City Pulse's Berl Schwartz on Facebook and at www.lansingcitypulse.com coming Thursday

Red Cedar

from page 15

tacular show in the summer.

If bland architecture fails to excite, the trails, ponds, revitalized river and other natural features of the drain project will elevate Red Cedar above most sprawling mixed use piles. Lindemann is happy to whip everyone up further.

"I'm building ecosystem niches into the system. There will be more species there than you can count," he said. "Frogs are going to wake up the people in those

hotels."

"That's fine with me," Kass said.

Lindemann also plans to take advantage of the presence of heavy earthmovers near the site to use a \$1 million state grant to rebuild the Red Cedar River and establish fish habitat. The work would include laying gravel beds where steelhead trout and salmon can lay eggs, shaping the riverbanks to minimize runoff onto the beds, and narrowing the banks so the river

'Making that area a gateway and connecting MSU to the Capitol would be a dream fulfilled' -former Lansing mayor David Hollister

would run faster and wash the beds.

CLEANING UP

The ultimate goal of Lindemann's drain project is to clean up the Red Cedar River. To Kass, that is no mere amenity. The cleanup, he said, was "crucial" to his investment in the project.

"I'd have no interest at all in spending all this money to look at a polluted river," Kass declared.

For decades, the Montgomery Drain's service area has served as a vast urban toilet where rain flushes tons of runoff, from tire rubber to toxic metals to cigarette butts, straight into the Red Cedar River. The service area is centered on the parking lot of the Frandor shopping center, a flat basin that swirls with rain in summer and is piled with dirty mountains of snow in the winter. The area also includes strip malls and a subdivision to the north and the highways that pass through it, including I-127.

Lindemann estimated that the Montgomery Drain district spews between 50,000 and 75,000 pounds of pollution to the Red Cedar River each year. He predicts that his storm water "urban retrofit" project will eliminate 96 percent of that pollution.

The Montgomery Drain project will draw on the full panoply of "constructed natural features" familiar from Lindemann's signature project, the Tollgate Wetlands — also a former golf course.

Lindemann plans to install rain gardens, retention ponds and 23 filtering waterfalls cascading from the north end of Ranney Park, under Michigan Avenue through the Red Cedar project to the river. Two and a half miles of service access paths, built for maintenance of the drain, will double as hiking and biking paths.

"When I build those ponds, you'll see 15 blue herons down there every day," he said. "You'll see kingfishers and birds of prey, steelheads and salmon in the river, smallmouth bass going crazy in that river when I'm done with it."

The drain design adds innovations like sculptural filtration walls in the Frandor Shopping Center that will double as public water fountains. (People will be able to donate to the wall and commission their own likeness, spewing clean water.)

A nonprofit group, Art in the Wild, with over 150 volunteers and corporate sponsors, has already raised tens of thousands of dollars to place art in the drainage district, including a flower clock like the

one at Detroit's Belle Isle, planned for the north end of neighboring Ranney Park.

Lindemann also plans to turn the floodway south of the Red Cedar development into the most natural state possible. "We'll create places for turtles to lay eggs. We did the same time at Tollgate. We're going out of our way to make this a really cool ecosystem."

Kass is thrilled with Lindemann's plans and called it a "wonderland."

The synergy between the drain project and Red Cedar projects extends to financing as well. About \$170 million worth of new development will distribute the pain from Lindemann's assessments a lot thinner.

"The bigger the development, the less everyone else has to pay," Lindemann said. "If the drain isn't accompanied by that increase in economic development, the lion's share will be bigger for everyone else."

MILESTONES

The city still faces "many milestones" on the way to closing on the property, according to Trezise.

Two of them will come when LEAP and the developers ask the Council to consider the brownfield and bonding proposals. The project's financing also requires approvals from the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and the state Department of Environmental Quality.

Meanwhile, the Council will review the purchase agreement, which has to be posted for 30 days with the city clerk.

"There are multiple moments where the public and City Council will be totally engaged," Trezise said. "There will be many meetings, many public hearings." Trezise is hoping for approval by April 9 so construction can start in the summer.

After the long wait, the nasty business scrums, the sky-high hype and airy promises from developers, city officials and Lindemann, it will be hard for Red Cedar Renaissance to live up to expectations.

Trezise said the city could have taken the easy route and simply sold the land off for student housing, but he, Mayor Virg Bernero and others involved in the deal wanted to see a "more complicated" project, a "village" with potential to change the game on the city's east side.

"Michigan Avenue is the backbone of our economic development vision for the city and the region," Trezise said. "We believe we're tearing down walls and connecting the river, the cities, the neighborhoods."

Kass isn't the patient type, but he said it was worth the wait to fight the floodwaters and build "what one would build on Michigan Avenue between a great university and a great state capital."

**Have an awesome
business?
Let the world
know!**

**Advertise in our Top
of the Town contest to
show Lansing you're
the best of the best.**



Contact Lee Purdy!

Phone: 517.999.5064

**Email:
lee@lansingcitypulse.com**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, March 20, 2018** at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1419, an ordinance to amend Section 50-612 of Division 5 – Restricted Office Business District, B-4 – of Article VI – Business, Office and Industrial Districts of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to allow for Hotels and Motels.

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#18-040

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

Lansing's guttural Guthrie

Rent Strike's new album 'IX' gets deluxe edition treatment

By SKYLER ASHLEY

"Pete Seeger was a punk," he laughs. Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, Phil Ochs — not the usual fare for fans of blistering punk music. But here's John Warmb of Rent Strike, a claw-hammering banjo player who is producing music that unabashedly blurs the sounds of "Dust Bowl Ballads" with modern punk music. Folk punk bands like Rent Strike are unafraid to revisit

Rent Strike "IX" Deluxe Edition Release

\$5
Robin Theatre
Friday, March 2
8 p.m.
www.therobintheatre.com

old traditions, opting for banjos and acoustic guitars instead of Marshall stacks.

"Folk punk, to me, implies a DIY attitude toward things and not being beholden to big record companies," Warmb said. "It's about working together in a sort of anarchistic way and having equity in what you do."

Sonically, folk punk is deeply embedded in Americana. Songs rely on relatively simple chord progressions, with much of the emotional impact coming from lyrics of political and emotional strife. Philosophically, it veers hard-left and envisions a working class utopia, much like the folk singer/songwriter heroes of old.

"Punk rock and old folk music really aren't that much different," Warmb explained. "It's

all three chords and being pissed off at the government. Pete Seeger told the government in the '50s that he was a communist. That dude was a punk."

Rent Strike released its latest full-length album "IX," a concept album revolving around "Lord of the Rings," in January and is preparing to release a deluxe edition of it at the Robin Theatre Friday.

"It's going to be a punk show, but it's a seated event. Some local artists and I have worked on a visual lyric zine that will be included with this edition of the album," Warmb said. "We're going to have costumes, props, fancy lighting. It's going to be silly fun."

Warmb began work on "IX" several years ago, inspired by early memories of the Tolkien saga via his father reading him "The Hobbit" and his recovery from heroin addiction.

"Through the isolation and weird thought processes that addiction leads you down, I got it in my head that I was gonna write a 'Lord of the Rings' concept album," Warmb said. "It started off as a joke, but it grew into the defining project of my life."

With "Lord of the Rings" providing a narrative framework, Warmb positions himself alongside the characters that lose themselves to the ring's dark power. But it also touches on the idea

of a great journey, which Warmb is highly familiar with, having taken his music out on the road for zero budget tours many times.

"I think there's a lot of ways to read Tolkien's work. A big theme I take from it is the ring as a very powerful symbol of addiction," Warmb said. "The way it affects characters, the things they say, I could see Tolkien as an addict. He was against allegory, but that's what I took from it."

Just like his heroes of literature and music, Warmb has experienced the life of a nomad. The first half of the decade seldom saw Warmb firmly planted



Courtesy photo

John Warmb playing guitar live, while Alice Greeler and Dakota Peterson handle bass and drums. The two have become mainstays, along with lead guitarist Emma Grrl.

in one city.

A few guitars in tow, he drove his punk compatriots, Nick and Phil, from coast to coast. Making friends in several far-reaching states, traveling there and back again.

"I was in a weird place and I ran into these kids in East Lansing," Warmb said. "We ended up driving around the country, busking and playing bad bar shows that nobody came to."

Yes, their tunes were sophomoric, as Warmb had to yet to grow into the prodigal banjoist he is today, but it was an important musical rite of passage.

"I was coming into my own in terms of songwriting," Warmb said. "It was an important stepping stone for my musical development."

Warmb boils down his vast improvement in musicianship since his traveling days, as being a matter of effort.

"There's so much honesty and raw emotion that goes into folk punk. I was guilty of looking at songs that just come out of you, as some sort of end-all, be-all of good songwriting," Warmb said. "I learned if you want to write a good song, it takes a lot of work. Sometimes it flows out of you, sometimes it doesn't."



Courtesy photo

John Warmb with his Gold Tone electric banjo.

Warmb traded his guitar for a banjo initially as a means to an end while out on the road.

"You make more money with a banjo, because everybody plays guitar. You can play 'Cripple Creek' over and over again and people will say 'Oh, that's so novel!'" Warmb said.

His ability was rickety at first as he began emulating the playing style of Seeger, but upon mastering the claw hammer technique, Warmb felt more at home than he had with any other instrument.

"Playing the banjo is extremely fun," Warmb said.

Rent Strike has fluctuated between a solo project and a full band. Its current incarnation features mainstays Dakota Peterson on drums, Nicole Geller on bass and Emma Grrl on lead guitar. Keeping with a collectivist spirit, Warmb has many friends that revolve around the band, playing various instruments when called upon.

"It's not only good musicians, but homies — people I really respect and enjoy the company of," Warmb said.

Correction

Because of an editing error, last week's story "Behind the scenes: Jan Ross" referred to Ross as a "Riverwalk Theatre veteran." Ross works with Starlight Dinner Theatre, not Riverwalk.

Judge Rosemarie Aquilina returns to true crime with 'Triple Cross Killer'

Talking detective fiction with the judge who signed Nassar's 'death warrant'

By BILL CASTANIER

The halls of the Veteran Memorial Courthouse outside Judge Rosemarie Aquilina's chambers were eerily quiet on a recent Friday afternoon. A far cry from two weeks earlier, when throngs of

Book Signings:
Schuler Books in Meridian Mall
7 p.m.
Thurs., March 8.
Tickets are \$20 and include a copy of the book and are available at brownpapertickets.com.

Barnes & Noble in Lansing Mall
11 a.m.,
Sat., March 24.

victims, supporters and the media gathered for the sentencing of Larry Nassar.

I couldn't help thinking the abandoned hall-

way outside the judge's chambers would be a perfect place to set the opening of a murder mystery. Murder serials were on my mind as I quickly finished the last 20 pages of Aquilina's new thriller, "Triple Cross Killer," the first in a series featuring a crew of detectives assigned to solve their state's most heinous crimes.

"Triple Cross Killer" follows two teams of detectives, Jaq and David from Detroit and Abel and Rabbitt from Sarasota, Florida, as they tag team to find a serial killer who is leaving bodies in both cities.

The killer Nick Archer is revealed early in the book along with his motives and the clever way he identifies his victims.

Aquilina said her characters are a product of her more 30 years as an attorney and a judge.

"At my age and experience, I find my characters and plots in real things and the people I have seen in the courtroom," she said.

She said she then fictionalizes the characters and situations.

"I don't need to do a ride along with police. I see and hear them every day," she

said. Aquilina even adapted a role in her new book for a police dog named Recon, after presiding at a trial involving a K-9 Unit.

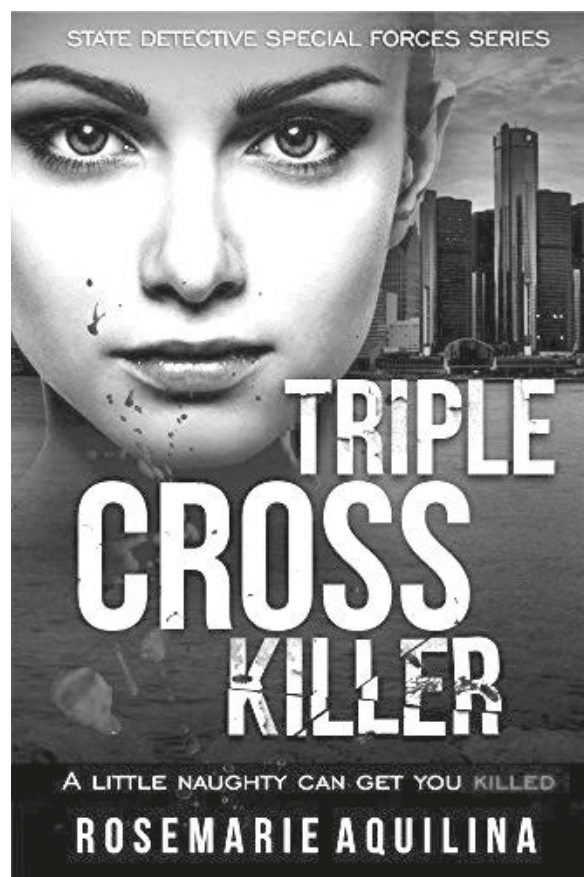
But in a twist, Aquilina said the idea for "Triple Cross Killer" came from one of her children. When talking about their letters to Santa Claus, Aquilina was asked "What happens if the letters get in the wrong hands?"

"Ideas started rolling around in my head," Aquilina said. And some of those ideas are pretty twisted, as Nick sets out to seek revenge on individuals who have abused children.

"It's a good thing that the book came out before the Nassar sentencing. I had the idea for the book years before," she said. Aquilina became an international phenomenon with her own Internet meme when she allowed more than 150 victims of Nassar

to speak at his sentencing hearing. In essence, Aquilina says her book "is about a person who does the wrong thing for the right reasons."

"The book is also about the danger of vigilantism and it is meant to bother you,"



Aquilina

she cautions.

Aquilina, whose first book, "Fear No Evil," a much tamer one, which came out in 2003, is very adept at jumping between plot lines. The point of view alternates between the detectives, the killer himself and Rita, his unwitting lover, who is part of a forensic team investigating the serial killer.

Even though Aquilina identifies the killer early on, she is able to keep the tension ramped up through Rita. As the killings come closer to home, she wakes up very slowly to the fact that the man she is sleeping with is the serial killer.

She said the book's methodical approach in solving the murders is similar to what she experiences on the bench.

"I don't have all the pieces until the end of a trial. I wrote 'Triple Cross Killer' as I see crime on the bench," she said.

The author said she believes the dialogue of her characters rings true because of her courtroom experience.

"I meet them in court. I hear detectives all the time—they are serious and funny," Aquilina said.

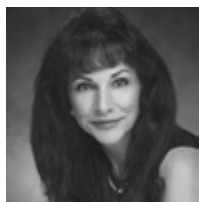
When it comes to courtroom experience, Aquilina donned the black robe beginning in 2005 first as a district judge for four years then as a circuit judge beginning in 2009. She also served in the National Guard as a judge advocate general retiring after 20 years. She teaches at both Michigan State University Law School and Cooley Law School at Western Michigan University.

Aquilina writes almost every day during her lunch break and compares it to a runner's high. One series would be enough for most writers, but she is also working on a cozy series featuring a disgruntled judge who quits and opens a salon where the staff turns into amateur detectives.

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

Author Talk & Signing with JUDGE ROSEMARIE AQUILINA

Thursday, March 8 @ 7pm



The honorable Rosemarie Aquilina recently made international headlines while presiding over the Larry Nassar

sexual assault court case, earning widespread praise for her handling of the sentencing phase of the case, and even being featured on a t-shirt worn by actress Natalie Portman on Saturday Night Live. But she is also an accomplished crime novelist, and we are delighted to be able to host her for a talk and signing of her book Triple Cross Killer, the first book in her State Detective Special Forces series! This is a ticketed event. Please visit SchulerBooks.com for details.

MSU Comics Forum presents French author and artist PÉNÉLOPE BAGIEU

Friday, March 9 @ 7pm

Meet bestselling French graphic novel author Pénélope Bagieu, in honor of the release of *Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World*. Penelope will be appearing in conversation with MSU professor of 20th-Century and Contemporary Literature, Ann Larabee.

Located in the Meridian Mall
1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
www.SchulerBooks.com

Curious Book Shop

307 E. Grand River * East Lansing
Mon - Sat 10-7 pm, Sun 12-5
We validate parking!
www.curiousbooks.com



Great used books for everyone!
(and a few new ones too!)

Archives Book Shop

519 W. Grand River * East Lansing
332-8444 * Free parking
Mon - Sat 11-6 pm, Sun 12-5 pm
thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com



Jen Sygit raises \$15,000 for new album

Successful Kickstarter campaign brings together old friends

By SARAH SPOHN

It's been nine years since local Lansing singer songwriter Jen Sygit released her last solo album, "So Long Pollyanna." While the folk roots/Americana artist is not a new name in the Michigan music scene, this is the first time she turned to Kickstarter to raise funds for her upcoming fourth solo studio release. Sygit successfully raised \$15,000 in donations to go toward the recording of her new album, "It's About Time."

"It felt like a group victory," Sygit said. "I definitely am super grateful and feel the fact that it was not achieved by me alone, by far. I couldn't have done it without my musical community in Michigan for sure."

Over the last decade, Sygit has been an integral part of plenty of albums, tours, recording sessions, open mic nights, movie soundtracks and more all across the state. She's opened for Joshua Davis, performed an episode of WKAR's "Backstage Pass," recorded an album in NYC with group Stella!, played Sirius XM Satellite Radio show "Kick Out the Jams," played solo gigs, as a duo with Sam Corbin, and hosted a weekly open mic night since 2004.

Some of those connections include working relationships and decades-long friendships with Steppin' In It singer and guitarist Joshua Davis. He gained nationwide attention after he finished third place on season 8 of NBC's "The Voice." Close friend and musical comrade Dominic John Davis plays bass for Jack White and Buddy Miller.

Davis met Sygit after a show at Mac's Bar. His ears perked up once he heard her finger-picking guitar style and vocals. Since then, he has played bass on every one of Sygit's albums, and now will act as producer of her upcoming Kickstarter-funded album.

"I really am excited to have his influence on this album, more than usual," Sygit said. "You do have a slight bit of influence as a player, but production wise he's helping shape which songs get chosen, instrumentation and general overall feel and concept of the album, which is probably going to be a little different from my previous albums."

Previous albums featured a folk feel, including the 2007 release "Leaving Marshall Street," which received an award nomination at the Detroit Music Awards for best folk album. "So Long Pollyanna" also received numerous "Album of the Year" Awards from Progressive Torch and Twang and John Bommarito of 107one radio in Ann Arbor.

"It will be awhile still before it will come out, because it has to be mixed and mas-



Courtesy photo

Jen Sygit performing live. "It's About Time" is slated to release Fall 2018.

tered," Sygit said. "There's potential for it to be shopped-out to a label, but that's not a guarantee at the moment."

As for possible themes or elements in the upcoming album, producer Dominic John Davis was also pretty hush-hush about giving away too much.

"She always writes songs that mean something to her, and I always write love songs," Davis said. "So there you have it."

He considers himself a 'big picture kind of person' when working as the role of producer, so Davis isn't too concerned with all the little details.

"While tracking a record, I usually spend some time in the control room with the engineer to make sure we're headed down the right path," Davis explained. "But I also like to work fast and don't want to get hung up on too many things. I see producing as problem-solving and if there aren't any problems then I try not to monkey with it."

Sygit said having someone to take the reins is nice. "Being able to trust him to do stuff is huge," she said. "It just takes the weight a little bit off my shoulders. I think this is the first time I've legitimately had someone solidly in the producer role and it's pretty fantastic."

After Sygit opened for Joshua Davis last summer, she asked the band to back her on a new song co-written by Mike Lynch, and that's when talk of a new solo record came up.

"That's really when we started talking about making a record," Dominic John Davis said. "She's a great talent and an old

friend, and I couldn't be happier getting to spend some time in my home state making it with her."

The pair have already been working on finishing up a song together for the album. "I know Jen well and know what kind of music she likes and was trying to tap into that," Davis said. "Plus she sent me everything she had written so far, and I was trying to fill the gaps. It's great because we're old friends and I can send her a verse and a chorus and say love it or leave it."

In fact, when Sygit was considering launching her first Kickstarter campaign, she did plenty of research and also reached out to fellow musicians and filmmakers who had experience with the fundraising platform. Michael McCallum, Lansing film-

maker and owner of Rebel Pictures, was one of the people Sygit turned to for advice.

"What I was trying to impart some knowledge to Jen on was that you have to be good at sharing it social media-wise, know people are going to get annoyed with it, and you've really just got to forget those folks," McCallum said. "You've gotta get the word out on this project because it means everything to you."

He also warned her it would be a nerve-wracking experience, something McCallum had learned from his previous three Kickstarters.

"This will be one of the most stressful things you do because each day you're worried and you feel the sound of the second hand turning on the clock," McCallum added, "because if you don't meet this goal, you get none of it."

After realizing her \$15,000 goal had been met, she felt relieved, grateful and cried for 10 minutes. Then, it was back to carrying boxes into her new house.

"Honestly, moving in the middle of the Kickstarter was both horrible and awesome. The horrible part was that I was so stressed having to do both at the same time. However, having moving be a sub-focus of my life also helped take my mind off the Kickstarter."

She's looking forward to creatively utilizing her new space and hopefully can even write a few new tunes for the project release.

"It takes a lot of work," McCallum said, "but she's also really worked hard to build that community of people that are supporters. People look at it and go 'well I could do that,' and you can, it's just going to take a lot of work and you better be ready to do a lot of sacrificing to get where she is."

Easy Living
Cleaning Service

Commercial & Residential
Fully Insured

Call Joan at:
(517) 881-2204

CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Drunk Driving
Embezzlement
Drugs
Homicide
All Federal
and State Crimes

40 YEARS -
AGGRESSIVE
LITIGATION
EFFECTIVE
MEDIATION

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

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

Ingham County Animal Shelter

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



Honey-Lemon is a sweet gal looking for a more laid back adult only home. She's pretty easy going, but she's a cat that prefers to do things her way.

Sponsored by Soldan's Pets
<https://soldanspet.com/>



Binx is a shy guy looking for a quieter adult only home. He loves to snuggle, but needs somebody patient to see beyond his nervousness.

In memory of Rodica's cats



Malia is a super sweet older lady looking for a very special home. She has spent most of her life on a chain in the backyard so she'll need some time and TLC to help her adjust.

Sponsored by Dale Schrader



Polly is a happy go lucky young pup looking for an active home where she'll get plenty of exercise and training. When she's bored she can get herself into mischief.

Sponsored by Linn & Owen Jewelers



Batman came to the shelter when his family dropped him off to be boarded and never came back. He will need some time to settle in to his new home.

Sponsored by Schuler Books



Bandit is a sweet and sassy young kitten looking for a new home. He's a very outgoing guy that knows what he wants to do and is going to do it no matter how naughty.

Sponsored by Golden Harvest



Sponsored by Foods for Living
foodsforliving.com

Mikey is a sweet old man looking for a laid back home and couch to snooze on. He would do best with older kids.

STORE HOURS

Mon 8am-9pm
Tue 8am-9pm
Wed 8am-9pm
Thur 8am-9pm
Fri 8am-9pm
Sat 8am-9pm
Sun 9am-8pm
2655 East Grand River
East Lansing, MI, 48823
(517) 324-9010

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



Courtesy photo

Famoro Dioubate and Carolyn Koebel, performing at the 2016 Michigan Global Roots Music Festival at the Broad Art Museum.

Engaging the youth with rhythm

Michigan Global Roots Music Festival makes world music accessible

By JINGJING NIE

World music tends to draw a more mature, aged crowd, but Michigan Global Roots Music Festival aims to change that.

"A lot of concerts happen late in the evening, so they're targeted toward adults. It is not very accessible to young people," said Carolyn Koebel, founder of Michigan Global Roots Music Festival. "We really

want to expose young people to live music."

Michigan Global Roots Music Festival

March 2, 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Free and open to all ages
Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr., East Lansing.
www.broadmuseum.msu.edu/calendar

The festival, which is in its fifth year of touring, takes place at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum Friday.

Global Roots hopes to be unlike other music festivals that put age restrictions on their shows. Instead,

the primary goal to design an accessible, family friendly event.

Inspired by world folk tradition, the festival emphasizes the diversity of global music styles. "The style of music is very rhythmic and engaging, so it's very good for dancing and very attractive to children," Koebel said.

Koebel, whose Celtic music group An Dro will perform at the festival, has been

satisfied with her past performances at the Broad Museum.

"There is no stage, so it's all on one level," she said. "It's a very fluid space between the audience and the performers."

Parents and their children, or those without, will be able to enjoy the concert without the possible distractions that could come from an all-ages show, Koebel said.

"It is very difficult for children to sit still, so we made an informal concert where they can get up, they can dance, they can move around, they can clap and sing and it's not disruptive," she explained. "It brings a lot of positive energy."

Beyond music performances, the festival will feature step dancers alongside An Dro's set. After its performance, the audience is invited to come up and dance on their own.

"We might ask the dancers to lead the ceilidh, which is a social style of Irish dance," Koebel said. "It's a way for us to teach the audience how to do some of the basic steps."

Other performers for this year's festival include the Erin Quinn School of Irish Dance, guitarist Elden Kelly, South Indian percussionist Bobby Bringi and traditional Japanese music by Ken Koshio.

Living up to the hype?

'Black Panther' claws its way to record box office numbers

By CIARA PAGE

MSU student Ci'Tyra Howze, says she was never a fan of Marvel movies, or superhero movies in general, until one came along that focused on a black protagonist.

There have been black characters featured in Marvel films before, such as the Falcon, but weren't given the treatment of a stand alone picture.

"'Black Panther' exceeded the hype it was given," Howze said. "It had the right amount of action, and I especially enjoyed that the cast was heavily black, unlike your typical superhero movie."

In just two weeks at the box office, "Black Panther" is already nearing the billion-dollar mark. By comparison, Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy" (2014), collected \$773 million over a five-month span.

Early box office reports show theaters, nationally and globally, have sold-out throughout the week. Many are saying they've seen the movie twice, or even three times, in order to send a message to Hollywood about its lack of diversity.

The narrative of "Black Panther" is rooted in the black American experience. Its villain, Erik Killmonger, usurps the throne of the fictional African nation Wakanda, over its failure to address the struggles faced by black people globally.

Killmonger's alienation and feelings of betrayal have made him relatable for many. In fact, it is common for viewers to question whether the "villain" was right all along.

It's not only the multi-faceted characters but also dominance of a black cast and a strong portrayal of black women and culture that has earned the film near universal praise.

Moviegoers like Howze find many superhero movies to be predictable, due to repetitive storylines, but were enthralled by "Black Panther."

"The representation of the 'Black Panther' history, African-American history, black women empowerment, all while having an intriguing villain was something I've never seen," said Howze. "The movie was a 10 out of five in my eyes."

Unlike Howze, there were also people in line just to see another Marvel movie, uninterested in the hype and not as invested in its cultural weight.

Lansing resident Jonathan Seals has been to all of the Marvel Cinematic Universe films, and for him, the day was like any other.

"I was just there to enjoy another superhero in action. I wasn't there trying to read into the movie too deep or break down every line," Seals said. "That takes too much energy and doesn't give me any enjoyment."

Seals agreed that the movie is excellent but added that he believes the "overhype" is not necessary to convey the film's message to any particular demographic.

"All races will enjoy this movie," Seals said.

Black moviegoers have shown their support for the film by attending dressed in African prints, scarfs and outfits.

MSU student Truelove Arhin, whose parents moved to the United States from



Ghana, expressed joy over seeing blacks wear African tribe prints.

Others argued that it was disrespectful, pointing out that some of the prints were out of context in the film.

"I loved how blacks are represented properly, and to me, it was done out of a sign of respect," said Arhin. "Wearing the prints shows support either way."

Toast Yourself Right Up

64 ounce ceramic growlers for your home brew Or to take your favorite home from the brewery
Sleek and substantial with matching mugs available

Made here in Michigan by Grayling Ceramics from Kalamazoo



Hours: Tues-Fri: 10-6 | Sat: 10-5 | Sun: Noon-4 | Closed Monday

211 M.A.C. Avenue, East Lansing | 517.351.2211 | mackerelsky.com



OPEN ENROLLMENT
MARCH 1 TO MARCH 31

MID-MICHIGAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tuition free, K-8 school in Lansing, MI
- College-prep, public school academy
- Positive, diverse learning environment
- Strong math and English focus
- Free breakfast, lunch, and healthy snack available (CEP)
- Transportation available
- Afterschool programs available including onsite Boys and Girls Club

If needed, a Random Selection Drawing will be held on April 25, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the MMLA gym

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
MMLA AT:
730 West Maple Street,
Lansing, MI 48906

Questions?
517-827-1276
mmla.sabis.net

Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy

CURTAIN CALL

Roaring success: 'Disney's Beauty and the Beast' Owosso Community Players' production does the tale justice

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

The long scarf a daughter gives to her dad onstage isn't fancy, it's rather plain.

That is about the only item in the Owosso Community Players' production of "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" that isn't extraordinary.

To say the multifaceted, three-story set inside the Lebowsky Center is elaborate seems insufficient. Dirk Rennick, Dan

"Disney's Beauty and the Beast"

Adults — \$21, Senior/Student — \$19, Child (12 and under) — \$13
All tickets carry a \$1.50 ticketing service fee
Showtimes March 2, 3, 4 at 8pm
March 3, 4 at 3pm
March 4 at 7pm
The Lebowsky Center
122 E Main St, Owosso, MI 48867
www.owossoplayers.com

Wenzlick, Shelby Lindquist and Josh Holliday's design shifts from a magnificent castle with staircases and upper chambers to a cottage in the country, a village, a tavern, woods and more. The painted marble, moveable fountain, and the fireplace that turns into a dungeon and portrait wall, are amazing.

Props designed by Mike Windnagle, Anna Owens and Gail Worden include oversized table and chairs, a Rube Goldberg-type wood cutting machine, and an ingenious cart that uses mirrors to hide all but Evan Worden's face poking out of a cup in his role as Chip. Even minor objects like a wooden bucket, torches, and a tavern chair have exquisite detailing.

It's no surprise it took an airplane hanger to house all the set pieces for five days during the production of "Disney's Beauty and the Beast," to allow for Owos-

so Hospital's Ball held in the Lebowsky Center.

The elegant costumes in "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" change more often than a chameleon walking across enlarged pixels of a variegated and stained shag carpet. The rented and diverse garments, again and again, impeccably and colorfully clothe the 16 principals and 29 ensemble players. When the entire cast — or even fractions of it — cavorts on the stage, it's a flamboyant kaleidoscope of fabric.

An expert, 11-piece orchestra conducted by Jill Boots stays hidden in a pit below an extended apron — designed by Rennick — while actors gambol and leap around the hole to splendid choreography and direction by Garrett Bradley. Keeping the feet of 90 energetic dancers who repeatedly frolic in stylish footwear from stepping in the pit is a feat in itself.

Claire Canfield is enchanting as Belle. Her charm and angelic singing helps make the musical charming and heavenly. In majestic gowns or in a simple dress, Canfield's presence is regal.

In and out of a grand and gloriously grotesque and garish ungentelemanly guise, Troy Seyfert is imposing and emotive as the Beast. His thunderous voice and animated movements convey the monster perfectly. Seyfert's singing was equally booming. Despite headwear that included colossal horns, an ample snout and protruding teeth, I found Seyfert's speech and singing forceful and clear.

Most everyone in the talented cast deserves mention for their singing and actions. Austin Elieff as Gaston, delivers the



Courtesy photo

Claire Canfield as Belle rolls her eyes at Austin Elieff's Gaston during Owosso Community Players' "Disney's Beauty and the Beast." There will be a Meet and Greet for all the characters in the musical at Abiding in the Vine, 115 E. Main St., across from the Lebowsky Center on Sunday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and include autographs, photos, dessert and punch.

right amount of cloddishness and finesse. As subordinate, Lefou, Issac Orr masterfully draws attention with a sparkling and slapstick performance. Alessandria Clift is top-notch as the over-the-top, Madame de la Grande Bouche. Alissa Brittens' Babatte adds her own sauciness and comedic skills to the Disney classic — with music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, and book by Linda Woolerton — that's full of laughs.

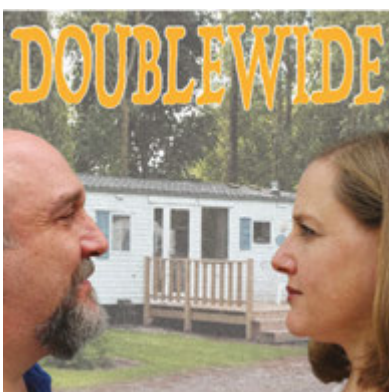
Prop maker Windnagle plays Cogsworth with authority wearing a marvelous clock-prop costume. With candlestick hands, Vinnie Lindquist is the likable,

French accented Lumiere. Stephanie Banghart delights as she floats about the stage in balloon-like teapot outfit. The comical, charismatic trio clearly pleased the sold-out opening night show.

The first performance of "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" did have some glitches. Microphones sometimes were off as actors entered the stage, curtains fell at wrong times, wigs had issues and set changes were often too slow. The correctable flaws were not enough to spoil my appreciation of the show. This is one version of "Beauty and the Beast" that truly roars.

March 22 - April 22, 2018

A National New Play Network
World Premiere



BY STEPHEN SPOTSWOOD

Jim and Sharon want to give their daughter a future. Lorelai wants more than she sees ahead of her.

The city wants their front yard.

A heartfelt and funny exploration of family and the American Dream.

(Contains Adult Content/Language)

Pay-What-You-Can
Preview

Thurs., Mar. 22 @ 8PM

\$19 Previews

Mar. 23 @ 8PM

Mar. 24 @ 8PM

Mar. 25 @ 2PM

Directed by
Tony Caselli

Featuring:
Joey Albright, Katelyn Hodge,
Brenda Lane, Sean McKeon
and Emily Sutton-Smith

Williamston Theatre
122 S Putnam St., Williamston
517-655-7469
www.williamstontheatre.org



2408 S. Cedar St.
517-487-3886
Mon-Sat:
9am-6pm
Sun: 12pm-5pm

15% off
coupon
*excludes sale items

Not your typical
secondhand store.
It's like a museum with
cool stuff for sale!



ARTS NIGHT OUT

MARCH VENUES

- Absolute Gallery
- Arts Council of Greater Lansing
- The Creole
- Elderly Instruments
- Great Lakes Artworks
- Katalyst Gallery
- Metro Retro
- Mother & Earth Baby Boutique
- Polka Dots Boutique
- Sweet Custom Jewelry
- And More!

Arts Night Out 2018

Arts Night Out returns to Old Town Lansing on March 2, 2018 from 5-8pm! Experience a variety of unique venues – from one block to the next – alive with music, art, demonstrations and a whole lot more. Come explore, meet the artists, wine and dine. Arts Night Out has something for everyone!

#MyArtsNightOut



For more information, visit
www.MyArtsNightOut.com

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, February 28

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Lansing Demo Camp. From 5:30 to 10 p.m. free. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

Open Studio Life Drawing. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Model fee: \$2 students (LCC, MSU, High School), \$5 all others. Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium East Lansing.

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

Young Visions Video Project. From 4 p.m. to 6 a.m. This Grant Funded Workshop is free but space is limited and you must register in advance. If you are a teen-young adult between 13-20 and are interested in film making email youngvisionsvideo@gmail.com today! Lansing Public Media Center, 2500 S. Washington Ave. Lansing.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

Potter Park Zoo Reading with the Animals. From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.

EVENTS

Baby Storytime (Ages up to 2 & caregivers). From 3 to 4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. 517.347.2021.

Board Game Night (Age 10 & up). From 5 to 7:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Games at the Meridian Senior Center (See Descriptions for Dates and Times). From 12:30 to 4 p.m. Bingo and Bridge- \$1-\$2 per person to play. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Rebounding. From 2 to 3 p.m. Cost: \$70 members / \$80 non members / \$12 drop in fee. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Rock 'n Read Storytime (Ages 3-6). From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St. Haslett. 517-339-2324.

Thursday, March 01

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly. At 6 p.m. First meeting FREE. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St. Haslett. Preschool Science Exploration. From 1 to 2:30 p.m. \$4/child. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

MUSIC

Jazz Thursdays at UrbanBeat. From 7 to 11 p.m. Free Show Weekly food and drink specials! UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing.

EVENTS

Lunch at the Senior Center. From 12 to 1 p.m. suggested donations of \$3.00. If you are age 59 and under, there is a charge of \$5.75 (this is not a suggested donation). Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

Preschool Storytime in Wacousta. From 11 a.m. to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. Grand Ledge. 517.627.7014.

ARTS

Capital Area Audubon Society. From 7 to 9 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

Friday, March 02

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Census Data: Access, Importance, and the Future. From 3 to 4 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

Picture This! From 7 to 9:30 p.m. \$28/\$50 for two. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3643.

MUSIC

An Evening of Jazz with The LCC Jazz Band. At 7:30 p.m. FREE admission.

See Out on the Town Page 14

Celebration of Diversity Festival at All Saints Episcopal Church



March 5 • 4 to 7 p.m.

By JONATHAN SHEAD

"There's a white supremacist coming to town," Episcopal Pastor Kit Carlson, of All Saint Episcopal Church, laughed uneasily.

Amid frustration and fear of white nationalist Richard Spencer coming to Michigan State University's campus next week to speak, several members and organizations from MSU and the Greater Lansing community have joined together with the hope of spreading a clear message.

They won't be picketing or protesting to spread their message however. Instead, they will be hosting a festival to celebrate the diversity and inclusiveness of our community, conveniently around the same time Spencer is scheduled to speak at MSU.

"It's not a counter protest. If anything, it's a counter party," Carlson said.

"We're really trying to make it be about everything that's awesome about our community, so we've decided to basically ignore whatever hate has come to town and try to get people to celebrate the good stuff."

The festival, which will be at All Saints Episcopal Church, Monday 4 p.m. to

7 p.m., is being put together by the Interfaith Clergy Association of Greater Lansing, East Lansing City Councilman Aaron Stephens, the MSU College Democrats and Republicans, the MSU Council of Graduate Students, Associated Students of MSU, and MSU Residence Halls Association.

Together, these groups have organized an evening that will feature a series of speakers and musical performances, arts and crafts, and a quiet prayer space for anyone who needs it. Stephens however, who is in charge of booking and scheduling the evening's speakers, said none of them had been finalized yet.

Stephens explained regardless of who the speakers are, the message would be clear. The message would be unity.

"It's not about politics. It's not about Republicans or Democrats, whether you're a student or whether you've lived here for 80 years," Stephens said. "It's just about the fact that we accept everybody, and that's a core value of all these groups standing and supporting this event."

"We all just really don't like white supremacy," he laughed.

All Saints Episcopal Church, led by Carlson, has a history of events like this upcoming diversity festival. In 2012, when members of the Westboro Baptist Church came to MSU's campus, Carlson opened the church's doors to provide

a safe space away from their rhetoric. Similarly, last year when President Trump banned travel from seven Muslim-majority countries, Carlson put together pray pilgrimage for Muslims and other community supporters.

"We like to do events like this, especially in the face of bad news, to lift up the community," Carlson explained. "For this event, we wanted to give people a positive place to be for those few hours while he's in town."

She believes it's important for the community, and the people within it, to try to "build relationships across our differences."

Moving forward, Stephens hopes to continue these types of celebrations and conversations around diversity as well.

"It's not going to be solved with just one celebration or one conversation," he said.

Together, with the East Lansing City Council Human Relations committee, he hopes to host an annual conversation on race relations and equality and how they pertain to the people who live here.

"Our Greater Lansing community values diversity," Carlson said. "We value our immigrant neighbors; we value the place where we live; we value tolerance; we value love; we value friendships we've built from these groups, and that's really what mid Michigan is all about."

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 23-24

FLATFOOT



Punk vs Pokes at The Avenue Café

Saturday, March 3 @ Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, \$5, 8 p.m.

The 13th annual Punks vs Pokes concert returns with another roster of Michigan-based punk bands and country outfits sharing the same bill. This year, on the “pokes” side, is Flatfoot and Ryan Dillaha & The Miracle Men. Representing for the punks are Jason Alarm and Jake Simmons & the Little Ghosts. Adding a twist, Bales requires each band to step out of their comfort zones and perform a song from the opposite genre. “The format is simple,” said the event organizer Flatfoot’s guitarist/vocalist Aaron Bales, “get an equal number of bands that fit loosely into the ‘punk’ and ‘country’ categories. The punk bands play a country cover during their set and vice versa. This makes for odd bedfellows and pretty diverse audiences,” Bales added, “everyone seems to have a blast.”

Fri., Feb. 23

RAGBIRDS



The Ragbirds at The Loft

Saturday, March 3, @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15, \$12 adv., 8 p.m.

Progressive-folk band The Ragbirds have performed in at least 45 states, averaging over 150 shows a year. Saturday the busy band headlines The Loft; openers are The Hacky Turtles and Alex Mendenall. Since its 2005 genesis, the Ragbirds has honed its eclectic blend of folk, rock, blues and assorted world music—as well as its progressive touring habits, including using a tour bus that runs on recycled vegetable oil waste. Led by vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Erin Zindle, the group has performed at massive festivals like Electric Forest and the Ann Arbor Folk Festival while continuing to record a series of LPs. The band’s most recent LP, 2016’s “The Threshold & the Hearth,” was prasiad by All Music for its “warm, lusty folk-pop.” The disc also debuted at No. 20 on the Billboard Folk chart and #29 on Billboard’s Top New Artists Album chart.

Sat., Feb. 24

SOUND OF AN ECHO



Sound an Echo at ‘The Fiddle’

Friday, March 2, @ MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Rd, East Lansing. All ages, \$18, \$15 members, \$5 students, 7:30 p.m.

Sound an Echo, a duo comprising Minnesota musicians Rachael Kilgour and Sara Pajunen, performs Friday at the MSU Community Music School as a part of the Ten Pound Fiddle concert series. Kilgour is an award-winning songwriter whose genuine and lyric-driven work has been heard at Lincoln Center and The Sundance Film Festival. In 2015, she was the grand prize winner of the esteemed international NewSong Music Performance & Songwriting Competition—last year she won the Kerrville New Folk Contest. Her musical partner, Pajunen, is a classically trained violinist, composer and an acclaimed progressive practitioner of Nordic folk music and has toured with ensembles centered on her Finnish heritage. In between touring and teaching commitments across the United States and Europe, she has recorded four solo albums, including 2017’s “Laatikko/Box,” which blends music with archival material, audio interviews and field recordings.

LIVE AND LOCAL

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night	James Gardin (Free)	Free Dance Party	Punks vs. Pokes
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	North of Five	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Pool Tournament, 7:30 p.m.		DJ, 9 p.m.
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends Open Mic, 8:30 p.m. Showdown	Avon Bomb	Avon Bomb
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Blues Night	Karaoke	Miranda and the M-80's	Frog and the Beeftones
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E Shiawassee St.				
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Adventues with Vultures, 7pm		LOA, 8pm	The Ragbirds, 8pm
Reno's West, 5001 W Saginaw Hwy			The New Rule, 7 p.m.	The New Rule, 7 p.m.
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Billy Gunther, 8pm	Billy Gunther, 8pm
UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St.		Jazz Thursdays, 7 p.m.	Iced Out and Harvey Lee, 8pm	
Watershed Tavern and Grill, 5965 Marsh Rd.			Capital City DJ's	Capital City DJ's

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"It Bears Repeating"--but just a little bit.

Across

1 Ballet garb

5 Cotton swab brand

9 Forfeit

13 Seafood often imitated

14 Abbr. on some beef

15 Soda, to a bartender

16 He followed Dan, Al, Dick, and Joe

17 Action star who's yellow and full of potassium?

19 Notable times

21 University official

22 ___ in "cat"

23 "___ du lieber!"

25 Negative votes

27 Minute

29 Make frog noises

31 Ms. ___-Man

34 Madalyn Murray ___, subject of the Netflix film "The Most Hated Woman in America"

35 Shake it for an alcohol-based dessert?

38 Inking

39 Jim Carrey comedy "Me, Myself & ___"

40 Dermatologist's concern

44 Classical piece for a jeweler's eyepiece?

47 Clean thoroughly

50 Exist

51 Word before par or pressure

52 95 things posted by Martin Luther

54 Fix, as a game

56 Actress Lupino

57 '50s election monogram

58 Similar (to)

61 Actress Russo

63 Rock nightclub open for a long time?

66 Critters that seem

to find sugar

69 Dot in the ocean

70 "Easy-Bake" appliance

71 Treats, as a sprain

72 Grant consideration

73 Pied Piper's followers

74 Shakespearean king

Down

1 Cable channel that airs films from the 1900s

2 Self-proclaimed spoon-bender Geller

3 Pay after taxes

4 Lyft competitor

5 Tex-Mex dip ingredient

6 Co. that launched Dungeons & Dragons

7 "___ not know that!"

8 Walking speed

9 Ohio team, on scoreboards

10 Track bet with long odds

11 North America's tallest mountain

12 It's opposite the point

15 Cassava root

18 ___ Harbour, Florida

20 Songwriter Paul

23 Prefix before -monious

24 Gunky stuff

26 "This is ___!" ("300" line)

28 Charlize of "Atomic Blonde"

30 Calculator with beads

32 "He's ___ friend"

33 Easy gallop

36 Recycling container

37 "Jazz Masters" org.

41 Spectators

42 Earned a ticket, perhaps

43 Juno's Greek counterpart

45 Like ___ (energetically)

46 Winter Olympics sled

47 Skip going out

48 It may come in sticks or wheels

49 Thrift shop purpose

53 Genre where you'd hear "pick it up!" a lot

55 Jeremy of 2018's "Red Sparrow"

59 "Young Frankenstein" role

60 PBS science show for 45 seasons

62 Press-on item

64 Clifford's color

65 Figure out (like this answer)

67 Drink from a bag?

68 Tajikistan was one (abbr.)

©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 29

SUDOKU

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

INTERMEDIATE

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 29

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny

February 28 - March 6, 2018

Aries (March 21-April 19) On September 1, 1666, a London baker named Thomas Farriner didn't take proper precautions to douse the fire in his oven before he went to sleep. Consequences were serious. The conflagration that ignited in his little shop burned down large parts of the city. Three hundred twenty years later, a group of bakers gathered at the original site to offer a ritual atonement. "It's never too late to apologize," said one official, acknowledging the tardiness of the gesture. In that spirit, Aries, I invite you to finally dissolve a clump of guilt you've been carrying . . . or express gratitude that you should have delivered long ago . . . or resolve a messy ending that still bothers you . . . or transform your relationship with an old wound . . . or all of the above.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) The Committee to Fanatically Promote Taurus's Success is pleased to see that you're not waiting politely for your next turn. You have come to the brilliant realization that what used to be your fair share is no longer sufficient. You intuitively sense that you have a cosmic mandate to skip a few steps -- to ask for more and better and faster results. As a reward for this outbreak of shrewd and well-deserved self-love, and in recognition of the blessings that are currently showering down on your astrological House of Noble Greed, you are hereby granted three weeks' worth of extra service, free bonuses, special treatment, and abundant slack.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) No one can be somewhat pregnant. You either are or you're not. But from a metaphorical perspective, your current state is a close approximation to that impossible condition. Are you or are you not going to commit yourself to birthing a new creation? Decide soon, please. Opt for one or the other resolution; don't remain in the gray area. And there's more to consider. You are indulging in excessive in-betweenness in other areas of your life, as well. You're almost brave and sort of free and semi-faithful. My advice about these halfway states is the same: Either go all the way or else stop pretending you might.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) The Appalachian Trail is a 2,200-mile path that runs through the eastern United States. Hikers can wind their way through forests and wilderness areas from Mount Katahdin in Maine to Springer Mountain in Georgia. Along the way they may encounter black bears, bobcats, porcupines, and wild boars. These natural wonders may seem to be at a remote distance from civilization, but they are in fact conveniently accessible from America's biggest metropolis. For \$8.75, you can take a train from Grand Central Station in New York City to an entry point of the Appalachian Trail. This scenario is an apt metaphor for you right now, Cancerian. With relative ease, you can escape from your routines and habits. I hope you take advantage!

Leo (July 23-August 22) Is 2018 turning out to be as I expected it would be for you? Have you become more accepting of yourself and further at peace with your mysterious destiny? Are you benefiting from greater stability and security? Do you feel more at home in the world and better nurtured by your close allies? If for some reason these developments are not yet in bloom, withdraw from every lesser concern and turn your focus to them. Make sure you make full use of the gifts that life is conspiring to provide for you.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) You can't find intimacy -- you can't find home -- when you're always hiding behind masks," says Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Junot Díaz. "Intimacy requires a certain level of vulnerability. It requires a certain level of you exposing your fragmented, contradictory self to someone else. You running the risk of having your core self rejected and hurt and misunderstood." I can't imagine any better advice to offer you as you navigate your way through the next seven weeks, Virgo. You will have a wildly fertile opportunity to find and create more intimacy. But in order to take full advantage, you'll have to be brave and candid

and unshielded.

Libra (September 23-October 22) In the coming weeks, you could reach several odd personal bests. For instance, your ability to distinguish between flowery bullshit and inventive truth-telling will be at a peak. Your "imperfections" will be more interesting and forgivable than usual, and might even work to your advantage, as well. I suspect you'll also have an adorable inclination to accomplish the half-right thing when it's impossible to do the perfectly right thing. Finally, all the astrological omens suggest that you will have a tricky power to capitalize on lucky lapses.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) French philosopher Blaise Pascal said, "If you do not love too much, you do not love enough." American author Henry David Thoreau declared, "There is no remedy for love but to love more." I would hesitate to offer these two formulations in the horoscope of any other sign but yours, Scorpio. And I would even hesitate to offer them to you at any other time besides right now. But I feel that you currently have the strength of character and fertile willpower necessary to make righteous use of such stringently medicinal magic. So please proceed with my agenda for you, which is to become the Smartest, Feistiest, Most Resourceful Lover Who Has Ever Lived.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) The state of Kansas has over 6,000 ghost towns -- places where people once lived, but then abandoned. Daniel C. Fitzgerald has written six books documenting these places. He's an expert on researching what remains of the past and drawing conclusions based on the old evidence. In accordance with current astrological omens, I suggest you consider doing comparable research into your own lost and half-forgotten history. You can generate vigorous psychic energy by communing with origins and memories. Remembering who you used to be will clarify your future.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) It's not quite a revolution that's in the works. But it is a sprightly evolution. Accelerating developments may test your ability to adjust gracefully. Quickly-shifting story lines will ask you to be resilient and flexible. But the unruly flow won't throw you into a stressful tizzy as long as you treat it as an interesting challenge instead of an inconvenient imposition. My advice is not to stiffen your mood or narrow your range of expression, but rather to be like an actor in an improvisation class. *Fluidity* is your word of power.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18) It's the Productive Paradox Phase of your cycle. You can generate good luck and unexpected help by romancing the contradictions. For example: 1. You'll enhance your freedom by risking deeper commitment. 2. You'll gain greater control over wild influences by loosening your grip and providing more spaciousness. 3. If you are willing to appear naive, empty, or foolish, you'll set the stage for getting smarter. 4. A blessing you didn't realize you needed will come your way after you relinquish a burdensome "asset." 5. Greater power will flow your way if you expand your capacity for receptivity.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) As you make appointments in the coming months, you could re-use calendars from 2007 and 2001. During those years, all the dates fell on the same days of the week as they do in 2018. On the other hand, Pisces, please don't try to learn the same lessons you learned in 2007 and 2001. Don't get snagged in identical traps or sucked into similar riddles or obsessed with comparable illusions. On the *other* other hand, it might help for you to recall the detours you had to take back then, since you may thereby figure out how to avoid having to repeat boring old experiences that you don't need to repeat.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezsny's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

(Donations to the LCC music scholarship fund warmly accepted and appreciated.). Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing.

TheaterThe Story. From 8 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and are available online at www.VesselforArts.org.. Holt High School, 5885 Holt Road Holt.

EVENTS
Dr. Seuss's Birthday (All ages). From 12 to 5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 North Foster Lansing, 517.485.5185.

Howl at the Moon: Guided Night Walk. From 7 to 8 p.m. \$3/person. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

ARTS
Featured Artist Friday with Paul Vente. From 7 to 10 p.m. Free!. American Fifth Spirits, 112 N Larch St Lansing. 517.999.2631.

Saturday, March 03

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS
Mental Health Day for Men. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Okemos Conference Center, 2187 University Park Dr. Okemos. (517) 381-7300.

MUSIC
Red Cedar Festival of Community Bands. From 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. free. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road Okemos.

EVENTS
Meet WKAR's Curious Crew (All ages). From 1 to 3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.

Project Feederwatch. From 1 to 3 p.m. FREE. Suggested Donation: \$3/person. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

ARTS
Echoes: Works by Jena McShane & Roxanne Frith. From 12 to 5 p.m. Free, open to the public. Casa de Rosado, 204 E. Mt Hope Ave Lansing.

Sunday, March 04

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS
Juggling. Learn how to juggle. From 2 to 4p.m. Free. Orchard Street PumpHouse. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 371-5119

Tuesday, March 06

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS
Need Market Research? Ask a Business Librarian. From 10 to 11:30 a.m. Free - to register call (517) 483-1921.

Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 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
Tuesday Games. From 1 to 4 p.m. Euchre, Free Bridge, \$1 - \$2 per person. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 28

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 28

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

MICHIGAN DISTILLERY / 2018 FLOOD-DAMAGED BUSINESSES

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Michigan's strength as an agricultural powerhouse has fueled a number of developments in the food and beverage industry in recent years, including the farm-to-table restaurant movement and the craft beer scene.

Michigrain Distillery

523 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing

4 p.m.-midnight Tuesday-Friday; noon-midnight Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday

(517) 220-0560, michigrain.net

Last month the latest industry to take advantage of the state's ample resources saw a new addition with

the opening of Michigrain Distillery, a craft spirits manufacturing facility in downtown Lansing.

"Why go out of state when we have the best corn and wheat in the country right here in our backyard?" said Michigrain co-founder/co-owner Mike Bird. "We're very proud of Michigan agriculture. Our grain harvest here is a river of gold."

If Bird's name sounds familiar, that's because he was one of the co-founders of American Fifth Spirits, another distillery that opened in 2015 just a few blocks away. A year into running American Fifth, he ran into his old friend, Scott Ellis, a retired Lansing Police Department detective (now executive director of the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association) at a downtown event, rekindling their camaraderie and planting the seed for what would become Michigrain.

"Mike's like an encyclopedia for distilling," Ellis said. "Every day I work with him I learn something new, and with the amount of knowledge you need in this industry that kind of know-how is crucial. There's no one in Michigan who's doing what we're doing at this level, and there are only a handful in the country."

Michigrain's main output is high alcohol content (HAC) spirits, a nearly colorless, odorless, tasteless liquid that serves as the base for a wide variety of liquors. Vodka is the easiest thing to make from HAC, with gin, whiskey, absinthe, port wine and flavored liqueurs (think: Bailey's and Kahlúa) being strong secondaries. Right now the 3,500-square-foot production floor pumps out between 1,500 and 2,000 gallons of HAC per month in four-day manufacturing cycles, but Bird says that will only increase.

"Eventually I'd like to be operating 24 hours, which will really expand our capabilities," Bird said. "The industry has grown by leaps and bounds in recent years with new technology, and I don't see that slowing down anytime soon. We're primed to be able to become an extremely high-volume production facility."

Bird and Ellis dropped more than \$1 million to convert the former NAPA Auto Parts Store across the street from Lansing Brewing Co. into the Michigrain headquarters. Equipment includes massive, 800-gallon stainless steel mashing tanks, a couple of polypropylene plastic fermentation tanks and a three-story-tall column that serves as the still. There's also a bottling facility on the floor capable of producing up to 50 cases a day. But the biggest export (literally) are the 200-gallon industrial totes of HAC it ships to customers as far away as Japan.

The grain mostly comes from Jorgensen Farm Elevator in Williamston, while the potatoes that are used are actually waste product imported from Better Made Potato Chips in Detroit.

"One of my favorite things about this business is how little waste there is," Bird said. "Almost everything, even the water we use, can be reclaimed and used for other things. It's a highly sustainable model."

The facility also features an elegantly decorated tasting room where customers can sample some of the HAC made in back, which are called "neutral spirits" here. There's a full menu of cocktails made from alcohol made on-site, including the dynamite Sanguinary Mary and some specialty martinis. A second story event space will be added by this summer, featuring handmade tables made from reclaimed wood by a furniture company in Durand to match the ones on the first floor.

Liquor distilling is hardly new to the Lansing area. Red Cedar Spirits in East Lansing has been manufacturing a wide range of spirits since 1998, making it one of the oldest operations in the state. The movement gained momentum in 2014 when Sanctuary Spirits in Grand Ledge opened, followed by American Fifth Spirits the following year. So given the abundance of wheat and corn resources, why alcohol instead of, say, bread or breakfast cereal?

"It's a social thing," Ellis said. "My favorite thing about alcohol is that it



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Mike Bird (left) and Scott Ellis co-own Michigrain Distillery, a bulk spirit distillery and tasting room that opened last month in downtown Lansing. The business can manufacture up to 2,000 gallons of high alcohol content spirits per month, and supplies distilleries around the world with product that can be manufactured into a variety of liquor types.

fosters an environment of storytelling and fun. As long as it's done responsibly, of course, and we're all about responsible drinking."

"And because alcohol makes my jokes funnier," added Bird.

AFTER THE FLOOD

The waters finally receded Monday after the area's historic floods last week, allowing business owners near the Red Cedar River in Lansing Township to begin damage assessment to their properties.

Next-door neighbors Steakhouse Philly Bar & Grill, 3020 E. Kalamazoo St., and Green Dot Stables, 410 Clippert St., each saw nearly 3 feet of water invade their restaurants, with damages for each expected to run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Owners of both vowed they would reopen, albeit after massive cleanup operations.

"Sorry to those I did not get back to. I was completely overwhelmed and moved today, in a lump in the throat kind of way," wrote Charlie Semerly, co-owner of Steakhouse Philly, responding to the outpouring of support on his Facebook page. "I don't know the extent of the damage, nor when we will reopen, but rest assured we will. Lots of work to do. We look forward to seeing you all soon."

Nearby, Bake N' Cakes, 3003 E. Kalamazoo St., and Oades Big Ten party story also suffered damages and will remain closed during the repair process. Stay tuned for reopening information.

Correction

Due to a reporting error, last week's New in Town column called Jorge Vera the co-owner of Acapulco Mexican Grill. He is a manager.

Margherita Pizza at Barnes and Noble

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

When I get hungry for a tasty pizza, I head for a bookstore.



I used to frequent the Barnes and Noble in the Lansing Mall for recordings, calendars, magazines and books of all sorts. After sampling their “Margherita” flatbread in their café, I now include the appetizing pizza in my visits to the bookseller.

What helped make the Margherita special was its fresh ingredients. Roasted tomatoes, fresh mozzarella pearls and fresh basil had distinctive and robust flavors. The leafy strands of basil were abundant

and particularly appreciated.

The added tomato sauce was the perfect amount. Thin tiers of part-skim mozzarella, Romano, Parmesan, and Fontina cheeses made the Margherita more of a gourmet dish.

Another feature that made the Barnes and Noble Café variation of pizza more restaurant-quality was how it was cooked. Instead of a microwave or heat lamp, the Margherita was toasted. The two-slice portion for \$5.95 was served hot and had slight scorch marks — a welcome addition.

The toasting required some patience while I waited for it to come out of the oven. That was fine with me. I had more time to read a book.



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

TOP FIVE
DINING GUIDE!

TOP 5 PIZZA

1.) DeLuca's

2006 W Willow St, Lansing, MI 48917

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday

Closed Sunday

TOP 5 MARGARITA

1.) El Azteco

1016 W Saginaw St, Lansing, MI 48915

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday & Saturday; Noon-9 p.m. Sunday

2.) The Cosmos

611 E Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday & Saturday

Noon-10 p.m. Sunday

3.) Cugino's

306 S Bridge St, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday & Saturday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday

Closed Sunday

2.) Cancun

8741 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:45 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

3.) Los Tres Amigos

107-109 E Allegan St, Lansing, MI 48933

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday - Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

4.) Blaze Pizza

300 N Clippert St. Ste.18, Lansing, MI 48912

10:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 10:30 a.m.-Midnight Friday & Saturday

5.) Pizza House

4790 S Hagadorn Rd,

Stes 114-116, East Lansing, MI 48823

10:30 a.m.-4 a.m. 7 days a week

4.) Fiesta Charra

5900 Park Lake Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

5.) Applebee's

6270 S Cedar St, Lansing, MI 48911

11 a.m.-Midnight Sunday - Thursday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday & Saturday

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2017 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to your favorite Lansing-area eateries. We'll run single categories in the paper periodically, but the complete dining guide is always available on our website or on our official mobile app, The Pulse. The app is available on iPhone and Android platforms; head over to facebook.com/lansingapp or text "pulse" to 77948 for links to download.

Bon appétit!

HOMETOWN SERVICE

• Your Apple Authorized Service Center

• In and out-of warranty expert repair

• Walk-in service without an appointment

• Onsite service and repair

• Fast turnaround

CAPITOL Macintosh

1915 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 351-9339 www.CapMac.net

Assistance in
getting a fresh start

We are ready to help people with:

• Bankruptcy • Immigration • Divorce •

To help in this ailing economy, we offer
bankruptcy packages starting at \$299.

Jedo Law Firm is here for you. Our job is our calling.
Whatever your issue or concern, our office is willing to
counsel you and come up with the best solution.

6035 Executive Drive, Suite 212,
Lansing,
MI 48911
(517) 482-8800
www.jedolaw.com



Doctor Day: 1st and 3rd
Sunday of each month

Wax Specials \$20 hg. / \$35 g.

House Wax \$8 hg. / \$12 g.

3301 Capitol City Blvd. Lansing • Hours: 10am-8pm everyday

Free pre-roll
with \$30
purchase

Free 1/8 with
\$150 purchase

THE PULSIFIEDS

BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

Temporary Inbound Call Center Work
Answer Phones for Public TV & Radio
\$10.00/hour
Call 517-203-5050

Humane Society Telethon Help Needed!
Thursday, March 8th, 2018
\$15.00/hour
Call 517-203-5050

Dunrite Lawn Mowing. Do you want your lawn mowed, or done right? Starting as low as \$20. Call for free estimates, including spring and fall cleanup. (517) 402-9368

HUGE RUMMAGE SALE
Lansing Liederkrantz, 5828 S. Penn, Lansing.
517-882-6330
Open 3/7 and 3/8 from 9am-7:30 pm AND 3/9, 9am-Noon. March 9 is \$2 per bag. Bake sale!



WELLNESS CENTER

Here at Miracle Meds Wellness Center, our patients are our highest priority. We strive to ensure exceptional customer service for each and every patient, while ensuring a short wait time. We pride ourselves on our friendly, knowledgeable staff as well as our ability to provide quality, affordable products. Our goal is to not only provide safe access, but also to inform our patients about the different medications available in the constantly evolving medical marijuana industry.

Mention this ad and get 30% off any CBD products and 15% off RSO

925 E Kalamazoo St,
Lansing, MI 48912
Open 9:00am-10:00pm
7 days a week
(517)-708-0577

420 DIRECTORY

Want your dispensary listed? Call Lee Purdy 517-999-5064 • PAID ADVERTISEMENT



420 Dank
3301 Capitol City Blvd.
Lansing
(517) 708-0129
Hours:
Open 7 days/ 10am-10pm



Capitol City Provisioning Center
821 E. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing
Mon-Sat 10am-8pm
Sunday 12pm - 4pm



Lansing Elite Provisioning Inc.
3208 S Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing
(517) 220-2188

Stop in and see us right by the airport! High quality and nothing over \$10 a gram for all your medical needs. We also have a convenient drive-through. Check us out on weedmaps!

Formerly Capital City Seed Bank. Stop in today & let us cater to all your MMMP needs.

Follow us on social media!
@Haight_ash_mmmp
#Haight_ash_mmmp
mimedlansing@gmail.com



The Card Clinic
Haslett, MI
(517) 706-1309
Hours vary by appointment



Got Meds Lounge
3407 S Cedar St, Lansing,
(517) 253-7468
Mon-Sun 9am-10pm

Certification for your Medical Marijuana Card. We are dedicated to "raising the bar" by offering a comfortable, professional, respectful and discreet experience. We are the place you can take your grandma! Conveniently located off I-69 in Haslett, Michigan. Call today to schedule your appointment.

Got Meds is a donation-based organization committed to meeting its customers' needs. Our budtenders are knowledgeable and experienced, allowing us to deliver you the best services and products in a fun, relaxed atmosphere.

For medical marijuana advertising,
contact Lee Purdy
(517) 999-5064 • lee@lansingcitypulse.com

ENJOY
THE
LUXURY
RIGHT

HERE



The updated and improved Aria Nursing and Rehab is Here For Your Well-Being.

The brand new unit at Aria Healthcare and Rehab is dedicated to short term rehabilitation.

Our upgraded wing features all private rooms, beautifully decorated and fully outfitted with modern amenities. The brand new therapy gym is equipped with cutting edge equipment for top notch rehabilitation, and the spa like shower room ensures your relaxation and comfort.

ARIA NURSING AND REHAB

707 ARMSTRONG ROAD, LANSING, MI 48911 // (517) 393-5680

WWW.ARIANURSINGANDREHAB.COM

