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September 27 - October 3, 2017



César Chávez Avenue: Why it matters.

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AN HOUR WITH ANDY SCHOR

The Likely Next Mayor of Lansing



What:

Join City Pulse editor & publisher Berl Schwartz and reporter Todd Heywood while they discuss mayoral politics with Andy Schor

When:

Thursday, September 28 @ 6pm
Doors open @ 5pm

Where:

Lansing Brewing Co.
518 E. Shiawassee St.
North of Luginut Stadium

Watch:

Live on Facebook, Lansing Mayoral Event page, streaming through ACD's Fiber Optic Network



Andy Schor

CityPULSE

Slow down on City Hall

By **STEPHEN PURCHASE**

Beginning with some of the first rehabbed lofts along Michigan Avenue, forward to the Blue Coyote Brewing Co., the JI Case Lofts, Old Town's Race Street Mill, and then to Northtown's Prudden Tech Centre and award-winning Motor Wheel Lofts, H Inc. has been a force for progress across Lansing since 1989. Lansing is our home, and not just because the bulk of our development work is here. Every member of our team sports a City of Lansing home address. We are professionally and personally invested here.

I share this as context for my disappointment when in last week's Pulse article, "Off by \$14 Million," Randy Hannan dismissed Harry Hepler's contribution to the conversation surrounding City Hall and its future as being the product of sour grapes. Hepler is the founder of H Inc. and one of Lansing's original "Urban Pioneers" who invested in downtown Lansing before it was the cool thing to do.

For the record, H Inc. had been invited to submit a proposal and could have assembled a highly qualified development team for the City Hall RFQP, but elected not to for one reason: H Inc. is focusing all our energy into our next growth phase centered on the creation of pre-crafted residential living options assembled right here in Lansing for export throughout the Midwest. We only re-engaged in the topic of City Hall because we are excited by the opportunity to see that architectural gem restored and because we care about realizing the best, historically sensitive outcome for our city.

In contrast to Hannan's negativity, all of us at H Inc. commend Mayor Bernero and his team for starting an important conversation about the future of City Hall. No one disputes that the current building has served our city well for many decades, but now requires significant, thoughtful new investment. Our enthusiasm is only tempered in recognition of

Lansing's financial pressures and for lack of a complete plan that addresses both the current building and future facilities.

Asked to comment for the Pulse's 9/21/2017 article, this is precisely the message Mr. Hepler delivered: Lansing would be best served by completing the recommended Master Plan and Feasibility Study to guide decision-making with a full accounting of the costs and a complete understanding of the needs a new facility must address (One building or several? Police? Courts? Departments now housed outside of City Hall?). This should be the least effort expected given the financial weight and long lifespan of such a project, and I believe the results of the RFQP support this position.

Proposers demonstrated with clarity that the current building can realize a higher and better economic use as a private development contributing to new growth and vibrancy downtown. Three of the four proposers agreed to varying degrees with H Inc. and members of the historic preservation community that the current building ought to be rehabilitated to accentuate its architectural merits while preserving elements of the public courtyard for public use (though I would note none of the four proposed a true historic preservation of the classic Kenneth Black designed building). Clearly, there are good ideas pertaining to the current site to build-on and incorporate into the City's Master Plan, but I'm less sure there is at this point a single winning proposal.

The submitted proposals demonstrate a lack of clarity and direction surrounding the future City Hall. While several sites were pitched that have the potential to become superior locations for city offices, there was a distinct lack of detail with respect to what functions new facilities would be made to serve, in what timeframe, and at what cost to the city. A master plan would help answer those questions and also inform the most beneficial way to structure a deal to minimize risk to the city. It may be better, as the RFQP postulates, that a single firm handles development of both sites. Alternatively, the city may realize better value by having one party redevelop the current site and with a clear master plan in place have many others competitively bid to develop the new City Hall.

It's the lack of detail and planning around the new facilities that worry me most. Absent a clear master plan for both the current site and new facilities, a

See Slow down, Page 7

CityPULSE

**VOL. 17
ISSUE 7**

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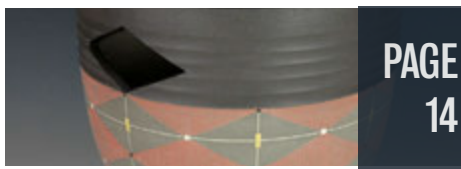
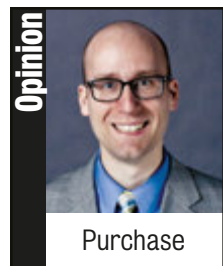
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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See pages 7, 9, 10 & 15 for Public Notices

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Plunged into darkness?

As many as 10,000 low-income BWL customers facing hole in safety net

Thousands of low-income customers of the Lansing Board of Water & Light will lose access to a state-operated utility assistance program beginning Oct. 1. That move has left human services providers in the area scrambling to figure out how to fill the gap and resulted in one BWL commissioner announcing he will resign.

"It's a sad situation that could be corrected if they just opted into the program, and they are not doing that," Robert Nelson, a non-voting member of the public utility's Board of Commissioners representing East Lansing, said in a phone interview. "So in good conscience I can't support this anymore. I can't allow you to do this anymore. That's why I am resigning."

"The sad situation" Nelson referred to was the BWL decision to opt out of a voluntary program that funds heating and electricity assistance administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

The program was created in 2013 by lawmakers. It caps the total amount of money to be collected and distributed at \$50 million each year. The costs are assessed to the utilities based on how many meters are in the service territory. Last year, each ratepayer in participating utilities paid a 97-cent monthly surcharge. Those dollars are then distributed to a total per-customer need of up to \$3,000, half of that for electric payments and half for propane or natural gas heating assistance. This year they'll pay 93 cents.

BWL spokesman Steve Serkaian said that if the utility participated in the program it would not only raise rates by 93 cents a month, it would "require the BWL to start winter electric shut offs."

But Nick Assendelft, a spokesman for the state Energy Department and the Public Service Commission, said participating in the fund does not mandate shut offs.

East Lansing's Nelson has been advocating for the BWL to join the fund for two years now, BWL board Chairman David Price said in an interview.



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Robert Nelson was to resign Tuesday from the Board of Commissioners of the Lansing Board of Water & Light out of frustration over the unwillingness of the public utility to continue participating in a state program to help low-income ratepayers. Nelson is a non-voting member representing East Lansing.

Nelson noted that while the BWL has not paid into the fund since its inception in 2013, BWL customers have still benefitted from the funds. However, he said the utility doesn't want to pay into the fund and distribute its customers' money to other utilities, a sentiment echoed by spokesman Serkaian.

"They want to take advantage of the fund, but they don't want to pay into it," Nelson said. "It makes about 10,000 low-income BWL customers very vulnerable."

He said the BWL collected about \$1 million in funding from the program last year to assist low-income residents pay their bills.

Price said BWL attorneys have told them Nelson's understanding of the law is "not correct."

But Bob Wheaton, a spokesman for the Michigan Health and Human Services Department, said because BWL failed to opt into the program by July 1, there will be serious consequences.

"It means they will not be eligible for State Emergency Relief funding. However, because LBWL opted out, customers will be protected from utility shut-off from Nov. 1-April 15," he wrote in an email.

While Serkaian, Price and Nelson all noted the shut-off protection for electricity, Price conceded that water service "was another issue. That could be shut off. It would be on a case-by-case basis."

Nelson said not having access to that funding, which also waives late fees from the utility, means low-income consumers will rack up larger bills during the winter months, and "many won't be able to pay it

come April and will end up being shut off anyway."

Effective with the beginning of the state's new fiscal year on Sunday, state officials said the funds would only be used to assist customers of utilities that had paid into the fund.

The move was part fairness to those paying in and concerns over an uncertain future of federal funding for low-income energy assistance. The state is "tightening its belt," said Assendelft.

The BWL's Serkaian said the utility provides assistance to customers already and that won't change. But the amount he noted is far short of the \$1 million Nelson said was paid in state funding last year.

"BWL provides multi-pronged customer assistance that ensures BWL dollars are contributed only to BWL customers in need," Serkaian said. "Pennies for Power averages \$50,000 in annual payment assistance from money raised by customer contributions and BWL community program contributions. The BWL also has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City of Lansing in which BWL contributes \$200,000 for customer payment assistance. Both Pennies and the MOU are administered by Lansing's Society of St. Vincent DePaul. In addition, BWL works with several local agencies that provide payment assistance to BWL customers. One such agency provided \$127,000 in payment assistance to BWL customers last year. Lastly, the BWL works with its customers year-round to provide flexible payment plans when they fall behind."

— TODD HEYWOOD



233 E. Grand River Ave. (Potbelly Sandwich Shop) East Lansing

The City of East Lansing regularly features historic photos on its Facebook page, recently including an image capturing the building above, bedecked with a 1980s makeover. While one might question the decision to cover a durable brick building with wood, the treatment addressed a common way to revive older urban buildings in many cities. Similar cladding methods were proposed to "modernize" old buildings in response to the loss of business as customers followed merchants to new locations, including regional and strip malls. The wood was removed some time ago, but the City's photo brings new appreciation to this attractive background building. Its heavy masonry cladding rests on a sturdy base. Strong pilasters anchor the facades, and the corner entry welcomes patrons from all approaches.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA



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

East Lansing • Meridian Township • East Lansing • Meridian Township • East Lansing • Meridian Township • E

To tax or not to tax

East Lansing voters asked to impose income tax

EAST LANSING — Sunday, East Lansing Mayor Mark Meadows slogged through the 90-degree heat with a clipboard, walking door-to-door in the conservative Whitehills neighborhood seeking voter support for a controversial proposal to create an income tax in the city.

With \$90 million in liabilities for employee pensions and \$40 million for retiree healthcare, his city finds itself in do-or-die mode. It must find more revenue or cut services.

That proposal has caused a divide between the college town and Michigan State University.

If voters say yes on Nov. 7, the proposal would allow East Lansing to collect a 1 percent income tax from residents and a half percent from non-residents. As an offset, East Lansing would reduce its property tax.

"I think it's messed up that we're gonna have to pay for the city's mistakes," said MSU student Zack Dushaj. "Just because the city's officials can't handle the money doesn't mean students should have to pay extra taxes."

City officials said that since 2006, East Lansing has seen a net loss in revenue.

"When the sales tax was instituted in Michigan, the agreement was part of the revenue would go to the cities — it's called revenue sharing," said Councilwoman Ruth Beier. "Our revenue sharing has fallen by 58 percent in the last eight years."

The decline in revenue sharing has created holes in city budgets all across Michigan. While the move is legal under the Constitution, the Michigan Municipal League referred to the decline as a "heist." Michigan is ranked dead last nationally in revenue sharing.

"If the city is having trouble generating revenue, they can use the revenue from this income tax to resolve so many issues," said MSU student Michelle Rozwadowski, who said she earns about \$1,000 a year working at campus jobs. "If the money is going to the greater good of the East

will be worth is still being debated.

The estimated \$5 million per year the proposal will generate would ease the financial burden on the budget, city officials said. But the package requires voter support, and the city has faced pushback for months.



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

East Lansing Mayor Mark Meadows did the doors on Sunday to encourage support for East Lansing's controversial income tax proposal, which will be on the ballot Nov. 7., despite opposition from Michigan State University. Among those he spoke to were Tali Faris-Hylen.

Lansing community, I would be ok with paying a half percent."

Even as absentee ballots are hitting mailboxes, the East Lansing City Council continues to debate about which exemptions and deductions, if any, will be wrapped into the final tax proposal, but whatever those are won't appear on the ballot.

A proposed deduction being discussed by City Council is \$600, but no decision has been made yet.

"You can either have a high deduction, or you can have a whole bracket amount and say anybody below this doesn't pay any income tax," Beier said. "But if we did that, we couldn't have a very high deduction, because we wouldn't raise any revenue."

Beier said there will likely be additional deductions for the elderly and disabled. How much these additional deductions

M S U President Lou Anna K. Simon pressed Meadows to nix the income tax. The pressure came in an exchange of letters between the two leaders.

Simon argued in a July 21 letter to Meadows it would be unfair for MSU employees and students. Simon called the city's problems a result of "financial mismanagement."

Meadows shot back at Simon, calling her claims

about the city "offensive and uninformed" in a July 25 letter. Meadows pointed out that Simon has no problem burdening students with tuition hikes.

Simon eventually offered the city \$20 million over eight years to keep the income tax off the ballot. City Manager George Lahanas told the citizen journalism website East Lansing Info this offer was rescinded after Simon failed to get approval from MSU's Board of Trustees.

This fruitless negotiation kept the income tax on the ballot.

"It's the only option cities in the state of Michigan have," said Meadows. "We can raise revenues by property tax, or we can raise revenues by public consensus approving an income tax."

Some argue that the income tax will drive businesses up the street to Okemos.

BRIEFS

Tension over CADL appointment

Meridian Township officials were disappointed when the Ingham County Board of Commissioners appointed Sandy Drake to the Capital Area District Library Board.

Email between township leaders and employees as well as with county officials obtained through the Freedom of Information Act revealed Township Supervisor Ron Styka was "not happy" to learn July 26 that the board passed over his choice, Marna Wilson.

In a June 12 email, commission administrator Becky Bennett said Drake was the only person to have formally applied. A July 26 email to Styka from another township employee, Michelle Prinz, alleged that CADL ignored their request and confirmed Drake instead of Wilson. Styka responded to Prinz by stating his unhappiness with the situation. Further emails between the employees said the situation would be "dealt with." Drake is listed on CADL's website as a board member.

Township revising master plan

A new draft of Meridian Township's master plan might influence serious change throughout the area.

Meridian Township's Planning Commission introduced the draft in July. If approved, it will be the first revision to the master plan since 2005. Updates to the township's master plan have been delayed since. Commission members will face a tough decision: pushing into further urbanization with higher density housing or maintaining the township's rural appeal.

The new plan states its goal is to adopt policies and programs that preserve "open spaces, natural areas, other undeveloped areas" and "agricultural land uses." Three areas of Meridian Township are the subjects of proposals to increase density: Carriage Hills, the Haslett four-corner commercial district and downtown Okemos. The plan intends to develop walking space for shoppers and commercial housing developments such as apartment complexes.

The draft also includes the adoption of an Urban Service Boundary. Areas outside of the boundary will not be provided with public services such as water and sewage. As a result, further development on the township's rural eastern areas could be hampered.

Public hearings begin in October.

Country Mill wins injunction

Controversial farmer Steve Tennes will continue to sell his Country Mill Orchard products through the end of October at the East Lansing Farmers Market.

The reason? Citing the costs of appealing a decision earlier this month by Federal District Court Judge, Paul L. Maloney, the

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers
Trustees: Broughton, Harris, McKenzie, DeLay
MEMBERS ABSENT: Supervisor Hayes

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Trustee DeLay elected to serve as Chair pro tem in absence of Supervisor.
Meeting called to order by Chair pro tem DeLay.
Minutes of the meeting held on August 22, 2017 approved.
Agenda approved.
Public hearing held regarding 2017 public safety special assessment district.
Adopted Resolution 17-17: 2017 Public Safety Assessment District.
Tabled Resolution 17-18: Schedule public hearing regarding proposed special assessment roll.
Adopted Resolution 17-19: Certify millage for 2017 tax roll.
Approved claims.
Meeting adjourned.

Susan L. Aten, Clerk **CP#17-250**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING

LEGAL NOTICE
SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Lansing Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Offices located at 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, for the purpose of recommending approval or denial of the following request:

Special Use Permit SP-17-10 requested to allow the storage in bulk of household goods and used office furniture at 2703 Harton Street. Property is zoned "F Commercial.

Tentative text and other information may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan.

Susan L. Aten, Clerk
Charter Township of Lansing **CP#17-251**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
CLOSE OF REGISTRATION NOTICE
FOR ELECTION
To be held on
Tuesday, November 7, 2017

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS of the Charter Township of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan:

THE STATUTORY DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION IN INGHAM COUNTY IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING INGHAM COUNTY PROPOSAL:

ESTABLISHING SEPARATE TAX LIMITATIONS FOR INGHAM COUNTY, THE TOWNSHIPS, AND THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shall separate tax limitations be established for an indefinite period, or until altered by the voters of the county for the County of Ingham and the townships and the intermediate school district within the county, the aggregate of which shall not exceed 8.0 mills as follows:

Mills	
County of Ingham	6.8
Townships	1.0
Intermediate School District	0.2
TOTAL	8.0

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the Clerk's office.

Persons residing in the Charter Township of Lansing registering after the deadline will not be eligible to vote at this election.

My office is open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. for the purposes of registering qualified electors in said Township who apply. Voters may also register by mail using a mail-in voter registration form or in person at a Secretary of State Branch Office or the applicant's county, city or township clerk's office.

PERSONS ENTITLED to be registered voters in the Charter Township of Lansing must possess the following qualifications on or before the day of the election: (1) a citizen of the United States; (2) not less than 18 years of age; (3) a resident of the Charter Township of Lansing for not less than 30 days prior to the election (MCL 168.492). In addition, qualified electors must be registered to vote not less than 30 days prior to the election (MCL 168.497)

Susan L. Aten, Clerk
Charter Township of Lansing
3209 W. Michigan Avenue

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Clerk's office. **CP#17-252**

Tax

from page 6

"An income tax is the wrong way forward for the city, its citizens, its small businesses and its workers," Bell's Greek Pizza's owner, Habib Jarwan, told a Sept. 11 press conference. "Many qualified workers would choose to just go down the street to Okemos, where they wouldn't have to pay an income tax."

If the proposal fails, downsizing public safety employees is a likely outcome,

city officials said. Public safety accounts for the majority of East Lansing's 2017 budget. According to Lahanas, the city would be forced to shrink its police and fire departments.

Eaton County recently addressed its own budget problems Friday, by laying off 20 public safety positions, including eight deputy sheriffs, and essentially ending rural road patrols in the county.

"The city has cut 130 positions since the year 2000," said Meadows. "We don't have a lot of options. That's why it's important voters make the decision."

— **SKYLER ASHLEY**

Briefs

from page 6

East Lansing City Council decided not to appeal the preliminary injunction.

Tennes brought suit on behalf of his business, Country Mill, after the city refused to issue him a permit this year to sell his products at the market. City officials said he violated the city's nondiscrimination law, which prohibits discriminating against people based on sexual orientation among other categories. Tennes announced in December he would not rent his Charlotte

orchard for same-sex wedding events.

Tennes, being represented by the non-profit Alliance Defending Freedom, claims the denial violated his religious liberty by impinging on his free speech related to his faith. The religious nonprofit legal organization is classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, for its anti-LGBTQ activity. The ADF recently lost a similar case in Minnesota, where a federal judge ruled against a videography company for refusing to shoot same-sex marriages.

The preliminary injunction does not represent a final decision in federal court. Depending on the final ruling, East Lansing may still be able to deny its 2018 application, if Country Mill files one.

Slow down

from page 4

quickly executed development agreement could easily fail to meet Lansing's space requirements, while costs could very well outstrip vaguely formed expectations — turning this entire endeavor from the catalyst for growth it is intended to be into a drag on the city's financial health. That is why I think it best to give up the artificial December deadline, allowing the conver-

sation to mature and a new administration with new staff talent to contribute before any development agreements are executed. To do otherwise would be like selling your house before having any idea where you were going to move.

Concerns about process aside, I remain excited about the future of Lansing, including the prospect of visiting a rehabilitated Kenneth Black building and new city hall downtown.

(Stephen Purchase is a Lansing resident, is vice president of H Inc.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SLU-3-2017, Vacant Parcel – Pere Marquette Drive
Special Land Use Permit - Residential Use in the "H" Light Industrial District

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 23, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider SLU-3-2017. This is a request by Michael Markey for a special land use permit to allow the development of a residential apartment building on the vacant property located immediately south of 322 Pere Marquette. Residential use is permitted in the "H" Light Industrial district, which is the zoning designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

For more information, please call 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#17-255

The grapes of Grand River

César Chávez takes one last march along Grand River Avenue

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

When a city names a street after a person, there are two options: pick a national icon who never came within miles of the place, like George Washington, or a person of local importance whose name means nothing to out-of-town visitors, like Lansing Mayor Silas Main (not even the namesake of Main Street, by the way).

The proposed renaming of Grand River Avenue in north Lansing for labor leader César Chávez, approved by the Memorial Review Board and on City Council's plate on Oct. 23, is a double bulls-eye. Chávez is a national icon, on par with Martin Luther King, but he also visited Lansing many times and marched along the very stretch of road proposed for renaming.

It seems like a slam-dunk, but it's not. Grand River also runs through the heart of what is now called Old Town, the resurgent district of shops and galleries that has carved out its own identity within north Lansing and become a major point of pride for the city. The Old Town Commercial Association has dropped its early opposition to the renaming — see related story — but many individual businesses are still opposed and more could emerge.

The proposal calls for renaming Grand River from the point where it splits from Oakland Avenue on the east end, as it threads through north Lansing and Old Town to its western terminus at Pine Street, near the old School for the Blind. The stretch is now called East Grand River east of Washington Avenue and West Grand River to the west.

It runs through the heart of Lansing's Latino barrio, where migrant workers came by the thousands to work sugar beet, onion and vegetable fields, found jobs in factories, settled and many still live, along with their children and grandchildren.

Eggs and hot sauce

César Chávez visited Michigan so many times, organizing rallies for migrant workers' rights and lobbying the state Legislature, that Lansing Mayor David Hollister gave him a Michigan flag and passed a resolution giving him honorary status as a citizen of Michigan.

"We had a special relationship with Chávez," Hollister said. "He stopped at Cristo Rey [Community Center] almost every time he came to Michigan."

Delma Lopez, a cofounder of Cristo Rey Community Center in 1968, lived in the neighborhood 60 years before her death Sept. 10.

She cooked Chávez a breakfast of scrambled eggs with "a little bit of hot sauce" and flour tortillas on one of his visits. "He wouldn't eat a steak," Lopez recalled in a 2012 interview with City Pulse. (Chávez



Courtesy Photo from MSU Special Collections

Lansing Mayor David Hollister introduces César Chávez at a 1970s event at Cristo Rey Community Center. Cristo Rey director and later Lansing Mayor Tony Benavides looks on. Chávez came to north Lansing several times at the height of the battle for better conditions for migrant workers. In 1973, he led a march from MSU to the state Capitol, following the route through the heart of the barrio along Grand River.

was a vegetarian.) "He was very quiet, not talkative. To us he was special, but he never showed off."

Hollister said Chávez had "that magnetic personality that made you feel like a special person."

"He was always humble, mingled among the crowd, talked with the waitstaff as comfortably as he would with a legislator," Hollister said.

Al Salas, a former migrant worker, is the owner of Lansing Athletics and a longtime Latino community leader. He doesn't want his kids and grandkids to break their backs over a hoe for six months out of the year, be sprayed with pesticides, squat in a ditch to relieve themselves or shuttle back and forth to crude migrant camps, as he did, but he wants them to remember how Chávez helped migrants from Texas, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba and other Latin countries fight for better working conditions and cultivate a community.

"We're not trying to take Old Town back," Salas said. "We can live together. We just want a little bit of our history not to be forgotten."

Holy relic

Naming Grand River Avenue after César Chávez is more than a call for recognition of a man and a group of people. For many in Lansing's Latino community, it is also a wrapping up of some unfinished business.

Among the more unusual artifacts in MSU's César Chávez collection is a dingy-up but official, green César Chávez Avenue sign taken down from Grand

Avenue after an ugly citywide fight over the street name in 1995.

Diana Rivera is the subject librarian for the collection, a trove of thousands of books and other materials related to Latino culture, art and history.

The sign was an attention magnet when Rivera worked a tent at a North Lansing festival honoring Chávez. "People would come up to it and touch it, like it was a holy relic," she said.

On March 14, 1994, the Lansing City Council voted to rename Grand Avenue as César Chávez Avenue.

Grand Avenue, a symbolic connector from the power corridors of downtown Lansing to the north Lansing barrio, seemed a good choice at the time. As a bonus, there were relatively few business owners along the avenue. But one of them was attorney Fred Stackable, who led an aggressive charge to oppose and repeal the change.

Tim Barron, morning radio host at Q106-FM, hosted on-air visits from Stackable and supported him on the air. When a syndicated comedy skit offering Mexicans for sale to do listeners' menial chores ran on Barron's show, Latinos and allies were incensed.

In June 1995, after some ugly backlash on op-ed pages and local talk radio, the change was reversed by city referendum.

"The way it came down was more based on hate," Lansing School Board Trustee Guillermo Lopez, an at-large City Council candidate this year, recalled at a July town

'It's the right thing to do'

Business group drops

opposition to Chávez renaming

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The Old Town Commercial Association has reversed its position and will no longer oppose the renaming of Grand River Avenue in north Lansing to César Chávez Avenue.

"As an organization, we're going to drop our opposition to the name change and do what we can to embrace it," Vanessa Shafer, the organization's director, said in an interview Monday. "We want to continue to be that place where Lansing residents feel they're welcome."

It doesn't mean the fight over the proposed renaming is over, but businesses and residents who oppose the proposed renaming will no longer get any cover from the OTCA, a small but tight-knit organization that has worked for years to turn the once-struggling enclave in north Lansing into a busy district of galleries, shops and businesses.

"It's the right thing to do," Shafer said. "We all know it in our heart of hearts. My job is to protect businesses as best I can, but as our board came together and we started to discuss it — it's about building up community, not being divisive. People are tired of conflict. They want to come together and build community."

The impending fight over the Chávez renaming is the latest and most high-profile test of whether Old Town, with its increasing bustle and prosperity, had crossed a line of gentrification, drifted from its roots as a community focused on social justice and inclusion and become concerned only with the bottom line.

In an August letter to Lansing City Council, the OTCA argued against the renaming, estimating costs to 75 area businesses at \$30,000 to \$260,000, a figure that many proponents of the change consider to be exaggerated.

Shafer said she hopes to "shift focus," accept the name change and work with the City Council and with the Lansing for César Chávez Committee to find ways to mitigate the cost to area businesses, through a gradual phase-in or other means.

"It is a real about-face for us, but we did some soul searching," she said. "That's not who I am, who we are. We have respect for

Chávez

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hall meeting in Lansing. “The Q106 situation, raffling off a Mexican — ‘bring a Mexican in a truck with lice and disinfectant.’”

The signs came down, but the ones that were salvaged have become emblems of pride in the Latino community. They are also hard reminders that that civil rights victories, both symbolic and substantive, are reversible, from public recognition on a street pole to basic voting rights.

“It was a kick in the stomach,” Rivera recalled. She said that many opponents of the Grand Avenue name change were merely upset with the City Council’s decision process, but “there were quite a few who thought it had to do with race.”

Rudy Reyes, a longtime community service chairman for UAW Local 602, recalled the Grand Avenue debacle in comments to City Council Sept. 11.

“I love my Lansing, but I’m 67 years old and we’ve been here before,” he said.

Reyes recalled Stackable’s petition drive, the heartbreak of the election, and the sight of the signs coming down.

“We’re called minorities for a reason,” Reyes said. “We’re not the majority. We lost our street.”

The Grand Avenue reversal reminded Reyes of the Latino community’s premature joy over Lansing’s passage of a Sanctuary City resolution in April of this year, only to rescind it a week later. “Wow, celebration!” Reyes said, throwing up his hands. “A week later, it was gone.”

“We need to get back to the history of how it happened,” Lopez said at the July town hall. “It wasn’t a pretty picture. We need to do this to get away from that negative history.”

Exactly nothing

In a fistful of letters to the City Council, several business owners in the area predict financial disaster if the change from Grand River to César Chávez Avenue is approved. Aura Ozburn, owner of October Moon, said it would cost her business \$15,000. Several others feared four-figure hits.

But Elisabeth Weston, director of the nonprofit EC3 Educational Child Care Center at 1715 Malcolm X St., had a different experience when parts of Main Street were renamed after the civil rights leader (and one-time Lansing resident) in 2010.

“The budgetary impact was pretty much exactly nothing,” she said. “We spent more on postage to protest City Council than we spent accommodating the street name change.”

Even then, print on demand was already taking over from pre-printed stacks of letterheads and other printed materials. “What supply we had, we used up, and when we needed to make more, we made more,” she said. “The postal services honored the old address. They still deliver mail



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

In 1994, Grand Avenue was named in honor of labor leader César Chávez, but the signs came down after an ugly voter referendum that left a lasting scar in the Latino community. At a July town hall in Lansing, Francisca Garcia, Ignacio Andrade, Alfonso Salas, Oscar Castaneda and Marisol Garcia lobbied for the proposed renaming of Grand River Avenue in north Lansing in honor of Chávez.

that’s addressed to Main Street. It’s just fine.”

Phasing in the change from Grand River to César Chávez Avenue would help ease the burden. In March 1994, the name “Logan” was dropped from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard after a five-year period of dual signs. Responding to businesses’ worries about expensive licensing updates, Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar said she has contacted the five relevant department heads and found that “in most cases, not only is there no cost, the businesses may not have to do anything to update licensing.”

Other opponents of the name change have taken a different tack. Building restorer and history buff Dale Schrader, who is president of Preservation Lansing, told the City Council Sept. 11 that Grand River Avenue is a historic name, like Route 66, signifying “Michigan’s Main Street,” a trunk line created in the mid-1920s for new-fangled automobiles that ran from Grand Circus Park in Detroit across the state clear to Muskegon. It now ends in Lowell, near Grand Rapids.

In Lansing, Grand River was routed, in part, along Franklin Avenue, now the heart of Old Town, and other existing streets.

“North Lansing Against the World” was already a tagline for the area, and some residents objected when Franklin became Grand River in 1925 to conform to the state-spanning plan.

Others, especially service station owners, looked forward to more business from the trunk line. The area is still dotted with century-old service stations, one of them refurbished and owned by Schrader.

Schrader also told City Council the Chávez renaming would create the only gap in Grand River’s 175-mile run, but there is one already — where the stretch of Grand River Avenue most well known to out-of-towners, the main drag north of MSU, reaches the Frandor Shopping Center as it goes west.

“It just kind of ends there and becomes Oakland for no apparent reason,” Schrader admitted. “It’s already confusing.”

Said Hollister: “You’ve got East Grand River, North Grand River, Grand River all coming together in Old Town area, so honoring Grand River is kind of a bogus argu-

ment,”

Wife vs. girlfriend

On Sept. 13, 2010, the Lansing City Council passed a resolution for an honorary street with dual signs honoring Chávez on East Grand River, from Oakland to Washington, and named the plaza at Turner and East Grand River after Chávez.

But honorary street signs can come off as a slight as well as an honor, depending on your perspective. Larry Hutchinson, a primary candidate for 4th Ward City Council

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PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, City Assessor, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Certificate (the “Certificate”), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 629 West Hillsdale Street, Lansing, Michigan, but more particularly described as follows:

LOT 1 CAPITOL COMMONS URBAN RENEWAL PLAT NO 1, Ingham County, Michigan -- Parcel Number: 33-01-01-16-360-002, and

Approval of this Certificate will provide the owner or potentially the developer of property an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to the property noted above. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer, Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP), 1000 S. Washington Ave., Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, 517-702-3387.

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, MMC/CMMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#17-256

Chávez

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this fall, drew laughter at the July 24 town hall when he summed it up as “the difference between being a girlfriend and a wife.”

“Are we going to make this legitimate?” Hutchinson said.

Kathie Dunbar, sitting nearby and waiting to speak, typed “César Chávez Avenue Lansing” into Google and found another



Courtesy Photo from CADL

A policeman poses in front of Torres Taco House on Grand River Avenue in the 1970s.

limitation to honorary names.

“The dot was moving all over downtown,” she said. “Like it was bouncing back and forth, trying to find it.”

More important, several speakers have pointed out to City Council in public comment over the past several weeks, the timing could not be better to “make it legitimate.”

In 2017, many members of Lansing’s immigrant community feel a vulnerability that harks back to the days when Chávez marched peacefully to protest abysmal working and living conditions.

There are widespread fears of ICE roundups, deportations and open hostility fueled in large part by the presidency of Donald Trump.

Lansing has not been immune to a resurgence of resentment expressed, both inside and outside the law, by emboldened Trump supporters. An undocumented immigrant said he was assaulted on July 5 near the corner of Denver and Cedar streets in Lansing. Officers found the victim with obvious signs of assault and police are investigating the incident as a hate crime.

The victim told City Pulse two white assailants made reference to Trump and stapled a note on his stomach that said, “Go back to Mexico, wetback.”

Nobody thinks that permanently naming an important street after Chávez would



Larry Cosentino/City Pulse

Grand River Avenue, the old trunk line that once stretched from Detroit to Muskegon, sows confusion as it follows criss-crossing north Lansing streets on its northwest path.

make all of this go away. On the contrary, if Council approves the change, another ugly referendum like that of 1994 could follow, with the lighter fluid of social media fueling the fire instead of talk radio.

Or it could just slip through quietly, a long-awaited, crimson thread of recognition in the multi-hued fabric of Lansing to behold and enjoy.

In his comments to the City Council Sept. 11, Rudy Reyes wearily explained that he, his dad and two uncles put in a combined 150 years at General Motors.

“I’m 67, my grandma was here, my parents were here, my kids and I have grandkids that live here,” Reyes said. “At what point are you going to acknowledge that we didn’t just get off a bus and get here?”

‘Right thing’

from page 8

everybody who comes to Old Town and to continue to take the stance that we have wouldn’t help.”

Shafer said she hopes OTCA can work with the Lansing for César Chávez Committee and City Council to focus on lessening the financial impact of the change by phasing it in gradually and in other ways.

The reversal brings OTCA’s position into line with the many signs welcoming immigrants posted on Old Town businesses, including the OTCA’s offices on Turner Street.

“With everything that’s going on right now, it’s just too divisive,” Shafer said. “We don’t want to be those people.”

We’re hoping for a positive outcome on all fronts — to honor a great man and get some assistance for the businesses so they’re not put out of business.”

The OTCA has already informed members of the change in its position via closed Facebook pages, will distribute letters to its members in the next few days and is drafting a letter informing City Council of the change in its position.

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER NOTICE OF MEETING TO HEAR OBJECTIONS TO RE-APPORTIONMENT OF COST OF SMEDLEY-COOLIDGE DRAIN

Notice is Hereby Given that on Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 4:00 p.m., the Drainage Board for the Smedley-Coolidge Drain (a Chapter 20 Drain) will meet at the Ingham County Human Services Building, Conference Room C, 5303 South Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan 48910, to hear objections to the tentative re-apportionments, which are set as follows:

City of East Lansing	44.85 %
City of Lansing	24.74 %
Lansing Township	15.88 %
Michigan Department of Transportation	12.05 %
Ingham County Road Department	2.48 %
<hr/>	
Total	100%

Notice is Further Given that the estimate of costs of the Smedley-Coolidge Drain to be assessed, and also a description of the area to be served thereby, are on file in the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854; and that the apportionment percentages as finally established by the Drainage Board shall be applied to the actual cost of the drain expenses when finally completed.

Notice is Further Given that the apportionments referenced above are for ongoing maintenance costs; there is no construction project contemplated at this time.

Notice is Further Given that any public corporation to be assessed, or any taxpayer thereof, will be entitled to be heard at the time and place of the hearing.

Notice is Further Given that, after consideration of all objections to apportionments, the Drainage Board shall determine whether the apportionments fairly reflect the benefits to accrue to each public corporation and the extent to which each public corporation contributes to the conditions which make drain expenses necessary. If the Drainage Board determines that the apportionments are equitable, it will enter a Final Order of Apportionment confirming the apportionments. Under Section 483 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended, the Final Order of Apportionment shall not be subject to attack in any court, except by proceedings in certiorari brought within 20 days after the filing of such order in the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner; and that if no such proceeding is brought within the 20 day period, then the legality of the apportionments for the drain expenses shall not thereafter be questioned in any suit at law or in equity, either on jurisdictional or nonjurisdictional grounds.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at (517) 676-8395 or the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

September 21, 2017

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
Chair, Smedley-Coolidge Drain Drainage Board CP#17-253

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on October 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing and other interested persons to appear and be heard on the application of Cameron Tool Corporation for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate (IFT-1-17) pursuant to Public Act 198 of 1974, as amended, as requested by the applicant for the location indicated below:

Applicant: Cameron Tool Corporation
By: Tracy Selden
IFT Location: 1800 Bassett, Lansing, MI

Legally described as:

N 3 FT LOT 2 SHIRLEY PARK, ALSO LOTS 1 THRU 9 INCL, OUTLOTS A & B, ALL VAC SHIRANN ST SHIRANN SUB, ALSO PARTS LOTS 27 THRU 34 ASSESSORS PLAT NO 11 COM N LINE BASSETT ST 163 FT W OF E LINE LOT 30, TH N 231 FT TO N LINE LOT 31, W 1.5 FT, N 165 FT, W 167.76 FT, S 66 FT, W 169.65 FT, S 197.64 FT, E 85.66 FT TO POINT 90.34 FT W OF NE COR LOT 29, S 14.91 FT, E 80.99 FT, S 117.34 FT TO N LINE BASSETT ST, E 172.3 FT TO BEG; ASSESSORS PLAT NO 11 Tax ID 33-01-01-08-126-004, and

PARTS LOTS 31, 33 & 34 COM SW COR LOT 31, TH E 125 FT, N TO S LINE LOT 34, E 169.65 FT, N 66 FT, W 283.88 FT TO E LINE LMRR, S'LY 264.03 FT ALONG R/W TO BEG; ASSESSORS PLAT NO 11 Tax ID 33-01-01-08-126-093, and

LOTS 27, 28 & W 25.7 FT LOT 29, EXC COM 9.3 FT W OF NE COR LOT 29, TH S 14.66 FT, W 80.99 FT, N 14.91 FT, E 81.04 FT TO BEG, EXC PARTS ABOVE LOTS USED AS BASSETT ST R/W ASSESSORS PLAT NO 11, Tax ID 33-01-01-08-126-082.

Approval of IFT-1-17 as requested by Cameron Tool Corporation will make certain new property investment (real property) eligible for tax abatements and/or exemptions. Further information regarding this application may be obtained from Mr. Karl Dorshimer, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, 1000 South Washington Ave., Ste. 201, Lansing, Michigan, 48910, (517) 702-3387.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC
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CP#17-257



ARTS & CULTURE

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Liquid spice is very nice

First Michigan bitters company gets start in Lansing

By EVE KUCHARSKI

A few ounces of cider, a splash of pumpkin cocktail mix, some whiskey barrel-aged maple syrup, fresh thyme, crisp apple and the most important ingredient — a few drops of Smoked Apple Chicory bitters. Michael Fair, 23, the founder of Black Ink

NKH Ladies Soup "Social" w/ Black Ink Bitters Pumpkin Punch Mocktails

Sunday, Oct. 1
\$20 Donation
Williams-Sonoma
3040 Towne Centre Blvd.,
Lansing
(517) 316-9314

Bitters, shook this up, poured it into a glass and served it over some tonic water. A garnish of thyme sprig and an apple slice made the non-alcoholic "mocktail" complete. The taste of the drink could only be compared to a liq-

uid pumpkin-apple pie — in the best sense of that phrase.

Fair is getting ready to showcase his unique brand of alchemy at Williams-Sonoma for an Oct. 1 event for the benefit of No Kid Hungry. There, he will both provide refreshments for a good cause and have a larger captive audience than normal to spread the word about Michigan's first and only bitters maker.

"In an elevator speech, if a customer walks in they'll ask, 'What's bitters?' I'll say, 'It is a food flavoring agent, used as an extract,'" Fair said.

An exotic, ever-growing menu of flavors started with Fair's first experiment in October 2016, Smoked Apple Chicory. "It was not a good batch — trial and error," he said. It took three months to finally get the first batch down. By December and January, his crew developed 10 flavors, and by June of this year, Fair had two of his biggest flavors yet, which he dubbed Blanc and Noir.

Blanc is a Caribbean coconut raspberry flavor, and Noir is smoked chocolate cherry, two of 12 flavors that Fair has personally developed.

To create bitters, one must infuse high-proof alcohol with a variety of chosen flavors. But just because a flavor might have a simple title, like Lemon, doesn't mean that creating it is an easy feat.

"Each container contains between seven and 14 ingredients — even though it might say Orange as a flavor," Fair said. "We do fresh orange rinds for that flavor profile and we call that our flavoring agent, but we also have to add in other components to enhance it and make it more complex at the same time."

According to Fair, the whole process is a balancing game.

"Too much tartness or too much sweet-



Eve Kucharski/City Pulse

Michael Fair, 23, is the founder of Black Ink Bitters. His is the only bitters company in the Michigan market.

ness? We can add a couple drops of bitters," Fair said. "For my company, it's potent. Just like any other traditional bitters company, it is three to five drops. Most bartenders that I've seen use three and, if you can handle the flavor and you really want a bitter note, you can add the full dropper, which is considered a dash."

Methodical, focused and persistent are three words that could describe the young entrepreneur. His obsession with flavors, how to combine them and pair them with food and drink began while he was a student at Michigan State University.

He started by studying standard cocktails as a bartender at the English Inn in Eaton Rapids. He went into more depth with mixology courses and focused on bitters as one of his experiments. "It's very similar to infusing drinks, but it's more in a concentrated form," Fair said. "Bartending at its finest got me interested in trying to make my own product. I am very experimental and I have a very big creative outlet when it comes to making craft cocktails."

Originally, Fair thought he'd name his company Kraken, after the legendary Nordic sea monster. Though that didn't stick as the name, the logo did. Fair knew that he wanted the company to be different and eye-catching right off the bat.

"We definitely wanted our gold kraken to go with the black ink, and we just like the

classic gold," Fair said.

By March of 2017, the company was up and running and its black, 1-ounce bottles began to hit the shelves. Fair said his eye-catching bottles grab attention, but he sometimes has to explain how best to use the product.

Bitters can be used effectively in baking as well as in drinks and other cooking. However, unlike common extracts like vanilla, bitters come with a greater complexity of flavor. But Fair doesn't sacrifice quality for the sake of complexity. Although he said he respects the existing "old school" bitters like Peychaud's and Angostura, he will not infuse his product with anything but natural flavors.

"Those are both great bitters. They've been on the market for years, and I still use them to this day," he said. "However, they are old school and they use artificial flavors and ingredients as well as dyes to get their signature color."

Fair considers himself a part of the "new school" — all Michigan-made, hand crafted, with nothing artificial. "It is the most natural you can get," Fair said.

Now, Fair is working to spread the word about his budding company. Currently, his warehouse is part of the Incubator Kitchens at Allen Market Place, and he does regular weekend showings at the Williams-Sonoma at Eastwood Towne Center. There, he is able

to demonstrate his craft, while building on his existing customer base.

Williams-Sonoma offered Fair the opportunity to demo new products on their line with names like Five Apple Cider, Mulling Spices and Five Apple Pumpkin Punch. "I actually came in on the day that they opened it and I showcased it as a brand-new cocktail mix that they offered," Fair said. "I made fresh mocktails, non-alcoholic, for customers walking into the store. I get to sell my bitters in the store too."

In less than a year, he's also been able to catch the eye of a local bar.

"American Fifth Distillery on Larch Street, right across from the Luginuts stadium — they have a few of their craft cocktails holding some of our smoky flavors like Smoked Apple Chicory to some of our brighter tones, Mint Hibiscus and Blueberry Vanilla," Fair said. "Those are very popular flavors."

He said he looks forward to growing the local business through events like these.

"As of right now, it's just in the Greater Lansing area, so it's big, but not that big," Fair said. "We hope to expand to other retail stores and other bars as well."

But he has already carved out one distinction he is enjoying while it lasts.

"We are holding the market solo," he said. "We're the only Michigan bitters company right now."



Help keep City Pulse strong



Dear readers: When we launched City Pulse in 2001, our page count was a paucity of advertising in those days. Fortunately, advertising has grown in content, even though advertising has been virtually our sole source of revenue of 23,361. But with growing circulation comes more printing expense. To help us, we can maintain and expand our content — as we are doing this week. In this issue, you will find an envelope for checks and credit card contributions (a form is on page 12). If you want City Pulse stay strong. On these pages, you can read the thoughts of three prominent Lansing area journalist Eric Freedman and Deborah Mikula, the executive director of the Art Center. Please consider showing it with a contribution. Remember, a free press is not free.

Shedding light on issues that matter

By DAVID HOLLISTER

I came to the Mayor's Office in January 1994 as a man with a mission. I was determined to turn my campaign promise of becoming a world class city into reality. I was convinced that the region had several components that are necessary to claim such exalted status: Michigan State University is an international institution and ranks in the top academic and research centers in the world; General Motors had its world headquarters for Oldsmobile and its major manufacturing base here; and, of course, we are uniquely the State Capitol. Additionally, we were experiencing the emergence of two thriving and vibrant new economy sectors — insurance and financial services and information technology. Clearly, these were pillars upon which one could build a world class city.

I naively believed that if I just articulated the vision and presented a plan, the community would wholeheartedly embrace my quest. It quickly became apparent that being a new mayor with a strategic plan for economic development and a skilled and professional team of cabinet members was not sufficient to earn widespread community support automatically.

After all, the Chamber of Commerce had not endorsed the incumbent mayor and had not even extended me the courtesy of an interview. The Lansing State Journal had dismissed my vision and plan as "Pollyanish" and expressed concern for my liberal, pro-labor, pro-environment voting record. Clearly, the establishment was content with the City Hall status quo and a more modest goal of being an All-American city.

As I shifted from a candidate with idealistic goals to an administrator with the hard task of everyday governing, balancing the budget, meeting with constituents, solving problems and

keeping my campaign promises, I became aware of forces at work in the economy that were threatening the very existence of General Motors' auto manufacturing operations.

In late 1995, I was informed by a GM vice president that GM would be ending production in Lansing in the near future and closing its facilities in our region. I was stunned but determined to do whatever necessary to keep GM.

The community response to my call to action would prove to be critical to our future. Some doubted that GM would ever leave because we enjoyed a 100-year history of excellent relations. Others thought it hopeless to reverse a GM decision as they were closing more than 40 plants across the country and had never reversed a closure decision. A couple of City Council members said we would be better off if GM closed because we would become more like Ann Arbor.

As we struggled to implement a "Keep GM" campaign, the pesky City Pulse continuously challenged my administration. It was seeking to establish itself as a legitimate player and adopted a super-critical approach, assuming the role of muckraker and questioning almost every initiative, motive and achievement. It was particularly critical of my commitment to transparency, openness and inclusiveness. While I talked about transparency, inclusiveness and win-win solutions, the very nature of the process of bargaining and negotiation involving GM and the UAW during the Keep GM campaign required some privacy and secrecy.

I took the scrutiny personally, because I shared many of the values and policy positions that the Pulse advocated. After months of constant negativity, I refused to engage in any interviews with City Pulse reporters and

told my staff to follow suit.

Calmer heads prevailed and after a heated mediation session, we agreed to settle our differences and focus on areas where we had a mutual interest in helping the community grow. We found a win-win solution, and we both grew from the experience.

I acknowledged that I was wrong in not allowing dialogue with City Pulse reporters. A free and inquiring press is critical to the democratic process. The Pulse had every right to question my motives, hold me accountable and point out double standards. After all, I had authored Michigan's Open Meeting Act and co-sponsored the Freedom of Information Act. I agreed that it was my job to present accurate data and explain how individual initiatives fit the big picture of becoming a world-class city.

The Pulse agreed to be more objective in its approach to reporting on City Hall. The Pulse committed to doing in-depth coverage of the policies being presented and, unlike the Lansing State Journal, distinguished itself by investing more of its resources informing the community about local government.

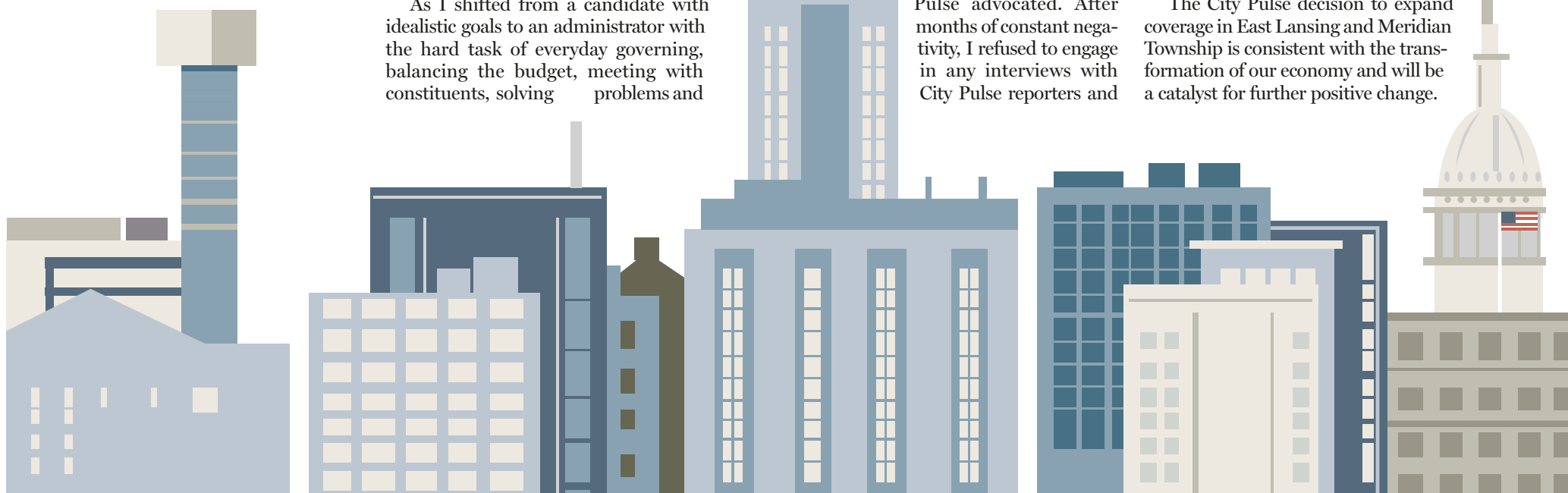
The Pulse has matured and developed a real niche in our community. It has evolved, adapted and progressed to the point that it is looked to and respected for its coverage of local government and its impact on the community.

The Lansing region is in the midst of a significant transformation. In January 2018, we will swear in a new mayor of Lansing, and the City Council could potentially have four new members. Fortunately, the two candidates for mayor embrace the notion of regionalism, have deep roots in the community and have strong personal relationships with regional leaders. I believe regionalism will be a major focus in the years to come. It is the one area where cost savings can be made without reducing services.

The City Pulse decision to expand coverage in East Lansing and Meridian Township is consistent with the transformation of our economy and will be a catalyst for further positive change.

CityPULSE

WINNER OF
EIGHT AWARDS
FROM THE
MICHIGAN PRESS
ASSOCIATION



Strong – please contribute

was frequently just 16, and it probably should have been more like eight, given the drop over the years. But our content-to-advertising ratio remains decidedly pro-advocate. Readers obviously approve: Our distribution hit a new high last week. Therefore, for the first time, we are asking readers to help support City Pulse so we can continue with the addition of a page of East Lansing/Meridian Township news. In this issue, on this page). You can also go to www.lansingcitypulse.com/donate. Please help City Pulse by asking our community members — Former Mayor David Hollister, Pulitzer Prize-winning member of the Council of Greater Lansing — on why City Pulse matters. If you agree with them, please contribute, and neither is a free newspaper. Thank you. Berl Schwartz, editor & publisher.



Alt news needed more than ever

By ERIC FREEDMAN

What's going on around here in our community? And how do we know about it?

Fortunately, we can find part of the answers to those questions every week in City Pulse.



As a journalist, a journalism professor and a 33-year resident of the community, I see the essential role played by alternative media such as City Pulse in filling gaps in public affairs coverage — whether it's news that authorities and influence-wielders seek to bury or news that mainstream print and broadcast outlets lack the staff and commitment to get out.

We're fortunate to live in a community that has long heard alternative media voices. In the mid-1960s, amidst an expanding war in Southeast Asia and more vigorous civil rights advocacy at home came The Paper, East Lansing's pioneering underground newspaper, to provide an alternative voice in a politically conservative community.

Six years ago, I wrote a column for Domemagazine.com about the history of

The Paper and its lasting legacy reflected by such publications as City Pulse. That legacy continues.

The Paper dared tackle hot-button issues such as MSU's curfew for women students, local housing discrimination and how MSU aided and abetted CIA covert ops in Vietnam. Not everyone was pleased to have an alternative voice rocking the attitudinal boat. Police conducted a drug raid on the house where The Paper was put together and where some of its staff lived. Its coverage won little favor among top university administrators.

Similarly, City Pulse's coverage of Lansing City Hall has frequently rankled Mayor Virg Bernero and other high-ranking city, township and county officials.

Its coverage remains a priority that has become increasingly essential to the citizenry as the news staffs at the Lansing State Journal, local television stations and local weekly newspapers have shrunk and shrunk and shrunk.

In addition, the fact that alternative media voices such as City Pulse exist, willing to aggressively seek and report other-

wise-ignored news in our community, may help rebuild public trust in the press. That trust continues to erode under politically charged but wildly baseless accusations of "fake news" and "fake news writers."

A 2016 Gallup poll distressingly found that only 32 percent of Americans surveyed say they have "a great deal" or "a fair amount" of trust and confidence in the news media to fairly and accurately report the news. That's down eight points from the previous year and is the highest no-confidence vote in Gallup's polling history. State officeholders, members of Congress and lobbyists ranked even worse, although that's no consolation for those of us who believe that a credible, trustworthy press is essential for democracy and an informed citizenry.

Watchdog journalism — coverage that goes below the surface to explore and investigate and explain city halls, township offices and county courthouses — may bolster public confidence in the press, especially when media revelations of wrongdoing, incompetence or lack of transparency trigger changes that benefit the public.

To illustrate impact, an alternative newspaper, Willamette Week, won a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting for revealing how the former governor of Oregon had sexually abused a 14-year-old girl while he served as

mayor of Portland. Later, the same paper's exposé of conflicts of interest and misuse of state resources by another governor and his fiancée led to the governor's resignation.

The slogan of City Pulse — "A Newspaper for the Rest of Us" — calls to mind these excerpts from a front-page editorial in the 1st issue of The Paper five decades ago:

"Our higher loyalty is to the practice of imaginative, creative, thoughtful journalism... We have loyalty to the idealism on which the best journalism ever practiced has been based. We hope unabashedly to be a forum for ideas, a center for debate, a champion of the common man, a thorn in the side of the powerful... We hope to inspire thought, to attract good writing, to train newcomers in the way of the press... We hope never to be so sure of our position and so unaware of our real job that we will concentrate merely on putting out a paper... And we intend to do all this in a spirit of editorial independence."

That is a high calling indeed, and we are fortunate to have City Pulse with the same commitment.

Pulitzer Prize-winner Eric Freedman is an MSU journalism professor and director of Capital News Service and the Knight Center for Environmental Reporting.

Lansing's partner in the arts

By DEBORAH E. MIKULA

This region has a plethora of arts and cultural organizations and individual artists, and I know each and every one of you has experienced the power of the arts firsthand — whether that is experiencing a painting, attending a performance,



rockin' it out at our favorite tavern, visiting a museum with our children, attending one of the hundreds of festivals or seeing our children participating in an after-school music program. And where do we find out most of these happenings? City Pulse, of course.

City Pulse is the "go to" media for

cultural events and art happenings in the capital area. Without a doubt, they are on top of not only the traditional, larger arts activities, but they also have their ear to the ground and make sure that we know of smaller events and the backgrounds of the artists that work so hard to show off their talents.

We owe much thanks to City Pulse for making sure that the arts are highlighted at every opportunity and are at the focal point of all that happens here — bringing us together and helping us build the fabric of our community.

Since our founding in 1965, the Arts Council of Greater Lansing has played a key role in ensuring the health and vitality of the capital region with a mission to support, strengthen and promote arts, culture and creativity. Our region's identity, spirit and continued economic growth are defined by our arts and culture sector, which includes our cultural organizations, artists and prominent history of creative expression. Without our partners and our collaborators, we would never be able to achieve all that we envision. City Pulse is, and always will be, a part of that network.

City Pulse deserves to be recognized for its vision to put arts and culture at the top of their agenda. It provides a comprehensive source to find creative places to visit, experiences to be had, and ways to become involved in the region's arts and cultural organizations. It showcases emerging

and professional artists, musicians and creatives equally and without bias. What we have in the capital region is something many communities do not have — a weekly source of arts and culture information right at our fingertips.

The value of arts and culture can't be understated — this is what makes our communities stand out from each other. By putting a spotlight on all that makes us special, unique and authentic, City Pulse has become a true partner, collaborator and ally to the arts community.

Just as City Pulse has been a true partner of the Arts Council, I hope you will be a true partner of City Pulse by helping it maintain and expand its coverage. After

all, a free newspaper isn't free.

(Deborah Mikula is the executive director of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. For the last two summers, City Pulse has helped the Arts Council through the "Summer of" program featuring original cover art that is auctioned at the Arts Council's Holiday Glitter fundraiser, which this year is Dec. 5.)



Give \$100 or more and receive a t-shirt with me, Mimi the office dog, on it!

To pay by check or credit card, use the enclosed envelope or go to lansingcitypulse.com/donate

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City Pulse thanks you for helping us maintain and expand award-winning local coverage.

CURTAIN CALL

Emotional roller coaster 'I Now Pronounce' sparkles, stresses and stimulates

BY DAVID WINKELSTERN

Its story had more ups and downs than an M. C. Escher stairway painting hanging in the elevator of a two-story building, but what remained consistent in "I Now Pronounce," was a talented cast who could adapt to any level or circumstance.

The set — designed by Jeff Boerger who played the Rabbi and Mrs. Goodman — consisted of nine plain panels set at different depths and nothing more. Often, a singular character would venture on the unadorned stage without props. Sound effects were rare, and lighting was never complex. With limited frills, the actors could be captivating and engaging.

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s "I Now Pronounce" was filled with silliness and heartache, drunken hilarity and cruelty and belly laughs and gut-wrenching moments. It was a black comedy about a dressed-in-white bride. An endearing, seven-person ensemble adjusted smoothly through every oddity of the Tasha Gordon-Solomon play about a wedding loaded with bumpy spots.

Kathleen Egan as a loaded, loveless bridesmaid gave authenticity to her feigned inebriation in a loveable way. In

a fancy blue bridesmaid dress — perfectly designed by Anna Szabo — Egan offered a wobbly and bubbly charm while drinking blue drinks that turned her tongue a matching hue. Her realistic chewing back spew and ralphing behind a panel had me throwing up my hands in delight.

Sally Hecksel as Eva — a role played by Hannah Feuka this weekend — was forceful as a single woman with a multitude of issues. Early in "I Now Pronounce," wearing a matching, blue dress, Hecksel showed a more sober image. As the play progressed, she exposed layer after layer of emotions and sides of her character in dramatically convincing ways.

Joe Clark played Adam, a mostly-timid groom, in a very un-timid manner. Michael Temple, as groomsman Seth, provided personality and pizzazz to his part with a perfectly passive portrayal of a plagued pal. Grace Hinkley was the embodiment of a bride pushed to the limit — making a disagreeable character agreeable to watch.

Just as other cast members, Angela Dill, Taylor Rupp and Lauren Kreuer, skipped in and out of the panels and off-stage with ease. I judged the supposedly pre-teen flower girls as Goldilocks might: Too tall and old, too tattooed for a kid and "just right." Just like every member of the Peppermint Creek Company, the trio kept in character and kept performing while they exited behind a wall or into an aisle.

See Pronounce, Page 15

Positive change Mackerel sky showcases its end-of-year events

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

No strangers to change, Tom and Linda Dufelmeier, both 68, have been operating an art and contemporary craft gallery across from MSU's campus for nearly 30 years. The couple has weathered variances in consumer tastes, moving the business and learning in a quickly developing landscape. It's all fitting, however, because change and adaptability are exactly why they called their business Mackerel Sky.

Tom Dufelmeier explained that the name came from a Meryl Streep movie, "Plenty."

Mackerel Sky

Tues. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun., Noon - 4 p.m.
211 M.A.C. Ave., East
Lansing
(517) 351-2211
mackerelsky.com

"In one scene, she looked up and said, 'Oh, it's such a wonderful mackerel sky,'" he recalled. "When we looked it up, we found out it was a sailor's and fisherman's term that means a change in the weather. We were between things at the time and making choices about how we were going to go forward. That was a perfect name for it."

The couple quickly found their niche when they set up shop at the Ann Street Plaza, although it is now located on M.A.C. Avenue.

"We opened in 1990 and there was a lot going on in town at that time, but we tried to open with things that people didn't have," Linda said. "At that time, there wasn't any place to carry artisan-made jewelry."

Tom Dufelmeier said that their approach to their business is the only thing that has stayed stationary. The gallery is now located on M.A.C. Avenue.

"We have tried to carry quality, handmade crafts," Tom said. "We work harder and harder to find excellently made things at a price that people are willing to pay — that's our biggest challenge. Styles have changed over 30 years, but primarily, we're still doing the same things we did when we opened."

Now, the Dufelmeiers are getting ready to host a variety of local artists with their upcoming events schedule. First up on Oct. 1 is Debra Oliva. She is a Chicago-born artist, who moved to Okemos and maintains a ceramics studio there.

"She's a phenomenal, nationally recognized potter who's quiet in her community, but has been in numerous group and single shows throughout the country," Linda said. "We carry her work on and off in the gallery and had a trunk show with her. But I really wanted to have a single exhibit with her." The show will continue through Thanksgiving.

From ceramics, the couple will move



Courtesy Photo

Debra Oliva is an internationally-known ceramic artist who has been working in the field for 23 years. Her studio is in Okemos.

on to hosting a jewelry exhibit from Arlee Kasselmann. This trunk show will show off a large selection of the Tucson-based jewelry-maker's work for a week from Oct. 21-28.

"She concentrates on gems primarily," Linda said. "But she uses them in extremely tasteful and affordable ways — sterling silver, 18-carat gold over sterling silver over gems."

The gallery will also host two ornament exhibits in time for the holidays, although next week the ornaments will be spookier than usual.

"We have been carrying the work of David Barber — he's a Flint artist. He makes ornaments made from nickel sheet that he hand cuts with a miniature jeweler's saw," Linda said. "He makes different forms and we carried his Christmas ornaments for a long time. A number of years ago, we discovered that Halloween is his favorite holiday, and he makes these outrageous nickel sheet ornaments that are all Halloween-themed."

More traditional ornaments can be purchased on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., as Mackerel Sky marks an 8-year-old store tradition of offering signed ornaments. Martin Biedermann of Biedermann & Sons will autograph these works for interested buyers.

"Biedermann & Sons is a company in Chicago that is from Germany originally, in a certain town in which there's an old tradition of making hand-sawn ornaments," Tom said. "These are actually in the same vein as David Barber makes, only these are gold-plated brass."

To finish off the year, Mackerel Sky's Christmas show will display quilts this year by Haslett-based artist Carol Trojanowski, whose works appear to be paintings from a distance.

The couple is looking forward to each of these events and working with the many artists that they've developed working relationships with over the years, but they urge visitors to come not only for the exhibits.

"We always have things from all media in the store," he said. "The exhibits are just one part of what we do."

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Pronounce

from page 14

I credited such details to director Jordan Climie.

Since Climie “encouraged collaboration” from cast members, much of the superb character features could be attributed to the actors. They worked with a vague script without written scene directions or role insights. Despite that — and the lack of stage embellishments — the ensemble brought to life a varied group in a wedding full of horrific, surprising, outrageous and crazy events.

Not an easy task. Peppermint Creek

pulled it off. They often did so by pulling at our heartstrings or making us laugh at serious themes about relationships. “I Now Pronounce” was filled with questions about marriage, commitments and friendships, but is not recommended for fiancées, newlyweds, or anyone on the brink of divorce. Although peppered with lots of humor, the play also inspired lots of salty tears. Also, for every hilarious antic, there were about three displays of brutality.

I couldn’t imagine another ensemble making such an emotional and chaotic script succeed as the peppy Peppermint troupe did. Thanks to them, I now pronounce “I Now Pronounce” 90 minutes of stimulating theater.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE

LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017 FOR THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017 CITY GENERAL ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the CITY OF EAST LANSING,
Counties of INGHAM and CLINTON, State of Michigan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE CITY OF EAST LANSING, WILL HOLD AN ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 7, 2017.

For the purpose of electing:

East Lansing City Council Two (2) Members

For the purpose of voting on:

INGHAM COUNTY BALLOT QUESTION

ESTABLISHING SEPARATE TAX LIMITATIONS FOR INGHAM COUNTY, THE TOWNSHIPS, AND THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Shall separate tax limitations be established for an indefinite period, or until altered by the voters of the county for the County of Ingham and the townships and the intermediate school district within the county, the aggregate of which shall not exceed 8.0 mills as follows:

	Mills
County of Ingham	6.8
Townships	1.0
Intermediate School District	0.2
Total	8.0
	YES
	NO

CITY BALLOT QUESTION

Shall Section 10.5 of the East Lansing City Charter be amended to reduce the current limit on the amount of property tax a City Council may impose from 2% (20 mills) to 1.3% (13 mills) in fiscal years in which the City levies, assesses and collects an income tax pursuant to the City Income Tax Act with the mandatory reduction to begin the fiscal year following the first year of the tax?

YES
NO

CITY BALLOT QUESTION

Shall Ordinance No. 1413, adopting the uniform city income tax ordinance, which imposes an annual rate of tax on corporations and resident individuals of one percent and on non resident individuals of .5 percent, effective January 1, 2018, be approved?

YES
NO

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 is the last day to register or change your address for the November 7, 2017 City General Election.

To register to vote, visit any Secretary of State Branch Office, your County or City Clerk during regular business hours.

Clerk’s offices with qualified electors in East Lansing are at the following locations:

East Lansing City Clerk, 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, 48823 (517) 319-6914
Ingham County Clerk, 341 S. Jefferson St., Mason, 48854 (517) 676-7201
Ingham County Clerk, 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, 48933 (517) 483-6101

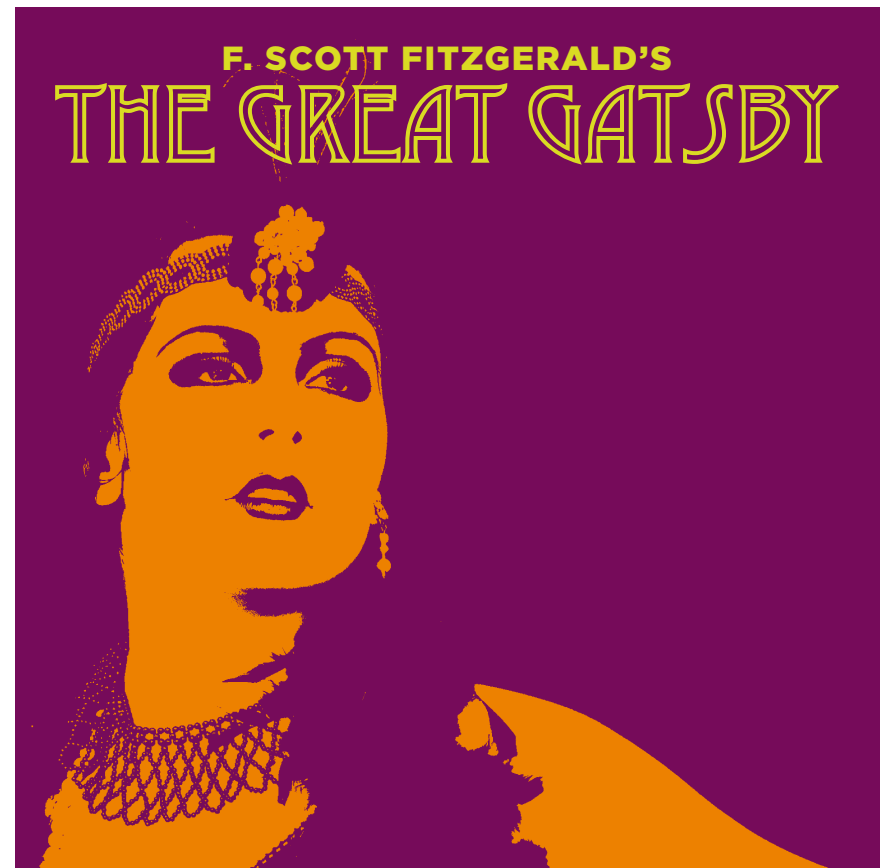
The East Lansing City Clerk’s Office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For complete listing of candidates and proposals, check the Ingham County Clerk’s website at www.ingham.org

Marie E. Wicks
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#17-254

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Vietnam, quick and dirty

'Odyssey of Echo Company' runs rings around Ken Burns

By **BILL CASTANIER**

"The War That Never Ends" was a fitting headline for a recent New York Times story about "Vietnam," the 10-part, 18-hour documentary by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick and its 612-page companion book, "The Vietnam War."

The photography and graphics in the \$50 book by Geoffrey Ward are stunning, sumptuous and disturbing — often at the same time. However, it's a textbookish read with a dull, emotionless tone.

By coincidence, a new, more light-footed book by Michigan author Doug Stanton has also been added to the groaning shelves of books on the Vietnam War, and its arrival couldn't be timelier.

"The Odyssey of Echo Company" follows 46 members of an Army reconnaissance platoon of the 101st Airborne Division during the 1968 Tet Offensive. The story is told primarily through the eyes of one soldier, Stan Parker, who is wounded repeatedly during his time in Vietnam.

Compared to the straightforward narratives of Ward's book, "Odyssey" is an often brutal, hazy and disturbing tale of young men trying to survive what Stanton calls an "asymmetric and chaotic war."

Stanton weaves interviews, official reports and letters from soldiers into a larger, terrifying tale, told from a perspective of 18 to 20-year-olds. He takes the war to a personal level by drilling in on individual stories, a technique he used in his first war book, "In Harm's Way," about the sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis.

"During the Vietnam War, all Americans saw on TV images of fighting, but no one ever heard about the pain or sense of brotherhood of individual soldiers," Stanton said in a phone interview. "When they came home, no one wanted to listen; no one wanted to hear about the pain or the times punctuated by their life's most joyful moment — staying alive. So the Vietnam veterans lived in isolation when they came home."

Stanton does not avoid pain, either

physical or emotional, in his book. In one chapter, "The Girl with Peaches," he retells one of Parker's more difficult moments when Stan happens upon a little Vietnamese girl: He "feels he needs to do something for her ... And then he has what can only be described as an epiphany, an awakening. He is able to see the whole lousy war through her eyes."

Parker then shares a tin of peaches with the girl: "He has this overwhelming desire to make the girl safe." As Parker is running to catch up with his unit, he hears gunshots. The next few pages of the book describe the terrible madness that descends around Parker when he learns the little girl has been shot. It is one of the more horrific and psychologically difficult war scenes you will ever read.

Every page of Stanton's book leads to another incongruous moment. Just a few short weeks after Parker's arrival in Vietnam, he finds himself in a firefight. It's his birthday, and he is 20 years old.

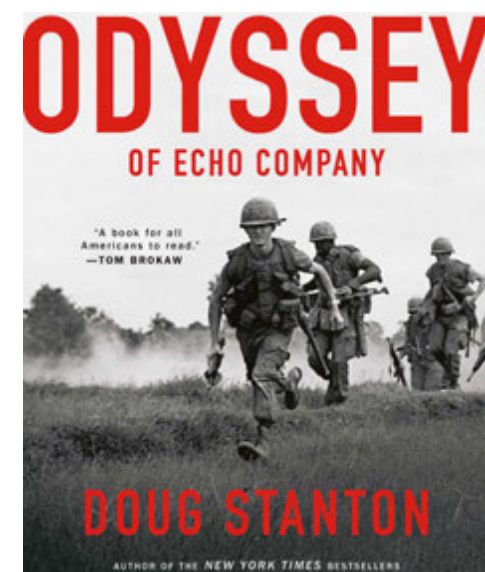
In a moment of surrealism, the next day, he is on stage with Raquel Welch, who is on the Bob Hope Christmas Tour. A few days later, he is on patrol and no longer a combat virgin.

Parker, the primary vehicle through which Stanton tells the story, is a larger-than-life, heroic figure who is brought up to fight for the underdog. His bravery and loyalty to his fellow combatants is breathtaking.

"He was born to be a soldier," Stanton said. We later find out that Parker, after returning home, signs up for a special National Guard unit that will take him to the world's hot spots and stays on duty until he is nearing 60.

Through Parker's story, Stanton implies that an entire generation lost its combat virginity and its moral compass in Vietnam.

If you get a chance to watch the new 18-hour documentary, go ahead, but keep in mind that during those 18 hours, the soldiers Doug Stanton writes about would have already been dropped into three different landing zones to engage the enemy and returned to base, some of them no longer alive.



Courtesy Photo

Michigan author Doug Stanton contributes a gripping non-fiction tale to the many existing Vietnam war books with "The Odyssey of Echo Company."

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

Talk and Signing with Eisner-Award-Winning Comics Author MARC ANDREYKO

Tuesday, October 3 @ 7pm
Eastwood Towne Center location

Marc is a NYT-bestselling comics and television writer best known for Manhunter, Batwoman, and Wonder Woman '77, all from DC Comics; The Illegimates with Taran Killam, from IDW Publishing; and for organizing the Love is Love anthology, from IDW Publishing with DC.

Talk and Signing with NYT-Bestselling Fantasy Author PETER V. BRETT

Wednesday, October 4 @ 7pm
Eastwood Towne Center location

Fantasy fans will be geeked for this event with Peter V. Brett, celebrating the release of The Core, the fifth and final book in the NYT-bestselling Demon Cycle series! This is a ticketed event. Please visit SchulerBooks.com for details.

The It Devours! Book Tour: WELCOME TO NIGHT VALE in Conversation

Tuesday, October 24 @ 6pm
Meridian Mall location

Meet the creators of the #1 international podcast Welcome to Night Vale! Please visit SchulerBooks.com for ticketing details.

for more information visit
www.SchulerBooks.com

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Book club

The newly formed City Pulse Book Club will meet for the first time 7 p.m., Oct. 5 at Schuler Books in the Eastwood Towne Center. The club is reading "X: A Novel" by the daughter of Malcolm X, Ilyah Shabazz, and Kekla Magoon, a young adult author. MSU professor John Aerni-Flessner, who has taught a class on Malcolm X in Lansing, will discuss the role Lansing had in forming the civil rights' leader's world view.

The novel is a fictionalized version of the time Malcolm X, then Malcolm Little, lived in Lansing from 1928-1940.

The novel has been called a classic story of redemption and reinvention.

The book club will focus on books primarily by Michigan authors and or books about Michigan. Participants will read a new book about every two months.

Ilyah Shabazz will appear 7 p.m., Oct. 12 at Erickson Kiva, the site of a seminal, fiery talk by Malcolm X in 1963.

As an adult, Malcolm X returned often to Lansing to visit family and friends. He married Shabazz in Lansing in 1958.

Anyone who is interested in reading the Malcolm X book is welcome to join the Book Club.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Eve at (517) 999-5066.

Wednesday, September 27

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Alcoholics Anonymous. 6 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-4114.

Capital Area Recycling and Trash - Senior Discovery Group. Capital Area Recycling and Trash shows recycling methods. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. ow.ly/nXIK30fa7D2.

Homework Help. Drop-in help for grades K-12. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Mindfulness. Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-5820, ow.ly/3aWI30crLc.

Reiki Refresh Class. A class for trained practitioners who want an update. 5-9 p.m. \$95. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave., Suite D, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Writing Workshop Participant Reading. Writing workshop with Professor Anita Skeen. 6 p.m. FREE. Scene MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Monte Pride at Allen Farmers Market. 5-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

MSU Faculty Recital: Corbin Wagner. Featuring modern and historic French horns 7:30-9 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/O53D30fa6UM.

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

EVENTS

Allen Farmers Market. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

CADL Business Librarian: Beginning Facebook for Small Business. Registration required. Social media plan seminar. Noon-1 p.m. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq., Suite 110, Lansing.

Practice Your English. Practice reading and speaking english. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public

See Out on the Town Page 18

Musical duo plumbs Great Lakes themes



Courtesy Photo

After releasing their third studio album, Gifts or Creatures will play at the Robin Theatre on Sept. 29.

Sept. 29

An album that covers such varied topics as trapping and trading, Pontiac's rebellion and the arctic grayling doesn't come along often — if it ever has — but these and other Great Lakes themes are gathered together with a purpose in the latest work from the formerly Lansing-based band Gifts or Creatures, "Fair Mitten (New Songs of the Historic Great Lakes Basin)," just released on Friday, Sept. 22.

City Pulse sat down with the husband-and-wife duo of Brandon and Bethany Foote to get a feel for the album's environmental theme, to chat about its production and learn about their upcoming tour.

How did you get your start playing music together?

Brandon: We didn't really play music before we were married. We became friends, and then we started dating, and then we got married, and I bought a vintage Wurlitzer electric piano for Bethany and gave it to her as a wedding gift. We set it up in our house, and we just started tinkering with it, and six months later, we went in and recorded our first record with some friends.

Bethany: It's been a way to connect and have something to do together because we have other jobs, and it's kind of a nice shared creative outlet/hobby/activism in many ways.

Speaking of activism, this album in many ways draws attention to the environment. Why did you create an album about the Great Lakes basin?

Brandon: It started with a tune that we recorded for our last album that didn't make it. That was kind of the catalyst, and that was "Trapping or Trading." We rerecorded it and kind of reworked it, and it ended up on this record. It kind of spiraled down from there. The floodgates opened, and I spent a little time at the archives of Michigan. We have a Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad map that sparked a little bit more interest. There's a watermark of the arctic grayling on it, and this fish made an impact. What was the story on it, and why is it no longer here, and what was so magical about catching them? That became a song. The railroad, there's a tune called "The Grand Rapids Brakeman." It just opened up. I just wanted to know more about where I'm from and who was here before me.

What are some environmental issues that worry you today?

Brandon: We have Line 5 going through the Mackinac Straits right now, and that's carrying tons of Canadian crude oil. What if that was to burst? We also have Nestle that's essentially bottling water for free, making billions of dollars off of it in profit. Those are all things that are important things to Bethany and I, and to our community.

Do you find it difficult getting people excited about topics like the environment?

Bethany: I think there's an element of that. Of making connections with people and disarming them a little bit. Certainly, in today's day and age, the polarization and

the walls that go up with people as soon as they have that perception that we disagree or that they see things differently. I think music has a magical way of disarming some of that.

How long did producing this work take?

Brandon: We worked on the record for about a year and a half on and off in the studio. We did three major sessions with our band, the guys that are playing with us: Dan Rickabus of the Crane Wives, Max Lockwood, who plays in the band Big Dudee Roo and he also plays with May Erlewine. So, we had this great rhythm section. Our friend Seth Bernard helped with production. We recorded in Kalamazoo at a studio called La Luna Recording & Sound with a guy named Ian Gorman, who is just an amazing Michigan engineer.

"Gifts or Creatures"

Friday, Sept. 29

\$15

8 p.m./Doors open 7:30

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington

Ave.

Lansing

giftsorcreatures.com

therobintheatre.com

Do you plan on taking this album on the road?

We're going to play regionally throughout the year, but no major touring. We're just hitting Michigan. We've played Chicago over the years. We have coming up — the Robin Theatre, Petoskey, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids.

— Eve Kucharski

Out on the town

from page 17

Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Raising Little Ones Together. Parents discuss parenting, library programs. 6-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Teen Banned Books Week. Learn history of literary censorship, play games and create a display. 4-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Thursday, September 28

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh-in 5:15 p.m. In room 207. 6 p.m. First meeting FREE. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 927-4307.

A Course in Miracles. Group on peace through forgiveness. 7-9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010, unitylansing.org.

Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice. All experience levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2125 W. Hillsdale St., Lansing. crisisrfc.

com.

Celebrate Recovery. For all types of hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church, 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing. ow.ly/p9iv30cQGgi.

Free Yoga for Kids and Youth. All ages invited. 5:30-7:15 p.m. Ages 6-13 FREE. Bikram Yoga Capital Area, 1355 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. byca.yoga/events.

Junior Achievement - More Than Money. 6-week series for grades 3-5 on smart money habits. 4-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Lansing Reiki Share. Practitioners and newcomers welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE/Donations welcome. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 335 Seymour Ave., Suite D, Lansing. willowstickceremonies.com.

TaiChi in the Park. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Veterans Memorial Gardens Amphitheater, 2074 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 242-9626.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Banned Books Read-Out. Read from a banned book at The Rock. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-0901.

iPad StoryTime. Digital storytime with interactive learning. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Concert in the Cafe: David Roth and Reggie Harris. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MSU Wind Symphony. In memoriam to Dr. David H. Maslanka. 7:30-9 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/oz9B30fjsxK.

EVENTS

12-Step Meeting. AA/NA/CA all welcome. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

Current Events. Discuss what is going on the world. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Lunch at the Meridian Senior Center. Noon-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested for ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Party Bridge. 1-4 p.m. \$2/\$1 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Scratch 101. Simple coding for ages 10-14. Call to register. 3:30-4:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115

S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643.

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

Friday, September 29

MUSIC

Joe Crookston Returns to the Ten Pound

Fiddle. Folk music and visual art. 8-10:30 p.m. \$18. Ten Pound Fiddle, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 337-7744, joecrookston.com.

MSU Symphony Orchestra. Berlioz, Schubert and Ravel. 8-9:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/xVx230fjse1.

THEATER

Coyote on a Fence. Intense drama touching on capital punishment. 8-9:30 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu.

EVENTS

Community Yard Sale. Bake sale and lunch also available. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Psalm 91 Church, 7501 Coleman Road, East Lansing. (517) 641-4935, psalm91church.org.

Flick's Family Film Festival. Family movies for all. \$5/kids FREE. Celebration! Cinema Lansing, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd., Lansing.

Intro to Filmmaking, Part 1. Ages 8 and up learn to make a short film. Call to register. 9:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351.

Scott M. Burgess Civil Air Patrol Squadron Open House. For prospective cadets ages 12-21 and families. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Baptist

Church, 1120 W. Willow Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-7821, ow.ly/EBcW30fjsg3.

Ultimate Trivial Pursuit Night. Pizza provided. Bring snack to share. Call to register. 6-9 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088.

Saturday, September 30

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lean In Lansing. Professional development group for women. Check web for location. 9-11 a.m. leaninlansing.com.

TaiChi in the Park. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 242-9626.

EVENTS

3D Printing and Designing with Tinkercad.

In library's Maker Studio. Register online. 1-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

ARTS

Art Opening: The River that Changed the World. Celebration of Au Sable River with demos and virtual river rides. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$6/\$2 ages 6-17. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 420-1342, ow.ly/m8ZZ30fjs20.

THEATER

Coyote on a Fence. Intense drama touching on capital punishment. 8-9:30 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu.

See Out on the Town, Page 19

DIVORCE FAMILY LAW

Divorce
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CMS is the outreach arm of the MSU College of Music



SEPTEMBER 29, 30 >> OLD TOWN LANSING OKTOBERFEST

Break out your dirndl and lederhosen and Prost to Deutschland! Celebrate Germany with Old Town Lansing and their 12th annual Old Town Oktoberfest. Enjoy German food, live music, dancing and 12 oz. souvenir mugs filled with German style beer. The two-day festival is a part of OTCA's fund-raising effort to revitalize Old Town Lansing. Entertainment on Friday will feature Vesela Kapela and Polish Muslim. On Saturday, the entertainment will be led by Polka Lessons with Mark Taylor, Heartland Klezmer and Atomic Boogaloo. Beers on tap feature Leinenkugel Oktoberfest, Atwater Blocktoberfest, Lansing Brewing Company Oktoberfest, Uncle Johns Hard Cider Apple and many more. The event is 21+ and pets are not allowed besides service animals.

Friday, 6-11 p.m., Saturday, 3-11 p.m. \$25 at the door, \$22 in advance, \$30 weekend pass in advance, \$40 weekend pass at the door. Old Town, Turner St. & Grand River Ave, Lansing. 517.485.4283 <http://oldtownoktoberfest.com/>

SEPTEMBER 28 >> VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT FAIR AT THE DELTA TOWNSHIP LIBRARY

Do you want to volunteer, but don't know where? The Delta Township Library has the answer for you at its Volunteer Recruitment Fair on Thursday. Over 30 volunteer organizations will be there with representatives giving information about different ways to get involved. The event is sponsored by the Delta Township Senior Council, the AARP, the Delta Township Library, the Delta Township Parks and Recreation Department and several other organizations. Although it is hosted by senior citizen organizations, it is open to anyone who is looking to give back to the community, no matter what your age is.

6p.m. FREE. The Elmwood Room, Delta Township Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x603 <https://www.dtdl.org/>

Out on the town

from page 18

Sunday, October 1 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Charlotte Yoga Club. Beginner to intermediate. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. (517) 285-0138, charlotteryoga.net.
Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 371-5119.

MUSIC

MSU Faculty Recital: Anne Nispel, soprano, and Harlan Jennings, baritone. 3-4:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/lugr30fjrY3.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. 6 p.m. \$8 dance, \$10 dance and lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Monday, October 2 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

A Course in Love. Study of spiritual psychology. 1-2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010, unitylansing.org.
Support Group. For the divorced, separated & widowed. Room 9. 7:30 p.m. St. Davids Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing.

MUSIC



SEPTEMBER 30>> THE CRANE WIVES AT ROBIN THEATRE

Robin Theatre welcomes Michigan's own Crane Wives on Saturday night. Hailing from Grand Rapids, The Crane Wives are a female-fronted, harmony-driven folk-rock/pop band. The band's website explains that its name comes from a story in Japanese folklore: "The crane wife is a bird dis-guised as a woman who spins fine silks from her own feathers, until her identity is discovered." The Crane Wives spin fine songs from whole cloth, and you will never want the melodies to leave your head. The show starts at 8 p.m. and is open to all ages. 8 p.m. \$15. The Robin Theatre 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing. (989) 878-1810 <http://www.therobintheatre.com/?lightbox=dataltm-j5v52ley>

OCTOBER 1ST>> AN AFTERNOON OF JAZZ WITH THE MUSIC OF GREGG HILL

Michigan composer Gregg Hill will host a two-hour jazz special featuring several different artists from around Michigan on Sunday afternoon in Ann Arbor. The event will include renowned bandleaders Elden Kelly and Carl Cafagna. Kelly plays a nylon string guitar, used in classical music, and the Glissentar, creating a fusion with remnants of styles from India, Africa and the Middle East. Cafagna will show off his vocals as well as his talents with the saxophone, flute, clarinet and on the drums. The event will take place at Kerrytown Concert House. 4 p.m. \$5-\$30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-769-2999 http://www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com/index.php/getting_here/

New Horizons Community Band. Learn to play an instrument or dust off an old one. 6-8 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661, cms.msu.edu.

EVENTS

Chess, Cribbage, Hand & Foot. Drop in for weekly activities. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.
Social Bridge. Play cards and meet new people. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

ARTS

Monday Night Life Drawing. Draw live models, bring own materials. 7-9 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. O'Day Studios, Suite 115, 1650 Kendale Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 897-0302.

Tuesday, October 3 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Get Your Business Found on Google Maps. How to get info online. Registration required. Noon-1 p.m. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, ow.ly/kzbp30fjrWz.
12-Step Meeting. AA/NA/CA all welcome. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.
Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE for visitors. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-2697 639. toastmastersclubs.org.

See Out on the Town, Page 21

Jonesin' Crossword

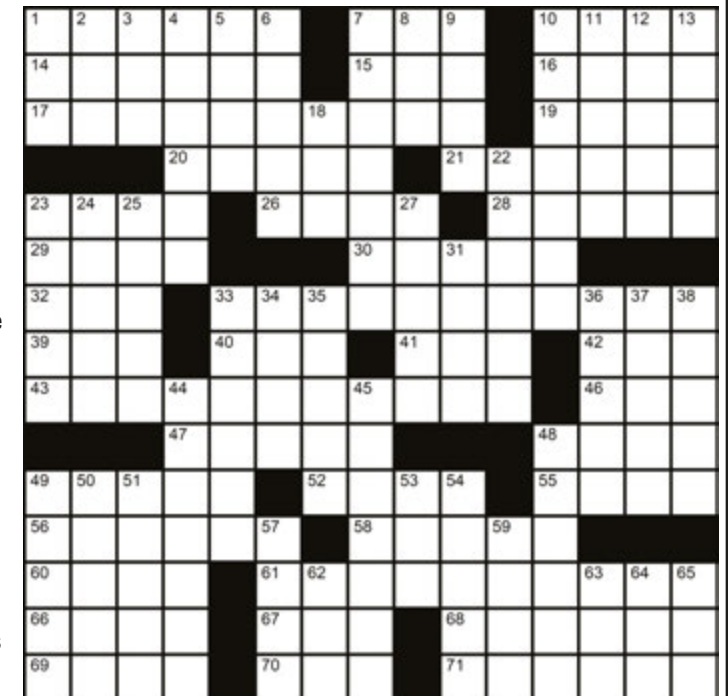
By Matt Jones

"Mass Appeal"—write large.

Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Whipped cream amount
- 7 Meat-and-veggie sandwich
- 10 It gets checked, hopefully
- 14 Medium-sized Grande
- 15 Cheerleader's yell (though maybe not so much these days)
- 16 Affirm
- 17 When to listen to 1950s jazz?
- 19 It comes between 3 and 27, in a series
- 20 Kilt fold
- 21 ___ Field (Brooklyn Dodgers' home)
- 23 Receptacle for roses
- 26 Sand hill
- 28 Singer/songwriter/actress Jenny
- 29 Oklahoma neighbor of Vance Air Force Base
- 30 Glorify
- 32 The night before
- 33 Photo that anyone can take?
- 39 Sty resident
- 40 Beehive State cap.
- 41 Herd animal
- 42 Topaz mo.
- 43 Place to nap between two mountains?
- 46 "May ___ excused?"
- 47 Supremes first name
- 48 007's alma mater
- 49 "Problematic with ___ Kasher" (Comedy Central series)
- 52 One-fifth of quince
- 55 "___ Get It On"
- 56 Say yes (to)
- 58 It comes way before 18-Down
- 60 Designer Lagerfeld



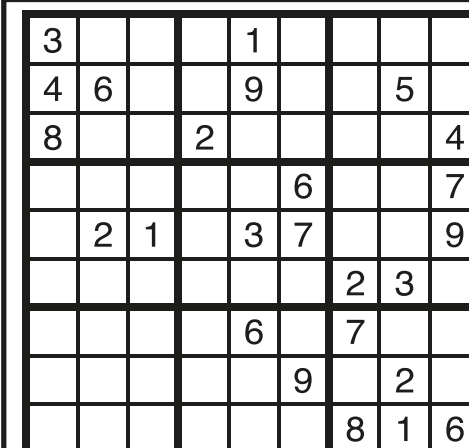
- 61 "Just calm down with your iPhone releases, OK?"
- 66 Grade sch.
- 67 Old M&M hue
- 68 Magazine publisher
- 69 Lumberjack's tools
- 70 Lofty poem
- 71 Words that can precede either half of the theme entries
- 8 Getaway
- 9 "Get ___ to a nunery": "Hamlet"
- 10 Engine cooling device
- 11 "___ to a Kill" (Bond film)
- 12 Prefix for meter or pede
- 13 Strand of hair
- 18 Letter before epsilon
- 22 Pixelated
- 23 Gore ... and more
- 24 Blacksmith's instrument
- 25 Persistent attack
- 27 Throw out
- 31 Words With Friends piece
- 33 Spotted
- 34 Edison's middle name
- 35 Barely enough
- 36 Act together
- 37 Factory fixture,
- maybe
- 38 Balances (out)
- 44 Costar of "The Hangover" and "The Office"
- 45 Original "Saturday Night Live" cast member Newman
- 48 Go by
- 49 Fabricates
- 50 Neighbor of Silver Springs, Florida
- 51 Eyeglass kit item
- 53 Plumber's right-angled joint
- 54 Bowler's challenge
- 57 ___ Cooler ("Ghostbusters"-themed Hi-C flavor)
- 59 Diner breakfast order
- 62 Experienced
- 63 Quiz site
- 64 Flowery chain
- 65 Tiny bit of work

©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 22

SUDOKU

ADVANCED



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 22

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Thurs., Sept. 28th **BROTHA LYNCH HUNG**



Brotha Lynch Hung at the Loft

Thursday, Sept 28 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$20, \$15 adv., 9 p.m.

California native and horror-core rap legend, Brotha Lynch Hung, headlines Thursday at The Loft alongside Lansing's own DJ E-Nyce. Brotha Lynch, real name Kevin Mann, is signed to Tech N9ne's Strange Music – home to his most recent album, 2013's "Mannibalector." Mann started his prolific rap career in the mid-'80s with his group, the Street Talk Crew. By 1993, he'd went solo, rebranded as Brotha Lynch Hung and collaborated with Master P on "24 Deep," Mann's debut EP. A couple of years later, Mann gained international success with 1995's "Season of Siccness" LP. The record, which features his classic single "Locc 2 Da Brain," was his first to enter the Billboard 200. Aside from his own recordings, Mann has helped produce classic tracks for other artists, like Master P's "I'm Bout It" and singles for E-40 and Mr. Serv-On.

Weds., Oct. 4th **MIKE MAINS**



Mike Mains at Mac's Bar

Wednesday, Oct. 4 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12, \$10 adv., 7 p.m.

Since 2009, Owosso native Mike Mains has been a staple in Michigan's indie-rock scene, performing at clubs across the state with his band, the Branches. After the group unveiled its debut LP, 2010's "Home," and issued the single "Stereo," it started heavily touring across the country. By the spring of 2013, the Branches crowd-sourced enough money to produce its sophomore record, "Calm Down, Everything Is Fine." The folk-tinged alt-rock LP hit stores in 2014 and featured Zach Farro, formerly of Paramore, on drums. Over the past year, Mains has been on hiatus from the Branches while busily pursuing a solo career. His new single, the poppy "My Way," was issued last month on iTunes and Spotify. Fans can hear it live Oct. 4 when he headlines Mac's Bar. Openers are Brett Newski, Earth and Sea and Red Legs.

Fri., Sept. 29th **MUSTARD PLUG**



Mustard Plug returns to the Avenue

Friday, Sept. 29 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, \$10, 8 p.m.

Since Mustard Plug released its debut DIY cassette tape in 1992 – "Skapocalypse Now!" – the group has been forerunners in the underground ska-punk movement. The Grand Rapids-based sextet, which comprises founding members Dave Kirchgessner (lead vocals) and Colin Clive (guitar/vocals), released its seventh LP, "Can't Contain It," in 2014. The disc, released by No Idea Records, features guest appearances by Dan Potthast of MU330 and Sean Bonnette of Andrew Jackson Jihad. Kirchgessner said the LP stays true to Mustard Plug's goal of "playing party music for punk rockers." For two decades, the band recorded LPs for its previous label, Hopeless Records, while touring the United States, Europe, South America and Japan. In that time, the group has played around 2,000 shows and sold more than 200,000 albums. Friday, the band headlines The Avenue Café. Openers are Miski Dee, Whoopi Goldblum and the Hunky Newcomers.

UPCOMING SHOW?

CONTACT EVE@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	80s Karaoke	Mustard Plug with special guest	#ProjectArtMatters
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Road			Bryan Schaffer, 6:30 p.m.	
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave.			Alistair Beerens, 8 p.m.	
Gladdagh Irish Pub, 2900 Towne Centre Blvd.			Kathy Ford - Blues Open Mic., 8 p.m.	
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Jackalope, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Pool Tourney, 7:30 a.m.	Alskn "walleye" AYCE	DJ, 9 p.m.
Darb's Tavern, 117 S. Cedar St., Mason.				Steve Cowles, 9 p.m.
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Daryn Larner 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Joe Burt, 6 p.m.
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb	Be Kind, Rewind
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Krazee!	Star Farm	Kathleen & The Groove Council
Harpers, 131 Albert Ave.	Bobby Standal, 6 p.m.	Bryan Schaffer, 6 p.m.		Chris Laskos, 3:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Brotha Lynch Hung, 9 p.m.	Dimond Saints, 9 p.m.	XPLOZIVO, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Michigander, 7 p.m.	Dasterds, 7 p.m.	Righteous Vendetta, 5:30 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			Daryn Larner, 6 p.m.	Bill Strickler, 8 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Don & Rush, 6 p.m.		The Tenants, 6 p.m.	TBA, 6 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Mark Weeks, 6 p.m.	John Persico, 6 p.m.
Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E State St.		Bill Strickler, 6 p.m.		
The Unicorn Lounge, 327 E. Lansing Ave.	Fragment of Soul, 9 p.m.	Fragment of Soul, 9 p.m.	Lady Luck, 9 p.m.	Lady Luck, 9 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Alistair Beerens, 7 p.m.	Mark Sala, 7 p.m.		
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.		Scott Seth hosts Open Mic., 6 p.m.	It Came from Big Sur	

Out on the town

from page 19

Duplicate Bridge. Weekly game. 1-4 p.m. \$3/\$2 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Take off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. 6 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Parish, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. tops.org.

Yawn Patrol Toastmasters. Hone your speaking and leadership skills. 7-8:30 a.m. FREE for visitors. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. yawnpatrol.com.

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287, ow.ly/Ygua4.

MSU Guest Recital: Robert Simonds, violin. American and Baroque traditions blended. 7:30-9 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Cook Recital Hall, MSU Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/ulhZ30fjrPj.

EVENTS

Bingo, Bridge, and Euchre. 1-4:30 p.m. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Game Night. Bring your own, or play provided games. 7-11 p.m. FREE. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

LCC West Toastmasters. Organization for public

speaking and leadership. 5-6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-1314, lccwest.toastmastersclubs.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. Hope for those struggling with food. 7 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 505-0068, oa.org.

Paws for Reading. Practice reading aloud to therapy dog. Call to register. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-7014, grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Reflexology. Reflex improvement sessions. Call for appointments. 10:20 a.m.-2:50 p.m. \$14/\$12 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Wednesday, October 4 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Alcoholics Anonymous. 6 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing.

International Student Speaker-Senior Discovery Group. Student presents on home life abroad. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Suits and the City. Networking group for LGBTQIA professionals. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. suitsandthecity.org.

MUSIC

Lansing Matinee Musicale Program. Asbury Brass Quintet performs. 1-2 p.m. FREE. Ascension

See Out on the Town, Page 22



SEPTEMBER 29>> BWL CHILI COOK OFF

It's getting chilly, so have some chill! Lansing's Board of Water and Light invite you to their 22nd annual Chili Cook-off at the Adado Riverfront Park. The theme for this year's event is "Music Mania." Dozens of local vendors will show off their chili recipes. Whether you have a sweet tooth, or like it hot, there will be plenty for you here. Festivities include live music from local bands, including the winner of the Battle of the Bands contest held on September 8th, merchandise tents, and a chili dog eating contest. Attendees will also have the option of buying "Chili Fast Passes" which allows you to enter the park 30 minutes early.

5:30p.m. \$5 pre-sale, \$3 children's pre-sale, \$10 ticket/fast pass, \$8 children's ticket/fast pass. Adado Riverfront Park, 501 N Grand Ave, Lansing. (517) 702-6006. www.lbw.com/cco

SEPTEMBER 18-29>> HISTORY OF MERIDIAN TRAVELING PICTORIAL EXHIBIT

Take a walk through history with the History of Meridian Traveling Pictorial Exhibit at American Legion Post #269 from September 18th to the 29th. As a part of Meridian Township's 175th Anniversary Celebration, the exhibit features an educational look at the township. The exhibit is hosted by several different locations throughout 2017, and each location will feature different stories and facts.

FREE. American Legion Post #269, 1485 Haslett Rd, Haslett. <http://www.meridiancelebrates175.com/history-of-meridian---traveling-pictorial-exhibit.html>

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Sept. 28 - Oct. 5

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Conceptual artist Jonathon Keats likes to play along with the music of nature. On one occasion he collaborated with Mandeville Creek in Montana. He listened and studied the melodies that emanated from its flowing current. Then he moved around some of the underwater rocks, subtly changing the creek's song. Your assignment, Aries, is to experiment with equally imaginative and exotic collaborations. The coming weeks will be a time when you can make beautiful music together with anyone or anything that tickles your imagination.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Some newspapers publish regular rectifications of the mistakes they've made in past editions. For example, the editors of the UK publication *The Guardian* once apologized to readers for a mistaken statement about Richard Wagner. They said that when the 19th-century German composer had trysts with his chambermaid, he did not in fact ask her to wear purple underpants, as previously reported. They were **pink** underpants. I tell you this, Taurus, as encouragement to engage in corrective meditations yourself. Before bedtime on the next ten nights, scan the day's events and identify any actions you might have done differently -- perhaps with more integrity or focus or creativity. This will have a deeply tonic effect. You are in a phase of your astrological cycle when you'll flourish as you make amendments and revisions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's high time to allow your yearnings to overflow . . . to surrender to the vitalizing pleasures of nonrational joy . . . to grant love the permission to bless you and confound you with its unruly truths. For inspiration, read this excerpt of a poem by Caitlyn Siehl. "My love is honey tongue. Thirsty love. My love is peach juice dripping down the neck. Too much sugar love. Sticky sweet, sticky sweat love. My love can't ride a bike. My love walks everywhere. Wanders through the river. Feeds the fish, skips the stones. Barefoot love. My love stretches itself out on the grass, kisses a nectarine. My love is never waiting. My love is a traveler."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): One of the oldest houses in Northern Europe is called the Knap of Howar. Built out of stone around 3,600 B.C., it faces the wild sea on Papa Westray, an island off the northern coast of Scotland. Although no one has lived there for 5,000 years, some of its stone furniture remains intact. Places like this will have a symbolic power for you in the coming weeks, Cancerian. They'll tease your imagination and provoke worthwhile fantasies. Why? Because the past will be calling to you more than usual. The old days and old ways will have secrets to reveal and stories to teach. Listen with alert discernment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The United States has a bizarre system for electing its president. There's nothing like it in any other democratic nation on earth. Every four years, the winning candidate needs only to win the electoral college, not the popular vote. So theoretically, it's possible to garner just 23 percent of all votes actually cast, and yet still ascend to the most powerful political position in the world. For example, in two of the last five elections, the new chief of state has received significantly fewer votes than his main competitor. I suspect that you may soon benefit from a comparable anomaly, Leo. You'll be able to claim victory on a technicality. Your effort may be "ugly," yet good enough to succeed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I found this advertisement for a workshop: "You will learn to do the INCREDIBLE! Smash bricks with your bare hands! Walk on fiery coals unscathed! Leap safely off a roof! No broken bones! No cuts! No pain! Accomplish the impossible first! Then everything else will be a breeze!" I bring this to your attention, Virgo, not because I think you should sign up for this class or anything like it. I hope you don't. In fact, a very different approach is preferable for you: I recommend that you start with safe, manageable tasks.

Master the simple details and practical actions. Work on achieving easy, low-risk victories. In this way, you'll prepare yourself for more epic efforts in the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be realistic, Libra: Demand the impossible; expect inspiration; visualize yourself being able to express yourself more completely and vividly than you ever have before. Believe me when I tell you that you now have extra power to develop your sleeping potentials, and are capable of accomplishing feats that might seem like miracles. You are braver than you know, as sexy as you need to be, and wiser than you were two months ago. I am not exaggerating, nor am I flattering you. It's time for you to start making your move to the next level.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In accordance with the astrological omens, I invite you to take extra good care of yourself during the next three weeks. Do whatever it takes to feel safe and protected and resilient. Ask for the support you need, and if the people whose help you solicit can't or won't give it to you, seek elsewhere. Provide your body with more than the usual amount of healthy food, deep sleep, tender touch, and enlivening movement. Go see a psychotherapist or counselor or good listener every single day if you want. And don't you dare apologize or feel guilty for being such a connoisseur of self-respect and self-healing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A queen bee may keep mating until she gathers 70 million sperm from many different drones. When composing my horoscopes, I aim to cultivate a metaphorically comparable receptivity. Long ago I realized that all of creation is speaking to me all the time; I recognized that everyone I encounter is potentially a muse or teacher. If I hope to rustle up the oracles that are precisely suitable for your needs, I have to be alert to the possibility that they may arrive from unexpected directions and surprising sources. Can you handle being that open to influence, Sagittarius? Now is a favorable time to expand your capacity to be fertilized.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You're approaching a rendezvous with prime time. Any minute now you could receive an invitation to live up to your hype or fulfill your promises to yourself -- or both. This test is likely to involve an edgy challenge that is both fun and daunting, both liberating and exacting. It will have the potential to either steal a bit of your soul or else heal an ache in your soul. To ensure the healing occurs rather than the stealing, do your best to understand why the difficulty and the pleasure are both essential.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In 1901, physician Duncan MacDougall carried out experiments that led him to conclude that the average human soul weighs 21 grams. Does his claim have any merit? That question is beyond my level of expertise. But if he was right, then I'm pretty sure your soul has bulked up to at least 42 grams in the past few weeks. The work you've been doing to refine and cultivate your inner state has been heroic. It's like you've been ingesting a healthy version of soul-building steroids. Congrats!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There are enough authorities, experts, and know-it-alls out there trying to tell you what to think and do. In accordance with current astrological factors, I urge you to utterly ignore them during the next two weeks. And do it gleefully, not angrily. Exult in the power that this declaration of independence gives you to trust your own assessments and heed your own intuitions. Furthermore, regard your rebellion as good practice for dealing with the little voices in your head that speak for those authorities, experts, and know-it-alls. Rise up and reject their shaming and criticism, too. Shield yourself from their fearful fantasies.

Out on the town

from page 21

Lutheran Church, 2780 Haslett Road, East Lansing. (517) 449-2242.

EVENTS

Apps That Make Your Life Better. Learn about "The Cloud" and how to save documents to it. 6-7 p.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Creepy Crafts. Ages 8-12 meet every week for crafts. 3:30-4:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643.

Early Literacy Playtime. Activities to promote early reading skills. 9:30-10 a.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

Eastside Neighborhood Organization's Annual Candidates Night. Local candidates speak in town hall meeting. 6-8:45 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-9109.

ESOL Reading Group. Adults practice reading and speaking English. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Family Storytime. 10:30-1:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Williamston, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191.

Preschool Storytime. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. CADL Aurelius, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason. (517) 628-3743.

Wine Night. Wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, conversation and more. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$15. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. (989)482-7910, urbanbeatevents.com.



SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

3	5	2	6	1	4	9	7	8
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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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CEDAR STREET ART COLLECTIVE

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

The Cedar Street Art Collective, a new communal retail and studio space for Lansing-based artists to create and sell their art, moved into the former home of Dicker & Deal earlier this year.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

On Sunday, Sept. 17, a few dozen people drifted in and out of an open house at a commercial building in Lansing's Baker Neighborhood, just south of downtown. Between noon and 5 p.m., they milled about, perused a small collection of paintings and upcycled furniture, and sat in on short Q&A sessions about the new entity that had moved into the location. For nearly half a century, the building had been home to one of Lansing's more colorful entrepreneurial success stories, but those who showed up on Sunday learned how the building's new tenants are slowly transforming it into something called the **Cedar Street Art Collective**.

"We've been working on [the building] since February, but it's been an organic process so it's taking a little time," said Andrew Sandstedt, creative director for the Cedar Street Art Collective. "We've had one other event like this where we let people take a peek inside to see what we're doing, and there's definitely been a lot of excitement. It's good to see people get excited about art."

The Cedar Street Art Collective hopes to be a mecca for artists who will be able to rent studio space to work on pieces. Then on weekends, the building will open to the public for pop-up art shows, presentations and special art-themed events. It's a novel way to connect the community with working artists, while sidestepping the traditional gallery model.

"This is going to be fairly different from any kind of art studio or gallery in Lansing," Sandstedt said. "The rental prices will be very affordable, and we won't be taking any commission from the artists. The goal is to very much be connected to the neighborhood and keep the focus on fine art that's made here locally from recycled materials."

Sandstedt is the building's first resident artist, and his studio is paying the rent for now. Most of his art is made from repurposed materials, including scrap metal, and he's reached out to upcycling artists first in his attempt to build the collective. That old-is-new theme is intentionally tied to the building's owner and former resident,

Dicker and Deal, which last year left its home of 43 years to move a mile down the street into a newly refurbished, \$1-million space.

That new location, 2420 S. Cedar St., is now a destination business, drawing a mix of actual shoppers and wide-eyed rubberneckers gawking at all the taxidermied animals, neon signs and glass cases displaying artfully arranged, not-for-sale antique toys, housewares and memorabilia. Sandstedt hopes to capture some of that lighting in a bottle Dicker and Deal has tapped into and put the Cedar Street Art Collective on the map as a must-see for folks swinging through Lansing.

"I definitely think we have the potential to become a destination spot for visitors," Sandstedt said. "We've got a similar mindset as Dicker and Deal, with how we take old things and give them a new life, so I think there are some great opportunities for collaboration and cross-promotion. And it's good to know they're fully supportive of us. They could have let this building sit empty, but they believe in what we're doing."

Sandstedt's partners in the venture are Annie Signs, who works as the collective's operations manager, and building manager Donna McPherson. He said McPherson, who helped coordinate the Dicker and Deal move, approached him because of his connection to the art scene in Lansing. Sandstedt recently completed a term sitting on the board for the East Lansing Art Festival, and stepped down so he could compete in the juried competition next year. He's also competed in every Old Town ScrapFest contest since its inception in 2009.

"My five-year plan is to be doing art full time, so this is all very much in line with my goals," Sandstedt said. "I think there are a lot of people out there like me, with full-time jobs who want to be artists. I think we're going to be able to help a lot of people realize their dreams. And a lot of cool art is going to be made along the way."

Over the summer, local painter Tod C. Parkhill made a mural filled with hidden references to life in Lansing on the building's north-facing wall; some of his work was on display Sunday at the open house. New flowerbeds were planted, and

another mural is planned for next spring on the south wall. A new sign also hangs over the front door featuring the collective's de facto logo: a whimsically doodled Technicolor folk art hand that seems to wave at the steady stream of traffic zipping up and down Cedar Street out front.

"It's definitely inspired people to stop in to see what we're doing," Sandstedt said. "A lot of people who live nearby have come in to say how great it is to have something creative in the neighborhood." And there are still people who pop in thinking it's Dicker and Deal. "I tell them it's moved a few blocks down, but then they stay and look around anyway," Sandstedt said.

The building will also feature a performance space when complete. Already, the room has hosted local dance groups Salsa Capital and Speakeasy Stomp. Sandstedt envisions a small stage for poetry readings, singer/songwriters, and artist presentations on their work. For his part, Sandstedt sees the Cedar Street Art Collective as the natural continuation of the city's already thriving art scene.

"Right now, places like the Broad [Museum] and the Lansing Art Gallery are doing a phenomenal job bringing in national and world artists to the area," Sandstedt said. "They're getting people paying attention to art who never did before. We're doing things proactively to perpetuate the idea that art is for everybody."

Cedar Street Art Collective
1701 S. Cedar St. Lansing
Hours by appointment only
(517) 402-2497, [facebook.com/lansingart](https://www.facebook.com/lansingart)

Know of any potential locations for New in Town? Email Allan I. Ross at allaniross@gmail.com.



Cugino's - 'Dirty Pirate'

It's against the rules to reveal the secret recipe of "The Dirty Pirate," a drink that is described only as "sweet and fruity" on the menu of Cugino's Italian Restaurant. Everyone knows what happens when you break a pirate oath, but I was determined to crack the recipe without walking the plank. After a little trickery—and an obliging waitress—I identified some of the delicious ingredients.

I mentioned my fruit allergies — a trick no pirate ever caught on to — and cranberry juice was confirmed as a main

Cugino's Italian Restaurant

11 am – 10 pm M-Th
11 am – 10:30 pm Fri
11 am – 10 pm Sat
Closed Sunday
306 S. Bridge St.
Grand Ledge
(517) 627-4048
cuginosmenu.com

ingredient. When I insisted that vodka had to be in a "Dirty Pirate," my server confessed it was "not a regular vodka," stopping short of naming the

flavor. My allergies to peaches and pineapple ruled those out.

The "Dirty Pirate" tastes like a Long Island Ice Tea, but more fruity and savory. Since gin is in those, I asked if the specialty had "a clear booze that rhymed with 'sin,'" winking with the eye that wasn't covered with a patch. I got an affirmative on that. After two rounds of the "don't nod if it's true game," I think it's safe to say rum and whiskey are also in a "Dirty Pirate."

The libation was served in a hurricane glass with lemon and lime slices. Squeezing those into the drink added sourness to offset the drink's maraschino cherry. The "Dirty Pirate" was noticeably flavorful and intoxicating. Cugino's had a "two per customer" limit. That's a rule I didn't break.

-DAVID WINKLESTERN

Hour of the sours

The surprising twang of sour beer

By MEGAN WESTERS

If you know nothing about the process of beer-making, you may imagine a glamorous confluence of golden hops and tawny nectar, not a proliferating cloud of yeast cultures and bacteria. The thing is, yeast cultures and bacteria are exactly what makes beer beer. It's not all hops and water. In fact, certain styles of beer, like sours, depend on particular bacteria to create their signature flavors.

Sours are a favorite of mine for two reasons. First, they aren't yet booming in popularity here in the U.S., like the IPA or lighter styles. Because of this, many sour beers you'll find right now, local or not, are made in small, high-quality batches. Second, late summer in Michigan is hot, and to me, nothing is more refreshing than the zing of a sour beer. Think of the effect freshly squeezed lemonade has in the summer.

Sour beers are said to have originated from the early days of beer-making, when stainless steel containers weren't available for aging. Bacteria got into the wooden barrels that were used back then and gave the beer a sour or tart flavor.

Today, brewers have identified which bacteria and yeasts create sour flavors they want. Sometimes perfecting the right combination can take years. To make things even more interesting, sour beers change flavors as they age, making them difficult to perfect. The entire process is lengthy and quite costly — another reason sour beers are so hard to come by.

But our beloved Mitten State is living up to its beer-making reputation. We are not just producing delicious sours; we're leading the pack.

Jolly Pumpkin Artisan Ales, with locations in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Traverse City and its original location in Dexter, Michigan, has become Michigan's leading sour beer maker. Jolly Pumpkin has multiple sour beers on their roster, with new ones created every year, each with its own level of tartness. La Rioja, my favorite, is one of the most distinctive sour beers in Michigan.

Many sours are lighter in color and are akin to a cider, sometimes having a vinegar-like twang. Some sours borrow and take on flavors like green apple and citrus. But some, like Jolly Pumpkin's La Rioja, are in their own category. La Rioja, while still being a sour beer, is actually an amber, with raspberry and citrus flavors rather than the apple taste many have.

While beers like La Rioja are enjoyable,



Courtesy Photo

Sour beers gain their flavor from a variety of reasons, such as the introduction of wild yeast strains.

they're an acquired taste. For the beer drinker who is newer to sour beers, the Oarsman Ale by Bell's is a standby that would be a good taste-tester. Citrus is the main flavor in this sour beer, and, if that bacteria thing crept you out, the Oarsman Ale is not made with bacteria, just wheat and malt.

Breweries like Bell's and Jolly Pumpkin are doing great things with all of their beers, let alone experimenting with their sours, but it can be easy for these bigger operations to experiment, as they both have the time and the money to spend on cultivating their sours. As of now, the only local brewery in the greater Lansing area experimenting with sours that we at City Pulse know of is Eagle Monk brewery, which currently has their Sour B-A Olde English on tap.

But even though you won't currently find sours on every tap menu in the greater Lansing areas, the prospect of seeing more in the near future look good for those of us who love our sour beers.

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Thurs-Sat 11 a.m.-1 a.m.

*growler sold separately

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

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!

TOP 5 SEAFOOD

- 1.) Mitchell's Fish Market**
Upscale seafood restaurant and bar.
Mon. - Thu., 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Fri., 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sat., 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Sun., 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
2975 Preyde Blvd., Lansing
(517) 482-3474
mitchellsfishmarket.com
- 2.) Red Lobster**
Casual dining restaurant that specializes in seafood, including lobster, shrimp, fish and more.
Mon. - Thu., 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Fri. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
3130 E. Saginaw St., Lansing
(517) 351-0610
redlobster.com
- 3.) Ukai Hibachi Grill**
Sushi bar and hibachi grill, known for entertaining hibachi chefs.
Two locations
754 Delta Commerce Drive, Lansing
Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. (Lunch hours, no hibachi.)
Mon.-Sat., 4 - 10 p.m. (dinner)
Sun., Noon - 9 p.m.
(517) 853-8888
iloveukai.com

2167 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
Mon.-Sat., 4 - 10 p.m.
Sun., Noon - 9 p.m.
(517) 349-0820
iloveukai.com
- 4.) Maru**
High quality sushi, upscale atmosphere.
Two locations
1500 W. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing
Mon. - Thu., 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Fri. - Sat., 11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sun., 11:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
(517) 337-1500
Marurestaurant.com

5100 Marsh Road, Suite A1, Okemos
Mon. - Sat., 11:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
(517) 349-7500
Marurestaurant.com
- 5.) Eastside Fish Fry**
Featuring fried home-style comfort food and seafood.
2417 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
Sun. - Thu., 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Fri. - Sat., 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.
(517) 993-5988
eastsidefishfry.com

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402 S. Washington Square
Downtown Lansing
(517) 977-1349
midtownbrewingco.com

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THE PULSIFIEDS

BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

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EMAIL AMANDA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

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30 years experience. Reasonable.
(517) 528-7870
Ask for Dave

Hours: 10am-10pm
Open 7 Days a Week!

Nothing over \$10g!
Wax \$20hg/\$40g

Drive-Thru Only after
8pm and Sundays




FREE eighth raffle
Every Saturday!

First time Patients get
2 FREE pre-rolls!

(517)-708-0129
3301 Capital City Blvd.
Lansing, Michigan. 48906

420 DIRECTORY


Want your dispensary listed? Contact Cory at 517-999-5064 • PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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

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!

CAPITAL CITY SEED BANK
821 E Kalamazoo St. Suite E
Lansing
(517) 599-0621

Come and see what we have been up to at CCSB. Many new breeders and product lines. Let us cater to your MMMP needs. Same great service with a new entrance off Kalamazoo Street. **PNW Roots, Midnight Roots, DVG** and soon, Michigan's home to **Skunk House Genetics!**

 **Spartan Meds**
1723 E. Michigan Ave.
Lansing
(517) 483-2226
Hours: Open 7 days a week
10am-10pm

Spartan Meds is a MMMP friendly location with all of your medical needs. We guarantee to have the best prices in town without losing any quality. Come in today and ask about one of our many \$25 1/8's, along with our \$150 1/4 of house wax special!

Call us to advertise here!
(517) 999-5061