

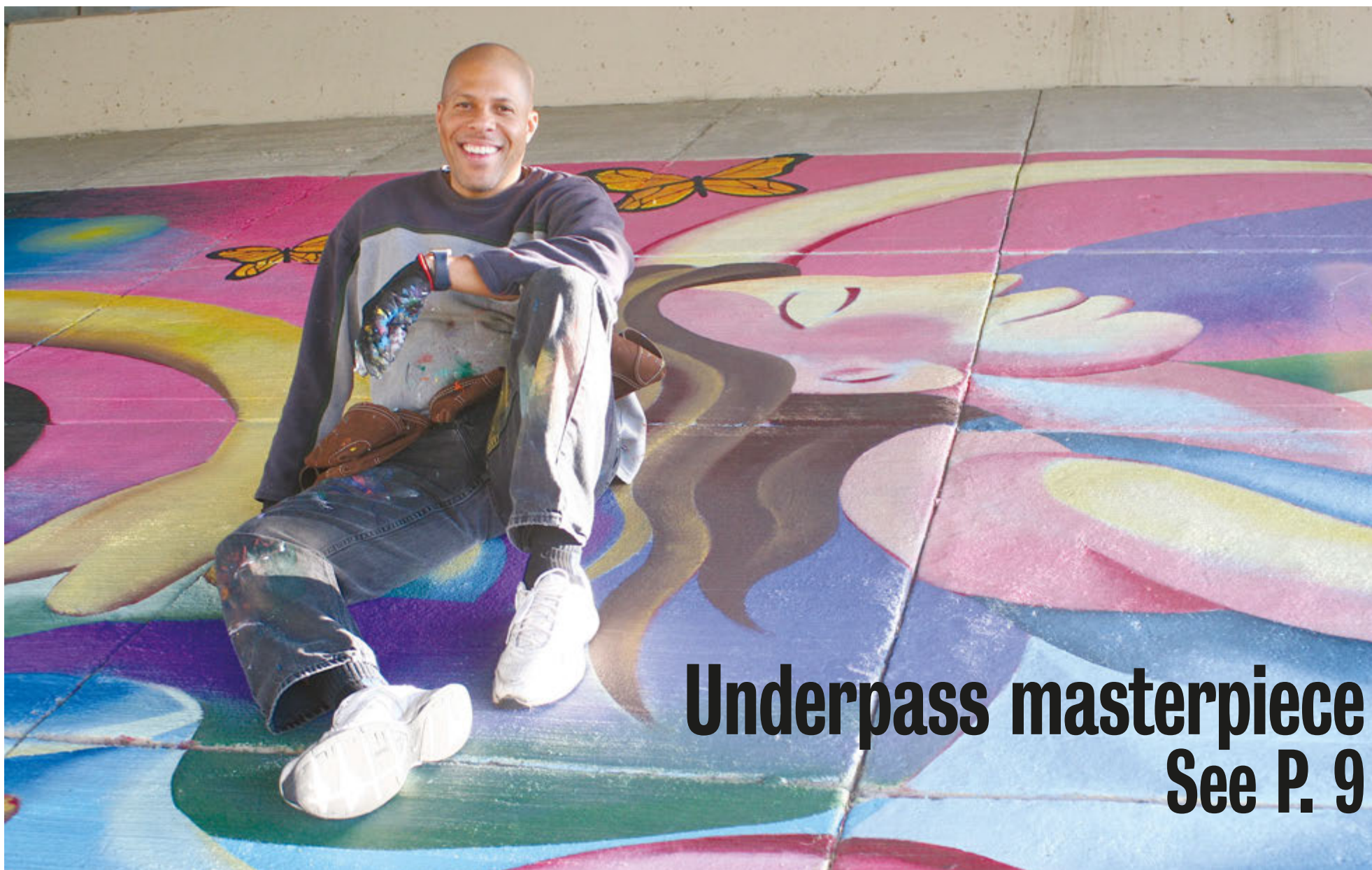
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CityPULSE

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October 25 - 31, 2017



Underpass masterpiece See P. 9

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November 16 - December 23, 2017

BeauJest



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Pay-What-You-Can Preview
Thursday, Nov. 16 @ 8PM
\$19 Previews
Nov. 17 @ 8PM
Nov. 18 @ 8PM
Nov. 19 @ 2PM

By James Sherman

Directed by Tony Caselli

Featuring: Sandra Birch, Fred Buchalter,
Patrick Loos, Michael Lopetrone,
Vanessa Sawson, David Wolber

Williamston Theatre
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www.williamstontheatre.org





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You may donate by credit card at www.lansingcitypulse.com/donate. You may also send a check or the credit card form below to City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912.

Thank you!

Berl Schwartz, editor and publisher

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF EAST LANSING ELECTION NOTICE CITY GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017 FOR THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING INGHAM AND CLINTON COUNTIES, MICHIGAN

To the electors of the City of East Lansing, please take notice that an election will be held in the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, Michigan, on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017**

For the purpose of electing:
East Lansing City Council Two (2) Members

For the purpose of voting on:
INGHAM COUNTY BALLOT QUESTION

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

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

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

CITY BALLOT QUESTION

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

CITY BALLOT QUESTION

Shall Section 10.5 of the East Lansing City Charter be amended to reduce the current limit on the amount of property tax a City Council may impose from 2% (20 mills) to 1.3% (13 mills) in fiscal years in which the City levies, assesses and collects an income tax pursuant to the City Income Tax Act with the mandatory reduction to begin the fiscal year following the first year of the tax?
YES
NO

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

Polls at said election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m.

LIST OF POLLING LOCATIONS:

- Pct. 1 - Brody Hall, MSU
- Pct. 2 - Martin Luther Chapel, 444 Abbot Road
- Pct. 3 - East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road
- Pct. 4 - Capital City Vineyard Church, 1635 Coolidge Road
- Pct. 5 - Shaarey Zedek Congregation, 1924 Coolidge Road
- Pct. 6 - Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road
- Pct. 7 - St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3383 Lake Lansing Road
- Pct. 8 - University Reformed Church, 841 Timberlane Street
- Pct. 9 - Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road
- Pct. 10 - Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road
- Pct. 11 - Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive
- Pct. 12 - Union Bldg., MSU
- Pct. 13 - IM Sports East, MSU
- Pct. 14 - IM Sports East, MSU
- Pct. 15 - IM Sports West, MSU
- Pct. 16 - Wesley Foundation, 1118 S. Harrison Road
- Pct. 17 - Shaarey Zedek Congregation, 1924 Coolidge Road

All polling places are accessible and voting instructions are available in alternative formats of audio and Braille.

The East Lansing City Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, November 4, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to issue and accept absentee ballots for qualified electors.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED TO VOTE - ALL voters are required to show photo identification when applying for an absent voter ballot in person and to vote at the polls. Voters without identification will be required to fill out and sign an affidavit in order to receive a ballot.

To see if you are registered or to find your polling location, check the Secretary of State Voter Information website at www.mich.gov/vote

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#17-275

See pages 6, 8 & 13 for more Public Notices

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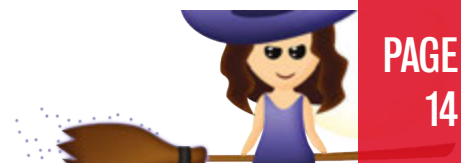
**VOL. 17
ISSUE 11**



Ready to go: Costco opens Friday.



A century of creativity, James Niblock turns 100.



Curious how witches spend their Halloween? Look no further.



by Lawrence Cosentino

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



TOM TOMORROW © 2017

Facing the future

Williamston readies transgender policy for schools

Williamston finds itself at the center of controversy playing out locally and nationally: how to accommodate transgender and gender-nonconforming students in the school environment.

School Board members have been working on a policy for months. At issue: which bathroom and locker room may transgender and gender-nonconforming students use? Should they participate in

sports based on their gender identity or the gender assigned to them at birth?

Board members will meet tonight on a third draft. Board President Greg Talberg said the plan is to adopt the policy on Nov. 6.

The policy would allow students to use bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity, if the district is informed of the decision by parents. In addition, the

district would change gender references in school records and keep a confidential file containing the student's original name and gender.

Talberg said the district, which has 1,800 students, is unaware of any who are transgender.

"We're really trying to be proactive and pragmatic so that we don't get stuck in a situation where a kid is stuck in the middle of this," Talberg said.

He said some residents "are confused; some in the community are just upset. But they're upset at the board. I'd prefer that than fears directed at a student."

Indeed, the district has held two public meetings about the proposed policy this month. Each was packed with commu-

nity members on both sides of the issue. The public body has also received at least 200 letters both for and against the policy during that time.

Sean Bertolino is opposed. He is a parent in the district and serves on the Williamston City Council.

"I've not yet had anyone explain to me why we are doing this, why it is needed now," he said in a phone interview. "There is quite a split on this, as we have seen in the state and anywhere this topic has come up."

Even in the midst of serious disagreement in the community, he said the board has listened to concerns from parents and made changes.

See Transgender, Page 6

Uproar in 4th

McClurken crime mailer image repels some supporters

Despite being "uncomfortable" with an image on a political mailer for his campaign, 4th Ward City Council candidate Jim McClurken approved it for release, triggering political criticism, the resignation of a political adviser and at least one high profile endorser rescinding her endorsement.

The fallout from the controversy is adding to McClurken's uphill effort to defeat Brian Jackson to replace Jessica Yorke on the Council. McClurken garnered 952 votes, just over 26 percent of the total vote, in a five-way primary in August. Brian Jackson came in first with 1,591 votes, or nearly 44 percent.

The controversy has cost him the public support of Joan Bauer, a former City Councilwoman and state legislator. It also earned him criticism from Liz Boyd, who was Gov. Jennifer Granholm's communications director.

The issue dogging his campaign is an image of six young men and women of different ethnicities. "Lansing's criminals want Jim McClurken to lose" is plastered across the image.

"The image troubles me because to me it was pure stereotyping and fear mongering and together we would normally call that race baiting in a campaign," said Emily Dievendorf, who was at one time identified as the campaign's manager, but was referred to as an adviser in interviews.

She resigned from the campaign on

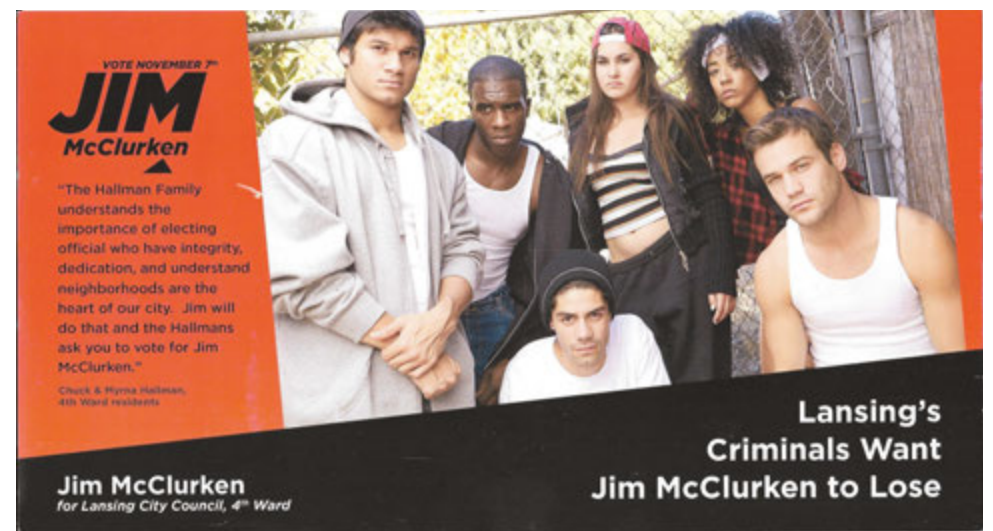
Friday, citing concerns about the mailer. "In this case because the photo was of youth and the text talked about Lansing's criminals, it implied Lansing's youth and in this case our youth within the city that fit a certain stereotype of less affluent youth, primarily youth of color, were primarily responsible for Lansing's crime. And that's just not true."

McClurken said he was happy with the text of the mailer, which stresses community collaboration to address the city's crime issues, but is "deeply uncomfortable" with the image that was ultimately selected.

The latest FBI statistics for the combination of violent crime and property crime in Lansing showed a decrease of nearly 1.5 percent in 2015 compared to 2014. Violent crime increased 4.3 percent. The actual increase was 55 crimes, increasing from 1,272 to 1,327. Those crimes include robbery, assault, rape and murder. On the other hand, property crime — such as burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson — dropped 3.5 percent in the same period, with 126 fewer crimes, dropping from 3,576 to 3,450. Combined, such crimes dropped from 4,848 to 4,777, or 71 crimes.

McClurken said political consultant Joe DiSano pushed to have an image on the mailer to "grab people's attention."

"I wanted a different image," but he said he was pressed for time because of professional obligations and "didn't follow it as carefully as I should have and authorized it



Courtesy Photo

Hundreds of homes in the 4th Ward received a mailer that caused some supporters of Jim McClurken, a City Council candidate, to cringe at its depiction of Lansing youth.

without thinking. And once I have thought it through? I was deeply uncomfortable."

McClurken rejected a previous image presented by DiSano, both men said in interviews. DiSano said the mailer was meant for as many as 2,500 absentee ballot voters in the 4th Ward. McClurken said he suspended some of the mailing as soon as concerns were raised.

DiSano is defending the image.

"It's a multiracial picture showing young people who are representative of possibly being criminal. I literally do not see what people are upset about. It is a picture of black, white and Hispanic people," he said. "No particular race or gender is targeted here."

But DiSano's take is not how others are seeing it.

Boyd said she found the mailer image "offensive" and discussed her concerns with McClurken. She still intends to vote for him.

Bauer confirmed Monday night that she has asked McClurken to stop using her image or name to promote his candidacy.

"I did find it offensive," said Bauer.

It is not just Bauer, Boyd and Dievendorf condemning the mailer.

Peter Spadafore, a Lansing School Board member and candidate for an at large City Council seat, called the mailer "offensive" as

See McClurken, Page 6



McClurken

from page 5

well. While he had refrained from endorsing in the 4th Ward race, he has since placed a yard sign for McClurken's opponent, Brian Jackson, in his yard.

Jackson declined to comment on the controversy.

Transgender

from page 5

A controversial provision in an earlier draft would have cut parents out of the loop and allowed students to change their gender identity and name on their own. The draft would have prohibited the school from notifying parents of this change.

That provision was dropped from the latest draft policy based on feedback from the community.

Opponents like Bertolino are opposed to the policy because they fear it could act as a possible enticement for inappropriate activities. Opponents often cite privacy concerns for women and children and worry that transgender people will sexually assault people in bathrooms.

"All it takes from what I've read is a student to tell you in complete confidence they are transgender," wrote Johnny Pratt in a Sept. 29 email to the board. "After that they are allowed to use the bathroom of their preference. When I was in high school I was a walking hard-on. As well as 99 percent of any male student at that age. If I was able to tell someone I was transgender in complete disclosure and have the ability to walk into the woman's locker room, it's something I would have done and I know lots of other guys who

would have done the same."

Williamston High School's executive president of student government wrote the board that assumptions expressed by Pratt and others opposed to the policy were "not realistic."

"No students would 'pretend' to be trans," Lillie Wilson-Daeschlein wrote.

DiSano rejected the criticisms.

"I would not let a silly image detract from the facts that are at play here," he said of the mailer and the controversy. "The facts that some of the pearl clutchers don't want to recognize the problem, that really kind of helps create the problem if you don't want to acknowledge there is a problem."

He said Lansing's "political elite" would have found issue with any image he had used.

"Certainly I could have used a different image," he said. "What this is, any image we would have used, people would have been upset about because it is designed to be provocative."

He said criticism was coming from people who "live in a bubble" but the mailer was targeted toward residents who are "happy their door isn't kicked in. That's not something I expect the politicians to understand."

— TODD HEYWOOD



Photo by Sean Bertolino

Hundreds of parents turn out for the Oct. 2 meeting of Williamston's school board, which is drafting a policy on transgender students.

"No one is going to go through an extensive process of 'coming out' just so they can pull a prank or peep at people of the opposite sex."

Experts in sexual assault disagree with opponents as well. An April 2016 consensus statement from 200 rape and sexual assault crisis organizations in the country, put out by the National Task Force to End Sexual Domestic Violence Against Women, noted over 200 municipalities and 18 states have laws protecting the transgender community from discrimination, including access to bathrooms.

"None of those jurisdictions have seen a rise in sexual violence or other public safety issues due to nondiscrimination laws," the letter said. "Assaulting another person in a restroom or changing room remains against the law in every single state."

Two anti-LGBT groups are pushing against the proposed policy in Williamston.

The Great Lakes Justice Center, run by David Kallman, is saber rattling about suing the district should it adopt the policy for transgender students.

Kallman was also an active opponent of Delta Township's comprehensive human rights ordinance. That law, adopted by the township in 2013, included both sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes from discrimination.

The other group is the American College

of Pediatricians, which in 2002 broke from the American Academy of Pediatrics after it endorsed adoption rights for same-sex couples. The Southern Poverty Law Center calls the ACP an anti-LGBT hate group. Great Lakes Justice Center cites ACP for opposition to the Williamston policy on its website.

Driving the Williamston School Board members is an Obama-era policy directive that has since been rescinded by President Donald Trump's secretary of education, Betsy DeVos, of Michigan. Talberg said that's because the replacement "Dear Colleague Letter" requires schools to sure that "all students are protected from discrimination."

The DeVos directive required school districts to allow students to use the bathroom that corresponds to their gender identity but provides no legal requirements other than schools provide a safe learning environment for all students. As a result, there are a patchwork of federal court rulings both for and against transgender youth in a variety of schools across the country.

Talberg said he expects there will be a lawsuit over the policy.

"We are going to get sued either way," he said. "But I would rather get sued for doing the right thing. I think we have a better chance."

— TODD HEYWOOD

East Lansing • Meridian Township

BRIEFS

Weekend crime update

With Homecoming and a home football game over the weekend, East Lansing Police had their hands full. Officers made 18 arrests. Charges ranged from disorderly conduct to public drunkenness. EL's finest also nabbed several individuals on warrants. In addition, 21 citations were issued. While some were just routine traffic incidents, there were still a handful written for alcohol-related violations. No severe incidents during the home game weekend have been reported.

Unrelated to the game, early Monday morning the ELPD responded to an armed robbery at the Jimmy John's at the corner of Grand River and Collingwood avenues. The suspect surprised the store manager while he prepared his shop for business. The suspect allegedly produced a handgun and threatened the manager. The thief took off with an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspect is described as a large man wearing a dark hoodie and a mask. The incident is still under investigation.

Okemos master plan gets hearing

Revisions to the Meridian Township master plan were forwarded to the planning commission for action, possibly as soon as Nov. 9. That's after a public hearing Tuesday night where three residents weighed in on the plans.

No one proposed significant changes to the existing master plan draft. However, some minor cosmetic changes were recommended, including the addition of names of individuals that had been left out of the master plan's acknowledgments.

The draft document encourages higher density developments in both Haslett and Okemos. That will likely feed an ongoing debate about how the township develops itself. Does it continue as a series of sprawled-out, lower-density suburban neighborhoods, or does it direct resources into pushing for urbanizing parts of the community? That would mean higher-density living spaces, designed for a more walkable, big-city feel.

Okemos Ace Hardware closing

After 42 years, the Okemos Ace Hardware is closing its doors. The decision was announced Sunday via Facebook along with information about raffles and prizes for customers that visit before the store officially becomes no more on Christmas. That Facebook post received several comments from longtime customers that shared thanks for the store's service over the years.

Owner Jim Raynak said he is closing the store in order to enjoy his retirement. Raynak said he is putting the hardware store through liquidation, not due to the business failing in anyway, but because after four decades he no longer desires to run it. Said Raynak in an interview, "The customers have been great, we've had so many that were loyal and longtime, so we're thankful for the community support. Hopefully another store like us pops up after we're gone."

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
INGHAM COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES
NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE NO.
17-2302-GA

In the matter of Daniel Campbell

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 11/02/2017 at 10:00 AM, at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Economy for the following purpose(s):

Guardianship hearing for incapacitated adult.

If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

Date: 10/17/2017
Jimmie Harris
5303 S. Cedar St.
Lansing, MI 48911
(517)-775-5442 CP#17-280

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, the owners of the land described below within the Street Lighting Special Assessment District, and any other interested persons:

2328	Showtime	1609	Lake Lansing Road	2524	Lake Lansing Road	3318	Wood Street
2401	Showtime	1615	Lake Lansing Road	2620	Lake Lansing Road	3309	Wood Street
2501	Showtime	1627	Lake Lansing Road	2628	Lake Lansing Road	3315	Wood Street
2505	Showtime	1634	Lake Lansing Road	2704	Lake Lansing Road	3319	Wood Street
2620	Showtime	1700	Lake Lansing Road	2706	Lake Lansing Road	3323	Wood Street
3508	Wood St.		2710	Lake Lansing Road	3320	Preyde	
2810	Chamberlin Dr	1707	Lake Lansing Road	1540	Lake Lansing Road	And Also	Parcels:
2500	Kerry Street	1720	Lake Lansing Road	2800	Preyde Blvd		
2503	Kerry Street	1813	Lake Lansing Road	2500	Showtime Dr	33-21-01-02-100-048	Towne Center
2511	Kerry Street	1910	Lake Lansing Road	3115	Towne Centre	33-21-01-02-100-002	Wood St.
2127	Lake Lansing Rd	2000	Lake Lansing Road	2800	Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-03-200-011	Wood Street
2401	Lake Lansing Rd	2017	Lake Lansing Road	2925	Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-02-126-03	Showtime
2615	Lake Lansing Rd	2030	Lake Lansing Road	3225	Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-02-126-100	Showtime
1320	Lake Lansing Road	2110	Lake Lansing Road	2320	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-200-014	Wood Street
1384	Lake Lansing Road	2129	Lake Lansing Road	2401	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-200-015	Wood Street
1403	Lake Lansing Road	2200	Lake Lansing Road	2510	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-401-017	Lake Lansing
1405	Lake Lansing Road	2250	Lake Lansing Road			33-21-01-03-426-007	Lake Lansing
1408	Lake Lansing Road	2300	Lake Lansing Road	2707	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-009	Wood Street
1411	Lake Lansing Road	2312	Lake Lansing Road	2715	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-021	Lake Lansing
1415	Lake Lansing Road	2400	Lake Lansing Road	2723	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-427-034	Lake Lansing
1422	Lake Lansing Road	2408	Lake Lansing Road	2727	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-451-005	Lake Lansing
1475	Lake Lansing Road	2410	Lake Lansing Road	2733	Wood Street		
1492	Lake Lansing Road	2412	Lake Lansing Road	2920	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-503-001	Wood St.
1500	Lake Lansing Road	2414	Lake Lansing Road	2925	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-503-001	Wood St.
1515	Lake Lansing Road	2425	Lake Lansing Road	3010	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-023	Lake Lansing
1824	Lake Lansing Road	2500	Lake Lansing Road	3018	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-127-001	Showtime
1520	Lake Lansing Road	2502	Lake Lansing Road	3107	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-127-002	Showtime
1530	Lake Lansing Road	2510	Lake Lansing Road	3125	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-128-002	Showtime
1568	Lake Lansing Road	2512	Lake Lansing Road	3300	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-201-008	Preyde
1600	Lake Lansing Road	2515	Lake Lansing Road	3305	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-201-009	Preyde

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Supervisor has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by her related to all properties listed above, and that are within the Street Lighting Special Assessment District, and are benefited by the street lighting improvements generally described as follows:

The acquisition, construction, installation, maintenance and operation of luminaires, standards, and other equipment, wiring, cables, and appurtenances related to street lighting generally, but not necessarily limited to, along Lake Lansing Road from US 127 west to the City limits, and Wood Street from David Street north to county line.

The special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the annual cost of the acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of the street lighting improvements and work incidental thereto within the special assessment district. Information regarding the street lighting improvements is on file and available for public examination with the Township Clerk at the Township's Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, within the Township. The total assessment is \$111,226.96, which amount will be assessed to the properties within the special assessment district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Supervisor has further reported that the assessment against each parcel of land within the special assessment district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in the special assessment district as the benefit to such parcel bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in the district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet on Monday, the 30th day of October, 2017 at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., in the Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48917, for the purpose of reviewing the proposed special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. The special assessment roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of the hearing and may further be examined at the hearing.

Appearance and protest at the hearing, in person or in writing, are required in order to appeal the action of the Township Board in approving the special assessment roll, and/or the amount of an assessment, to the state tax tribunal. A property owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment proceedings or may file his or her appearance and protest by letter and his or her personal appearance will not be required. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of a special assessment with the state tax tribunal within 30 days of the date the special assessment roll is confirmed by the Township Board.

Dated: September 22, 2016

Susan L. Aten, Township Clerk

CP#17-277

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the November 7, 2017 City General Election for registered voters in the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, has been scheduled for Monday, October 30, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., City Clerk's Office located at 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program being used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner that meets the requirements of the law.

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#17-279

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On October 19, 2017 the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, MI;
Hope Bobbas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI;
Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street, Haslett, MI;
Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI
And the Township Web Site: www.meridian.mi.us

October 3, 2017 Regular Meeting

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK
CP#17-282

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING East Lansing Planning Commission

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Western Golf Association/ Evans Scholarship Foundation for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the property at 831 East Grand River Avenue for a 368 square foot building addition, parking lot reconfiguration, and associated site work. The property is zoned RM-32, City Center Multiple Family Residential.

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

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#17-283

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2018 INGHAM COUNTY BUDGET

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2018 Ingham County Budget on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at the Courthouse, 3rd floor, Mason, Michigan at 6:30 p.m. The hearing is for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed budget prior to its adoption. **The property tax millage rate required to generate the necessary funds to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

The proposed budget may be examined on weekdays at the Controller's Office, 1st floor of the Courthouse in Mason, Michigan between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Questions on the proposed budget may be addressed to Timothy J. Dolehanty, County Controller/Administrator, P.O. Box 319, Mason, Michigan 48854.

CP#17-281

Paint, pain and pride

Brian Whitfield's summer under the bridge

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

If Brian Whitfield lives another 54 years, he will never have a problem recalling the summer of 2017. All he'll have to do is bend over in his rocking chair at a precise 45-degree angle, and it will all come back to him.

Da-doom, da-doom, da-da-doom. All summer, with thousands of cars and trucks chunking along on the I-127 overpass above his head, Whitfield has been hunched over the steep embankments along Michigan Avenue with a paintbrush in his hand.

Thanks to a warm October, four splendid murals, each one 50 feet wide and 25 feet tall, are almost finished. Suddenly, the dusty DMZ between Lansing and East Lansing is swirling with life and color — soft pastels in the morning shadows, aglow in colored lights at night.

Taken together, the murals unfold a sweeping panorama of Lansing area life. Two sun-splashed north panels are fragmented into the geometry of an auto assembly line to the east and a swooping, noodle-armed, one-on-one basketball match to the west, representing work and play by day.

The south panels are night scenes, with two exuberant teens chasing fireflies (and each other) to the west, and music



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Whitfield paused for a photo as the sun got low, and then resumed work on an unseasonably warm October evening last week.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Artist Brian Whitfield loosened up his meticulously realistic approach and had some fun with his biggest project, "Under the Bridge."

festivals spilling into the streets to the east. The night panels are all about the joys of discovery — of nature, love, music and art.

Public art doesn't have to be, and usually isn't, this good. But Whitfield, a graphic artist who designed the state's award-winning Mackinac Bridge license plate, is at the top of his game as a fine artist as well. A meticulous realist for many years, he is learning to loosen up, partly to get the massive project done on time.

"The bridge has been very liberating," he said.

Bringing his fine arts training to the streets, Whitfield's work fuses the monumentality of Diego Rivera's Detroit Industry murals with a bean-headed whimsy peculiar only to himself, with subtle shades of Cezanne and the wedges and curves of Russian master Wassily Kandinsky deep in the mix.

Like most artists, Whitfield is his own harshest critic.

"It's at a point where I'm OK with it," he said after a day of hard work last Wednesday. "Today, I was out there, thinking, 'It's not as bad as I thought.'"

Fat Batman

Try clambering up the Michigan

Avenue embankment to take a close-up photo of the murals without falling backward, and your respect for Whitfield will double. God knows what hundreds of hours of concentrated stooping have been doing to his joints, bones and nerves.

"At first, I thought I wasn't going to survive this mural," he said. "My back was hurting, my legs were hurting, my ankles were killing me."

His constant companions are a wagon of paint cans and supplies and a duct-taped plastic bucket, cut at a 45-degree angle so the paints stay level as he works.

"I couldn't survive without that thing," he said.

When he started work, he tried three different pairs of shoes, and none of them worked. The heels simply peeled off of a

See Underpass, Page 10



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The northwest panel depicts Lansing at play.

Underpass

from page 9

heavy pair of work boots. The human body was not built to tilt like this.

He found that three pairs of socks made it bearable.

"I got used to walking up and down the thing," he said. "My feet don't even hurt anymore."

One night, after a day of bending in the same position with his hand on his knee, he went to a party where the music had a throbbing bass line. His whole left side started to vibrate, from his lip to his hand, arm, leg and foot.

"It was like an electric shock," he said. "I thought I was having a stroke." The vibrations went on for about three weeks but subsided when he learned to shift his weight as he worked.

Quitting never occurred to him. Whitfield has been creating art all his life and will probably keel over with a brush

in his hand. His mother told him that as a baby, he bit bread into shapes and said things like "bird."

"I can't imagine not doing something artistic," he said.

As a kid, he doodled superheroes and basketball players on pieces of cardboard his grandfather saved from dry cleaning. "But I put my own little spin on it," he said. "I drew Batman or Spider-Man as children. A little fat, chubby Batman."

Art classes at Pattengill Middle School, especially silkscreen printing and book-binding, fascinated him.

He saw a silk-screen print of Earvin "Magic" Johnson, already a star at neighboring Everett High School, hanging in a showcase at school.

"For some reason, seeing that print pushed me to want to do it myself," he said.

A late 1970s LP by Parliament/Funkadelic, with a three-handed alien playing the keyboard, was the first album he ever bought. "I wasn't even into the

music," he confessed.

He got encouragement from Larry Cross, his art teacher at Sexton High, and the art teacher across the hall, Mark Mehaffey, now a well-established Michigan artist.

In junior year, he took a three-hour commercial art class with an influential teacher, Lance Shade.

"He saw something in me," Whitfield said. At Shade's urging, Whitfield went to Kendall College of Art and Design. He got a day job in the mailroom at the state Department of Education, doing odd jobs like logos and illustrations on the side.

In his spare time, he began studying old masters like Rembrandt and Da Vinci. He still loves the portraits he painted during this period: his mother, watering an ivy plant; his Aunt Hortense giving somebody the hairy eyeball; churchgoers receiving communion. The portraits are full of loving attention to folds in clothes, wrinkles in faces and necks.

Unlike many practitioners of cold photorealism, Whitfield's portraits reveal a deeply empathic, loving eye.

In the late 1980s, Whitfield decided to commit to fine art and went back to school at the Maryland Institute College of Art. He was impressed that the dean was a strong African-American woman, Leslie King-Hammond. The feeling was mutual.

But Whitfield almost didn't go. He was hesitant to leave his job and his girlfriend in Lansing.

"Get your butt here," he recalled King-Hammond saying to him. "Don't mess this up. We'll find money for you." She helped him get a Ford Fellowship that covered tuition.

Whitfield's work as a graphic artist for Michigan's Department of Transportation includes specialty signs like the "Cool Cities" signs seen around the state, "Lake Michigan Circle Tour" signs and other graphics.

In August 2013, Whitfield's Mackinac Bridge state license



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Mya Terranova is one of many "guest artists" who stopped by to watch Whitfield work and ended up painting a few strokes.

plates were voted the world's best by the Automobile License Plate Collectors Association, but police officers found that the numbers washed out when they aimed a flashlight at them.

Whitfield redesigned the plate, with black letters.

Along the way, Whitfield worked on several public murals in the area, but none of them had the scope and freedom of the bridge project.

Underpass ecosystems

Sprinkling fairy dust on a just-plain-dusty stretch of the Michigan Avenue corridor linking downtown Lansing to East Lansing and MSU has long been a goal for urban planners in the area. The Lansing Economic Area Partnership and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation led a broad alliance of business donors and arts groups to fund the project. A crowdfunding campaign raised \$57,000, and MEDC matched it with \$50,000.

Such overt "placemaking" art often skews toward the banal, but Whitfield was a perfect choice to give the project artistic heft and emotional investment.

"I've lived in different places and seen how Lansing is unusual — everybody seems to get along," he said. "It's a really diverse place in its thinking and actions. I wanted to show that Lansing was truly a great place to grow up."

He is a proud member of a long-lived Lansing institution, the Earle Nelson Singers, a human bouquet of races, ethnicities and ages. Whitfield and his wife of nearly 25 years, Kimberly, live in Lansing, within walking distance of the overpass.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Whitfield sawed a plastic bucket at a 45-degree angle to work on the I-127 overpass embankments without spilling paint.

See Underpass, Page 11



LEADING THE NATION

**LANSING
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

ROBOTICS & AUTOMATION
lcc.edu/futurestars

Underpass

from page 10

“Lansing’s not perfect, but looking around at other places, they’re really ahead of the game in a lot of ways,” he said. “People forget that because they’re here, and they don’t see it.”

Before starting work, Whitfield went to the Detroit Institute of Arts to study Diego Rivera’s Detroit Industry murals. Two revered chroniclers of African-American life, collage artist Romare Bearden and painter Jacob Lawrence, were big influences as well.

The bridge project’s four-part scheme coalesced in his mind as he worked on preliminary sketches, beginning with the “work” and “play” sections to the north.

“GM makes Lansing different than anyplace in the world,” Whitfield said. “People work here, raise families. The kids are playing sports. You grow up in Lansing, you work, you have fun.”

In the southwest panel, “Discovery,” the kids grow to discover the world and each other. The “create” mural, to the northwest, centers on a jazz festival (both East Lansing and Lansing has one), with the Wharton Center in the background.

The musicians are not particular people.

“But that is Rodney Whitaker’s hat,” Whitfield said, referring to the world-renowned bassist and MSU Jazz Studies director. However, Whitfield deliberate-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The mural’s northeast panel, “Work,” is a colorful, geometric fantasia based on an actual GM assembly line.

ly made the bass player white, one of the basketball players female and one of the firefly chasers Asian, to keep the ball of inclusion unpredictable and aloft.

The panels are linked by countless little touches, such as the rays of sun spilling from the northwest to the northeast panel. Cameo appearances by several local landmarks, from MSU’s Beaumont Tower and Wharton Center to the state Capitol and the downtown Lansing Boji clock tower, help bind the four cityscapes into a larger vision.

Whitfield made sure that each of the panels doubles as a skillfully abstracted, energized composition — especially if you squint at them — but his realist skills came in handy, too. He thought about painting an assembly line out of his imagination, but he pictured GM workers driving by and shaking their heads in disapproval and did the research needed to get the machines right.

As the summer began, Whitfield planned on painting all day, but he got a quick education in underpass ecosystems

on his first morning.

He found that roly-poly bugs swarmed over the concrete, beginning at about 11 a.m.

“You touch them and they’d roll down,” he said. “Then at about 12:30, the daddy longlegs come out, all over the mural. I don’t like spiders.”

He decided to begin work at one o’clock, when the bugs were gone.

The people he encountered during the day were a lot more congenial. Continuous encouragement from passers-by only confirmed the love of Lansing Whitfield was celebrating in paint.

“People yell at me all the time, but I haven’t heard one negative thing,” he said. “It’s all, ‘Good job, love it.’”

Two weeks ago, a man walking by on the underpass gave him a \$20 bill.

“Go get some art supplies,” the man said.

“I’ve got supplies.”

“Just take it.”

Later that day, the lanky, gap-toothed busker who plays guitar in the median of Michigan Avenue called it a day and was walking by. Whitfield slipped him the twenty.

In return, he was gratefully serenaded with “Smoke on the Water,” set to strumming chords, followed by a flurry of melodic finger picking. Whitfield captured the impromptu concert with his phone until he ran out of space.

“It’s too bad I didn’t get the part where he was picking,” Whitfield said. “He’s really good.”

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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Composer James Niblock, who turns 100 on Nov. 1, wrote music that will be aired in celebratory concerts this Monday at MSU and in March with the Lansing Symphony.

Built to last Concerts celebrate the music of 100-year-old James Niblock

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Last week, composer James Niblock was looking forward to the familiar, scenic drive from his home in East Lansing to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp near Muskegon, where he's served on the board of directors for 51 years.

He'll have to hustle to get back home. His 100th birthday is coming Nov. 1, and there's a big party in the works.

When you look at him in surprise, he doesn't bat an eye. Everything about Niblock is no-frills and built to last.

Music of James Niblock

Ralph Votapek, piano
Walter Verdehr, violin
Yuri Gandelsman, viola
7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30
Fairchild Theatre, MSU
Auditorium
\$8-10
music.msu.edu

Like a northern forest in the fall, Niblock's music is crisp, vivid and a little heartbreaking. It's the kind of music that comes back in season as reliably as russet leaves and hoarfrost.

To celebrate his centennial year, an Oct. 30 concert at MSU will feature two illustrious musicians hired by the former MSU Music Department chairman 50 years

ago — pianist Ralph Votapek and violinist Walter Verdehr.

Joining the party late, the Lansing Symphony is set to honor Niblock by performing his "Three American Dances" at its March 24 concert.

Niblock hasn't seen a doctor in years. He quit smoking 40 years ago.

"I eat anything and everything," he said with a grin. "I enjoy eating."

Sitting in his plain, plywood-paneled study, he talks more like a woodworker than an artist. Niblock is not the least bit interested in haranguing you about "what music is" or plumbing the origins of his lyrical, noble muse. Even he doesn't seem to know, or care, where his ideas come from.

"I don't think I can answer that," he said. "My ideas come to me when I'm composing."

An itinerant violin teacher from Portland came to Niblock's tiny hometown of Scappoose, Oregon, when he was 12. She sold his mother a violin, a case, a bow and a cake of rosin for \$10, and threw in the first lesson for free.

Someone should make a movie about Niblock's senior class in another tiny town, Lyle, Washington. There were 39 students

at Lyle High, four of them seniors. Niblock kept careful track of the other three.

One, Leonard Hewitt, became a banker in Bend, Oregon.

Another classmate, Philip Tuthill, came to high school as an "Okie," a refugee from the Dust Bowl storms that wiped out thousands of farms in the West.

"When he died, at about 76, he was a multimillionaire with 1,000 cattle and a huge farm," Niblock marveled. "He just turned out that way." The third classmate, Marvin Johnson, got in the wrong crowd in Portland and was arrested holding up a speakeasy. Niblock wrote to him in jail, but he never answered. "Awful nice guy. I liked him a lot."

During World War II, Niblock was stationed in Amarillo, Texas. When the atomic bombs hit Japan, the war suddenly ended, and he had a lot of time on his hands.

While playing in a string quartet in Amarillo, he found out that Roy Harris, one of the foremost American composers of the mid-20th century, was based in nearby Colorado Springs.

Niblock went to Harris's house for lessons and found two other titans of American music — composers Vincent

Persichetti and William Schuman — in the living room with Harris.

"This was my introduction to American music," Niblock said.

Niblock did chores and copying for Harris in exchange for composing lessons. Many nights, Harris would get home after midnight and shake his sleeping student.

"Hey, Nib, let's get up and have a lesson," he'd say.

"In the middle of the night, we'd get up and talk about music and he'd look at some of my compositions. Those were some of the best lessons I've ever had."

Niblock's music still bears the stamp of Harris's muscular, yearning, often melancholy style. Clarinetist Guy Yehuda will join Verdehr and Votapek to play one of Niblock's loveliest pieces, "Terzina," at Monday's concert. Retired MSU orchestra conductor Leon Gregorian will return at the same concert to direct a string orchestra in "Soliloquy," with Verdehr playing the searching, aching violin solo.

Verdehr compared Niblock to 18th-century composers, "skilled craftsmen" who wrote for rich patrons or the church.

"They didn't have to be original in every

See Niblock, Page 13

Niblock

from page 12

piece,” Verdehr said. “Nowadays, if one piece sounds like another one, they accuse you of sounding the same all the time. Jim was totally unconcerned by that aesthetic.”

In 1946, Niblock started playing in the Portland Symphony for extra money. At the first rehearsal, he sat in the first violin section beside a young woman, Helen Beal.

“I walked her home that night and she invited me over to play duets,” he said with a smile. They married a year later, in 1947.

Jobs were plentiful in 1947. Niblock had several offers, but Harris advised him to go to MSU.

“He thought I’d get more good performances here,” Niblock said.

James and Helen lived in the old Army barracks at MSU until they bought a house in East Lansing in 1956. Niblock still lives in the same house. Helen died two years ago.

At MSU, Niblock took charge of the Music Department and hired two of the school’s mainstays, pianist Ralph Votapek and violinist Walter Verdehr, the same year. Votapek went on to win the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and world fame; Verdehr founded a groundbreaking trio that has traveled the world and commissioned over 160 new works from the world’s foremost composers.

In the 1950s, many music departments gave themselves over wholesale to avant-garde and modern styles. Niblock encouraged experimentation as chairman and started an electronic music lab in the 1960s, but his own style stayed consistent all his life.

A big feather in Niblock’s cap was get-

ting the Juilliard String Quartet to come to MSU for a 10-year residency.

Niblock and Juilliard violinist Robert Mann were friends from their high school days together in Portland and are still friends.

Verdehr recalled how, after five years as chairman, Niblock suddenly told the faculty he wanted to step down to do other things.

“Administration wasn’t my favorite thing,” Niblock said.

Verdehr recalled a “stunned silence” in the room. The faculty loved him.

“He had a cool head, was down to Earth and knew what needed to be done,” Verdehr said. “The Music Practice Building was finished on his watch, and he was instrumental in getting the Wharton Center built.”

They persuaded him to do another five-year stint.

“We told him, ‘We won’t let you quit,’” Verdehr said.

About 80 years ago, Niblock played in a six-man football league for Lyell High School and his team usually got the better of rivals Trout Lake and Glenwood. He is still an avid sports fan and follows Spartan football religiously.

Overall, he leads a quiet life, but things are heating up a bit as he nears 100 and people start making a fuss.

“Yeah, but I’m beginning to feel like I’m 100,” he admitted. “I sometimes have a little trouble walking and use a cane.”

Thinking back to his high school class, with its jailbird, its banker and its rich cattleman, he doesn’t regret his chosen calling.

But he doesn’t romanticize it either.

“I don’t think it would have made much difference,” he said. “I think I would have been content doing much of anything. I’ve enjoyed being a musician, but I didn’t have to be one.”

CURTAIN CALL

Teamwork all around ‘The Home Team’ cast provides impressive performances

By TOM HELMA

Promotional pictures featured cast members — six of them. Five in green and white, and one in blue and maize.

Arriving in-audience, I notice a kitschy kitchen, a big kitchen. There is a dining room table with five matching chairs. A suggestion to the audience? No, wait, Gina Larson, who is playing the part of Mom Gurley brings out a sixth, right out-of-the attic chair. The plot thickens.

This, by now I have figured, is maybe a play about feuding football families. I could mix a metaphor here, say something clever like “watch out for the curve balls.”

But this story is about more than football, more than about baseball. It’s about family, connections and disconnects, about emerging empathies and self-discovery.

Getting-to-know-you stories introduce each member of the cast, each of whom turn out to be distinct, unique personalities, and maybe, just maybe, these people are more than we imagined at first glance.

Shannon Bowen, as the Blue and Maize outsider, Erin, is at the heart of this play, and the story she brings to this Gurley family football frenzy might very well persuade you that there is more to life than football. Bowen has a manner that conveys depth and complication, and one is not sure, when listening to Erin, as to who she might actually be.

Johnny Gurley, played by Eric Grill, is the 30-year-old, the oldest of four siblings, all Gurley boys, except for Marion Gurley, his 29-year-old tomboy sister. Grill portrays a former All-American Superstar on

the National Champion Rose Bowl Team of once-upon-a-time. John sees his role in the family as the surrogate for his deceased Vietnam-era father, and Grill is solid in this role, never stereotypical, both restrained and explosive, in turn.

Marion, by contrast, and played by Erin Hoffmann, is the girl who wanted daddy to love her as much as her three brothers, thus adopting a gritty, macho persona. Hoffman has a deceptive theatrical mannerism — she keeps it real. She drips authenticity.

Joe Dixon is Wayne Gurley, the brother who brings the outsider home. The family is skeptical of his new romance, pointing to multiple previous part-time potential partners. Wayne is the family nice guy, but like his siblings, all single and never married. A smooth talker, yes, but genuine. Dixon excels at this kind of role, blending his lines with his fellow cast members in a casual conversational manner.

And the fourth sibling baby of the group, maybe 22 — Duke. Heath Sartorius establishes the character with a fluidity of movement — an art, in and of itself. Watching him slide his character in and out of the complex family dance is a treat.

Finally, Neva — the single mother of this menagerie of family. She loves them. In this role, Larson is the glue that holds them together.

True ensemble cast work requires give and take, and as in basketball, give and go. There are no selfish performers in this play. This is a team, with a fine coach, director Emily Clark.

“The Home Team”

Now-Oct. 29
7 p.m. Thurs.; 8 p.m. Fri.-
Sat.; 2 p.m. Sun.
Tickets start at \$12
Riverwalk Theatre
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Lansing.
(517) 482-5700.
riverwalktheatre.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, COUNTY OF INGHAM, STATE OF MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That a Special Election will be held in the Charter Township of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017
From 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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

- PRECINCT 1 - First Christian Church, 1001 Chester Road
- PRECINCT 2 - Asbury United Methodist Church, 2200 Lake Lansing Road (temporary location)
- PRECINCTS 3, 4, 6, - Waverly East Intermediate School, 3131 W. Michigan Avenue

ALL POLLING PLACES ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE, VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING FORMATS: BRAILLE AND AUDIO

TO VOTE ON THE FOLLOWING COUNTY PROPOSAL:

COUNTY PROPOSAL

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

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

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

Yes or No

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

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK, MONDAYS THRU FRIDAYS FROM 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

My Office will be open on Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to accept absentee applications.

Susan L. Aten, Clerk
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#17-284



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CityPULSE'S

FANG-TASTIC HALLOWEEN



Happy new year! A witch's perspective on Halloween

By EVE KUCHARSKI

If your trick-or-treating leads you to Ruth Barrett's door on Halloween, you won't find the witch brewing a sinister potion or conversing with a demonic familiar — no, nothing like that — she'll be communing with the dead.

"What I have done at Halloween is that I have invited my ancestors to come for the evening. I don't know that I would like everyone," she laughed, "so I try to be specific. The idea is that they know that they're welcome. I set up an altar where I have photographs and candles and things like that. I take a bell, I ring it and I call them. I let them know they're welcome."

The reason that Barrett can do this on Halloween is because in her faith, Dianic Witchcraft, the belief holds that the ethereal and corporeal barrier between worlds becomes very thin. In simpler terms, on that day, the spirit world and the physical realm are especially easy to pass through — this also means that you could have a ghost at your doorstep at some point in the night. And Barrett isn't the only one to believe this: the belief is an ancient Pagan one that goes back centuries.

"It survives in the children today going around, maybe they're [dressed as] Batman or Spider-Man," Barrett said.

Common or not, trick-or-treating is arguably one of the most misunderstood Halloween traditions. The practice is believed to have grown out of the Celtic holiday, Samhain (pronounced saw-win).

"This holiday marks the end of summer and it really is the end of the old year, the agricultural year. So, what Halloween really is, is the first day of winter," Barrett said. "What that meant to rural peoples is that certain things had to be done by this holiday. The animals that would have been grazing further away would be brought closer to home. Animals that would not make it through the winter or were older, and would be slaughtered for meat."

The historically Pagan holiday was also a time for the dead to walk the earth, and offerings had to be made. Over time, as society distanced itself from agricultural tradition, many customs adapted to suit new, metropolitan needs. Bonfires, once used to ward off angry spirits, turned to jack-o'-lanterns, and soul cakes, tiny baked goods to feed the hungry dead, turned to sweets.

In the end, not even the Pagan stuck. Christianity had a hand in that when Pope Gregory III declared Nov. 1 to be All Hallows' Day or All Saints' Day to combat Pagan traditions. Over time, Oct. 31, or All Hallows' Eve, morphed into the familiar term, Halloween.

So, even though Barrett is following a historically agricultural calendar, one that divides the year into six-week periods, the intention is a different one.

"We celebrate every cycle of woman's life, and it is honored through the year as though the year is really a dancing woman. And she changes through the

year. This part of the year, she has aged, she is post-menopausal. So, we would honor women who are post-menopausal as part of our rituals, our cycle," Barrett said.

Barrett said that this Halloween woman is one that likely everyone has seen in October: the witch.

"We see her in every single store window looking at this ugly depiction of a woman. That is something that people largely don't know. Even when you talk about the skin color of people, her green color is really symbolic of Mediterranean or Middle Eastern; olive," Barrett said, pointing out that many of a witch's stereotypical attributes were



historically shared by disenfranchised people.

"Think about what was happening during the Inquisition. The targets were Jews, they were other Christians that did not believe in the precise doctrine of the church, they were homosexual men and women, gypsies — you're talking about anyone who did not 'belong,'" Barrett said. "The one who got to decide that was the Catholic church at the time."

But Barrett wants to make something very clear, just because she's a witch

doesn't mean her goals are negative ones, and that Satanism and witchcraft are two separate practices.

"There's no concept of the devil in witchcraft, it does not exist. If you are a Satanist, it's an offshoot of Christianity. If you believe in the devil, an adversary of God, then you're still in that same cosmology," Barrett said. "They took the God of the witches, and they made him into the Christian devil and that's where there is a lot of misunderstanding."

And although she does worship a Goddess, her faith is more female-centered; it's more of the practice of worshiping feminine characteristics in the world, rather than praying to an actual holy person.

"Wiccan religion is what you would call the religion of witchcraft. The tradition that I'm a part of is not generally practiced.

Most people who consider themselves Wiccan, they celebrate and honor who we call the Goddess, what is the female form of nature. My drive to what we are calling Paganism, another way to talk about it would be earth-based spirituality, is that I'm a nature lover. A tree hugger," Barrett laughed.

So, on Oct. 31, along with inviting her family to visit — not necessarily living — Barrett will also be giving thanks to the earth as many did in ancient times.

"You had to be on good terms," Barrett said. "So, I'm giving thanks and offering to the land, because without that relationship, and without that being in good favor, things happen."

Just because Halloween falls on a Tuesday this year, it doesn't mean that your busy workweek schedule has to interfere. Here is a list of events that are guaranteed to make your weekend as spooky, creepy or candy-filled as possible.

FRIDAY

Oct. 27

ELPL's All Hallows Read
Teen volunteers read Halloween books/hand out candy.

6-7 p.m.
FREE
950 Abbot Road,
East Lansing
elpl.org
(517) 351-2420

Friday Night Fright! Past Tense, Dagon And Nagazi
Halloween-themed concert, costumes encouraged.

\$8
The Avenue Café,
2021 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing.
See Facebook event page.
avenuecafelansing.com.
(517) 492-7403

Shawhaven Haunted Farm
Haunted farm attraction.

7:30-11 p.m.
Tickets Start at \$12
Shawhaven Haunted Farm,
1826 Rolfe Road, Mason
Shawhavenhauntedfarm.com

Bestmaze Corn Maze/Trail of Terror
Family-friendly corn maze

1-10 p.m.
\$8/Call for group rates/Cash only
Nighttime Horror Maze
7 p.m.
\$15
3803 Noble Road,
Williamston
Bestmaze.com
(517) 521-2378

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND GUIDE

SATURDAY

Oct. 28

Bestmaze Corn Maze/Trail of Terror
Family-friendly corn maze

1-10 p.m.
\$8/Call for group rates/Cash only
Nighttime Horror Maze
7 p.m.
\$15
3803 Noble Road,
Williamston
Bestmaze.com
(517) 521-2378

Shawhaven Haunted Farm

7:30-11 p.m.
Tickets Start at \$12
Shawhaven Haunted Farm,
1826 Rolfe Road, Mason
Shawhavenhauntedfarm.com

Stephen King Halloween

hosted by Delicious
Stephen King-themed Halloween party/
costume contest.
9 p.m.-Midnight.
\$5, 21+; \$10 18-20 year olds.
Spiral Dance Bar
1247 Center St.,
Lansing
Spiraldancebar.com
(517) 371-3221

How-To Halloween

Maker Faire-style event.
11 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$7
Lansing Center,
333 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
how-tohalloween.com

(517) 483-7400

Downtown Lansing Zombie Walk

Walk with zombies as they invade Lansing.
3 p.m.-6 p.m.
FREE
Lansing Center
333 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing.
See event Facebook page.

Nightmare Off Elm Street

REO Town's Halloween party.
7 p.m.-Midnight
\$11.53
REO Town Marketplace
1027 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing
See Facebook event page.

SUNDAY

Oct. 29

Bestmaze Corn Maze
Family-friendly corn maze.

1-8 p.m.
\$8/Call for group rates/Cash only
3803 Noble Road,
Williamston
Bestmaze.com
(517) 521-2378

How-To Halloween

Maker Faire-style event.
11 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$7
Lansing Center,
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How-tohalloween.com
(517) 483-7400

CityPULSE'S
FANG-TASTIC HALLOWEEN



Subliminal masterpieces

Lansing artist creates scary, movie-themed posters with hidden meanings

By **EVE KUCHARSKI**

It starts with a Sharpie, a movie and little pieces.

"It's all Sharpie marker drawings, and then I piece them together," Matt Pepler said. "Most illustrators will design everything at once, whereas I improvise a lot. If a shape needs to go here or there, I'm conscious of eye movement and focal points. You kind of want someone's eye to move around the piece easily."

Unorthodox and detail-driven are two terms that could sum up Matt Pepler's design. The 37-year-old, Lansing-based graphic designer and illustrator's methodical means of inserting storytelling into his work are almost obsessive, but they produce stunning work. And often, stunning work is the goal — some of Pepler's most famous designs are reimagined horror movie posters. His work spans TV shows like "Stranger Things," classic horror like "The Thing" and cult classics like "V for Vendetta." Pepler said he was first inspired to do these pieces at Comic-Con.

"I had been going to Comic-Con most of my life. The first Comic-Con that I went to was in '96 at Motor City Comic-Con. Then, it was just comic books here and there, but as pop culture progressed, and around the same time the first X-Men movie came out, there was a radical shift in what Comic-Con was and I started seeing artists — not necessarily with movie posters, but starting to put their own spin on the characters," Pepler said.

He said that seeing other artists put a unique twist on an existing creative work gave him the spark he needed to get thinking about doing that with his own interest: movies.

"Then, about five years ago, I went back to Motor City Comic-Con. There were a lot of people doing alternative movie posters, and I thought that was really interesting, but I felt what I was creating on my own was as good or better



Courtesy Photos

Matt Pepler is a local artist who reimagines movies in his own, custom-designed posters. Color-coordination is something to pay attention to within them.

than what people were making," Pepler said. "Then, I thought, 'Well, I can fit into this crowd.'"

Fit in he did. At the time, he had only 13 or 14 posters, but today, Pepler has dozens of pieces. The Kendall College of Art and Design grad's work certainly underlines his background in graphic design. He describes himself as a specialist in the retro and minimalist styles. He says everything with next to nothing.

"Usually, when I make a poster with a title, the title is usually the same color as another point of reference I want people to look at," Pepler said. "For example, in the 'Stranger Things' poster, Eleven [the main character], who is floating in the light bulb, is the same color as everything else."

He said his drive for the visually straightforward developed as a kind of rebellion against the busy.

"I don't remember a time when I wasn't drawing. So, for me, it's natural to do it. As far as simplifying things, that came later," Pepler said. "While I was in college, I always felt people were trying to put way too much information into everything. The thing that drove me absolutely nuts was that my peers would create these extravagant, highly detailed pieces of artwork, but you had no idea what you were looking at because it was so busy. It was more of an assault or someone shouting, rather than a message."

Visual assault just isn't his style. "If you see the same thing, over and over again, it almost becomes nauseating," Pepler said. "I didn't want to be clustered in a group of people who all did the same stuff."

If there was a slogan to define Pepler's work, it would be: "all about the message."

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check website for times

General Admission: \$15 at the door

CityPULSES

FANG-TASTIC HALLOWEEN



Pets, parties and philanthropy

Heroes and villains collide at pet benefit

BY MIN WANG

Raising an animal can be difficult, particularly if health costs are above one's means. The Ingham County Animal Shelter Fund might just be the solution for that though, and

the fourth annual Ingham County Animal Shelter Heroes and Villains Masquerade Ball Fundraiser is just the way to keep it going strong.

"The party's existence is a fun way for people who support the animal shelter to go out and have a fun evening with a lot of activities that you may not normally be able to find," said Event Chair Penelope Tsernoglou.

This year, the party features various activities like a live DJ set, a dessert bar, a cash bar and even some relaxing treatments: a henna tattoo booth and massage therapy.

All proceeds from the festivities will be put toward the fund and money for many of the animal programs the animal shelter offers. This includes life-saving surgeries and treatments, vaccination clinics, low-cost spay/neuter treatments and much more.

"We do a lot of medical treatments on the animals that we wouldn't be able to afford without raising money. We run our community outreach center which is totally run by



Courtesy Photo

Costumes from last year's Halloween-themed fundraiser for the Ingham County Animal Shelter Fund.

the donations," said John Dinon. "Even our animal cruelty investigator position is funded by raised money."

Dinon is the Director of Ingham County Animal Control. He said raising money through public fundraisers is important because it can benefit hundreds, if not thousands, of animals.

Based on previous attendance, the goal for this year's Halloween party is to raise \$10,000. Besides the ticket sales, a silent auction that was donated by local vendors will also be part of the festivities. During the event planning process, Ingham County Animal Shelter Fund's committee reached out to a number of local businesses who had worked with animal shelters before and encouraged them to get involved in the cause.

Tsernoglou said she was impressed by the outpouring of support from local businesses.

"Thanks to all of our sponsors. It's a great way for them to get their names out as being helpful in the community," she said.

Dinon and Tsernoglou hope the party-goers will enjoy dressing up like their favorite superhero figures as well as participating in the costume contest. Although animals aren't allowed at the party itself, pet-themed costumes are welcome.

"One of the coolest things is the costume contest," Dinon said. "If you come, you can enter the contest, the other thing is everybody who comes to the event gets to vote on the contest."

Jeff Johnson, the co-owner of the Lansing bakery Bake N' Cakes, said he loves to support Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter.

This year, they are one of the dessert providers and will be serving Halloween-themed baked goods paired with coffee, such as their well-loved, signature cinnamon rolls, sugar cookies and pecan rolls.

"It's people-to-people contact," Johnson said. "It's fun to be out there and interacting with people. It's a great social event."

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FROM THE ORIGINAL BY **NIKOLAI GOGOL**
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Research done right

Hendrik Meijer unveils biography of Arthur Vandenberg, decades in the making

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Talk about persistence. Hendrik Meijer has been working on the definitive biography of Michigan U.S. Senator Arthur Vandenberg for more than 27 years. Meijer often found that his day job, as CEO and executive chairman of the Meijer grocery store chain, got in his way of his writing. Vandenberg, a former newspaper editor from Grand Rapids, was a Republican senator from 1928 to 1951.

However, the delay may be the best thing that happened to a book about a politician who began as an isolationist and then forged an across-the aisle consensus to pass legislation creating NATO, the Marshall Plan and the United Nations.

What better time than now to be shining light on the importance of internationalism as the incumbent President espouses an “America First” policy, words that are eerily

Hendrik Meijer book discussion

Wednesday, Nov. 8
6:30 p.m.
FREE
Library of Michigan
722 W. Kalamazoo St.,
Lansing.
Michigan.gov/
libraryofmichigan
(517) 373-1300

reminiscent of the isolationism of Vandenberg’s era.

Vandenberg, who began his career as a fire-brand editor and then publisher for the Grand Rapids Herald, used his

editorial position to espouse a philosophy of protectionism underscored by the folksy “climb the ladder to success.”

Meijer writes in the book “Arthur Vandenberg: The Man in the Middle of the American Century” that “homilies of self-advancement were his oxygen.” Leading up to World War I and during its early stages, Vandenberg, through the voice of his newspaper, would advocate neutrality, until continued German transgressions caused him to become a staunch supporter of the war.

Post World War I, Vandenberg drifted back into isolationism which he continued

to defend until the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor when he took to the Senate floor to make the “speech heard ‘round the world.”

Despite party differences and being appointed to the Senate in 1928 during Hoover’s reign, Vandenberg would be an on again — off again supporter of President Roosevelt’s alphabet programs. He was primarily responsible for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the first of many far-reaching New Deal programs to pass. The FDIC helped restore confidence in the banking system, and in his book Meijer underscores how, despite Vandenberg’s lead, his role would be lost to history.

Meijer writes: “Vandenberg allowed that the president was entitled to credit ... for his vigorous and sympathetic administration of the law.”

Going into Roosevelt’s second term, Vandenberg sought the Republican nomination for Presidency, but Wendell Willkie snagged it. Another blow to Vandenberg was the speculation of his affair with Mitzi Sims, the spouse of an English diplomat. These rumors contributed to his undoing.

Meijer, who early in his career worked as a reporter for two Michigan weekly newspapers, was drawn to the story of Vandenberg. He soon discovered that a Chicago biographer had already completed the first book of a two-volume set on the senator. Meijer said he decided to shelve his idea, but at the urging of a friend he presented a paper on Vandenberg at a Historical Society of Michigan meeting.

Then, fate intervened. Vandenberg’s biographer died, leaving the second volume unwritten and boxes of research behind. Meijer discovered that the daughter of the Chicago author was anxious to dispose of the research.

“There were tons of files — mostly Xerox copies — and the daughter didn’t want to

throw them on the street,” Meijer said. “I brought a van load of files from Chicago, and it saved me weeks and weeks of research in archives. I was able to start interviewing people associated with Vandenberg.”

On and off, Meijer would conduct interviews with key people in Vandenberg’s life, many of whom are now dead, including President Gerald Ford and Arkansas Sen. J. William Fulbright.

Fulbright, 88 at the time, would tell him “You waited too long to talk to me.”

He would also have access to dozens of scrapbooks and journals kept by Hazel and Arthur Vandenberg. While interviewing the couple’s daughter, Meijer asked about the purported affair and was given a page from one of Hazel’s diaries that had been kept back. It provided the smoking gun.

Meijer said one aspect of Vandenberg’s life that totally surprised him was the Senator’s relationship with Sinclair Lewis, the noted author. In 1922, Lewis had written “Babbitt,” one of the most damning books on American culture and politics. The book became a firestorm and a faceoff between what Meijer calls “middlebrow mediocrity and East Coast know-it-alls.”

Sinclair even went as far as disparaging Vandenberg’s hero, Theodore Roosevelt, whose visage hung in the newspaper editor’s office.

But in 1935, the two would meet on a ship returning from England they would find they had more in common than not.

Lewis’ 1937 book “It Can’t Happen Here” was a veiled piece of fiction about a popular



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president who turns to fascism. Two characters in the book, the crusading reporter and a young Senator, who take on the demagogue president, “Buzz” Windrip, who uses patriotic principles to justify a fascist regime,” were thought to have been based on Vandenberg.

Meijer’s book suggests the simple idea that one person who steps up and puts the good of the country ahead of the party may be what we need today in these divisive times. Vandenberg was chosen in 2004 to have his portrait hung in the U.S. Senate Reception Room as one of the nation’s most important Senators.

The Library of Michigan and the Historical Society of Greater Lansing are co-sponsoring an appearance by Hendrik Meijer to talk about his written work.

Bill Castanier is the President of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, October 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Bolivia Women – Senior Discovery Group. Sandra Cade will be counseling. 10 a.m.-Noon FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

Homework Help. From 5 to 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Mid-MI Genealogical Society. From 7 to 9 p.m. FREE.

Family History Center, 431 East Saginaw Street East Lansing.

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

EVENTS

Creepy Crafts. From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. (517)521.3643.

Creepy Crafts (Ages 8-12). From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Webberville Branch, 115 South Main Street Webberville. (517)521.3643.

Film: The Brainwashing of my Dad. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. FREE. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing.

Halloween Magic with Maciek (All ages). From 6:30 to 8 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. (517)347.2021.

Magic with Jason Hudy (All ages). From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Muslim Journeys/Great Michigan Read: X: A Novel. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700. **Raise The Age.** From 5:30 to 8 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road East Lansing.

Raising Little Ones Together. From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

ARTS

Arlee Kasselmann Jewelry Trunk Show. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. FREE. Mackerel Sky Gallery of Contemporary Craft, 211 M.A.C. Ave. East Lansing. (517) 351-2211.

Democracy Prints Show. From 6 to 9 p.m. FREE. Strange Matter Coffee, 2001 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

Thursday, October 26

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Free Yoga for Kids and Youth. From 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. FREE for Youth ages 6-13. Parents pay usual rates. Bikram Yoga Capital Area, 1355 E. Grand River Ave East Lansing. 517-862-8926.

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

Lansing Reiki Share. From 6 to 8 p.m. FREE/Donations accepted. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 335 Seymour Ave., Suite D. Lansing. 517-402-6727.

Tai Chi in the Park. From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. Veterans Memorial Gardens Amphitheater, 2074 Aurelius Road Holt.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

ELHS Book Group at ELHS. From 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. FREE.

East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive East Lansing.

MUSIC

MSU Wind Symphony. From 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors; FREE for students and those under 18 with valid ID. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Ln. East Lansing.

THEATER

A Trio of Halloween Plays. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. 2/42 Community Building, 2630 Bennett Road Okemos. 517-339-2145.

EVENTS

Pop-up Stories (Adults). From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Avenue Lansing. 517-367-6363.

100 Percent Renewable Energy: Can We Do It?. From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. Michigan Energy Options, 405 Grove St., East Lansing. 12-Step Meeting. From 12 to 1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St. Lansing.

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

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

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

Friday, October 27

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Elementary Economics Class. From 4:50 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

HolidaysHallelujah Fest. From 5 to 7 p.m. FREE. The Salvation Army South Corps, 701 W. Jolly Rd. Lansing. 517 482 9715.

Halloween throwdown with Hoist (Phish tribute) & Tell Yo Mama. From 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. \$5. Urban Beat, 1213 Turner Street Lansing. 517-331-8440.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

All Hallows' Read and Haunted House. From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

Live Music w/ Rachel Scott. At 8 p.m. FREE. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. (517)371.2600.

Mason Orchestral Society concert. At 7:30 p.m. FREE/Donations accepted. Chippewa Middle School, 4000 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 349-4460.

MSU Symphony Orchestra. From 8 to 9:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Ln. East Lansing. **State Singers and university Chorale.** From 8 to 9:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road East Lansing. 517-353-5340.

THEATER

Farce of Habit. From 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Show only: \$14 - \$15/Show and dinner: \$33 - \$36. Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-8830.

EVENTS

Fall thrift sale. From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-3139.

Going to Pieces Quilt Show. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$7. The Summit Sports and Ice Complex, 9410 Davis Hwy Dimondale.

PJ Storytime. From 6 to 7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

WMMQ Halloween Costume Contest for Dogs. From 9 to 10 a.m. FREE to enter. Celebration! Cinema Lansing, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd. Lansing. (517) 393-7469.

Saturday, October 28

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

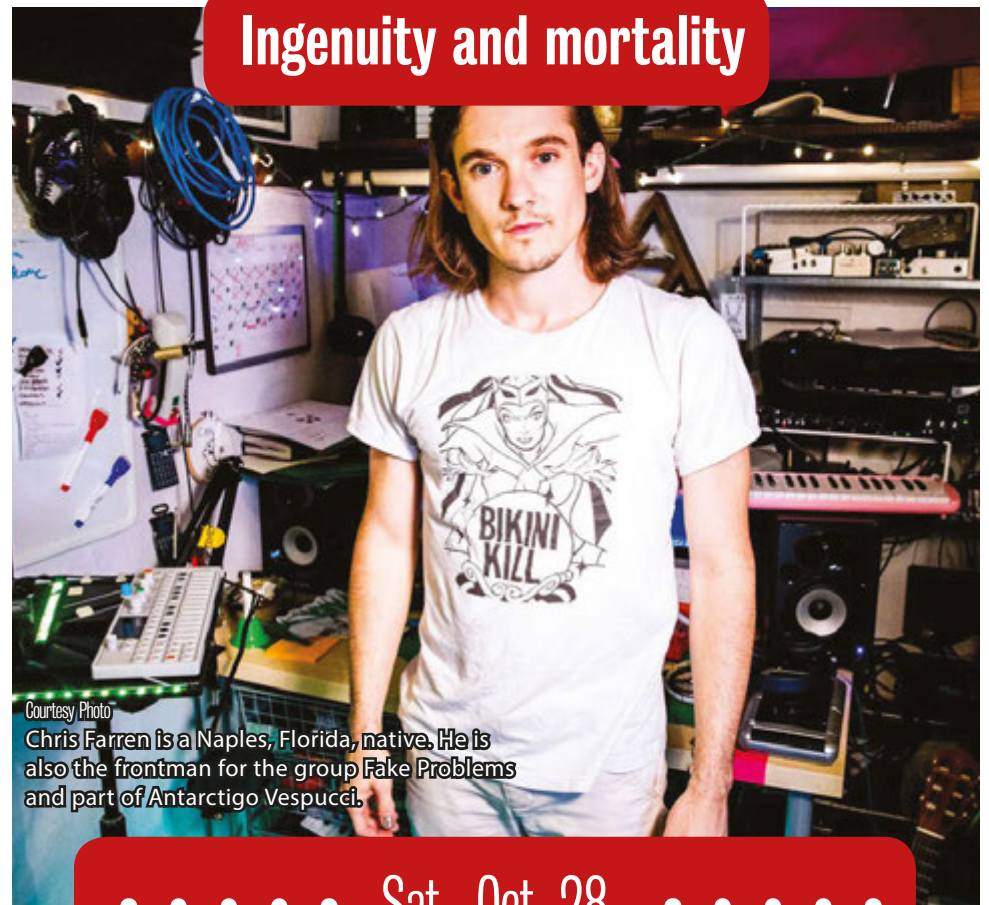
Lean In Lansing. From 9 to 11 a.m. Grand Traverse Pie, 1403 E. Grand River Ave. East Lansing. (517) 203-3304.

TaiChi in the Park. From 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

Halloween Barn Party. From 7 to 11 p.m. \$7. 10565 W. Price Road, Fowler. **HolidaysHalloween Party.** From 6 to 10 p.m. \$10/\$5 Kids 12 & under. The Lighthouse Chapel, 1501 Windsor St. Lansing.

See Out on the Town Page 21

Ingenuity and mortality



Courtesy Photo

Chris Farren is a Naples, Florida, native. He is also the frontman for the group Fake Problems and part of Antarctigo Vespucci.

Sat., Oct. 28

Chris Farren's 2016 record "Can't Die" is a year old now, not only surviving, but thriving.

To celebrate, the pop-tinged rock-and-roller hit the road. Before playing at Mac's Bar this Saturday, Farren spoke with City Pulse about the album, staying genuine and admitting that he will almost certainly die someday.

How has a year changed "Can't Die" for you?

It makes me hear the songs differently while I'm playing them. And seeing the way people react to certain songs gives me a different perspective on them. There's a song on the record called "Human Being," and as is the case with many songs I write, I wrote it and thought, "This is the way I feel. I can't imagine anybody else in the world feeling like this." But that seems to be a song that a lot of people like. That obviously makes me feel very good and like I wasn't a prick [laughs].

Was mortality a subject you were grappling with while writing "Can't Die"?

Yeah, it was. A lot of the stuff on the record is about my band essentially breaking up. I called the record "Can't Die" because I was thinking, "What will I call my next project?" And I thought to myself, "Well, if I name it Chris Farren, it can't break up because that's just my name; this band will never go away."

But then there's stuff that kind of started to reveal itself about mortality, control, security, safety. Until my old band broke up, we would just go hardcore at all times. I never stopped to think about anything,

including the fact that one day I would definitely die [laughs].

As your popularity grows, is it easy for you to keep that mindset?

Yeah, I think so. There's definitely some part of my sense of humor that is reliant on me being unpopular [laughs]. I'm not a famous person or anything like that, but as the popularity grows, it takes some tweaking and adjustment figuring out how to talk about myself that is still genuine.

You have a unique aesthetic that I can only describe as "crappy web-design chic." Where did that come from?

One thing I don't like is super serious stuff. I don't like any artist that seems to take themselves too seriously or is extremely precious about seeming smart. That has always really bothered me. There's so much stuff that's designed to make you feel like it's greater than you are, so you should like it, and that's so weird to me. I want it to be like, "This is something you could do just as good as me, and I think everybody should do this." With all that being said, I work very hard. These things are important to me, but I don't take them seriously [laughs].

— Dylan Tarr

Chris Farren

Saturday, Oct. 28

\$10

Mac's Bar
2700 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
(517) 484-6795
macsbar.com

Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

Oct. 26 - Nov. 2

ARIES (March 21-April 19): I share Vincent Van Gogh's belief that "the best way to know life is to love many things." But I also think that the next twelve months will be an inspiring time for you to be focused and single-minded in your involvement with love. That's why I encourage you to take an approach articulated by the Russian mystic Anne Sophie Swetchine: "To love deeply in one direction makes us more loving in all others." Halloween costume suggestion: a lover celebrating a sacred union to the love of your life, to God or Goddess, or to a symbol of your most sublime ideal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Yes, We Have No Bananas" is a silly novelty song that became a big hit in 1923. Its absurdity led to its wide use for humorous effect. For example, on the kids' TV series "The Muppet Show," puppets made out of fruits and vegetables sang parodies of the tune. That's why I find it droll that the "No Bananas" songwriters stole part of the melody from the "Hallelujah Chorus," the climax of classical composer George Handel's religious oratorio "Messiah." I'd love to see you engage in comparable transmutations, Taurus: making serious things amusing and vice versa. It's a time when you can generate meaningful fun and playful progress through the art of reversal. Halloween costume suggestion: a tourist from Opposite Land or Bizarro World.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the next two weeks, you may have to navigate your way through careless gossip, distorted "facts," superficial theories, hidden agendas, fake news, and official disinformation. To prevent problems in communication with people who matter, take advantage of the Halloween spirit in this way: Obtain a bicycle helmet and cover it with aluminum foil. Decorate it with an Ace of Clubs, a red rose, images of wrathful but benevolent superheroes, and a sign that says "No Bullshit Allowed." By wearing this crown, you should remain protected. If that's too weird for you, do the next best thing: Vow to speak the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and ask to receive the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Watch out for a fake pizza-delivery driver who's actually trying to issue you a legal summons. Be careful you don't glimpse a blood red sky at dusk, in case it's a prophetic sign that your cell phone will fall into a toilet sometime soon. Beware of the possibility that a large bird carrying a turtle to its nest accidentally drops its prey into a rain puddle near you, splashing mud on your fancy clothes. JUST KIDDING! All the scenarios I just described are stupid lies. The truth is, this should be one of the most worry-free times ever. You're welcome, of course, to dream up a host of scary fantasies if you find that entertaining, but I guarantee that they'll be illusory. Halloween costume suggestion: an indomitable warrior.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): What is the material object you want most but don't have? This is an object that would serve your soul's highest purposes, although not necessarily your ego's. Here's another question: What evocative symbol might help keep you inspired to fulfill your dreams over the course of the next five years? I suggest that you choose one or both of those things to be the inspiration for your Halloween costume.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Did you get a chance to go to circus school when you were a kid? How about magic school? Or maybe detective school or time-travel school or superhero school? Probably none of the above, right? Much of your education revolved around what you HAD to learn rather than what would be fun to learn. I'm not saying it was bad you were compelled to study subjects you felt ambivalent about. In the long run, it did you good. But now here's some sweet news, Virgo: The next ten months will be a favorable time to get trainings and teachings in what you YEARN to learn. Halloween costume suggestion: a student.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Now is an excellent phase in your cycle to scour bathrooms, scrub floors, shampoo carpets, and wash windows. But the imminent future will be an even more favorable period to purify your motivations, tonify your emotions, purge your less-than-noble agendas, calm down your monkey mind and monkey heart, disinfect the moldy parts of your past, and fact-check the stories you tell about yourself. So which set of tasks should you focus on? It may be possible to make great strides on the second set as you carry out the first set. But if there's not enough time and energy to do both, favor the second set. Halloween costume suggestion: a superhero who has wondrous cleaning powers; King Janitor or Queen Maid.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "You never sing the same song twice," said chanteuse Billie Holiday. "If you sing it with all the same phrasing and melody, you're failing your art." That's an extreme statement, but I understand what she was driving at. Repeating yourself too much can be debilitating. That includes trying to draw inspiration from the same old sources that have worked in the past. I suggest you avoid this behavior in the coming days. Raise Holiday's approach to a universal principle. Fresh sources of inspiration are available! Halloween costume suggestion: a persona or character unlike any you've ever imagined yourself to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): How can you enjoy the lavish thrills of rebirth later unless you die a little inside now? It's the trickiest phase of your cycle, when your energies are best used to resolve and graduate from the unfinished business of the last ten months. I suggest that you put the past to rest as best as you can. Don your funniest sad face and pay your last respects to the old ways and old days you'll soon be leaving behind. Keep in mind that beauty will ultimately emerge from decay. Halloween costume suggestion: the mythical phoenix, which burns itself down, then resurrects itself from its own ashes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There are no such things as magic healings and miraculous redemptions and impossible breakthroughs. Right? Hard evidence provided by science precludes the existence of exotic help coming from spiritual realms. Right? Well, no. "Not" right. There is in fact another real world that overlaps the material world, and it operates according to different laws that are mostly imperceptible to our senses. But events in the other real world can have tangible effects in the material world. This is especially true for you right now. Take advantage! Seek practical answers and solutions in your dreams, meditations, visions, and numinous encounters. Halloween costume suggestion: white-magic sorcerer or good witch.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Many years from now, in your last hours on earth, you will have visions that show you how all the events in your life were crucial to your life story. You will understand the lesson that was provided by each twist and turn of your destiny. Every piece of the gigantic puzzle will slip into place, revealing the truth of what your mission has been. And during that future climax, you may remember right now as a time when you got a long glimpse of the totality. Halloween costume suggestion: the happiest person on Earth; the sovereign of all you survey; the wise fool who understands yourself completely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You might be able to pass for normal, but it will be better for your relationship with yourself if you don't. You could try to tamp down your unusual urges and smooth your rough edges, but it will be smarter to regard those urges and edges as fertile raw material for your future happiness. Catch my drift? In the coming weeks, your main loyalty should be to your idiosyncratic intelligence. Halloween costume suggestion: the beautiful, interesting monster who lives in you.

Jonesin' Crossword

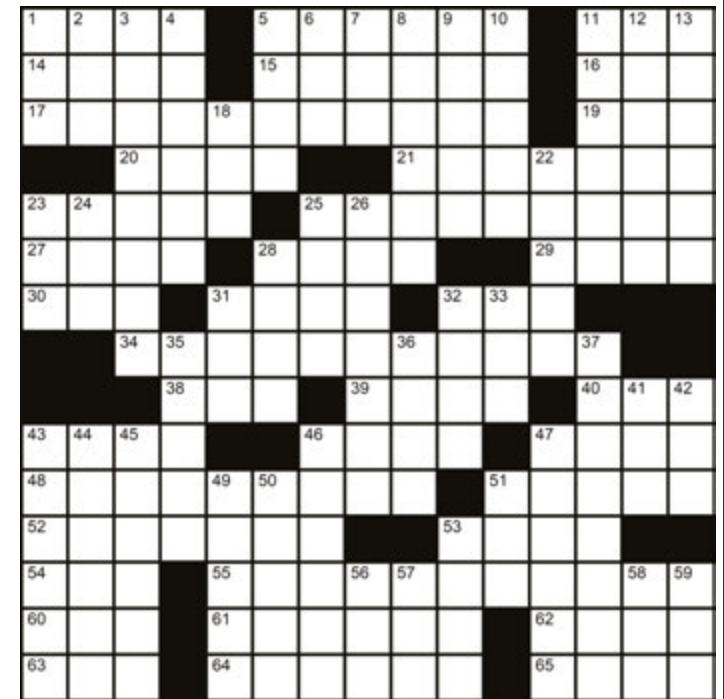
By Matt Jones

"And?"--people in conjunction.

Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Honolulu's island
- 5 One dimension of three
- 11 Late Playboy founder, familiarly
- 14 Closing ____ (surrounding)
- 15 Escapee's shout
- 16 Dir. of this entry
- 17 Musician Wainwright fully understandable?
- 19 Greek letter after pi
- 20 Cozy reading corner
- 21 Schadenfreude, for one
- 23 Streamed service, often
- 25 Actor Quinn in the act of helping?
- 27 Totals (up)
- 28 Covetous feeling
- 29 Peat ingredient
- 30 Also
- 31 Former U.N. secretary general Kofi ____ Annan (because "____girl" is so cliché)
- 32 Bambi's mother, e.g.
- 34 Baseball's Dwight prepared?
- 38 Big T-shirt sizes, for short
- 39 Hit the horn
- 40 Fuel economy org.
- 43 Potent opener?
- 46 Start up a computer
- 47 Self-involved
- 48 Composer Franz Joseph's search?
- 51 Rick's TV grandson
- 52 Anybody
- 53 Some pet hotel visitors
- 54 Frost in the air
- 55 CEO Buffett's time of quiet?
- 60 Oar wood



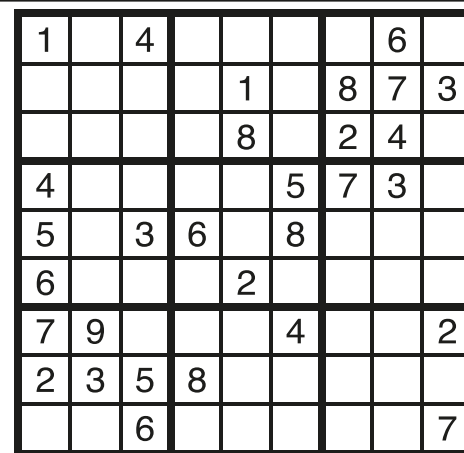
- 61 At least
- 62 Hunchback of horror films
- 63 Some ice cream containers, for short
- 64 Thelonious Monk's "Well You ____"
- 65 "Can't say I've seen it"
- Bears
- 12 Repeats
- 13 Outward appearances
- 18 "Hollywood Squares" win, perhaps
- 22 Made docile
- 23 Distillery tank
- 24 Altar reply, traditionally
- 25 Poker pot part
- 26 Sir Walter Scott novel
- 28 Approx. takeoff hrs.
- 31 They're retiring AIM at the end of 2017
- 32 Body shop removal
- 33 Charter ____ (tree on Connecticut's state quarter)
- 35 Nitrous ____
- 36 Piece for Magnus Carlsen
- 37 Way in the past
- 41 Poe's "The ____ and the Pendulum"
- 42 By ____ means neces-
- sary
- 43 Response to an impressive put-down
- 44 Little Red Book follower
- 45 Oreads, naiads, etc.
- 46 "Cold one, over here"
- 47 Elect
- 49 From ____ (henceforth)
- 50 Drum kit drum
- 51 Treasure hunter's assistance
- 53 Online tech news resource
- 56 Fishing pole
- 57 Directional ending
- 58 Police officer
- 59 Before, in old poems

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Answers Page 21

SUDOKU

BEGINNER



TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 21

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Sat., Oct. 28th **UV HIPPO**



UV Hippo at The Loft

Saturday, Oct. 28 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$15, \$12 adv., 9 p.m.

Ultraviolet Hippopotamus (UV Hippo for short), a progressive improvisational band, headlines Saturday at The Loft – openers are EGI and Act Casuals. Since UV-Hippo formed in 2004, the Grand Rapids five-piece has earned a dedicated fan base across the United States and Europe thanks to the success of the band's third LP, "Square Pegs, Round Holes." The group's technically demanding songbook mixes tight, funky jams with fresh dance beats and earnest lyrics. While the band has released a series of records, its best known for its animated live shows that utilize trippy effects and a vibrant light show. The road warriors are continuously on tour playing its distinct hybrid of genres. Within a single song, the band sometimes spans funk, electronic, jazz, space rock, reggae, bluegrass and rock 'n' roll.

Fri., Oct. 27th **THE FITZGERALDS**



The Fitzgeralds at Ten Pound Fiddle

Friday, Oct. 27 @ MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Rd., East Lansing. All ages, \$20, \$18 members, \$5 students, 7:30 p.m.

The Fitzgeralds, a Toronto-based fiddling and step-dancing family band, headlines a Friday evening concert at MSU Community Music School – the show is a part of the Ten Pound Fiddle concert series. The group, a trio of siblings comprising Tom, Kerry and Julie Fitzgerald, is best known for its boisterous performances combining award-winning dance routines with high-energy, old-time fiddling. "The caliber of musicianship is very high," said Natalie MacMaster, a fellow Canadian fiddling star. "Together they are a beautiful blend of gorgeous fiddle music, and top rate, absolutely exhilarating dance routines." The trio were raised in Ottawa Valley in a musical household that encouraged them to learn traditional music, but have also blended in contemporary vibes, as well. From Celtic, jazz and bluegrass to French-Canadian, and pop, the group delivers an eclectic show.

Thurs., Oct. 26th **MARY GAUTHIER**



Mary Gauthier at Pump House Concerts

Thursday, Oct. 26 @ The Pump House Concerts, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. All ages, \$20 suggested donation, 7 p.m.

Americana songwriter Mary Gauthier returns Thursday to the Pump House Concerts series. The Nashville-based troubadour has earned critical praise since her folk career took off back in the '90s. The Wall Street Journal called her "one of Americana music's most admired artists," and Rolling Stone magazine wrote: "Every tune is a rough gem of melody, misery and economy." Gauthier, 55, is a New Orleans native with 10 albums under her belt, including 1999's "Drag Queens in Limousines," which garnered international attention and press. Gauthier's upcoming LP, "Rifles & Rosary Beads," is an album she co-wrote with numerous war veterans over the last four years – it hits stores Jan. 28. Fans of Kris Kristofferson, Lucinda Williams or John Prine might want to check out this intimate show.

UPCOMING SHOW?

CONTACT EVE@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	FREE Karaoke	Past Tense	Tease A Gogo
Black Cat, 115 Albert Ave.				Alistair Beerens, 8 p.m.
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd			Bobby Standal, 6:30 p.m.	
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			Reggae Lou, 8 p.m.	
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Jackalope, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Pool Tourny, 7:30 a.m.	Alskn "walleye" AYCE	DJ, 9 p.m.
Darb's Tavern, 117 S. Cedar St., Mason.				Chris Laskos, 9 p.m.
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Alistair Beerens, 6 p.m.	Chris Laskos, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze!!	The Rotations	Soulstice
Harpers, 131 Albert Ave.	Bobby Standal, 6 p.m.	Gabriel James, 6 p.m.		Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.
Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee			Aimcriers, 7:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 7 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.				Ribcage, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Vandalay, 7 p.m.	Vesperteen, 7 p.m.	Beats Bangin Ent, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		DJ Trivia Night, 7 p.m.	Dart Tournament, 7 p.m.	Live Music.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			Wise Guys, 8 p.m.	Wise Guys, 8 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27			Showdown, 7 p.m.	Showdown, 8 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Mark Weeks, 6 p.m.	New Rule, 8 p.m.
Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E State St.			Jake Stevens, 6 p.m.	
The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave.	Then and Now, 6 p.m.	Benefit Show: Political Books for Prisoners, 7:30 p.m.		
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Alistair Beerens, 7 p.m.	Mark Sala, 7 p.m.		
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr		Open Mic.	The Maples	

Out on the town

from page 18

Heroes and Villains Masquerade Ball. From 8:30 to 11 p.m. \$25 in advance/ \$35 day of. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road Lansing.

MUSIC

Live Music w/ Aimcriers. At 7 p.m. FREE. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. (517)371.2600.

Postmodern Jukebox. From 8 to 10 p.m. Tickets from \$25. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln East Lansing. 517-353-1982.

The Incredible Duo of Tenor Steven Easterling & Pianist Jeff Richards in Recital . From 7 to 8:30 p.m. Donations accepted. Wilson Center Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St. St. Johns.

THEATER

"Ichabod" by Michigan playwright Joseph Zettlmaier. From 3 to 6 p.m. Get ticket info online. Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

Tease a Gogo Halloween Burlesque Show. From 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$12 in advance. \$15 at the door.. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

EVENTS

Animal Magic with Science Alive (All ages). From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason Branch, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. 517-676-9088.

Animal Magic with Science Alive (All ages). From 11 a.m. to noon FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 North Foster Lansing. (517)485.5185.

Archaeology Day. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. FREE. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing.

Doggie Trick or Treat. From 12 to 1:30 p.m. \$8 pre-registration fee by Thursday, October 26/\$10 on Friday and on Saturday. Mason Area Chamber of Commerce, 148 E. Ash Street Mason. 517-676-1046.

Drop-in Halloween Craft (All ages). From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch, 2078 Aurelius Road Holt. (517)694.9351.

Halloween Family Storytime (Ages up to 6). From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries South Lansing Branch, 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing. 517-272-9840.

Headband at Rocky's Roadhouse. At 8 p.m. Rocky's Roadhouse, 2470 Cedar St. Holt.

Human Trafficking in Michigan: Learning, Love, & Hope. From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing.

Lansing Coat Bank. From 1 to 4 p.m. FREE. St. Luke Lutheran Church, 5589 Van Atta Road Haslett.

Pumpkin Decorating (All ages). From 12 to 2 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 North Foster Lansing. (517)485.5185.

Taste of Okemos. From 2 to 4 p.m. \$15.00/\$10 Seniors and kids/\$5 Kids five and under. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road Okemos.

Sunday, October 29

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Charlotte Yoga Club. From 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Charlotte.

Juggling. From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St. East Lansing.

MUSIC

Old Wine in New Bottles: Transcriptions in Brass – a fall concert by the Mountain Town Brass Band. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. Donations accepted. Wilson Center Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St. St. Johns.

Spartan Spectacular. From 3 to 5 p.m. \$12 and \$10/ \$8 Tickets available for groups of 25 or more.. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Ln. East Lansing.

EVENTS

Halloween Party. From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. \$7.00 with DJ. Don Theis Farm Home , 10565 W. Price Road Fowler.

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

Walk for the Animal-Paws in the Park. From 12 to 5 p.m. \$25 (waived for children 12 and younger). Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

ARTS

Blackout Poetry. From 3 to 5 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Monday, October 30

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Being Russia: The Past, Present and Future of a Superpower. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Union Ballroom, 49 Abbott Rd East Lansing.

Support Group. At 7:30 p.m. St. Davids Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Rd. Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

BabyTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

EVENTS

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

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

ARTS

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

Tuesday, October 31

LITERATURE AND POETRY

The Poetry Room: Monsters In The Closet. From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. FREE. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Lansing.

ToddlerTime. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

MSU Faculty Recital: Lyn Goeringer, composer. From 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/FREE for students and those under 18 with valid ID. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road East Lansing. 517-353-5340.

Zombie Glow Party. From 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$2. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 482-6376.

EVENTS

Paint a Pumpkin. From 3 to 4 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.



SPORTS BIN

Courtesy Photo

Kalea Sanford (left) is the founder of Sports Bin, a series of sports equipment containers that have been set up in three Lansing-area parks. One of her partners on the project is former MSU Men's Basketball and NBA player Andre Hutson.

By Allan I. Ross

This summer, three Lansing-area public parks became testing grounds for **Sports Bin**, a new program that encourages physical activity and team sports by providing free sports gear onsite. The idea is simple: each of three parks — Frances Park in Lansing's Moores Park Neighborhood, Ferris Park in downtown Lansing and Valley Farms Park in downtown DeWitt — has a small wooden roost stocked with a supply of sporting equipment. Users are encouraged to borrow the basketballs, soccer balls, Frisbees or volleyballs, and return them when they're done kicking, hurling or smashing them around. Key phrase: "return them."

"It has been a challenge to keep the bins full," said Kalea Sanford, creator of the Sports Bins. "I knew that (theft) would be a part of it when I began the project, but I didn't want that to hinder the benefits of the program. Someone is always going to create challenges for anything new. And if they need a ball, then by all means, take it home, I suppose."

Sanford got the idea earlier this year when she was researching two free reading programs: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which provides free books to preschool-age children, and Little Free Library, which has grown from a few dozen boxes in the Midwest four years ago into over 50,000 spots in all 50 states and 70 countries today. Sports Bins are most similar to Little Free Libraries in that they're physical locations made of wood that have an inherent "give one, take one" ethos.

"There's a social responsibility component built in for sure, and I've been pleasantly surprised by the amount of use the bins have been getting and how little loss there's actually been," Sanford said. "We were restocking the Valley Farms bin, and we ran into a couple of guys playing basketball. They said they had forgotten their own basketball and saw the one in the bin so they were able to play. Their exact quote: 'You are awesome.'"

Sanford built a budget in for replacing lost and worn-out equipment up to three times in a season, or about every four to six weeks during the warm weather season; this year's extended heat wave has kept the Sports Bins busy through mid-fall. Each ball is inscribed with the "Sports Bin" moniker and its home park, making it obvious where it belongs.

"We often see that sometimes the only barrier standing in the way of people playing in the park is the simple lack of a ball," Sanford said.

"This is a way to give those young people an opportunity to engage with each other in physical activity, and maybe try out a new sport that they may be unfamiliar with."

Sanford grew up in rural Manitou Beach, Michigan, graduated from nearby Onsted High School and moved to East Lansing when she was accepted to MSU. She graduated with degrees in kinesiology and health promotion, and landed a gig at the YMCA Wellness Center in downtown Lansing where she taught classes and worked as a fitness trainer. She's held that job for over 11 years, but started spending more time at home after her second daughter was born last year. Her research into the free reading programs happened during some rare downtime, which in turn led to her epiphany moment.

"I was thinking about what I'm passionate about, which has always been health and fitness, and it just came to me," Sanford said. "Then it was just a matter of figuring out how I can combine that passion with the Little Free Library concept, and the Sports Bin was born."

She first contacted Lansing Parks and Recreation director Brett Kaschinske with her idea, with whom she had a previous working relationship. Once he was on board, Sanford went after another local sports world contact: Mike Price, co-founder of the Greater Lansing Sports Authority, a group that's working to build Lansing into a sports tourism destination. Finally, she reached out to Andre Hutson, a member of the 2000 MSU men's basketball championship team who went on to play nine seasons in the NBA before opening **Conquest Health and Fitness Foundation** in DeWitt. Then it was just a matter of getting her husband, Waylon Sanford, to build the actual bins, and voila: play for no pay.

Building on this year's success, Sanford said more Lansing-area parks will get Sports Bins next year, but those spots have yet to be determined. She also plans to start expanding the services to include groups that will organize teams at each location to use all of the equipment. This year's pilot program is set to run through next month, after which the bins will take a break until spring when the new elements will be added.

"The bins will be at the parks through the winter, but we won't stock them with equipment," Sanford said. "You can't really kick a ball in the snow."

SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 19

1	8	4	2	3	7	9	6	5
9	5	2	4	1	6	8	7	3
3	6	7	5	8	9	2	4	1
4	2	8	1	9	5	7	3	6
5	7	3	6	4	8	1	2	9
6	1	9	7	2	3	4	5	8
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CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 19

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HE ATE

SHE ATE



Thai Nation brings the flavor

Huge, hot, helpings

By **MARK NIXON**

Each time I enter a restaurant to begin a review, a niggling question lurks: Does it always have to be about the food?

My gut answer — yes, that part of my anatomy which really does the thinking and directs my actions — is that OF COURSE it's about the food.

While in no way damning with faint praise, when I walked into Thai Nation Bistro, I began channeling Renee Zellweger in "Jerry Maguire." They had me at hello.

There's a genuine folksiness to the place. Along one wall are scarves for sale, made by a local artisan. Feathered hats are whimsically fashioned into lampshades for the overhead lighting. There's even a primer in Thai language, written on a chalkboard hanging over the kitchen counter: "Sa' wat dee," it means "hello."

It's not an easy trick being folksy inside a tiny strip mall on the edge of Williamston's business district, but Thai Nation manages to pull it off.

OK, I can hear the grumbles: Folksy-wolksy, cutesy-wutesy, yada-yada ... What about the food?

Good news on that front as well. The food is darn good.

On one visit, we were joined by our regular dining companions, Bruce and Jan, as well as friends from Japan, Kei and Aya.

Barely after we settled into our chairs, our server set small bowls of soup before us. We hadn't even ordered drinks. But that was fine with us. The complimentary soup is a nice touch. It was translucent chicken broth with shredded carrots and fresh snippets of scallions. I thought it was spot-on. Kei, who has a good deal of experience with Thai dining, later wrote that the soup "didn't have a strong taste, but (was) not very salty and felt healthy. It may not be liked by some people who like stronger tastes, but mild and not spicy soup doesn't destroy the main dish we will order."

Nicely put.

Judy had the traditional Thai soup, Tom Yum, with shrimp (\$16.99). Along with the shrimp were onions, lemon grass, lime juice and "cooking milk" — that's how the menu describes it. I gave this dish a "tasty" score while Judy gave it a "terrific" score.

I had bamboo curry with beef brisket (\$16.99), with bamboo shoots, Thai ginger, carrot, basil and bell peppers. It came with jasmine rice on the side, which I tossed into the curry. As with every dish we tried during two visits, the serving portions are U-U-UGE as Bernie Sanders likes to say.

More important than size is heat, which Thai Nation Bistro seems to intuit on two levels. My curry dish — closer to soup than stew — arrived steaming hot. I had to let it sit a spell.

More importantly, the smartest part of this dish — and the entire menu, for that matter — is that the customer is allowed to choose a desired spice level. What a concept! Thai Nation lets you pick a spiciness ranging from 1 to 5. To make it better, when I mentioned to our server that I can't tolerate much spice, he said I could order a spice level of one-half. I did, and it was perfect.

On a separate visit, we shared an \$8 appetizer of fried cabbage rolls. Insert Bernie Sanders quote. A light tempura batter enfolds a big chunk of al dente cabbage with ground chicken and carrot. A sweet and sour dipping sauce complements the entire package.

A word about another sauce — soy. I've tasted a great number of soy sauces, some good, some dreadful. The soy sauce at Thai Nation is unique. It's subtly smoky and

Thai Nation

725 West Grand River Ave. #3, Williamston
thainationbistro.com
(517)996-6092
Tues. - Sun. 12 - 9 p.m.

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON LAWRENCE**

When I think of Thai food, I think of the clean, refreshing scent of lemongrass. I think of coconut milk, lime and peanuts. I think, of course, of Pad Thai, but I also think of vibrant, thinly sliced vegetables and coconut. I think of the chicken larb that I ate in Australia, a country too heavily influenced by Asian cuisines. Larb is a quintessential Thai dish and features ground meat (chicken, in my case), spiked heavily with fresh herbs like mint and cilantro and studded with red onion and chilis. I scooped it up in fresh, crunchy lettuce leaves and my love for Thai food blossomed.

So, it was with excitement that Mr. She Ate and I began our drive to Williamston for dinner at Thai Nation Bistro one evening. All the way there, I regaled him with tidbits I was finding online. Anticipation was high, and I was expecting authentic, mind-blowing food. What I found, however, was something that looked like it came more from a mall food court than from a food stand in Bangkok. My brain, swirling with visions of bright green limes and fresh mint leaves, adjusted its expectations.

For a starter, we asked for an order of chicken spring rolls. As we waited for them, we were presented with an amuse bouche of soup — a clear broth full of chopped cabbage, onions, and carrots — an unexpectedly light and delicious way to start the meal. Our plate of spring rolls arrived with four rolls — two with chicken and two without, curiously. These are the deep-fried version, so if you're expecting a clear wrapper around the fresh ingredients, don't get your hopes up.

I had Pad Thai with chicken, which I ordered to be a "one" on the "zero to five" spice scale described to us by our (incredibly attentive and knowledgeable) waiter. After my first bite, I decided that next time I would request at least a level two on spice, because this was bland. Mr. She Ate had stir-fried chicken with orange sauce, which we preferred over the chicken in my dish because his actually had some texture and dimension. The sauce on his chicken wasn't thick, but we were happy to notice the unmistakable scent of fresh orange.

On a return visit with friends, we started with a veritable buffet of appetizers. We again ordered the chicken spring rolls and were again befuddled when only half of them had chicken inside. The Cabbage Bite Size Appetizers were a unique spin on a cabbage or lettuce wrap, with ground chicken and carrots wrapped in a cabbage leaf and flash fried. Dipped in sweet chili sauce, they were my favorite of the bunch. We rounded out Act One with the chicken satay — standard deep-fried chicken, skewered and served with a peanut dipping sauce.

On this visit, I found the sweet spot on the menu: the curries. Don't envision a carb-heavy dish laden with a heavy-handed dose of Indian curry (Mom, I'm talking to you!); this is a totally different animal. The Bamboo Curry is a soup, fragrant with coconut milk and the ginger, basil and lime leaves I was searching for all along. The two on the spice scale perfectly complemented the rich, velvety coconut milk broth, and the bamboo gave extra body and texture to the dish. Into my bowl, I scooped jasmine rice to soak up the broth as I congratulated our friend who couldn't stop remarking over how much he liked his stir-fried chicken with orange sauce. Homeboy had never had Thai food before, but his wife and I are determined to broaden his horizons.

For a last visit, during a commute from Ann Arbor to Okemos, I decided to phone in an order for Green Curry with Chicken. I made the call, placed my order, and ten minutes later received a call from the same waiter. Their shipment of Thai eggplant hadn't



Gabrielle Johnson Lawrence/City Pulse

Satay is a deep-fried dish that features skewered chicken and a peanut dipping sauce.

See He Ate, Page 23

See She Ate, Page 23

He Ate

from page 22

tangy, and I was told that rice wine vinegar might be part of the secret. I honestly don't know. Our server said the brand name is Maggi and can be purchased locally in some local Asian food stores. I recommend giving it a try.

Speaking of our server: He was the only one working the dining area on both visits. Yet, he took ample time to explain the various dishes, how they are prepared, and made recommendations on spice levels. For those ill-acquainted with Thai food, this was a big plus.

Other pluses included the Thai Fried Rice and noodle soup, each \$12.99. Portion size? Cue Bernie. I especially liked the thick noodles swimming in a clear broth.

Kudos to the peanut sauce that came with the Pad Thai (\$12.99). This side dip had real chunks of peanuts, not some jazzed-up crunchy peanut butter as I've had in other places.

If there is a genuine downside to this genuinely folksy restaurant, it's the size. The L-shaped dining room has no more than a dozen tables, and many of those small. Judging from the number of patrons, including several coming for take-out orders, size doesn't matter. You be the judge.

Cheese dip and chips - El Azteco



Sometimes, the highlight of a meal can be its appetizer — especially when it is a one-of-a-kind dish. After sampling a fair amount of local Mexican restaurants and dining in authentic Mexican fare eateries, I'm certain there is nothing quite like El Azteco's cheese dip.

It's a blend of sour cream, cottage cheese and shredded Muenster cheese with scallions and jalapeño peppers. I've been told that dashes of cumin, Worcestershire sauce and garlic powder complete the "secret" ingredients.

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El Azteco East

225 Ann St. East Lansing
(517) 351-9111
11 am - 10 pm Sun.-Thurs.
11 am - 11 pm Fri. & Sat.

Fortunately, the basket of thick and sturdy blue and yellow corn chips that El Azteco serves with the \$4.50 appetizer can handle the heavy and chunky dip.

I found that those sturdy chips also came in handy for any duels to retrieve the last morsels in the meant-to-share bowl.

— DAVID WINKELSTERN



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TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

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

Bon appétit!

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She Ate

from page 22

arrived for the day, he told me, and he wanted to make sure that I still wanted the curry and wondered if I wanted him to bulk it up with other vegetables. I did want the curry, I did want the extra vegetables, and I was knocked out by the fact that he would call me to check. That little, innocuous touch of customer service has me thinking about a standing curry order for the one time that I make the aforementioned commute.

They offer a 5 percent discount if you pay with cash, which I fully support. I know how expensive the credit card processing fees are, which can be a killer for a small business, and I think this is a brilliant way to incentivize people to use cash without adding a credit card surcharge.

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