

CityPULSE

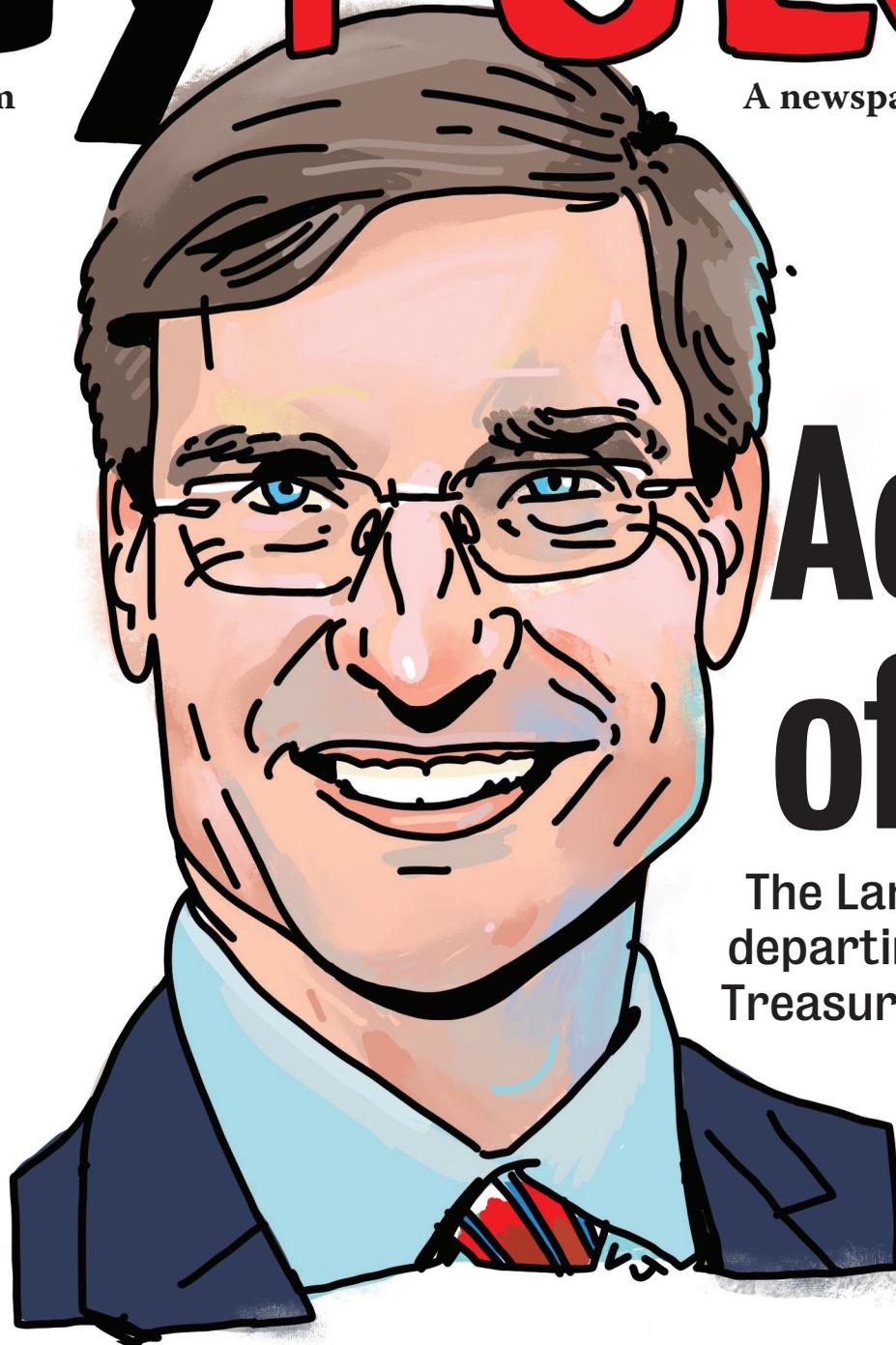
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November 3 - 9, 2021

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A newspaper for the rest of us



Acres of Eric

The Land Bank legacy of
departing Ingham County
Treasurer Eric Schertzing

See page 14

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sidebar
dine & tap
East Lansing

ARTS NIGHT OUT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5
from 5 to 8 P.M.

Featured Artist: Jane Cloutier

Every linocut is unique.

To make a linocut, an artist starts with a block of craft linoleum and carves away every area that should not show color. We're left with a smooth surface that has raised areas and lower areas. Ink is spread over the raised areas. Then paper is pressed against the block to pick up the ink.

When I make a linocut, I use carving gouges and an Exacto knife to cut away all the white background. Then I use a brayer (like a small, smooth paint roller) to spread ink over the block. I put paper over the block and rub the back of the paper. Some people use the back of a spoon for this; I use an old ceramic salt shaker. With pressure, the paper picks up the ink. I lift the paper and have a print.

Because the spread of ink and pressure of the rub is always a little different, each print is a little bit different. Each is a unique work of art, made individually, by hand.

For prints with more than one color, I next carve away more of the block and print a darker color over the first. This can go on and on - I think the most layers of color I've ever printed off one block is fourteen. Multiple blocks can be used to make one print, too, when layering colors won't give the right result.

I have made woodblock and lino prints since I was old enough to be allowed a pocket knife. Often my prints build on my past work as a botanical illustrator. Love of nature and attention to detail are the main features of my work.

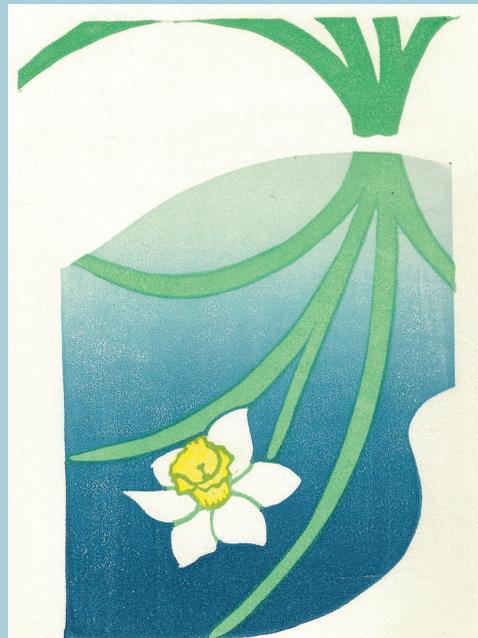
Jane Cloutier



5/17 Milk's Tree Jane Cloutier 2020



11/30 Pondside Jump Jane Cloutier 2020



2/26 Narcissus Jane Cloutier 2020



1/24 August Field Jane Cloutier 2020

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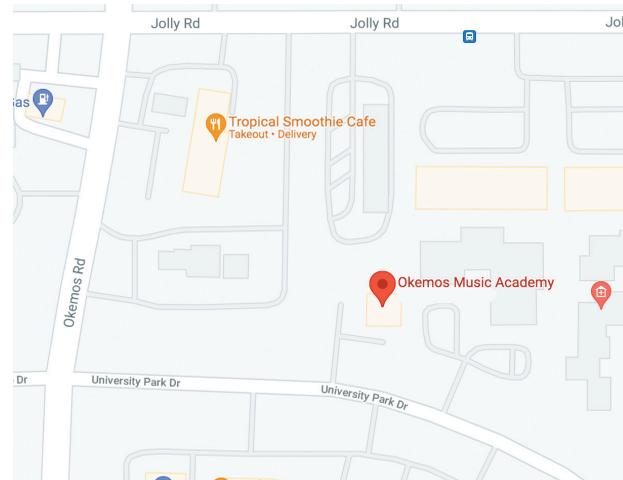
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SOLUTION: BEZOS AND SHATNER EMBARK ON MISSION TO FIND LEAF-FREE PLANET **OR... ACTUAL SOLUTION: USE A RAKE!**

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Local nurses speak out about working conditions

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Delivery drivers: Dave Fisher, Adam Mercer, Garrett Clinard



East Lansing Film Festival returns

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Two new food finds

PAGE 26



Illustration by Vince Joy

Cover Art

CITY PULSE
on the
AIR

**NOW AT 10:00 A.M.
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

BILLIONAIRES MADE BANK DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC...BUT AFTER THE EVEN WORSE PANDEMIC OF 2025, ONE RICH GUY ENDED UP WITH AS MUCH WEALTH AS THE REST OF HUMANITY COMBINED.

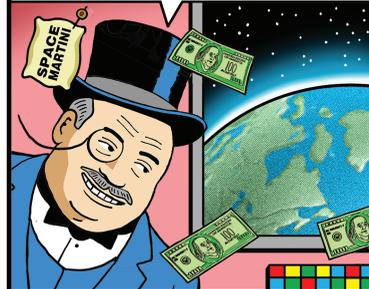
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, CAPITALISM HAS A WINNER!



ALL HAIL THE ONE RICH GUY HE IS OUR LORD AND MASTER

MEANWHILE, THE ONE RICH GUY WAS LIVING HIS BEST LIFE. TRULY, IT IS A TRANSCENDENT EXPERIENCE TO GAZE UPON THE BEAUTY OF THE PLANET FROM MY PRIVATE ORBITAL PLEASURE DOME AND THINK TO MYSELF--

--I OWN THE WHOLE DAMN THING!



THE PERMANENT GERRYMANDERED REPUBLICAN MAJORITY, ALONG WITH THE FEW REMAINING DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS, REFUSED TO EVEN CONSIDER TAXING HIS WEALTH.

IT WOULD BE UNAMERICAN TO PUNISH THE ONE RICH GUY FOR HIS SUCCESS!

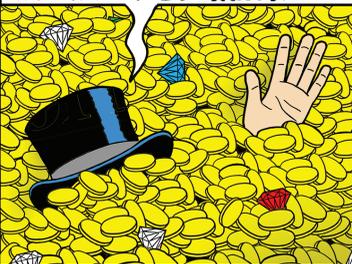
BESIDES, HE IS OUR ONLY REMAINING CAMPAIGN DONOR!



BUT THEN, IN A TRAGIC TURN OF EVENTS, HE DROWNED IN HIS SWIMMING POOL FULL OF GOLD COINS AND JEWELS.

ACK! IS THERE NO PEON NEARBY TO SAVE ME?

THOSE OLD COMIC BOOKS ABOUT THE RICH DUCK DID NOT MENTION THIS LACK OF BUOYANCY!



THE I.R.S. TURNED TO ORDINARY AMERICANS TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE.

IT APPEARS YOU HAVE CONCEALED ASSETS WHICH ARE TAXABLE UNDER THE REVISED EMERGENCY TAX CODE.

I OWN THREE ROCKS AND THIS SHARP STICK I USE TO COOK RATS OVER THE FIRE.

WE'LL TAKE TWO ROCKS AND THE STICK, AS A PENALTY.



BUT NOT TO WORRY! THE ONE RICH GUY'S CONSCIOUSNESS WAS QUICKLY TRANSFERRED INTO AN IMMORTAL ROBOT BODY.

AND NOW HE SPENDS HIS TIME HUNTING US ALL FOR SPORT! IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR!

WHAT ARE YOU, SOME KIND OF COMMUNIST? THIS IS JUST THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS! NOW STOP WHINING AND RUN!



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

A Schor thing: Schor clinches second term as mayor

In a landslide, voters reject Dunbar

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**
and **TODD HEYWOOD**

By about 5,000 votes, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor defeated Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar at the polls Tuesday, garnering about 64% of the city's vote and securing a second term as Lansing's mayor. The preliminary tally reported to the Ingham County Clerk's Office late Tuesday night, with all precincts reporting, was 11,328 votes for Schor and 6,290 votes for Dunbar, with an overall citywide turnout rate of about 21%.

"We're going to see incredible growth in the next four years," Schor told a crowd gathered at Lansing Brewing Co. after the results rolled in, also promising to work with regional partners in every section of the city with an eye toward equity to continue to improve the city.

Schor also thanked Dunbar for "a great campaign" and her 16 years of service to the city. Dunbar forewent another term on the Council to run against Schor.

The brewery was a familiar spot for Schor to celebrate the occasion. It's the same place the former state representative turned mayor hosted a party when he was first elected in 2017.

In 2017, Schor carried about 72% of the city's vote, trampling challenger and former at-large City Councilwoman Judi Brown Clarke, who only managed to gather about 28% of the votes. This week's results show that support for the Schor administration has eroded since his first election but is still very strong. Schor brought in 8,402 votes in the 2017 primary and 12,407 votes at the general election against Clarke. In this year's primary, he dipped down to 6,191 primary votes, but he regained some momentum with about 11,300 votes Tuesday.

About 12,900 voters decided the results of the August primary election in Lansing, a turnout rate of about 14.8%. This election brought out about 5,100 more voters with a turnout rate of 21% — something Schor attributed to the hard work of his campaign staff at

his election night party.

Among those in attendance at Schor's party: City Councilman Peter Spadafore — who also won his bid for reelection on Tuesday night with 30.5% of the four-candidate at-large vote. Thunderous applause and cheers greeted Schor and Spadafore at the local brewery following their victories.

Other noteworthy guests included State Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., State Rep. Sarah Anthony, former State Rep. Sam Singh, Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley, City Attorney Jim Smiertka and Ingham County Commissioner Todd Tennis. Developer Joel Ferguson also stopped by to visit.

Dunbar gathered to watch the results roll in alongside Council candidates Claretta Duckett-Freeman and Oprah Revish at Mikho's Mediterranean Cuisine on Cedar Street. Like Dunbar, both Duckett-Freeman and Revish were defeated by incumbents this week. And after the results rolled in, all three candidates declined to comment and asked this reporter to leave.

In the August primary election, Schor garnered nearly three times as many votes as Dunbar, securing his advancement to the general election with 6,191 votes to Dunbar's 2,561 votes. Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley had a competitive third place primary finish with 2,067 votes.

Still, more primary votes were tallied against Schor than in support of his second term — an indication that either Schor's team was able to convert his former primary foes or that



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Mayor Andy Schor makes his victory speech at his Tuesday night election party at the Lansing Brewing Co.

Here are the preliminary results for Lansing's Nov. 2 general election from Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum's Office as of late Tuesday night, with all polling precincts reporting:

LANSING

Mayor

Turnout — 18,000/87,412 (20.6%)

Andy Schor — 11,328 (64.3%)

Kathie Dunbar — 6,290 (35.7%)

City Council — At-Large

Turnout — 18,000/87,412 (20.6%)

Peter Spadafore — 9,296 (30.5%)

Jeffrey Brown — 7,307 (24%)

Claretta Duckett-Freeman — 7,110 (23.3%)

Rachel Willis — 6,767 (22.2%)

City Council — 2nd Ward

Turnout — 4,388/22,308 (19.7%)

Jeremy Garza — 2,847 (67.9%)

Oprah Revish — 1,346 (32.1%)

City Council — 4th Ward

Turnout — 5,437/22,707 (23.9%)

Brian Jackson — 3,102 (59.9%)

Elvin Caldwell — 2,074 (40.1%)

City Clerk

Turnout — 18,000/87,412 (20.6%)

Chris Swope — 16,435 (100%)

EAST LANSING

City Council — At-Large

Turnout — 4,706/23,021 (20.4%)

Dana Watson — 2,275 (26.2%)

George Brookover — 2,063 (23.7%)

Chuck Grigsby — 1,783 (20.5%)

Daniel Bollman — 1,562 (18%)

Adam DeLay — 1,015 (11.7%)

City Council — At-Large

(Partial Term)

Turnout — 4,706/23,021 (20.4%)

Ron Bacon — 3,682 (83.3%)

Mikey Manuel — 737 (16.7%)

See Election, Page 8

Records reveal new details in undercover sex club investigation

Advocates raise legal concerns over Lansing cops at Club Tabu

New details have emerged about the secret surveillance of a local sex club by the Lansing Police Department after it received an anonymous email that alleged the club was attracting and supporting prostitution, illicit drug use and public sex.

According to an investigatory report filed last month by Lt. Michelle Spoelma, the head of LPD's Special Operations Division, multiple undercover officers spent "multiple different days during different times" conducting covert surveillance of the parking lot at Club Tabu, which is inside Fantasies Unlimited, 3208 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., in south Lansing.

Two officers conducted an initial undercover operation in early 2020, according to a police report Mayor Andy Schor released in October. At that time, officers were provided a tour of the facility and club. During the tour, the officers (whose names were redacted because they operated undercover) "observed one male sitting at a table fully clothed watching porn on a television." Neither of them reported any prostitution or drug activity during their visit.

The two undercover officers returned on Feb. 6 "during daylight hours" and again "during the evening hours." During the day, officers again did not observe either criminal activity, according to the report. They did observe a man following the two officers and another man waiting at a gloryhole, "believed to be used for oral sex." Neither officer was solicited for sex.

In the evening investigation, officers returned and found a mostly empty club. They sat on a sofa and saw others patrons walk by who "glanced" at the pornography playing on the television. The officers were not solicited for sexual activity and again reported they saw no criminal activity.

The investigation was then discussed with staff at Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon's office, according to Spoelma's one-page report. Prosecutors told City Pulse that the discussion was informal and followed an unrelated meeting about felony drug cases in the city of Lansing.

Schor ordered the latest police reports to be released after city officials previously told City Pulse that reports

are not created for undercover operations that do not find criminal activity — a police documentation issue that several transparency advocates have raised concerns about.

The investigation, which was first reported by City Pulse in August, took place entirely in secret last February, nearly two months after an email was sent to City Councilman Adam Husain. That email — signed by Anne N. Amos — alleged that the club had allowed prostitution, illicit drug use and sex in the parking lot. That email was sent in late November 2019 and forwarded to then-Police Chief Daryl Green, who sent it off the department's Special Operations Division.

Attached to the email were several photographs that were taken inside the club and allegedly showed sexual activity. City officials have refused to release those photos out of concern that doing so may pose an unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the persons photographed, as well as a violation of state law that prohibits the distribution of photos of unclothed persons taken without their permission and in a place where they had a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Both entrances to the club have signs that note a prohibition on photography and videography. The door to the club also has signs indicating the area is private and that solicitation for prostitution or drug use are prohibited. Since the story on the undercover investigation broke, the club now has a sign just inside the front door prohibiting pho-



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Club Tabu, which caters to a gay male crowd, is attached to Fantasies Unlimited, 3208 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. A sign on the door bans photos and videos.

tography and videography.

Spoelma's report reiterated that Lansing officers had searched law enforcement databases for the name "Anne N. Amos" — a possible play on the word "anonymous" — but were unable to locate any person by that name. Officers did not attempt to send an email back in response.

Despite the criminal concerns expressed by city officials over the release of the photos, Captain Robert Backus, who supervises the entire investigations division of LPD, said there was not — and would not be — a criminal investigation of the person who sent the email. He also said there is a clause in state law that protects those who submit sexually explicit material to report a crime. Backus also said that proof of criminal intent would be difficult to establish in this case.

Kate D'Adamo, a consultant at Reframe Health and Justice Consulting, works with issues around sex worker rights and the intersection with LGBTQ. In a phone interview, she raised significant concerns about

the entire investigation and complaint.

She said the investigation was part of a national movement to surveil and criminalize sex workers. And this case was a form of "empowering individual citizens" to participate, she said.

"Looking with no evidence with something where people were victimized, and using that as a basis to do this, is incredibly common," D'Adamo told City Pulse last week. "This is a private citizen who violated folks in the adult industry with impunity, then handed it off to law enforcement who began investigating while being paid. Unfortunately it's very, very common."

D'Adamo noted that the histories of LGBTQ people and sex workers are intertwined and that conflating the two — as happened in this case — are "deliberate" and "common" across the world. She also said the entire complaint and police response was "rooted in homophobia."

She said that the failure of the police to pursue the person who sent the initial email complaint only sends a strong message that violation of people's rights leads to permission for folks to target communities with impunity. She also said she fears that it could lead to violence.

The city's message: "This is who you can victimize and we don't care," D'Adamo explained.

Former Detroit District Judge Rudy Sierra has spent a career addressing police abuses of LGBTQ people, including sting operations and undercover operations. He wrote the seminal 1990s report "Bag-A-Fag" for the former Triangle Foundation, which determined the Michigan State Police had a biased program to target men who have sex with men in public spaces.

After reviewing reports from the Lansing Police Department, Sierra labeled the investigation a violation of the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable search and seizures by the government. He said that after undercover officers toured the sex club and found no criminal activity, they had no legal basis to continue. That should've been the end of the probe, he said.

"You have to have a reasonable suspicion that criminal activity is occurring," Sierra said. "Once they walked through and saw no criminal activity, they did not have that reasonable suspicion. They should have stopped right then."

— TODD HEYWOOD

Nurses cry foul over working conditions at Sparrow Hospital

Pontifex: Morale among nurses reaches all-time low ahead of union picket

Katie Pontifex has never seen morale so low among nurses at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing.

And as the president of the Professional Employee Council, which represents about 2,200 employees at the hospital on Michigan Avenue, Pontifex knows that those broken spirits can often lead to more dire consequences — including concerns over decreased safety for patients.

“We’re fighting for not only a safe environment for ourselves, but for our patients as well,” Pontifex told City Pulse. “We simply don’t have enough staff at the hospital, in our opinion, to give the care that we want to give. Our nurse-to-patient ratios are becoming a problem, and that can be unsafe — not just for the nurses, but for the patients they treat too. We’re not the only ones who are suffering from short staffing, and it all comes down to recruitment and retention.”

Pontifex expects up to 700 people to crowd the sidewalks near the hospital this evening for an “informational picket” while the union continues to bargain with administrators for a “fair” contract — one that she hopes provides more consistent wage increases for employees, adequate and affordable healthcare coverage and can help bolster a dwindling number of staff.

The union’s existing collective bargaining agreement expired over the weekend, and both sides aren’t set to head back to the negotiating table until Tuesday (Nov. 9). And so far, Pontifex said that top hospital administrators have refused to follow existing contract language regarding “safe staffing” levels, raised healthcare costs for individual employees and fell short on proposed wage increases. She hopes that this week’s demonstration sends a clear message to Sparrow:

“Morale is very low. In 10 years, I’ve never seen it this low,” Pontifex said. “We have people leaving like crazy. Some people are leaving the profession altogether. There are people leaving bedside positions because, physically or mentally, they just cannot handle it anymore. We’re constantly being told to do more with less, and it’s time for a change. We need more support.”

Reports in the Detroit Free Press noted that every room in Sparrow’s

Editor’s note:

If you’re wondering why Sparrow Hospital is underrepresented in this story, it is because, as the story reports, Sparrow did not respond to a request to discuss the issues. This is not new: It started three years ago when City Pulse reported accreditation problems that the hospital was facing. Sparrow’s immediate reaction was to throw out all copies of City Pulse that week from the hospital and the Michigan Athletic Club, which it owns. Its long-term strategy seems to be just to ignore us, despite being a disservice to our readers and the community. We will continue to seek Sparrow’s side in stories.

emergency department was full last month, leaving some patients lining the hallways to await treatment. Some sick patients have also reportedly waited hours, even days, for a bed to open inside the hospital.

Pontifex said that most nurses, depending on their assignments, should be tasked with overseeing treatment for three or four patients. Over the last several months, that ratio has steadily increased, with some nurses being stretched to cover up to a dozen patients each.

As a result, some ill patients have been left waiting — sometimes for up to an hour — for something as simple as help using the restroom, Pontifex explained. In-room meals can also take up to four hours to arrive after they’ve been ordered. DoorDash is often a speedier delivery.

“We have some patients who can’t get up by themselves, so if they attempt to get out of bed while they’re waiting for help, they could fall and injure themselves,” Pontifex added. “Maybe they soil themselves and then they have to lie in it. That can cause skin breakdown. None of that is intentional by the staff, but when we’re caring for eight to 10 patients a piece, we’re really not spending a lot of time with them. Again, this all boils down to recruitment and retention.”



Katie Pontifex and Kevin Glaza, the president and vice president of the Professional Employee Council, pose in front of Sparrow Hospital ahead of a union picket today (Nov. 3). Pontifex said administrators can — and should — do more to address staffing shortages at the local hospital.

The stress of working with a shoe-string staff pushed one nurse to leave the hospital this year for a job at a local BBQ joint, Pontifex said. Plenty of others have also left for other hospitals.

Union officials are pushing for wage increases that are more consistent with the cost of living, which could incentivize more people to apply and encourage its long-time staff to stick around.

Pontifex said her bargaining team “asked for the moon” with a 10% wage increase this year; the administration reportedly upped its 1% counterproposal with a proposed 4% increase on Friday.

Another key item under negotiation: A proposed 12% increase for staff healthcare premiums, which Pontifex said could lead to some nurses being forced to pay an extra \$140 per month.

“We cannot provide healthcare unless we receive it first, and the wage increases aren’t consistent with the proposed healthcare increases,” Pontifex said.

“We want a wage that’s consistent with cost-of-living adjustments — nothing exorbitant. It’s a reasonable request. They offered six feet below the ground. We asked for the moon. We need to meet in the middle here.”

Union officials said that Sparrow received \$106 million in pandemic-related funding from the federal government over the last two years, which is only further compounding staff frustrations. That surplus of grant cash should also trickle down to frontliners in the form of higher wage increases and retention bonuses, Pontifex argued. Instead, she

said the nurses only got donuts.

Added Jennifer Ackley, a nurse who works in the emergency department: “I am exhausted. I am frustrated. I am tired of being asked to keep doing more with less. We need safe staffing. We need to recruit and retain nurses and other caregivers. We need to be heard. Sparrow executives cannot keep trying to use the pandemic as an excuse not to do the right thing.”

Sparrow Hospital administrators have not responded to requests for comment from City Pulse while the contract negotiations continue. Pontifex said she wasn’t surprised, noting that hashing out this latest contract has proved to be much more challenging than the last one from 2017.

Shortly after contract negotiations began in September, Sparrow Hospital hired Barnes and Thornburg, a law firm that specializes in “union avoidance,” according to its website. The union has since labeled that move as an “aggressively anti-union approach” to contract negotiations.

“I’ve had to make sure that our people are remaining calm. They’re ready to let Sparrow know where we stand. We would’ve given anything to cancel this picket and reach an agreement. We could’ve called it off in a heartbeat, but they didn’t give us any scheduled dates,” Pontifex said. “We certainly hope people turn out in force this week so they know we have the community standing alongside us. Hopefully that moves them and they see it’s time to take us seriously.”

This week’s picket isn’t a work stoppage, but it could develop into a full-blown strike if a new contract isn’t settled. Employees are still “prepared to do whatever it takes,” Pontifex warned.

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for continued coverage as the contract negotiations continue.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Union officials said that Sparrow received \$106 million in pandemic-related funding from the federal government over the last two years, which is only further compounding staff frustrations. That surplus of grant cash should also trickle down to frontline workers in the form of higher wage increases and retention bonuses, the union contends. Instead, it says, the nurses only got donuts.

Lansing not ready for 'The Crew'

They called themselves "The Crew." Kathie Dunbar running for mayor. Claretta Duckett-Freeman running for City Council at large. Oprah Revish for



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

City Council in Ward 2.

OPINION

The trio of progressive types even pulled in Councilman Brian Jackson near the end. Their goal was to topple "Nero" or Mayor Andy Schor. They didn't succeed. They failed spectacularly, actually.

Dunbar opted against running for reelection to the City Council to run against Schor. Among the Election Day voters, she kept it respectable, winning 45% of the vote. When the older voters had their say, though, Dunbar tanked, losing 64% to 36% when it was all said and done.

She hoped she'd be succeeded by Duckett-Freeman, but when the absentee ballots came back, her fellow Crew member was edged out of second place by Jeffrey Brown.

Revish was steamrolled by incumbent Jeremy Garza. Only Jackson found a way to hold on to his seat, winning handily.

The Crew's failure came a number of reasons. First, they were outfunded. Schor raised \$356,000 to Dunbar's \$50,000.

Also, Schor and Second Ward incumbent Garza had the power of incumbency. In Lansing, that means something. We don't tend to throw out our incumbents unless there's a darn good reason.

Same with City Council President Peter Spadafore. Did he even campaign outside of a flier or two? It didn't matter. He was the top vote-getter among the four Councilmember at-large seats by a long shot.

But that doesn't explain Duckett-Freeman. She ran a quality campaign and seemed to have widespread community support. The problem rested with her far left views and her political alliances.

Lansing is not the liberal/socialist bastion The Crew might have thought it was. The senior citizens in town don't want to defund the police. Quotes from Revish like this one scare the dickens out of senior citizens:

"It's hard for me to envision a

future where police still exist. My first thoughts are that we should invest in our communities and divest from police. How do you reform something that, at its root, is antagonistic to Black people? There is no way to do that. You have to get rid of it."

No police? How does that work? Try to convince someone over 60 that their property will be safe without the boys in blue patrolling the streets. Whom do you call if someone breaks into your house in the middle of the night?

Schor turned some heads when he locked arms with the Ingham County sheriff in calling out Prosecutor Carol Siemon's decision to not prosecute felony firearm charges.

But let's be honest. Seniors vote. They tend to vote absentee. And they aren't crazy about getting soft on gun-toting troublemakers. They don't want racist police. They don't want police who pull over young Black men for rolling through a stop sign so they can look for drugs.

They do want police, though.

The best the Crew could come up with was Schor fiddled while "Rome burned." That's where the whole Nero thing came from. You can call Schor a fairly bland white guy who could have done more to prevent protesters from busting windows on Washington Square last summer.

Schor has tried to make things right with his hirings of qualified Black applicants to the city's top positions. He's listening to the community. He's put policies in place to prevent racist practices. He's had racist cops fired.

Voters were clearly satisfied with that. Faced with a choice between vanilla, light-splash family man and a Type A wild child who moonlights as a foul-mouthed comedian, the former wins with those 60 and over.

He's the name they know. Spadafore is the name they know. Garza is the name they know. Jackson is the name they know.

Lansing isn't Rome. It's not burning. The mayor and City Council, by and large, are doing the best they can with the hand they've been dealt.

And they're all getting another term because of it.

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

Election

from page 5

Dunbar's camp was simply unable to absorb enough anti-Schor votes that were cast for Spitzley or primary challengers Farhan Sheikh-Omar, Melissa Huber or Larry Hutchinson Jr.

Outside of the mayoral race, the incumbent Council members also reigned supreme. In addition to Spadafore's reelection, voters also opted to keep 2nd Ward Councilman Jeremy Garza and 4th Ward Councilman Brian Jackson around for another term on Tuesday night. They

fended off challengers Oprah Revish and Elvin Caldwell with about 68% and 60% of the vote, respectively.

With Dunbar's inevitable departure from the Council at the end of the year, voters also selected newcomer Jeffrey Brown to an at-large term. He carried about 24% of the vote, a close second to Spadafore and just enough to defeat other challengers Duckett-Freeman and Rachel Willis.

City Clerk Chris Swope won another term unopposed with a total of 16,435 votes. The five incumbents — and the new Councilman-elect — are set to begin their terms on Jan. 1, 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY Materials Management Division P.O. Box 30242, Lansing, Michigan 48909

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PART 115 CONSTRUCTION PERMIT MODIFICATION FOR A TYPE III LANDFILL

Section 11510(2)(c) of Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Part 115) provides for a notice of application for a construction permit modification for a Type III landfill.

On August 18, 2021, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) received a construction permit modification application from Granger Waste Management, Inc., to correct a mistake in the total facility acreage calculated for the addition of a Type III landfill adjacent to its existing Granger Wood Street Landfill. The correction pertains to a permit issued by EGLE for a Type III landfill expansion on January 24, 2019. The purpose of the current permit modification application is to correct the mistaken acreage calculation and update the total facility acreage from 482.2 acres to 521.9 acres. This also includes the addition of a 0.3 acre parcel acquired by Granger in 2020. The Director must issue or deny this permit modification by January 13, 2022.

Granger Wood Street Landfill is located at 16980 Wood Road, Lansing, Ingham County Michigan. The landfill is shown on the map below and is located in the NE ¼ of Section 3, T4N, R2W Lansing Township, Ingham County, Michigan.



Nearest Crossroads:

Wood Road and Lake Lansing Road

Lansing Township:

Sections 3, T4N, R2W

The Department held a public hearing for the initial construction permit application on November 1, 2018. The present application is a modification to the that permit, which Granger claims does not materially change the nature of the new landfill unit. Therefore, a public hearing is not scheduled at this time. A hearing may still be scheduled upon request.

The complete application package may be reviewed at the following web address:

https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3312_4123-213298--,00.html under the 'Other Pertinent Information' heading, or by submitting a request at: <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135--357782--,00.html>.

A request for a copy of the application can also be mailed to the following address: State of Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs c/o FOIA Coordinator Ottawa Bldg., 4th Floor P.O. Box 30004, Lansing, MI 48909.

Information Contact: Mr. Evin Maguire, Geologist, Materials Management Division, e-mail address MaguireE@Michigan.gov; phone 517-388-3525.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
Materials Management Division

CP#21-245

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

East Lansing gets rowdy on game day

Dozens of fires were started across the streets of East Lansing following Michigan State University's 37-33 win over the University of Michigan on Saturday afternoon. Authorities reported a total of 349 calls for service, 20 tickets and five arrests throughout the day. At least two cars were overturned and destroyed. Local cops plan to pursue charges against those identified in photos or videos over the coming weeks. Tips can be reported to 517-319-6834.



Two killed in weekend East Lansing shootings

Authorities said two people were found dead of suspected gunshot wounds at a home in the 3900 block of Halter Lane in East Lansing at about 8 p.m. Saturday. One of those killed was a resident of the home. Local cops said the situation could be investigated as a murder-suicide. Another person was reportedly shot early Sunday morning near the Albert Street parking ramp by the downtown East Lansing CVS and was later hospitalized with life-threatening injuries. No arrests have been made. Those with information about either incident can call 517-319-6834.

Report: Brown owed back wages in bankruptcy

Lansing City Council candidate Jeffrey Brown's former business, the Inspiration Center, filed for bankruptcy in 2015 while still owing former employees more than \$45,000 in wages, FOX 47 News reports. Brown reportedly denied "owing anybody any wages" despite filing court records that clearly listed nine separate debts as back wages, including \$19,000 owed to one staffer, as well as owing \$23,000 in federal taxes, \$26,000 on an office lease and \$19,000 on an old BMW.



Brown

Unemployment rate drops in Lansing

Not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates fell in 16 of Michigan's 17 labor market areas between August and September, including Lansing, according to recent state data. Lansing's unemployment rate now rests at 5%. Six of the state's metro areas tracked employment gains in September, led by the Lansing region — primarily due to hiring at local colleges and schools for the start of the fall semester, according to the recent report. Mayor Andy Schor said he was "pleased" to see the report, noting that the economy is "bouncing back" as local residents are "getting back to work."

No suspects in deadly Baker-Donora shooting

The Lansing Police Department is still searching for leads in the Monday evening murder of 34-year-old Elton Johnson

Jr., of Lansing, who authorities said was discovered with a gunshot wound on the 1500 block of Bailey Street at about 9 p.m. Oct. 25. Johnson was taken to the hospital and later died from his injuries, marking the 24th homicide of the year. No arrests have been made. Those with any information to relay to police can call 517-483-4600.

DeLuca's to stay DeLuca's through 2021

While DeLuca's Restaurant on West Willow Street is set to be under new local ownership any day, the beloved eatery will continue operating as the same old DeLuca's Restaurant through at least the end of the year, the Lansing State Journal reported. The restaurant will reportedly close for a "refresh" next year and reopen as a restaurant — possibly under a different name.

Police: Holt boy brings Glock to school

A 15-year-old student at Holt High School was suspended and lodged at a local juvenile home pending a hearing for carrying a concealed weapon (and possibly other criminal offenses) after authorities said he brought a loaded Glock 40-caliber handgun to school on Oct. 26. Cops said the boy flashed the gun — which was legally owned by a relative — to friends on the bus ride to school. It was still in his backpack later that evening when investigators searched his home. Authorities said there was no indication that any direct threat was made to any students.

Zoo animals get experimental vaccines

Potter Park Zoo is in the midst of jabbing its animals with doses of the Zoetis experimental COVID-19 vaccine, the Journal reports. The most susceptible species reportedly include large cats, primates, red pandas and otters. Some animals were sedated for their shots.

Judge tosses developer's defamation lawsuit

A defamation lawsuit against East Lansing Info and its founder Alice Dreger brought by real estate developer Scott Chappelle was summarily dismissed by 30th Circuit Judge Joyce Draganchuk, ELI reports. The ruling was reportedly the result of a 40-minute hearing last week in which the case was ultimately dismissed on First Amendment grounds and because Chappelle failed to meet the legal definition of defamation against the local news source.

Construction starts at old Clara's

Renovations began at the former Lansing Clara's location amid recently announced plans to renovate the space into a Starbucks Community Store — a corporate initiative to build community spaces with diverse contractors in "economically distressed" communities. Plans include a new roof, structural and flooring repairs, new plumbing and electrical, as well as a full restoration of the original train cart on the eastern side of the building. Renovations are set to finish next fall and will include additional tenants and a new pocket park along Michigan Avenue.



SORE OF THE WEEK

1428 New York Ave.

This northside home is no visual charmer, but that's not why it has our attention.



Multiple complaints from neighbors over loud noise late into the night, suspected drug dealing and lewd behavior from its residents and guests prompted a discussion about this address at the Lansing City Council's Committee on Public Safety last week. The biggest problem: Nobody should be living there. The home was red-tagged, declared unsafe and ordered vacated last year. Utilities are shut off. But alas, the neighborhood complaints have only continued to pile up.

Kathryn Monroe lives across the street and sent a letter to Council that detailed her concerns.

The house is a "place for people to get drunk, use profanity and antagonize neighbors," she wrote, noting how she suspected that those who lived there were either using or selling drugs.

Next door neighbor Stanley Kreft also told the Council that residents there have been using his driveway without his permission, blaring rap music and shining spotlights into his windows. Kreft said he was so annoyed with the home that he installed a privacy fence to block it from view.

Monroe also recounted how someone staying at the house once awoke on her neighbor's doorstep after a late-night party and how another man there threw a brick through her window.

Code enforcement officials have repeatedly ticketed the homeowner — which county property records identify as Ameil Moore — for trash and overgrown weeds. The latest ticket that was issued last week led to a city staffer being threatened and chased off the property, officials said.

City officials said about \$3,800 in back taxes (almost enough to trigger a foreclosure) are also still owed on the property, as well as a growing number of fines for various code violations.

Councilwoman Carol Wood has called for a meeting on Thursday (Nov. 4) with top city officials — including Police Chief Ellery Sosebee — amid an effort to assess the city's options, including arresting those who are still residing at the home for trespassing on a red-tagged property.

She also said that she's prepared to have the home declared a nuisance if problems persist.

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**

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

An agenda for Lansing's next mayor

This page of today's City Pulse went to the printer before the polls closed in Tuesday's city election. (Turn to Page 5 for the local election results.) Although we're nearly certain who won the mayor's race, in the interest of avoiding a modern-day "Dewey defeats Truman" moment, this editorial reflects on an agenda for Lansing's next mayor no matter who was elected.

First and foremost, Lansing's next leader will continue grappling with the economic devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges now facing the city are at least as complex as they were during the depths of the Great Recession. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan approved by Congress, the good news is that Lansing is slated to receive \$50 million in one-time cash to help weather the storm. How to allocate those funds is one of the biggest decisions the mayor will face -- and a major test of his or her priorities.

It's no secret that the pandemic took its greatest toll on people who occupy the lowest rungs of the economic ladder, especially in communities of color. That's why the city should invest a significant portion of its federal windfall in providing financial support to those who lost their jobs during the pandemic and continue to face negative financial consequences. ARP funds can and should be used for food assistance; rent, mortgage, or utility assistance; counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness; and other needs.

Help for struggling small businesses must also be in the mix. Building on previous grant programs administered by the Lansing Area Economic Partnership, small employers who are still struggling — especially those in the restaurant and hospitality industries — should be offered loans or grants to support their ongoing operating costs.

Addressing the root causes of Lansing's epidemic of violence must also be a top priority. ARP funds can and should be spent on evidence-based community violence intervention programs to mitigate the increase in violence during the pandemic. Given the record number of murders in Lansing this year, doubling the city's investment in the recently stalled Advance Peace initiative should be an urgent priority.

For the next mayor, few issues will be more important than healing the deep divisions between City Hall and Lansing's Black community. Tensions rose quickly in the wake of George Floyd's murder, exacerbated



The CP Edit

Opinion

by Mayor Schor's tone deaf response to the demands of community activists. His racial justice task force came up with some actionable recommendations for improving racial equity in the city, and the new mayor should follow through by using ARP funds to make them happen.

A significant chunk of the city's ARP funds should also be dedicated to reviving downtown Lansing, a critical economic engine for the city. With tens of thousands of state employees working from home — and unlikely to return to their offices — Washington Square has become a depressing landscape of vacant storefronts, closed restaurants and unfilled parking spaces. Turning it around will require vision, resourcefulness and some political heavy lifting.

ARP funds should be used to drive the conversion of vacant downtown buildings into new workforce housing — the sweet spot between high-end market rate units and low-income affordable housing. Residential density is a critical ingredient in any

recipe to breathe new life into Washington Square. Without a robust built-in customer base, entrepreneurs won't even consider investing in downtown Lansing.

Our state legislative delegation — especially Sen. Curtis Hertel and Rep. Sarah Anthony — must also press Gov. Whitmer to repopulate vacant downtown offices with state employees by relocating them from state facilities in surrounding townships, including the Secondary Complex in Dimondale. Suburban leaders will inevitably cry foul at any attempt to poach these facilities from their communities. The only correct response is: "Too bad." You can't be a suburb to nowhere. The economic viability of the urban core — Michigan's capital city — must come first.

In addition, the new mayor should resurrect former Mayor Virg Bernero's compelling plan to transform City Hall into a new downtown hotel. Overcome previous objections to the plan by renovating the old Washington Street Armory as the new home of the 54-A District Court and the city jail. And, with a \$2 million appropriation from the Michigan Legislature in hand, the mayor needs to strike while the iron is hot and build the long-awaited downtown Performing Arts Center. It's a legacy project that could go a long way toward revitalizing downtown by drawing crowds to a year-round slate of entertainment, including concerts, theater and more.

To make any of these projects viable, the city needs to maintain some semblance of fiscal solvency and continue to attack the problem of long-term liabilities for pensions and health care. Although ARP funds cannot be used to shore up pension funds, they can be used to offset revenue losses incurred during the pandemic. The mayor should allocate sufficient ARP resources to avoid service reductions that might otherwise be necessary to balance the budget.

Last but not least, the mayor needs to demonstrate a bonafide commitment to honest, transparent and accountable government. In his first term, Mayor Schor's penchant for secrecy and misleading the public cast a dark shadow over City Hall. If he has won a second term, that cloud can only be lifted by taking responsibility for his actions, telling the truth and accepting the consequences. It's what real leaders do, and it's the standard to which we will hold the mayor, whether it is Andy Schor or Kathy Dunbar, every single day for the next four years.

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor: E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com or mail: City Pulse 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

Fax: (517) 371-5800 • lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column: Contact Berl Schwartz for more information publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061.

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

50 years ago: How students upset East Lansing politics

By **BILL CASTANIER**
Opinion

Bill Castanier, a frequent contributor to City Pulse, is president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

The ubiquitous political yard signs dotting front lawns of East Lansing homes started coming down today. It wasn't that much different 50 years ago when the hotly contested races for East Lansing City Council were in full throat competition. Three upstarts, George Colburn, George Griffiths and Charles W. Wills, faced off against a 10-year veteran of Council, Mayor Gordon L. Thomas, incumbent Councilman Wilbur Brookover (whose son George, was on the 2021 ballot) and three other candidates who were close to the business community for three open seats on the five-member Council.

Normally, the business-backed candidates would have rolled into office, but the student revolution of the 1960s got a boost when the Michigan Supreme Court ruled the previous summer that 18-year-olds could vote in elections where they attended college. And did they vote. Griffiths and Colburn won by wide margins especially in the heav-

ily student precincts. Griffiths and Colburn were the front-runners with each having 3,000 more votes than Mayor Thomas, who finished fourth. Brookover squeaked in when Wills' write-in campaign failed.

Early in the campaign, Griffiths and Colburn, who were 42 and 33 respectively, recognized the importance of the student vote and worked closely with voter registration groups to register more than 8,000 student voters. The winning candidates, who had dubbed their campaign "Project City Hall," worked through the summer on strategy and fund raising. By the

time students returned in September, they began an aggressive campaign on campus. Hundreds of youthful volunteers worked tirelessly to support Griffiths and Colburn; most likely the first time they worked on any political campaign.

Colburn's younger brother, Neal, was the lead campaign worker, but he was bolstered by former State News editor Linda Gortmaker, who helped galvanize 300 student volunteers. Their opponents pretty much thought they would ride their name recognition into office, but a subsequent article about the election in Time magazine titled "Student Power in East Lansing" pointed out succinctly it was "no sure thing."



Courtesy photo

Behind the upset: Fifty years ago, these five men were part of a student movement in East Lansing that turned the City Council upside down. From left: write-in candidate Chuck Wills; unidentified; candidates George Colburn and George Griffiths; and campaign manager Neal Colburn.

In just one student dominated precinct Griffiths and Colburn put the election away, totaling more than 3,000 votes each over Thomas.

History provides us with some lessons. Despite facing registration difficulties, the student vote triggered a victory. Today, we are learning, once again, how important voter registration efforts are and how a particular demographic can sway an election. We are watching how two thirds of the states have enacted or proposed legislation to restrict voting rights. I wonder if a similar effort to Project City Hall would be successful today and how many roadblocks would be erected to keep students from voting.

Griffiths and Colburn knew early on that their path to victory was through students who until this time had had no impact on East Lansing government. Although headlines the next day in the Lansing State Journal claimed "liberals" won the election, in reality neither Griffiths or Colburn was far left, but they successfully ran against business as usual. It had only been five

See East Lansing, Page 12


Governor Jim Blanchard
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LETTERS to the editor

Holy Halloween!

I too am one of the folks who thought it silly and excessive for the East Lansing schools to ban celebrations of Halloween and Valentine's Day. While I can see it's an expedient way for the school district to eliminate a handful of minor issues these celebrations may present, I also believe it is another example of a sacrifice of the joys the many for the feelings of a very few. When I was a kid some of the best costumes were the simple, inexpensive but highly creative homemade costumes. This is a great equalizer for less well-off but talented and creative kids. One year a kid cut a large hole out of one side of a big cardboard box, put a clear piece of plastic in the hole, added TV knobs & rabbit ears (yes, I'm aging myself) and he was a TV ... better yet, wearing it over his head HE was the star of the TV show.

More importantly you deserve criticism for your presentation (The Edit, 10/27/21). You characterized objections simply as emotional reactions of parents against political correctness while the ban was "a decision that is rightly made by education professionals." This has become the standard smarmy tactic of "progressives" everywhere ... to dismiss your opposition and their arguments as mindless and emotional. In fact, most of the

admin reasons are weak (Valentines don't have to be expensive ... it's the thought that counts), but primarily the parents have wisdom on their side. If school is a place of learning, it seems logical that a well-rounded educational experience would be best. If one child has the relatively minor disappointment of fewer Valentines than another, or an unrequited crush ... or another kid has a nicer costume than yours ... well, learning to deal with those minor disappointments is a part of life, and better to learn in elementary school. Don't we want our kids to be resilient? Heaven knows there will be disappointments, unrequited love, disaster, ailments and deaths in their future. It is better to expose them to the joys and trials when they're minor. To try to shield them from all disappointment is like the doting, overprotective mother, and that is ultimately bad for kids.

Rick Mills

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East Lansing

from page 11

years since the Council dragged their feet on desegregating East Lansing, and that issue was still brewing along with a proposal to put a cross campus expressway through the heart of campus which through the efforts of the

new Council was nixed when MSU President John Hannah sent a letter to the U.S. secretary of transportation opposing the expressway path. Griffiths and Colburn are also remembered

for shepherding through Council a local ordinance protecting the rights of gay employees and a \$5 fine for possession of marijuana.

It's hard to imagine the MSU campus with an expressway cutting through it, but it might have happened without the student vote.

Griffiths who went on to be active in the ACLU, died last year, Colburn who received his Ph.D. at MSU, moved on to a successful career as a documentary filmmaker who directed documentaries on Eisenhower and most recently Ernest Hemingway.

Colburn, who lives in northern Michigan, hosted a reunion on election night Tuesday recognizing that victory 50 years ago.

Colburn said he planned to buy the first round.

"For me," he said, "it was personal. I had entered graduate school in 1963 and had been denied the right to vote where I lived in 1964 and 1968."

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Editor's note:

If this were a typical newspaper, the headline on this exclusive story would be: Schertzing to quit as Ingham County treasurer midway through term.

But we're not a typical newspaper. His announcement — being made here for the first time — is just the jumping-off place for a look at what Schertzing has accomplished in Greater Lansing as its treasurer since 2001.



Larry Cosentino/City Pulse

(Above) Under a program established by Eric Schertzing, a handful of Land Bank homes are sold to owners who agree to preserve its historic features at each year's tax foreclosure auction, under the eye of Preservation Lansing. This 1874 house at 108 S. Martin Luther King Blvd, sold at the 2019 auction, was designed by Lansing's most prominent architect, Darius Moon.

(Left) After closing three sales last Thursday in REO Town, departing Ingham County Treasurer and Land Bank Chairman Eric Schertzing took a moment to survey some parcels the Land Bank has helped to revive over the years, including renovated office space at 1142 S. Washington Ave., now home to the McClelland & Anderson law firm.

Surveying the legacy of County Treasurer Eric Schertzing and the Land Bank

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

On a cloudy Saturday in October, along one of the main drags in southwest Lansing, motorists spied a man walking across a muddy residential yard with a shovel in his hand and a picket fence of pearly white teeth.

It wasn't the first time Ingham County Treasurer and Land Bank Chairman Eric Schertzing has been spotted on a weekend, without his deal-closing suit and portfolio, helping a homeowner with a paint job or a shrub transplant after a Land Bank sale.

But it might be one of the last.

After 21 years as county treasurer, Schertzing, 59, has decided to turn in his county seal in March and leave his post about halfway through his sixth term. He will leave the office to his chief deputy, Alan Fox, until a committee of county officials picks a replacement.

Schertzing's three kids, as he put it, have all "launched" and finished college. Schertzing and Nancy, his wife of 36 years, will act on long deferred plans to return to Washington, D.C., to continue her training in restorative justice work at the national level. "Nancy had a wonderful job she loved," said Schertzing, but she gave it up to allow him to pursue professional and personal interests back home. Now he is returning the favor.

"Nancy and I decided it's time for a new adventure," he said. "It's been an honor to serve the county."

Schertzing toggles from bland platitudes to frank

confessions with disarming ease. He admitted that just the idea of doing an exit interview had him "jangled."

"It's a powerful thing," he said. "There's a lot of emotions to go through. I don't think one should lightly leave elective office. I'm not thrilled in some ways, but the timing is right."

Millions of people are making life changes in the wake of the pandemic. Schertzing admitted that it's hard to sort out all the murk that's bubbling up.

"There's a level of discomfort and stress that we're all going through that we don't really recognize," he said. "I see it in my friends and colleagues."

One thing is clear: Schertzing's departure isn't a routine shuffling of folding chairs in an obscure government office. In his capacity as Land Bank chairman alone, Schertzing's work has permeated every neighborhood, indeed nearly every block of the city. The Land Bank also had a hand in several of Lansing's most significant recent developments, including the redevelopment of the School for the Blind property and the Capital City Market/Courtyard Marriott project downtown.

Michigan is catching up with him. When the Ingham County Land Bank was founded 16 years ago, it was only the state's second, after Genesee County's. Now 43 counties have land banks. Last week, Schertzing and his team hosted the state land bank conference — at the Courtyard Marriott, of course.

Land Bank director Roxanne Case has worked with Schertzing for 12 years.

"Eric is a big picture guy and always has been," Case said. "He's hard to read sometimes. There's a lot floating around in that head of his that's always interesting, for sure. There's definitely going to be a void in the county when he leaves."

Newfound friends

It's easy to roll your eyes when Schertzing shrugs that he's a Stockbridge "farm boy" — as he did many times while running for office — but he's clearly as comfortable with a shovel or a paint brush as he is behind a desk, closing deals and signing checks.

The day he was spotted on the west side of Lansing with the shovel, he was helping a 67-year-old homeowner settle into a home sold by the Ingham County Land Bank.

The buyer was fresh out of prison, where he'd served 35 years for criminal sexual conduct. Friday and Saturday afternoon, Schertzing was putting primer on the north side of the house. He delivered some tools to help the man put in sod.

"He made a bad decision," Schertzing said. "Before they threw away the key on him, he was a property owner and a trainer of commercial pilots, a smart guy."

Schertzing works with local judges and Monica Jahner, who runs a prison re-entry support program at Northwest Initiative, to help ex-prisoners find housing.

"These folks struggle," Schertzing said. "They've got a record. Employment is hard. Who wants to rent to them — that's hard. If we can figure out a way for industrious people to have home ownership, it's probably easier than having them deal in the rental market."

Schertzing works both sides — or, more accurately, multiple sides — of the foreclosure process. He contracts with Capital Area Community Services, or CACS, to the tune of \$100,000 a year or more, for tax foreclosure prevention counseling. He has served on the boards of CACS, the Head Start Policy Council and the Lansing Urban Farm Project Authority. "So many

See Schertzing, Page 15

Schertzing

from page 14

things are connected," he said. His understanding of the foreclosure process has evolved over the years.

"It's people who are vulnerable, disempowered, struggling, on the ropes," he said. "The deck is stacked against them and you've got to figure out ways to help them."

The Land Bank's core mission is that of a residential dentist. If neglected houses are like teeth, it falls to the Land Bank to decide where to put in bridgework, where to do a root canal, which ones to polish and which ones to pull. Auction sales are often restricted to buyers who commit to occupying their home and, in some instances, to keeping its historic features.

"The idea is to keep it from bottom feeders, out-of-state folks who come in and buy up huge chunks of land," Allen Neighborhood Center director Joan Nelson said.

To determine whether a tax-foreclosed property would best be demolished, renovated or given a minor facelift, the Land Bank team first does an inspection.

Roxanne Case recalled a memorable inspection of a property on Lathrop Street that teemed with fleas, as many abandoned homes do.

"Only a few of us went inside this house, for one reason or another," Case recalled. "Fifteen minutes later, Eric came scrambling out, covered in fleas, taking off his shirt and waving his arms. He was willing to share his newfound friends with all of us."

'Wow, I've left the farm'

Last Thursday afternoon, Schertzing dropped by a REO Town office to close three land deals. Briefcase in hand, he looked like he was born in a dark blue suit with the county seal on his lapel.

In fact, Schertzing's life was shaped by a series of unexpected encounters. Monday night, after the state conference of land banks wrapped for the day in downtown Lansing, he had a spell of time-travel vertigo. He and three dozen colleagues from around the state repaired to unwind and debrief at the Arcadia Brewing Co. on the east side. Looking out the window, he spotted a familiar vacant lot across Michigan Avenue.

He forgot about his pulled pork and hard cider. His thoughts drifted back to 1982.

"I spent the second half of that year in a double-wide trailer, on that lot, running the office for Bob Carr for Congress," he recalled.

Going into politics wasn't a rebellion for Schertzing. His dad worked hard as a farmer, but he took time for involvement in local politics.

"Walter Cronkite was on at 6:30, Newsweek came to the house every week," he said. "I remember the body bags coming back from Vietnam when I was 8 years old. This was kind of printed on me from my childhood."

Schertzing met Carr on a field trip to Washington in ninth grade. He worked for Carr's comeback campaign in 1982, as a sophomore at the James Madison College at Michigan State University. Carr served nine terms in Congress, representing mid-Michigan.

To his delight, Schertzing met House Speaker Jim Wright at a D.C. fundraiser for Carr.

"I'm caught up in a nationally covered congressional campaign," he recalled. "A 20-year-old kid meeting Jim Wright in 1982 was like, 'Wow, I've left the farm.'"

Schertzing spent eight years, from 1983 to 1991, as Carr's legislative aide in Washington. It didn't escape his notice that by the 1980s, Carr himself was evolving from the rhetoric of a self-described "angry young man" to quiet, effective work on budget and spending issues.

The logical next step was for Schertzing to run for public office himself, but it did not work out. In 1992, Schertzing ran for the 67th Michigan House District, losing to Republican Dan Gustafson 54% to 46%. He flirted uneasily with the real estate business but itched to return to government.

He found a kindred spirit in newly minted Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann.



Larry Cosentino/City Pulse

In 16 years, the Ingham County Land Bank has invested \$58 million in federal, state and local funds to renovate over 250 single-family homes, including a \$50,000 renovation of this house at 530 Pacific St. in 2011.



At a marathon dinner in the front booth of the old Emil's Restaurant, on Lansing's east side, Schertzing and Lindemann talked into the night. The environmentally conscious drain commissioner, who needs only hear the word "water" to rhapsodize about rain gardens and swales for an hour, inspired Schertzing — and hired him as deputy commissioner.

"We hit it off," Schertzing said. "Pat taught me to think big and care even more about the environment than I already did."

Despite sharp differences in style and temperament, Schertzing and Lindemann dealt from the same playbook. By serving decades in a relatively low profile but powerful office, they both made a lasting mark on the landscape — literally — and largely avoided the daily drama that dogs senators, mayors and council members. In 2000, Schertzing defeated Republican Kirk Squiers to become Ingham County's first Democratic county treasurer since 1922.

"The reason my treasurer work, county government, is so satisfying is that you've got some control over what happens every day and you can get shit done," he declared.

Dental school

For Schertzing, "getting shit done" as county treasurer began in earnest with another unexpected encounter.

Back in 2005, State Rep. Dan Kildee of Flint tried to warm a reluctant Schertzing to the concept of a land bank, to fast-track tax-reverted property to

productive use and shore up plunging property values in key neighborhoods. (Genessee County established the state's first land bank in 2004.) It took a while for Schertzing, a proud Lansing booster, to accept the idea that the capital city needed the kind of residential dental work Flint or Detroit did. "But we did, and we do," Schertzing said. "Dan knew that land banks weren't just a desperation move."

The timing was more propitious than anyone, including Kildee or Schertzing, could have known.

"We had no idea, when we were putting it together, of the scale of the emerging mortgage refinancing fraud boom that would rip through the neighborhoods of Lansing — that we would be dealing with thousands of properties that were foreclosed," Schertzing said. "By 2006, you could feel the tremor, and by 2007 it would be very clear."

While in its infancy, the Land Bank was slammed with a tsunami of tax and mortgage foreclosures — over 2,000 a year at the height of the Great Recession.

Now it's impossible to trot out to Quality Dairy for a long john without passing a parcel that has gone through the Land Bank's hands. For the record, here are the numbers: In 16 years, the Land Bank has invested \$58 million in federal, state and local funds to renovate 255 single-family homes, built 42 new single-family homes, established nearly 200 garden parcels comprising 34 acres, demolished about 800 buildings, sold over 600 vacant lots and brokered the sale of over 20 commercial properties for development. The Land Bank still has about 700 residential, commercial and industrial vacant lots, most of them in Lansing.

On a more limited scale, Land Bank parcels have been key chess pieces in putting together some significant recent projects in Lansing.

The Capitol City Market/Marriott Courtyard project coalesced around a Land Bank property, a tax-foreclosed Mobil gas station at the highly strategic corner of Larch Street and Michigan Avenue, catty-corner from Lumnuts Stadium and two blocks from the state Capitol.

The Land Bank sold the derelict corner property to Pat Gillespie. Gillespie's sign caught the attention of a real estate vice president at the Meijer Corp.

"He called Pat and said, 'I want to put up a store there,'" Schertzing said. "That was the foundation of it."

As Gillespie assembled a patchwork of over 20 parcels, including a house and vacant lot on Barnard Street owned by the Land Bank, the project grew to encompass not only Capital City Market, but a hotel and apartment complex two blocks from the state Capitol.

"If we had no Land Bank, and my only option was to sell it at tax auction, it would probably still be a shitty little gas station," Schertzing said. "It started by having that sign in the right place. And here we are, having a conference at the Marriott, the urban food desert is largely solved for the downtown, and there's more apartments."

Case said the whole idea of banking land, rather

See Schertzing, Page 16



Larry Cosentino/City Pulse

(Left) Under "farm boy" Eric Schertzing's leadership, the Land Bank's Garden Project has helped to establish nearly 200 garden parcels around the city, including this one at the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard and Allegan Street.

(Right) In 16 years, the Land Bank has sold about 600 vacant lots. Some go to neighbors, some are used as pocket parks and others are used as gardens.



Schertzing

from page 15

than flipping it as fast as possible, was a risk, citing the Courtyard Marriott/Capital City Market complex as an example. “Holding those properties for as long as we did — the city wanted us to just build residential property,” Case said. “I hate to say we were bucking the system, but it’s costly to hold and maintain them and that’s part of the risk.”

Produce and preservation

Schertzing’s Bunker Hill Township farm roots have shaped the urban fabric of Lansing in more ways than one. The city’s east side is turning into a garden hub, with a dozen urban farms.

Allen Neighborhood Center director Nelson served with Schertzing on the Lansing Urban Farm Project board in its early years.

“When houses in the flood plain were demolished, Eric saw the value of using those parcels to grow food and leasing them at affordable rates, including non-contiguous but nearby parcels,” Nelson said.

Support for local food is a mainstay of Nelson’s broader vision for the east side. Most of the Allen Neighborhood Center’s programs and projects, culminating in the new Allen Place development nearing completion on Kalamazoo Street, trace their roots to nearby urban farms.

“The first one, Urbandale Farm was kind of a dream back then,” Nelson said. “But Eric was out there every Saturday, pulling weeds, helping to build the greenhouse, figuring out how to support the farm manager.”

Schertzing supplied new farmers with tools, helped establish apprentice programs and negotiated deals with the Board of Water & Light for utility needs.

“Because he was on the ground, literally, so often, with the urban farmers,

he was able to find out what they need and develop the resources and support for them. He negotiated deals with the Board of Water and Light for utility needs.”

Historic preservation, another Schertzing passion, is a tougher nut to crack than urban farming, but the Land Bank has been quietly nudging the city toward keeping its historic homes.

Each year since 2014, members of Preservation Lansing have huddled with Schertzing’s staff to pick out two or three historic houses from the tax foreclosure list. A historic preservation covenant is attached to the sale of the houses. Members of Preservation Lansing monitor the renovation of the homes to make sure it conforms to the Interior Department’s standards.

The Land Bank compensates Preservation Lansing for the expertise, to the tune of two or three thousand dollars a year — a major boost to the non-profit’s thin budget.

A long-vacant 1874 house designed

by Lansing’s most prominent architect, Darius Moon, at 108 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., was sold at the 2019 tax foreclosure auction and was put under a historic preservation covenant. (Moon lived in the house, the first one he designed, for several years.) The new owner, Alesia Flowers, is doing extensive renovations to bring the house back to its historic glory.

“It wouldn’t happen without Eric,” Preservation Lansing President Dale Schrader said. “He developed it and he was the first treasurer in the state to do something like this.”

Schertzing is also moving the county toward demolition salvage (“deconstruction”) versus total demolition.

“You’ve got all this 300-year-old hardwood, old growth forest lumber inside these houses,” Schrader said. “It all goes to the landfill — doors, historic moldings, windows and all of that.” Case, who has supervised most of the county’s demolitions in the past decade, is enthusiastically on board.

Beyond Hamilton

Schertzing is grateful for the opportunity to help people from the position of county treasurer, but he sometimes chafes at the creaky machinery of government. He’s not sure what will come next after he leaves office, but a stint in the private sector might be a tonic. Whatever is next, it may still involve Lansing, where he said he and Nancy will likely maintain a residence as well as in D.C.

“Ingham County will always be home,” said Schertzing, who said he’d like to keep using his skilled hand to “improve housing and land banking” here. “I do expect to be here often.”

He is still the kind of person who keeps the Federalist Papers on his night table. Last week, he re-read Federalist 1, in which Alexander Hamilton — er, Publius — urges the states to adopt a strong federal government to “get shit done,” to borrow a paraphrase.

But lately, Schertzing has been looking longingly at the other side of the coin.

“I get a little heartburn from the regulations and the bureaucracy,” he said. “The Pentagon took 18 months to build.” (Some humble Land Bank bungalows took nearly that long to rewire, replumb and refurbish.) “We need to get back to that. I’m excited to see what I might be able to do outside the government structure. The developers know that I understand the business world, that time is money.”

Perhaps another unexpected encounter — a Bob Carr, Pat Lindemann or Dan Kildee — will nudge him one way or another.

“I’m not going to forget about land banking,” Schertzing mused. “Hell, maybe I’ll have an opportunity to do it at a bigger level. I’ve learned a lot and have a lot to offer.”

In the US the default for everything has always been whiteness; from beauty to fashion; from language to intelligence; especially from rights or laws. Defund the Police is a call to end injustice and targeting of Black people. It’s not about eliminating police altogether and you know it, you’re just caught up in your comfort because injustice doesn’t happen to people who look like you, and your blind support for police is not the flex you think it is. Being the default is a protection that is furthering harm in Black communities and that’s not a good look, and it’s unAmerican.

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24th ELFF features gripping films and poignant documentaries

By SKYLER ASHLEY

East Lansing Film Festival is returning for its 24th edition with a four-day lineup of critically acclaimed independent feature-length films, documentaries and short films at the Studio C movie theater at the Meridian Mall in Okemos.

The festival was canceled in 2020 due to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and made its first comeback earlier this year in summer with a similarly structured shortened lineup at Celebration Cinema. Festival founder and longtime organizer Susan Woods said the pandemic is also to blame for this month's 24th edition of the festival being a smaller affair than past years.

Opening night, Nov. 11, features "Boblo Boats: A Detroit Ferry Tale," a documentary about the beloved historic Boblo Island amusement park in

Detroit. Boblo Island, one of the earliest amusement parks in the entire United States, was open for nearly an entire century before its shutdown in 1993. The documentary follows a makeshift rescue crew as they attempt to recover the two abandoned steamboat ferries that took guests to the amusement park. Director Aaron Schillinger is scheduled to attend the festival for a Q&A panel after the screening.

Other documentaries at the festival focus on nature and take on world environmental issues. "The Hidden Life of Trees," screening Nov. 13 at 3:30 p.m., follows German forester and author Peter Wohlleben on treks through several beautiful forests as he explains how he communicates with the natural life there to draw inspiration for his written work. "Kiss the Ground," screening Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m., which Woody Harrelson narrates, shows how regenerating soil around the world can stabilize the climate, help create abundant food supplies and restore lost ecosystems. The film utilizes striking footage of the Earth captured by NASA.

Several members of the filmmak-



Courtesy Photo

Delia Kropp in "Landlocked."

ing team behind "How Did You Learn Today," a documentary by award-winning German director Patrick Grube, will attend the festival for a Q&A panel after the documentary is shown Nov. 14 at 12:30 p.m. "How Did You Learn Today," which focuses on Willow Elementary School in Napa, California, captures Artful Learning, an academic program designed to educate children

using several artistic mediums created by legendary American composer, conductor and pianist Leonard Bernstein.

Patrick Bolek, Art Learning's executive director, will moderate the panel, which also includes Alexander Bernstein, president of Artful Learning and Bernstein's son, and Willow Elementary's principal, Pam Popkin. Grube will join from Germany via Zoom.

Festival director Susan Woods said another highlight of the upcoming East Lansing Film Festival is the poignant feature film "Landlocked," which will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 14.

"Landlocked" tells the story of Ray, who, following his mother's death, is reunited with his estranged transgender father. The two journey together across the country to scatter her ashes in the Pacific Ocean from the coast of Georgia.

"Landlocked" marks the film debut of Delia Kropp, a trans actress from East Lansing who graduated from Michigan State University, acted with the BoarsHead Theater and taught at Lansing Community College. She will be present for a panel after the screening via Zoom.

An intimate conversation with LCC theater director Mary Job

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Mary Job, an adjunct associate professor at Lansing Community College, has been directing local plays since 1995 and is showing no signs of letting up.

"Because I love it," Mary Job, 70, said. "I love communicating through a play to an audience. It's like saying, 'This is what I think.'"

The last play Job directed was "Belle Moral" in November 2019. Now she is returning to LCC's Dart Auditorium for Lynn Nottage's "Intimate Apparel." That adds up to about 50 plays Job has helmed.

"It is so good to be directing in-per-

son again," she said. "I have really missed the intimacy that is established by working together to put together a play."

What excites her the most about the production is the way "Intimate Apparel" portrays its female characters and the relationships between them.

"They're diverse in terms of social class, occupation, personality and race," she said. "Yet they're all bound by the conventions of male dominance — right down to the apparel they wear."

Job understands how "Intimate Apparel" — a play about a Black woman's unique experience — is no easy task for a white woman to direct. "You must



Job

be aware of your own limitations," she said. "As a woman, I have an entre into the play but it's far from complete."

"I haven't lived it and I have to lean on the lived experiences of my cast to really flesh out the nuances," she added. "And that's a good thing."

Job will always remember how generous the cast was and how forthright they were with their insights. She was also impressed how willing they were to dig into the script and bring their characters to life.

The play is about a Black seamstress who lives in a boarding house for women who sew intimate apparel for wealthy, rich white ladies and Black prostitutes. It's a story about connections, intimacy and betrayal. Anna Hill plays the seamstress, Esther. The LCC cast is predominately Black. Job said it took a lot of outreach to recruit the players.

"Intimate Apparel" includes detailed

costumes appropriate for its early 20th century setting. "We have the elaborate skirts and dresses of the early 20th century, right down to the spectacular corsets of that period," Job said. LCC's resident costumer, Chelle Peterson, designed them.

Since the 2020 coronavirus pandemic shutdown, the "Intimate Apparel" production marks LCC's return to a full set and props. Ranae Selmeyer from Michigan State University designed bedrooms for each character and a depiction of a Panama locale. "The set gives you the feeling of the early 20th century and the personality of each of the characters," Job said.

Job certainly doesn't want to return to another shutdown where she must find ways to busy herself. "I can only paint so many rooms, sew so many things. I'm not a restful person," she said.

Favorite Things

Bolis Musa is a Lansing-based artist who was born in Sudan. He draws unique landscapes inspired by Lansing scenery for his print company, MakeYourMarkk. He is also the designer of his own clothing brand, EYWA.

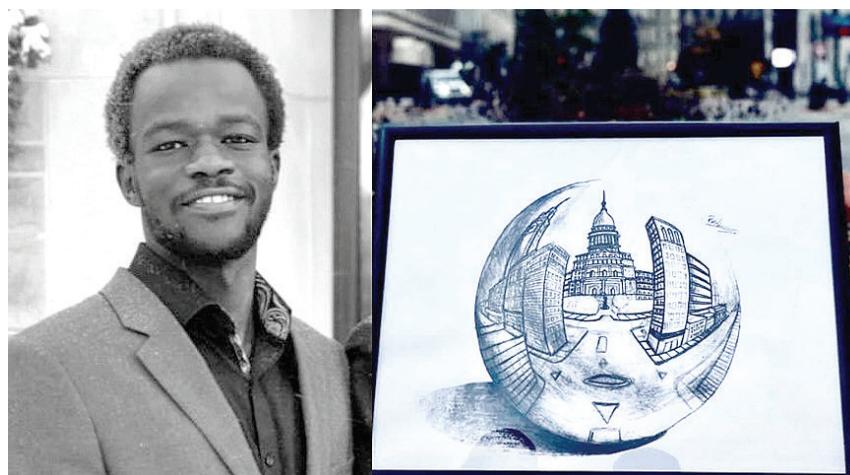
My favorite thing is the five-point perspective drawing I did of the Capitol last year. It's my favorite thing because I've loved art ever since I came to America when I was in the first grade. I've lived in Lansing for 20 years, but when I first came to America I didn't know any English. I used to always draw because I didn't know how to communicate with other students. Eventually, I got really good at drawing, and it has been my passion ever since.

The five-point perspective drawing of the Capitol is my favorite because it really pushed me as an artist. I had to leave my comfort zone and I had to challenge myself, because I've never done a five-point

perspective drawing. The most I had ever done was three-point perspective, which was back in high school. The five-point perspective drawing took me an entire week to create, because there is so much angling and erasing — you've got to get it very precise.

I always knew I wanted to do the Capitol. The drawing itself is inside a spherical shape. I had to put the whole building into what looks like a snow globe. It had to be angled perfectly. I drove to the Capitol and took pictures to find the perfect angle. I spent an hour to get the right picture before I went home. I tried to draw one building per day. The shading was hard too, because I couldn't rely on the picture. I had to make my own lighting in my head.

I was scared to push myself to do it, because originally I didn't think I could. But I know a part of me kept saying, "Just do it, do it, do it." When I finally finished, it became one of my prized drawings, and now I love



it so much. A lot of people asked if they could have the drawing, but I knew I couldn't give it away because I love it so much. I got so many suggestions that I started making prints of it. I went to OfficeMax, got it scanned and started selling prints of it online and on Facebook. It is one of my best-selling art pieces.

I am from Sudan, I came here with my parents because they want-

ed their children to go to college and become doctors. But I decided to become an artist. At first, they didn't understand it, or agree with it. I decided to follow my passion, and now I have their support.

Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email Skyler@LansingCityPulse.com

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92 NINETY SECOND ANNUAL SEASON



MSU historian pens book about elder Kennedy's diplomatic work

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Books on the Kennedy family would fill a library, but few, if any, are as tantalizing, informative and soaring in their completeness as Michigan State University History Professor Emeritus Jane Karoline Vieth's new book, "Tempting All the Gods: Joseph P. Kennedy, Ambassador to Great Britain, 1938 to 1940."

In her new book, published by the MSU Press, Vieth carefully examines the two years Joseph P. Kennedy served as the ambassador at the Court of St. James's on the eve of World War II. Vieth began working on the book as part of her dissertation more than 40 years ago and continued her research as she taught British history and the history of World War II at MSU.

Vieth said her book distinguishes itself from similar books on the elder Kennedy's ambassadorship, because it is more than a history of his service. It delves deeply into what Kennedy was thinking during his time in England and his often-fraught relationship with President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"Most historians used the usual sources, such as diplomatic dispatches while researching. Their books became 'He said this, and he said that,'" Vieth said.

That was the approach Vieth used when she wrote her dissertation on Kennedy in 1970, which served as the first draft of her book. "Since then, I've rewritten the book three to five times, and it has gotten better," she said.

As expected, Vieth made several trips to England over the years to

research her book, but she said the "big change" came when the Kennedy family opened the private papers, letters and memoir of Joseph Kennedy Sr.

"Getting into the archives was a mean feat, and I became buddies with Doris Kearns Goodwin," she said. Historian and author Goodwin was a friend of the Kennedy family who had private access to the Kennedy papers, writing extensively about the family.

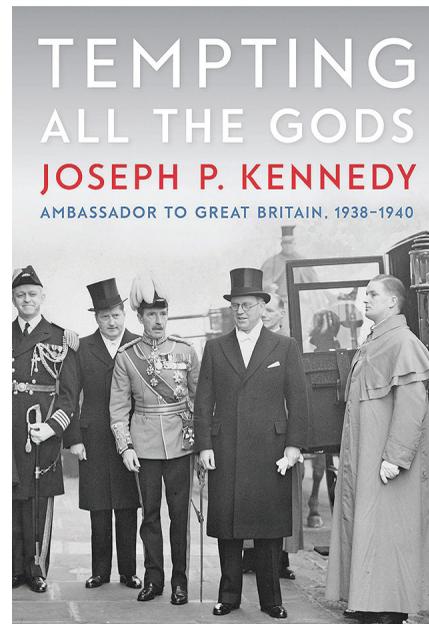
Vieth would visit the Kennedy Library several times. And as one of the first historians to read the documents, Vieth said, "The research shifted the tenor and tone of the book. I got what he was feeling."

Kennedy's tenure in London was a crucial time because it was then that Hitler began his march to domination with the annexation of Austria. It was timed to occur with Kennedy's arrival on the continent, and then Hitler's move on Czechoslovakia ended with the Munich Pact and culminated with the outbreak of World War II as Germany invaded Poland and began bombing London one year later.

In the book, Vieth details the continued isolationism policies espoused by Kennedy. Through Vieth's in-depth research, we learn that in addition to Kennedy's fear of what war would do to his vast financial investments, he feared would happen to his family — particularly his older boys, who would certainly serve in the war.

Vieth said the new draft shifted the tone of the book. "There were a lot more adjectives," Vieth said.

The author said her revisions "ush-



ered in the tragic elements," which would include the loss of his son, Joseph Jr., the assassinations of two more sons, the wartime death of a son-in-law, the loss of a daughter in an airplane crash and the lobotomy of another daughter.

The author also mines personal letters to the president. In one, a journalist friend warns Kennedy to not take the job, writing, "If you do it, it will bring down every possible calamity."

The author said that Kennedy had a "chip on his shoulder" and attributes this in part to "getting back at the Boston Brahmins," who had excluded him from private clubs at Harvard and in his professional life.

Reflecting on her life's work, Vieth — who is not a Kennedy apologist for some of his more radical views and his anti-Semitism — said, "I started out detesting the man, and

then over time I realized he was much more complex."

"His heart was open, and he would do anything he could to protect his sons and anyone else's sons from war. He was a father first," Vieth said.

Some of the best writing in the book pertains to the relationship between the president and Kennedy.

"Roosevelt was his own ambassador and he could control and manipulate anyone. Any day of the week he could out maneuver his opponents," she said.

It also appears from Vieth's writing that Roosevelt could control and keep Kennedy in his place. She writes about an audience Kennedy had with Roosevelt before leaving for England, where Roosevelt asked him to "drop his pants" to make a point. The ambassador did as he was told.

Vieth also said that her interest in the Kennedys was somewhat serendipitous and was influenced by the 1962 summer she spent working as a waitress in Hyannis Port, where the Kennedy family compound is located.

"We were all very aware of the Kennedys," she said.

Vieth sees the biography as somewhat mythical in scope and a retelling of the Greek myth "Daedalus and Icarus," where Icarus flies too close to the sun despite being gravely warned. Vieth may have summed up the true essence of the Kennedy dynasty.

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, Fluttering from the Autumn tree."

- Emily Bronte

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‘Roach’-sized vape pen en route to Lansing pot shops

Chesaning pot company launches disposable ‘pocket vape’

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

I’m a flower guy. While I’ve dabbled with plenty of the concentrates, edibles and vape pens available in Greater Lansing’s recreational marijuana market, I’ve found that, with few exceptions, nothing beats an old fashioned bag of weed — usually rolled up into a joint or two.

But after a weekend spent with this week’s featured product, vape pens are starting to win over my heart. And this one is particularly tasty, potent and, perhaps best of all, stealthy and discreet.

Roach X Six Labs — Full Spectrum Pocket Vape — Melonade (Sativa)
Price — \$35/0.35g
THC — 78%

Six Labs is a marijuana cultivator and processor based in Chesaning that launched last September and is focused on growing premium “craft cannabis products” with “meticulously calibrated, made-to-measure profiles, potencies and flavors,” according to its website.

Its latest product lineup — disposable vape pens designed to fit in your coin pocket — is the result of a new licensing deal with Los-Angeles-based Roach. The third-gram vape pens are on sale now at Breeze stores in Battle Creek and Hazel Park. A company spokesperson offered me some sam-



Lansterdam in Review:
Six Labs Pocket Vape

ples ahead of a planned expansion into the Lansing market in “the next few months.”

And I can now say with certainty that local residents are in for a real treat whenever they arrive.

These vape pens are set to come in dozens of flavors. Mine was a live cannabis extract of Melonade — a sativa-dominant crossbreed strain of Watermelon ZSkittles and Lemon Tree. It’s smaller than a Bic lighter and came fully charged and ready to take straight out of the package.

It took a few hits to get adjusted to the small size, but don’t discount its power from its stature: This thing rips — hard. Bright, sweet and fruity citrus flavors on the inhale, with surprisingly sizable clouds of vapor to complement the hints of melon and sour lemon on the exhale. Unlike most vape pens, the Roach also isn’t metered to limit you to five-second puffs. It can go forever.

About a dozen puffs and 20 minutes later, I started to feel a noticeable cerebral buzz and a mild wave of euphoria. This is definitely a giggly, social sort of strain. And that’s perfect, because this pen is so small that you could easily sneak a few tokes just about anywhere without being noticed. Mine lasted for three full days of pretty constant use before the tank was empty. For legal reasons, I did not secretly puff on this all Sunday night while passing out



Halloween candy.

Six Labs cautions that these products are only for connoisseurs. Amateurs should stick with lower tier distillate pens. These tanks are filled only with live resin extracted from fresh frozen cannabis plants, which preserves more of the terpene profile

and can lead to a stronger high.

The company’s 45,000-square-foot cultivation lab scientifically calculates everything from the speed and direction of the airflow to the spacing between plants and their pots’ sizes. In a recent press release, founding partner Joe Ori said the lab is “where science meets nature.”

That process also includes the careful selection of strain-specific extracts that are later produced into single-use, limited edition vaporizer pens, numbered like a fine wine or art print, Leafly reports. At

least a dozen other strain varieties were listed on Six Labs’ website this week.

A quick flag to smokers who are keeping tabs on the proposed legislation to restrict the caregiver cannabis market in Michigan: In a May podcast interview, Six Labs’ executive Ryan Ori criticized the current 72-plant cultivation limit for caregivers and also labeled some of the state’s caregivers as “people who are not only cheating, but putting the public at risk.”

Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse’s Managing Editor and cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Nearly every week, Kaminski samples some of the best cannabis products available in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about them.

Ixion Theatre Ensemble finds new home at Lansing Mall

By **DAVID WINKELSTERN**

First it was “Tequila Cowboy.” Then the 20,000-square-foot Lansing Mall space briefly was the

“The Skeleton Crew” Overdrive Bar and Grill. Since that closed in March 2020, the 400-seat venue has

been vacant.

Starting Nov. 5, the once country music bar is the new home for Ixion

Ensemble.

“We have an agreement for the full season,” Ixion artistic director Jeff Croff said. “Lansing Mall made the space available.”

For five years, the Robin Theatre in REO Town hosted Ixion’s plays. “We relocated this year because of reduced capacity at the Robin because of COVID-19,” Croff said.

The Lansing Mall location provides lots of advantages when Ixion presents Dominique Morisseau’s “The Skeleton Crew.” The Detroit native’s play was first scheduled at



Courtesy Photo

Actress Rose Cooper appears in Ixion’s “The Skeleton Crew.”

the Robin in March 2020 during the coronavirus pandemic shut-down.

The Lansing Mall venue has more seating, a larger stage, and more dressing room and backstage space. Social distancing will be easier. “The Skeleton Crew” doesn’t require patron masking.

And unlike some shows at the Robin Theatre, sets won’t have to be struck each weekend. “We can leave everything up for the full run.” Croff said.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Soup's On!"--it's getting to be soup weather.

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 CD- (outdated discs)
- 5 Abbr. that's to scale?
- 8 Pituitary, e.g.
- 13 Loads
- 14 Ranch addition?
- 15 Decide, in court
- 17 Partial shadow
- 19 Turkey's capital
- 20 ___ polloi (general population)
- 21 Outdoor section for cars
- 23 "Blazing Saddles" actress Madeline
- 25 ___ Pollos Hermanos ("Breaking Bad" restaurant)

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

- 26 The "M" of "MIB"
- 27 Fencing sword
- 29 "___ the Seas with Oysters" (Hugo Award-winning short story by Avram Davidson)
- 32 Some pet chickens
- 33 Telephone numbers, account IDs, etc.
- 36 Fiery crime
- 37 When doubled, that vacuum thing from the Teletubbies
- 38 Photo-sharing app, for short
- 42 Snapple offering
- 45 Gets older
- 48 Averse (to)
- 49 A head
- 50 Put a dent in
- 51 Airline whose website offers a Japan Explorer Pass
- 52 "The ___ Duckling"
- 54 Film with elaborate costumes, often
- 58 Medicare ID, once
- 61 Overjoyed
- 62 Kind of soup, or what the five theme answers demonstrate
- 64 Medium-sized tube-shaped pasta
- 65 Sweater neck shape
- 66 Bitterly regrets
- 67 Richman of "The New Gidget" and "A Very Brady Christmas"
- 68 "Gangnam Style" musician
- 69 Big volcano in Sicily
- 6 "It's freaking freezing!"
- 7 Lounge in the hot tub
- 8 Continental breakfast offering, maybe
- 9 Sources of inspiration?
- 10 ___-Seltzer
- 11 Descriptor in many Google Maps searches
- 12 ___ Green, aka Squirrel Girl
- 16 Indian flatbreads
- 18 Speed limit letters
- 22 "Count me in!"
- 24 "___ Fables"
- 27 Anti-pollution agcy.
- 28 Part of 18-Down
- 30 Chilled, like blood in an eerie situation
- 31 Greeting at a luau
- 32 "The Messiah" composer
- 34 First digit of all Delaware ZIP codes
- 35 Fifty-fifty, e.g.
- 39 Refuses to budge
- 40 Investigator, informally
- 41 "Delectable!"
- 43 2019 remake directed by Guy Ritchie
- 44 Tennessee Tuxedo's walrus pal
- 45 Energized, with "up"
- 46 Language where a crossword puzzle is "Ùimhseachan crois-fhacal"
- 47 Printers' mistakes
- 51 "Nip/Tuck" actress Richardson
- 53 Moo goo ___ pan
- 55 ___-Tass (Russian news agency)
- 56 Invitation letters
- 57 Tarzan's cohorts
- 59 Envisioned
- 60 Curiosity creator
- 63 Capri crowd?

Down

- 1 Turtle with the red mask, to fans
- 2 Imitation spread
- 3 Nicknames
- 4 "Simpsons" character Disco ___
- 5 Site of the Cedar Revolution

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Answers on page 27

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 27

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

November 3-9, 2021

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Are you still hoping to heal from psychological wounds that you rarely speak about? May I suggest that you consider speaking about them in the coming weeks? Not to just anyone and everyone, of course, but rather to allies who might be able to help you generate at least a partial remedy. The moment is ripe, in my opinion. Now is a favorable time for you to become actively involved in seeking cures, fixes, and solace. Life will be more responsive than usual to such efforts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "The delights of self-discovery are always available," writes author Gail Sheehy. I will add that those delights will be extra accessible for you in the coming weeks. In my view, you're in a phase of super-learning about yourself. You will attract help and support if you passionately explore mysteries and riddles that have eluded your understanding. Have fun surprising and entertaining yourself, Taurus. Make it your goal to catch a new glimpse of your hidden depths every day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gemini novelist and philosopher Muriel Barbery says, "I find this a fascinating phenomenon: the ability we have to manipulate ourselves so that the foundation of our beliefs is never shaken." In the coming weeks, I hope you will overcome any tendency you might have to manipulate yourself in such a way. In my view, it's crucial for your mental and spiritual health that you at least question your belief system, and perhaps even risk shaking its foundation. Don't worry: Even if doing so ushers in a period of uncertainty, you'll be much stronger for it in the long run. More robust and complete beliefs will be available for you to embrace.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In her book "Mathilda", novelist Mary Shelley (1797-1851) has the main character ask, "What had I to love?" And the answer? "Oh, many things: there was the moonshine, and the bright stars; the breezes and the refreshing rains; there was the whole earth and the sky that covers it." I bring this to your attention in the hope of inspiring you to make your own tally of all the wonders you love. I trust your inventory will be at least ten times as long as Mathilda's. Now is a favorable time for you to gather all the healing that can come from feeling waves of gratitude, even adoration, for the people, animals, experiences, situations, and places that rouse your interest and affection and devotion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Our memories are always changing. Whenever we call up a specific remembrance, it's different from the last time we visited that same remembrance, colored by all the new memories we have accumulated in the meantime. Over time, an event we recall from when we were nine years old has gone through a great deal of shape-shifting in our memory so much so that it may have little resemblance to the first time we remembered it. Is this a thing to be mourned or celebrated? Maybe some of both. Right now, though, it's to be celebrated. You have extra power to declare your independence from any memories that don't make you feel good. Why hold onto them if you can't even be sure they're accurate?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth in a spacecraft. His flight marked the first time that NASA, the agency in charge of spaceflight, had ever used electronic computers. Glenn, who was also an engineer, wanted the very best person to verify the calculations, and that was Virgo mathematician Katherine Johnson. In fact, Glenn said he wouldn't fly without her involvement. I bring this to your attention, Virgo, because I believe the coming months will be a favorable time for you to garner the kind of respect and recognition that Katherine Johnson got from John Glenn. Make sure everyone who needs to know does indeed know about your aptitudes and skills.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): According to an Apache proverb, "It is better to have less thunder

in the mouth and more lightning in the hand." If you act on that counsel in the coming weeks, you will succeed in doing what needs to be done. There is only one potential downfall you could be susceptible to, in my view, and that is talking and thinking too much about the matter you want to accomplish before you actually take action to accomplish it. All the power you need will arise as you resolutely wield the lightning in your hands.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): To encourage young people to come to its shows, the English National Opera has offered a lot of cheap tickets. Here's another incentive: Actors sing in English, not Italian or French or German. Maybe most enticing for audiences is that they are encouraged to boo the villains. The intention is to make attendees feel relaxed and free to express themselves. I'm pleased to give you Scorpios permission to boo the bad guys in your life during the coming weeks. In fact, I will love it if you are extra eloquent and energetic about articulating all your true feelings. In my view, now is prime time for you to show the world exactly who you are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "If we're not careful, we are apt to grant ultimate value to something we've just made up in our heads," said Zen priest Koshi Uchiyama. In my view, that's a problem all of us should always be alert for. As I survey my own past, I'm embarrassed and amused as I remember the countless times I committed this faux pas. For instance, during one eight-month period, I inexplicably devoted myself to courting a woman who had zero interest in a romantic relationship with me. I bring this to your attention, Sagittarius, because I'm concerned that right now, you're more susceptible than usual to making this mistake. But since I've warned you, maybe you'll avoid it. I hope so!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Capricorn author Asha Sanaker writes, "There is a running joke about us Capricorns that we age backwards. Having been born as burdened, cranky old people, we become lighter and more joyful as we age because we have gained so much practice in wielding responsibility. And in this way we learn, over time, about what are our proper burdens to carry and what are not. We develop clear boundaries around how to hold our obligations with grace." Sanaker's thoughts will serve as an excellent meditation for you in the coming weeks. You're in a phase when you can make dramatic progress in embodying the skills she articulates.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): As author Denise Linn reminded us, "The way you treat yourself sends a very clear message to others about how they should treat you." With that advice as your inspiration, I will ask you to deepen your devotion to self-care in the coming weeks. I will encourage you to shower yourself with more tenderness and generosity than you have ever done in your life. I will also urge you to make sure these efforts are apparent to everyone in your life. I am hoping for you to accomplish a permanent upgrade in your love for yourself, which should lead to a similar upgrade in the kindness you receive from others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You have at your disposal a prodigiously potent creative tool: your imagination. If there's a specific experience or object you want to bring into your world, the first thing you do is visualize it. The practical actions you take to live the life you want to live always refer back to the scenes in your mind's eye. And so every goal you fulfill, every quest you carry out, every liberation you achieve, begins as an inner vision. Your imagination is the engine of your destiny. It's the catalyst with which you design your future. I bring these ideas to your attention, dear Pisces, because November is Celebrate Your Imagination Month.

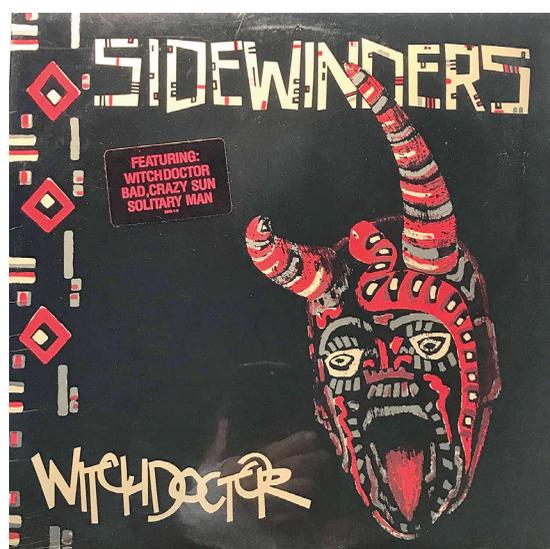
Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

LIFE CHANGING ALBUMS: JOHNNY AIMCRIER TALKS
'WITCHDOCTOR' LP BY THE SIDEWINDERS



Johnny Aimcrier leads The Aimcriers, a Mid-Michigan-based rock 'n' roll outfit. (Courtesy images)

The Aimcriers vocalist-guitarist dishes on a 1989 'desert rock' discovery

This is the first in a series of stories where local musicians dish about a life-changing record. Kicking it off is Johnny Aimcrier recalling his 1989 discovery of the "Witchdoctor" LP by the Sidewinders — a defunct RCA-signed band that melded the power of Hüsker Dü with a country edge.

The Aimcriers, an alt-root rock 'n roll band, started in Tempe, Ariz., but in 2005 relocated to the Lansing area and never looked back. A few years back, he told me: "I'd say we're a rock band, a country band, a folk band and a garage band. Throw in some punk elements when we go full electric or acoustic elements when we unplug, and you have the general gist. The last time we played out, someone said we sounded like Elvis Costello fronting CCR."

That sound, in part, came from the discovery of the Sidewinders (a band later forced to change their name to the Sand Rubies). Here's what he had to say about finding the record.

When and how did you find this record?

Johnny Aimcrier: I discovered them at the end of my final year of college at Arizona State University in Tempe when the album was first released. At that time, the local alternative station, KUKQ, played the single "What Am I Supposed to Do" and a couple of other tracks, like "Cigarette" and the title track. They got extra airplay as the Sidewinders were from Tucson, just down I10. I purchased the cassette not long after hearing those tunes.

It had an immediate impact on me. I had begun playing guitar around this time and the songs on "Witchdoctor" were a blast to play along with, plus with Tucson being only 90 minutes away, I could catch their shows down there and when they came up to Tempe.

So you cut your rock 'n roll teeth playing tracks from this record?

When I was learning guitar, my good friend Joe Hunt, who was an

awesome guitar player, sat with me for days teaching me tunes from "Witchdoctor." I covered the Sidewinders in the first band I was in and continue to do so today. Their simple song structures still influence how I approach certain tunes when writing.

What drew you into the LP?

I really dug the songwriting and the use of acoustic and electric guitars. Also, there was a bitchin' cover of a Neil Diamond song on the album. I'd describe "Witchdoctor" as straight up desert rock. It's sort of folk and sort of rock — with an Arizona flair.

When they were on tour after being forced to change their name, Pearl Jam opened for them on a few dates. I never got to share a stage with the Sidewinders or the Sand Rubies in Arizona, but I did with two of David Slutes' bands, Ginger and Maryanne, and also one of Rich Hopkins' bands, Rich Hopkins & the Luminarios.

The Aimcriers last LP was issued in 2014. Is there another

on the horizon?

We're looking to finish The Aimcriers' followup to "Solid State World." We've got a few more guitar leads and vocal tracks to record. It's been taking so long that we've got another album of songs ready to record. We're still writing new tunes and hopefully will be booking shows in 2022. As a side project, I'm playing guitar and lap steel in Harborcoat, a Lansing area, with Matt Carlson, Joel Kuiper, Ian Walker, Nate Moore and David Baldwin.

Johnny Aimcrier's Honorable mentions:

Scud Mountain Boys "Pine Box" (1995)

Teenage Fanclub "Bandwagonesque" (1991)

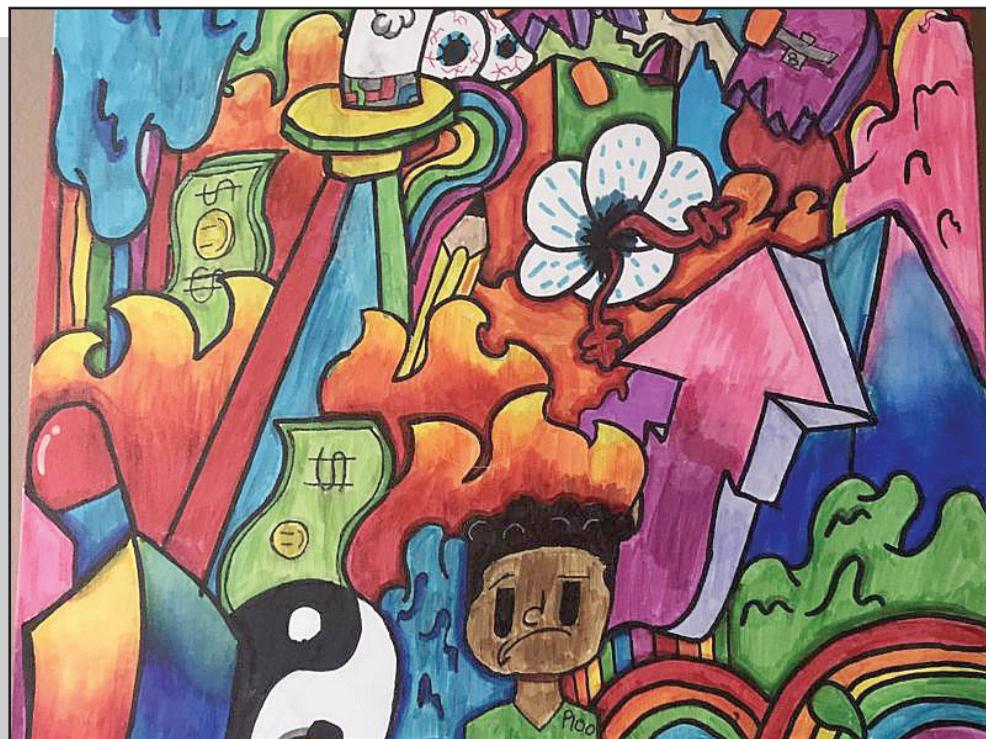
R.E.M. "Fables of The Reconstruction" (1985)

Follow the band at facebook.com/TheAimcriers

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.



Arts Night Out in Old Town

Friday, Nov. 5, 5 p.m.
Old Town Neighborhood
1213 Turner St., Lansing
MyArtsNightOut.com

Arts Night Out is back again for the first Friday of November. The Arts Council of Greater Lansing hosts the bi-monthly event.

Art's Night Out features special sales, exhibits, arts and craft demonstrations and live performances. This Friday in Old Town will treat attendees to all sorts of cool stuff to check out at Twiggie's, Bad Annie's, Great Lakes Arts & Gifts, MICA Gallery, Preuss Pets, Odd Nodd Art Supply, UrbanBeat and several other participating locations.

Information including a list of venues, artist info and helpful maps are available for each Arts Night Out event at myartsnightout.com.

Wednesday, November 3

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6 p.m.
Inside Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing.

Intentional Living Course - 6-8 p.m.
Foster Community Center, 200 N Foster Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4290. IntendedBeing.com.

Rodney Whitaker Quintet with vocalist Rockelle Fortin - \$10 Student \$15 Advance \$20 Door. 7:30-11 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Lansing Matinee Musicale - with pianist Gail Lytle Lira and the Spartan Dischords. 1-2:30 p.m. Ascension Lutheran Church, 2780 Haslett Rd., East Lansing.

Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting - via Zoom. 7-8 p.m. Michigan Audubon. For link: michiganaudubon.org.

Obscurity and the Right to Remove: A Conversation on the Freedom to be Forgotten - 6:30 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-355-2370.

Wheel of the Year: Samhain - In-person or Zoom for a discussion of Mabon on the Wheel of the Year. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St. #7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, November 4

Chipmunk Story Time - Children interact with puppets, Chicory Chipmunk and his animal friends! 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos.

Ghost Hunters: Join us if you dare! - Hear genuine ghost hunter's presentation of paranormal investigation. 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Info: ladiessilverblades.org.

Michigan Made | Holiday Art Exhibition - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. through Dec. 23. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N. Washington Sq., Lansing. 917-833-9963. lansingartgallery.org.

Middle Grade Book Club - via Zoom for trivia and a discussion on our fall book club. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St. eradl.org.

Reach Virtual Meet-up: Arts Incubator for Young People - Sara Gothard. 4-5 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Sara/Eli @ Reach - 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Stitch 'N Bitch - Bring your yarn or thread for a casual evening of fiber arts and chit-chat. 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540.

Friday, November 5

John Gorka - 7:30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church (UUMC), 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

MSU Houseplant and Succulent Sale - 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Plant and Soil Science Building, MSU, 1066 Bogue St, East Lansing.

Space Adventure - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Take-Home Crafts @ GLADL - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Instructions on gladl.org.

TGIF Weekly Friday Dance - all welcome! Doors open at 7 p.m. Hawk Hollow Golf Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com.

Saturday, November 6

Curbside Sauerkraut Dinner - 4-6 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing. 517-882-6330.

Intentional Living Course - 2-4 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster, Lansing. 517-483-4290. Intendedbeing.com.

Fall Open House - at Great Lakes Clinical Massage Therapy! Tour the office and meet our massage therapists. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 2600 Eaton Rapids Rd., Lansing. glcmt.com.

Space Adventure - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Monday, November 8

Comedy Night - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Intentional Living - Join us for a six session course on intentional living. 6-8 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N Foster Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4290. IntendedBeing.com.

Jump Into Reading - Join Ms. Anna at the Playground of Dreams for stories, songs, and activities. 11-11:30 a.m. 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Tuesday, November 9

Board Game Meet Up - Ages 18 & up. Everyone welcome! 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

Mi Bird-Friendly Communities Lunch & Learn Webinar Series: Chimney Swifts. 12-12:45 p.m. Michigan Audubon. Link at michiganaudubon.org.

Minecraft Mania! - Join us for an evening of fun and friendly competition. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Preschool Family Storytime - for 1-6 year olds with their young siblings, parents or caregivers. 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St.

Sporcle Live! Trivia - Are you a trivia buff? 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Kale chips

By **ARI LeVAUX**

“Normally, it’s gross,” announced my son Louie, setting up a discussion about a certain prospective snack ingredient.

“It tastes like poop,” clarified his friend Ella.

“I don’t usually like it,” observed my son Remy, who is the chef of the family. “But in this form I do.”

When Ella realized to which snack we were referring, she lurched toward me like a starving zombie. “You have kale chips,” she stated in a firm monotone that was both question and statement. The rest of the gang joined in pursuit of the fresh batch of kale chips I’d made for their lunches.

Perhaps someday in the future, food technologists will have the tools to solve the deep, mysterious alchemy of kale chips. Even today, our crude brains can at least comprehend that grease, salt and crispiness will all make food taste better. As for what exactly happens to that part of kale’s flavor that some find harsh, we will leave that to the next generation to figure out.

Wherever it goes, it’s gone. As was a large bunch of curly kale’s-worth of chips, which the children devoured in minutes, after which chaos was restored.

Being foliage rich in chlorophyll, minerals and other nutrients, kale is one of the world’s healthiest foods. When you factor in the inordinate amount of fiber that kale packs, it’s like dark, green leafy steroids for your body, without the actual steroids. Eat them in their crunchy glory. Crumble them onto salad. Nobody will grumble at those million crunchy, greasy, salty, delicious fibers.



Kale Chips

These are perfect for when it’s time to feed the monsters you’ve created. The base of the recipe is kale, salt and oil. I’ve added a few extra spices, seeds and flavorings to this recipe as but one example of a near-infinite variety of combinations you can try. Whatever bakes your chip.

Serves four zombies in five minutes

1 bunch kale, washed and completely dried

4 tablespoons olive oil

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon black pepper

1 tablespoon soy sauce

1 tablespoon sesame seeds

Chile flakes to taste

Process

Strip the kale leaves from the stems, rip them to pieces and submerge the resulting shards of kale into a large bowl of water. Massage the kale in the water and then transfer to a colander or salad spinner to dry.

Preheat the oven to 275 degrees.

When the kale has mostly dried, put it in a mixing bowl and add the rest of the ingredients. Work it with your hands to distribute the flavorings, and then spread the seasoned kale on two baking sheets in a single layer with some space around each leaf so none touch. This allows for air circulation, which is crucial for even drying.

Place the trays of seasoned kale leaves in the preheated oven, and bake for about 15 minutes. At this point the leaves will have begun to shrink and crisp. Give them a stir to facilitate the crisping. You don’t have to worry about the leaves touching at this point.



Ari LeVaux

Crispy kale chips prepared by Ari LeVaux.

Just try to spread them all out as evenly as possible.

When they are dried but perhaps not totally crispy, turn the oven off and let the kale chips cool down with the oven. When the oven is still warm but almost cool, remove the kale chips and transfer them immediately to a tightly sealed plastic bag, before they

have a chance to absorb any moisture from the air. Put these bags in lunches, picnics, or your choice of snack times.

(Flash in the Pan is food writer Ari LeVaux’s weekly recipe column. It runs in about 100 newspapers nationwide, nourishing food sections large and small with complete protein for the belly brain.)

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Brand new restaurants to get excited for in Lansing

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Two new restaurants are now open and waiting for Lansing to come check them out, Sonia's Soul Food and PappaRoti.

PappaRoti is an international chain of cafes founded in Malaysia by chef Rasha Al Danhani, with locations in Qatar, Malaysia, South Korea and England. The restaurant's newest location, which just opened in East Lansing on Trowbridge Road, specializes in deluxe baked goods, coffee and tea.

Its signature dish is the roti bun, a wide and round bun that's soft and doughy on the inside and crispy and



A bun from PappaRoti
crunchy on the outside. PappaRoti has several methods of preparing the



PappaRoti
Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
1000 Trowbridge Road,
East Lansing
PappaRoti.US
(517) 580-4138

Sonia's Soul Food
Tuesday-Sunday, noon to 8 p.m.
3530 S. Waverly Road, Lansing
Facebook.com/soniasoulfood
(517) 318-6809

bun with distinct flavors like coffee and caramel.

Sonia's Soul Food, on South Waverly Road, focuses on classic comfort food staples such as mac and cheese, chicken wings, baked beans, okra, ribs and various fried fish dishes. Each weekday

has its own special combo meal, such as chicken and waffles on Monday and catfish on Wednesday.

On the horizon for Lansing is longtime favorite Pablo's Old Town Mexican Restaurant's new location on Michigan Avenue in Lansing's east side neighborhood, where it will be housed in the same building as Strange Matter Coffee.

Owner Pablo Maldonado originally planned to open a second location in REO Town, which was hyped up for several years but never came to fruition. This new address, set to be in operation by the end of year, places the Mexican eatery just a stone's throw away from El Oasis, another local favorite. So, if you want great Mexican food, Lansing's east side is going to be the new hot spot.

Also coming is Etta's Coffee House, a new coffee shop located in the formerly graffiti-splattered building on Cedar Street next to Lansing Brewing Co. It's since been renovated with a simple black paint job with the coffee shop's logo adorning the side. Alongside gourmet coffee, Etta's will also serve breakfast dishes such as special avocado toast and pastries.

Featured on: **DRIVE-INS** **UBS**

Try our
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Fresh off the Grill!

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From Pg. 22

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

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