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See page 19



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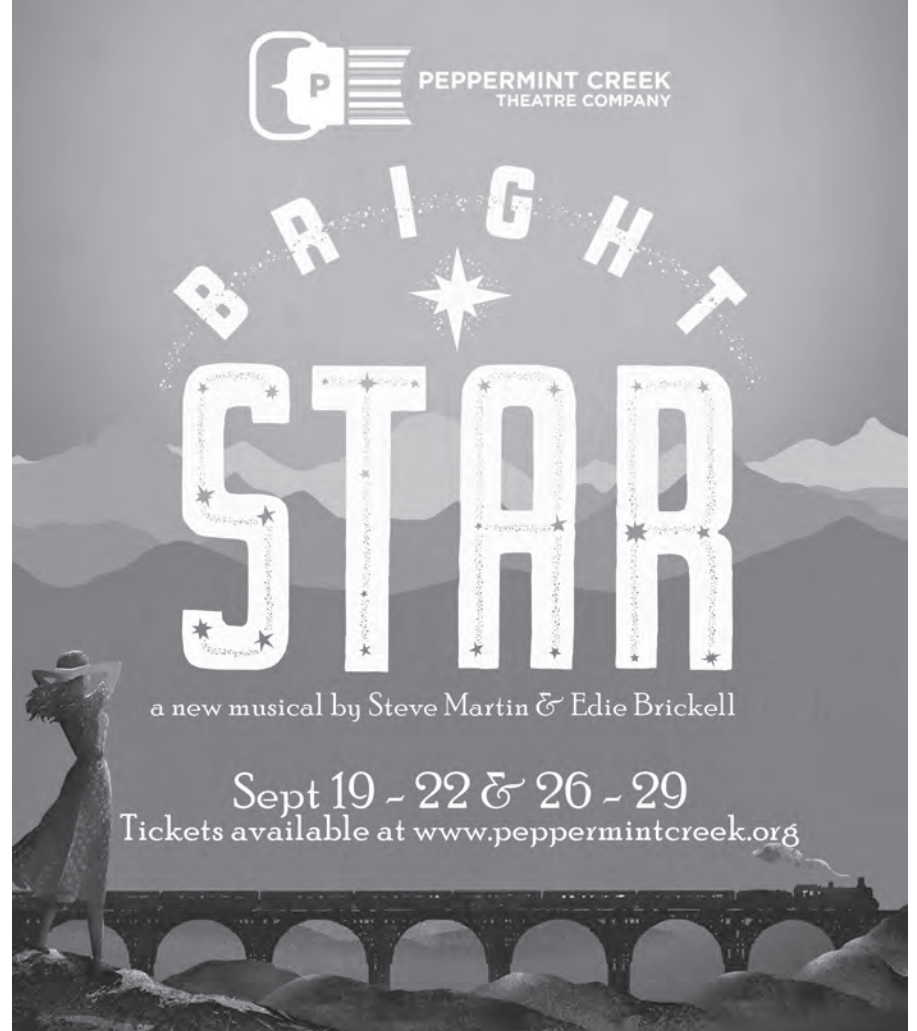
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Saturday, October 12 from 10-4, continuing Sunday, October 13 from noon-4
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Sunday, October 20 from noon-4
MACKEREL SKY'S 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. Please join us for refreshments and reminisces. Sign our purple guest book and let us know how we can keep in touch. We look forward to celebrating the community of Mackerel Sky with you.

Saturday, November 23 from 10-3
The Annual Biedermann Commemorative Ornament signing. Martin Biedermann will be joined by Georg the master cutter from Germany who will be demonstrating the intricate method used to create the commemorative ornaments.

www.mackerelsky.com
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Favorite Things

CADL director Scott Duimstra and the novel 'In Search of Lost Time'



This is the complete series of "In Search of Lost Time," by Marcel Proust, which is the longest novel ever written. I started out in libraries in high school as a library page and I saw this book and thought it was enormous but didn't read it. It was only until I was an undergrad in the summer in Seattle when I came across one in a bookshop and bought it. It is semi-autobiographical with themes of how time is lost and something you can't grasp.

While I had stress in my life as a 20-year-old college student when I read this for the first time, I didn't have day-to-day stresses. As I got a little bit older, it took on a new meaning when I reread it again and was at different stages of my life. I last read it five years ago.

As Proust goes through life, he gets older and his relationships are getting older. By the final volume, it is still the same characters throughout but he talks about how different these individuals are and how they age, the different things that can happen to them.

To liken it to modern times, it is like "Game of Thrones" or something. You can look back and see how all these characters change over the work. He is almost a trendsetter too have so many volumes. You almost need a map for this. Each volume is a different part

of his life.

Along with a lot of artists and writers, he wasn't able to see the praise that his novel got. He died pretty young. It wasn't until later on that people started to see the novel for what it is. It is probably one of the best novels written in the 20th century, and that is from the likes of James Joyce and Virginia Woolf recognizing it as a phenomenal piece of work.

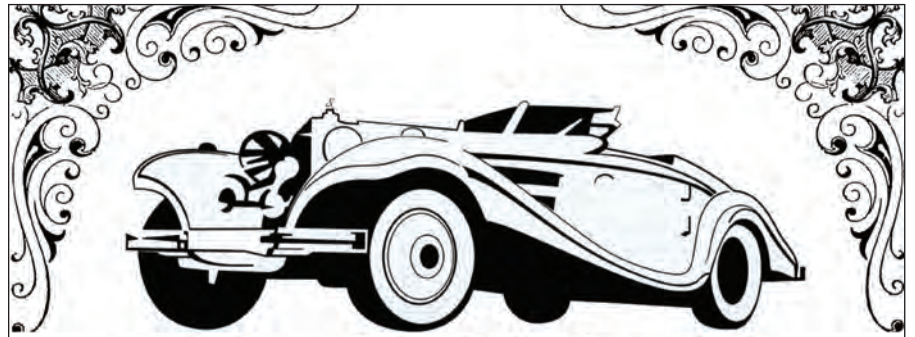
Unless it is my family, I don't really have something in my life that lasted that long. A phone? It might be the last two years. A car? Five years. It is pretty cool that a book can stay with you for that length of time.

He has a passage here where he is eating a dessert and he had that dessert a number of years ago at his aunt's house. Him eating it brings him back to that time.

Rereading this first one brought me back to what I was going through at that time. Rereading it might bring you back a different history at that point in your life.

That is why it is a favorite object of mine and I try to reread it as much as possible.

(This interview was edited and condensed by Dennis Burck. If you have a recommendation for "Favorite Things," please email dennis@lansingcitypulse.com.)



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HONEST DEMOCRATIC DEBATE QUESTIONS

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PAGE 12

BluesFest features prodigal musicians, both young and old



PAGE 27

The Culture Clash concert series returns to The Avenue



PAGE 29

Does Tannin's east-side revival fare well?



Cover Art

By Vince Joy

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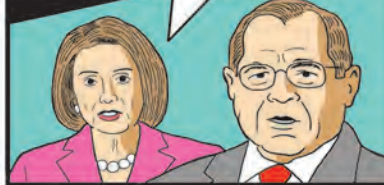
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MY ADMINISTRATION WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM AN IMMINENT THREAT TO THEIR VERY LIVES--

I'M GUESSING IT'S NOT ASSAULT WEAPONS.

NO, YOU IDIOT--
JUUL PODS!



by TOM TOMORROW

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM
"THAT'S HOW THE FIRST LADY GOT INVOLVED! SHE'S GOT A SON-- TOGETHER, ACTUALLY--"*


WHAT THE HELL IS THAT KID'S NAME, AGAIN?

*YES, ACTUAL QUOTE.



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HEY LOOK! A SQUIRREL!

REMEMBER THAT TIME WE SAW A SQUIRREL?

WHAT?



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Genesee Street School to reopen as apartments

Back in the day, the Genesee Street School brought the neighborhood together.

“All the kids lived in the neighborhood,” said David Brower, 71, who attended the school from 1952 to 1957. “We lived so close, we’d go home for lunch.”

Brower remembers the community culture more than his academic tutelage. Kids played kickball and baseball on an old backstop. A neighborhood store thrived across the street, and children would turn in pop bottles for deposit and leave with candy. “I have a lot of good memories of that school.”

The Genesee Street School may never be the vibrant heart of the neighborhood again, but the structure has a new lease on life. By this time next year, the classrooms should be filling up with as many as three dozen small studio and loft apartments.

The neighborhood declined in the 1970s as middle-class families moved out for newer homes in the suburbs, and the old houses were subdivided into duplexes. Then the school closed in 1984 and in recent years, the old school has become more of an eyesore, an attractive target for teenagers to lob rocks.

Developer Mike Markey shared plans for units as small as 280 square feet for tidy efficiency living to as large as 754 square feet for a spacious loft on the top floor.

The 1912 school building is listed on the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places. The listing helps preserve the old school as one of the last remaining examples from prominent local architect Edwyn A. Boyd, who designed many of Lansing’s public buildings between 1890 and 1940.

The Genesee Street School has been mostly underutilized since by a series of nonprofits, and much of the interior has been allowed to crumble. Thieves ripped out the boiler to cash it in for scrap metal. City code violations and vandalism had increased on the property in the past few years, causing a hue and cry from the neighborhood a year ago for a change to the Genesee neighborhood centerpiece.



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Developer Mike Markey plans to renovate Genesee Street School for use as apartments.

Council President Carol Wood, who lives in the neighborhood, warned that the city could order the building be torn down if its owners, New World Flood, headed by former star MSU Spartan football player T.J. Duckett, did not improve the situation. But his nonprofit owed \$15,000 in back taxes and had little other funding to do anything, let alone overhaul the structure.

New World Flood sold it to a new investment group, Genesee LLC in March, and Markey, one of Genesee’s investors, has laid out an ambitious timeline to have apartments ready to lease by June 2020.

“The city of Lansing has not done a good job of repurposing old buildings,” Markey said.

The City Council gave approval to change the zoning to multi-family residential in August, but work has not yet begun. The building needs extensive roof work as well as the replacement of a number of windows. Markey wants to restore as many of those as he can to their original condition and reopen the delightful old stairway at the center of the building facing Genesee Street.

Additionally, about \$15,000 will be put into each apartment so that each has a bathroom, kitchenette and heating unit, totaling more than \$500,000.

Despite the renovations, Markey said you could not build 36 apartments from the ground up for the price of the

repairs. “Good solid housing stock is hard to come by anymore,” he said.

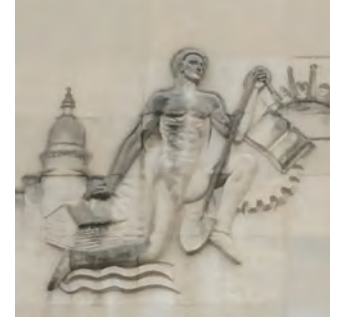
A lot of state workers park their cars on the streets surrounding the school, and Markey expected it would be an attractive distance for people who want to walk downtown for work or entertainment. The rehabbed classrooms could also be attractive for Baby Boomers wishing to downsize and live simply in their golden years.

Markey said the nonconforming 1950s gymnasium hitched unattractively to the east side of the historic structure will be reopened and donated as a recreational facility for the community. “We thought it was a good gesture. They had been using it for years,” he said.

The blacktop on the south side of the building will be given a top or seal coat to fill in the cracks and weeds poking up. A small apple orchard out back along with two acres of greenspace will be given over to the community, and the playground behind the building will be cleaned-up and remain for neighborhood children.

Markey and Brower had similar paths in childhood. Markey attended Pleasant Grove school through third grade before moving to Okemos.

Brower worked his way upstairs as he proceeded through his education, with kindergarten at the garden level, and



Mary Jarrard of Delta Township is the current winner for being the first to identify the Comerica Bank entryway (below) at 101 N. Washington Square in Lansing as the location for the elephant reliefs. (She may pick up her Eye for Design mug at City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., in Lansing 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.) Constructed in the 1930s and formerly known as the City National Building, this structure shows many creative and unique examples of art deco bas relief carvings that made this design style popular during the 1920s and '30s.

This next design is also carved into the façade of a downtown structure. The first to correctly identify the location will receive a City Pulse mug. Send your answer to JohnStavros@ykw.net by September 27.

— JOHN STAVROS



“Eye for Design” is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eye candy of the Week and Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Berl Schwartz at (517) 999-5061.

Lansing, East Lansing move toward a 'green Christmas'

Lansing appears poised to open its marijuana provisioning centers to the general adult public in November, but the city will likely fall short of a full embrace of legal weed at least before 2020.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor proposed an ordinance keeping in place some of the compromises that were chiseled out between his predecessor Virg Bernero and Council President Carol Wood. But like Bernero before him, he lost some and he won some.

"We kept most of what he pushed forward," said Council Member Adam Hussain, who represents Ward 3, on the southwest side.

The passage of an ordinance, which the Council plans to do on Sept. 30, will allow adults to buy pot in the capital city this November without a marijuana card, which requires a doctor's approval for a specific set of ailments shown to be relieved by medical cannabis.

In East Lansing, Mayor Mark Meadows said the Council had approved regulations that will allow recreational marijuana businesses to piggyback onto its earlier medical marijuana ordinances. East Lansing, too, could have marijuana shops in place in time for a green Christmas.

The Lansing City Council is considering an amended ordinance from the Public Safety Committee that will allow two new pot business types — social clubs where adults can imbibe publicly on cannabis, and microbusinesses, which are limited to 150 plants — and provide an opening for entrepreneurs into the burgeoning marijuana market.

But the Council also limited those businesses to eight — one of each license — in each of the city's four wards.

"I think we should have more than four microbusinesses, but I'm willing to work with that," Schor said. "I'm not



Hussain



Spadafore



Schor

planning to veto" the amendments.

Tightened zoning restrictions

The majority of the Council is also moving to make even more of the city off-limits to marijuana sales, expanding the no-go zones to include 500 feet from any park. Rules put in place around schools, churches, child day cares and playgrounds already leave about 80 percent off limits to marijuana sales, even as these areas proliferate with bars and the retail sale of cigarettes, beer and liquor.

"We heard loud and clear from neighbors," said Hussain, from people who wanted more restrictions around parks. At last week's Council meeting, only marijuana opponents spoke from the public, even though 71 percent of the city voted for full adult legalization last year. "We got it wrong with alcohol and tobacco," he said, and would vote to ban their sale in more of the city if state law allowed it.

The 25 businesses that have received or are in line to receive a medical marijuana provisioning center license are exempt from the new restriction, but it will take place for the three new provisioning centers or any future businesses that take a slot from the first 25 if they close.

Schor could have supported more than 28 regular marijuana retail businesses in the city, but he wasn't going to reopen that can of worms that beguiled his predecessor. "Twen-

ty-five was the result of a long and arduous process before I was mayor. We didn't want to make big massive changes, we just wanted to add recreational."

He said it was unlikely that the Council would become any more pro-marijuana soon. The tight restrictions on marijuana businesses are a backlash against the initial unregulated medical marijuana dispensaries, which proliferated by the dozens, especially in south Lansing, where Council members such as Wood and Jody Washington regarded them not as positive pot businesses but as weeds.

The majority of the Council is also moving to make even more of the city off-limits to marijuana sales, expanding the no-go zones to include 500 feet from any park.

Hussain said he viewed the ordinance as a "living document," and was receptive to reopening the ordinance next year if others wanted to make changes, but he was reluctant to make the marijuana policy too broad and be unable to rein it in once "the toothpaste is out of the tube."

Both sides agreed to get rid of the Medical Marijuana Commission, which Schor, Hussain, At-Large Councilman Peter Spadafore and City Clerk Chris Swope all said worked mainly to add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to the system and keep proposed marijuana businesses in limbo for months.

"It took forever. The industry was stagnating," Spadafore said.

The new regulations also remove much of the complex scoring system from statute, giving Swope more leeway in approving applications. "We're going to be a lot faster," Swope said. "I don't envision wholesale changes to what we're doing."

East Lansing goes green

East Lansing has five dispensaries in the approval pipeline, with one on East Grand River Avenue and a second near Costco the furthest along. None of

them are immediately ready to open, so by the time they are, they may be able to sell both to adults over 21 and to patients with a prescription. "I think it's going to be a highly competitive business," Meadows said.

Because his city has not yet had any medical marijuana sales, Meadows said the city had not yet discussed expanding its cannabis footprint to include social clubs or a "Hash Bash" like Michigan's other Big Ten college town, Ann Arbor.

East Lansing is one of 19 Michigan cities where businesses can get discounts on state licenses because of a history of social inequity during marijuana prohibition. Meadows was surprised East Lansing qualified, given the city stopped criminal arrests for marijuana possession decades ago.

The social equity measure is determined by both arrests and poverty levels, and he said the city had an overlooked number of apartment complexes for lower-income people, and many independent students have very low incomes.

The Michigan State University police may also not have the same liberal history tolerating marijuana, and could be factored into the formula, since the campus is inside the city limits, even if the city of East Lansing has little control over the university. "They're not bound by our policies. If that was lumped in, it could be the reason," Meadows said.

A spokesman for the Michigan Department of Regulatory Affairs did not respond to questions about the social equity formula.

The Lansing Council already shot down implementing a social equity program last week. At-Large Council Member Kathie Dunbar was denied her push for a social equity measure to help repair the damages caused by marijuana prohibition, which hammered African-American and low-income neighborhoods, setting many young people back for life.

Dunbar faced stiff opposition from Washington and At-Large Council Member Patricia Spitzley, both of whom face re-election this fall. But social equity is another policy that the Lansing City Council could revisit next year.

"I'm interested in the conversation about social equity," Spadafore said, while stating that just mirroring the state's discount program — as Dunbar proposed — may not be the way to go.

— CHRIS GRAY

Genesee

from page 5

fifth and sixth grade on the top floor. His family left for Okemos when he was in fifth grade.

His father made good wages at Oldsmobile and wanted a bigger house that would allow for more children — Brower's two younger brothers. "It was pretty traumatic when we moved. We moved out in the boonies," Brower said.

Brower said it was wonderful that building was being repurposed, and if

the price is right, some seniors might like the neighborhood living not far from downtown. "I think we've lost too many of our old buildings," he said.

He worried, though, that bus service on the west side wasn't great and the building is far from a grocery. He also prefers to have more space for guests than these small apartments would provide, and nostalgia alone wouldn't be enough to take him back to the old neighborhood.

"Maybe that would reinvigorate the area. Maybe there's seniors who want simple, lower-cost living," Brower said. "It's not what I would want."

— CHRIS GRAY

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI on the proposed creation of South Martin Luther King Corridor Improvement Authority in accordance with the provisions of Part 6, Corridor Improvement Authorities, of the Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act, Public Act 57 of 2018, as amended (the Act) and as defined by Public Act 57 of 2018 as:

Eligible property within an area along South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard bounded by an area of all commercial property, as defined by Public Act 57 of 2018, found within 500 feet of the centerline of South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, from the railroad tracks south of Victor Avenue to I-96.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC
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CP#19-263

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI on the proposed creation of North Grand River Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority in accordance with the provisions of Part 6, Corridor Improvement Authorities, of the Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act, Public Act 57 of 2018, as amended (the Act) and as defined by Public Act 57 of 2018 as:

Eligible property within an area along North Grand River bounded by an area of all commercial property, as defined by Public Act 57 of 2018, found within 500 feet of the centerline of North Grand River, east on Franette Road to Old US 27 on East North Street with branches on North Martin Luther King Boulevard, Turner Road and Capital City Boulevard

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

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

CP#19-262

**CITY OF EAST LANSING
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1467**

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD ARTICLE IV – PROHIBITION OF CONVERSION THERAPY – TO CHAPTER 22 – HUMAN RELATIONS - TO THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO PROHIBIT THE PRACTICE OF CONVERSION THERAPY BY PROVIDERS ON MINORS.

WHEREAS being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming; and

WHEREAS there is a long and severe history of discrimination against LGBTQ people in this country and state under which LGBTQ people have been subjected to violence and threats of violence, denied services of businesses, prevented from obtaining housing, forced from their homes, fired from their jobs, and denied job opportunities; and

WHEREAS portrayals of LGBTQ adults and youth as mentally ill, abnormal, or disordered due to their sexual orientation or gender identity are untrue and dehumanizing; and

WHEREAS it is now generally accepted in the medical and mental health professions, and elsewhere, that LGBTQ status is not abnormal or disordered, but instead a normal and positive variation of humanity; and

WHEREAS the consensus among medical and mental health professionals and organizations, and others, is that attempts to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity lack any specific basis and are in fact ineffective. Organizations who have made such policy statements or similar ones include: the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American School Counselors Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Psychoanalytic Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American College of Physicians, the American Medical Association, the Pan-American Health Organization (a regional office of the World Health Organization), the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the American Bar Association, the American School Health Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Association of School Administrators, the American Federation of Teachers, the Interfaith Alliance Foundation, the National Association of School Psychologists, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Education Association, and the School Social Work Association of America; and

WHEREAS research studies and other available evidence show that conversion therapy or other treatment practices that attempt to change a young person's sexual orientation or gender identity pose a significant risk of serious emotional and physical harm to youth who undergo them, such as anxiety, depression, hopelessness, social withdrawal, illegal drug use, and suicide; and

WHEREAS LGBTQ youth in particular experience the harmful effects of stigma and discrimination when they are forced or coerced into undergoing "conversion," "reparative," or "reorientation" therapy because as minors they cannot effectively refuse or prevent conversion therapy wanted by parents or other authorities; and

WHEREAS the City has a compelling interest in protecting the physical and psychological well-being of LGBTQ minors by protecting them from conversion therapy in the City and limiting the risk of harms caused by exposure to conversion therapy.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Article IV and sections 22-61, 22-62, 22-63 and 22-64 are hereby added to Chapter 22 of the

Code of the City of East Lansing to read as follows:

ARTICLE IV. PROHIBITION OF CONVERSION THERAPY ON MINORS

Sec. 22-61 – Findings.

Medical, mental health, and child welfare experts have denounced conversion therapy or reparative therapy as ineffective, unreliable, and unsafe for people, including LGBTQ minors, who undergo such treatment and inconsistent with the accepted standard of care. Conversion therapies or reparative therapies are based on the discredited premise that being LGBTQ is a mental disorder that can be cured or corrected. LGBTQ people must be free from ineffective and fraudulent conversion treatments that cause harm to mental health and wellbeing. Due to the serious and dangerous harms caused to minors subjected to conversion therapy or reparative therapy, the City finds and declares that a compelling interest exists in protecting the health and psychological well-being of minors by protecting them, including LGBTQ minors, from conversion therapy in the City and by limiting the risk of serious harm to LGBTQ minors caused by the exposure to conversion therapy.

Sec. 22-62 – Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to protect the health and well-being of LGBTQ minors from being exposed to the serious harm caused by conversion therapy and to provide a method of enforcement.

Sec. 22-63 – Definitions.

In addition to the definitions provided in Sec. 22-32 of this Chapter, the following words and terms when used in this article shall have the following meanings:

A. *Conversion therapy or reparative therapy* means any practice or treatment that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity against that individual's will, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings towards individuals of the same gender. Conversion therapy shall not include counseling that provides support and assistance to a person undergoing gender transition, or counseling that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person's coping, social support, and development, including sexual orientation neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, as long as such counseling does not seek to change sexual orientation or gender identity.

B. *Minor* means any person under eighteen (18) years of age.

C. *Provider* means any licensed medical or mental health professional, including, but not limited to, licensed mental health counselors, mental health counselor associates, marriage and family therapists, marriage and family therapist associates, social workers, social worker associates, and any physicians, psychologists, psychotherapists, certified chemical dependency professionals, certified chemical dependency professional trainees, counselors, certified counselors, and certified advisers.

Sec. 21-64 – Prohibited Practices.

It shall be unlawful for any provider to provide conversion therapy or reparative therapy to a minor, regardless of whether the provider receives compensation in exchange for such services or not.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#267

Cheaters prosper

Last week, North Carolina Republicans proved that if you're ruthless enough, you can get away with anything

Last Monday, Donald Trump flew into Fayetteville, North Carolina, for a rally ahead of a special congressional election. There, in support of Republican Dan Bishop — a state senator who sponsored the notorious anti-LGBTQ “bathroom bill” that led to months of protests and boycotts in 2016 before it cost the governor his reelection and was partially repealed — Trump plowed through his usual litany of MAGA grievances before the usual sea of mostly white faces.

Because he lacks self-awareness, Trump included this line: “You go to California, which has so many sanctuary cities,” Trump said. “They don’t know what’s happening out there. You have people that want to get rid of those sanctuary cities; they just aren’t able to do it with the people that get elected. A lot of illegal voting going on out there, by the way.”



JEFFERY G. BILLMAN

INFORMED OPINION

The president complaining about sanctuary cities is, of course, nothing new. Neither is it new for him to invent conspiracy theories about voter fraud in California, which he’s long used, without a scintilla of evidence, to suggest that he really did win the popular vote. But someone probably should have reminded him why he was there.

North Carolina’s 9th Congressional District held a special election last week because, in 2018, the Republican candidate’s campaign committed fraud. A consultant hired to collect absentee ballots allegedly cheated in a manner large enough to affect the outcome amid a blue wave. People have since been indicted, and the North Carolina Board of Election refused to certify the results, which had Republican Mark Harris up fewer than 1,000 votes in district Trump carried by 12 points.

This was the do-over. The cheaters prospered. Bishop prevailed by about two points — enough for Trump to beat his chest about how he saved the

day, but still an ominous 10-point shift compared to 2016.

The next morning, almost to the minute of the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, North Carolina Republicans cheated again. And again, they prospered.

To understand how and why, some context: Since the GOP took over the state’s General Assembly in 2011, North Carolina has operated under one of the most blatant gerrymanders in the country. Even after Democrats won the governor’s office in 2016, Republicans claimed a veto-proof supermajority in the legislature.

That ended — barely — in 2018, though Democrats had to win more votes statewide to overcome the GOP supermajorities. (Recently, a state court ordered the General Assembly to draw nonpartisan legislative districts for next year’s election.) This year, for the first time, Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper had a meaningful veto. This spring, he vetoed the budget to force Republicans to negotiate over expanding Medicaid. But Republicans — having grown accustomed to the my-way-or-the-high-way approach and generally uninterested in providing health care for poor people — refused to budge. So aside from a few piecemeal spending bills, there’s been a months-long stalemate.

To override Cooper’s veto, Republicans needed seven Democrats to flip — or, more likely, to not show up for a vote. Over the summer, Democrats found this a constant concern, particularly in a sprawling state with an ostensibly part-time legislature that remained in session, with a House speaker who made clear that he would call the override vote the second he had

the numbers, no matter how he got them.

In that sense, what happened last week was less a surprise than a shock. On the evening of Sept. 10, Democrats say, Republicans leaders assured them that the next morning’s session would be perfunctory, no votes taken, as most morning sessions are. It was 9/11, after all. Several Democrats made plans to work on redistricting maps. Only nine showed up in the House chamber the next morning.

Fifty-five Republicans did. It was a trap.

House Speaker Tim Moore had enough members from a quorum, and with a nearly Democrat-free quorum enough votes to override the veto. Once the few Democrats present realized what was happening, they objected. One shouted at Moore: “How dare you subject this body to trickery, deceptive practices, hijacking the process! It is so typical of the way you conduct yourself. How dare you, Mr. Speaker! If this is the way you believe democracy works, shame on you!”

But it was too late. You can’t shame the shameless, nor can you preach democracy to those contemptuous of it. (The override now heads to the Senate, where Republicans need to flip two Dems. One presumes — hopes — the state’s Democrats won’t be naïve enough let their guards down again.) Like their counterparts in D.C., North Carolina Republicans have bought into the mantra that winning is all that matters, that power is an end unto itself. They didn’t hesitate to use an anniversary that they once treated as sacrosanct to launch a sneak attack on democracy.

There’s some irony there.

American institutions are propped up by norms — guardrails that rely on the principle that one’s opponents and their supporters have a legitimate claim to power, guardrails that say that a party that won the governor’s office and earned more votes in statewide legislative races deserves an opportunity to negotiate over Medicaid, a key issue in both elections.

But these guardrails are soft, and those most willing to exploit them first and ruthlessly tend to prevail. The problem is, in the end, the victors inevitably destroy the very thing they’ve set out to conquer.

In the age of Trump — and North Carolina Republicans — that’s the real danger America faces.

(Jeffrey Billman is the editor of INDY Week, in Durham, North Carolina.)



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

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from John Mikulski, for the property located at 1004 Michigan Avenue, to replace the fence and stone in the north portion of the lot with a new fence.
2. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Megan and Cynthia Luczak, for the property located at 512 Hillcrest Avenue, to replace windows on the structure with new white vinyl windows.
3. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Diane Wing, for the property located at 1024 Huntington Road, to replace the existing deck with a new deck design to accommodate a new wooden door and four season use, a new bespoke wood canopy, and replace the existing gutters with new copper gutters..

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#19-269

September 18, 2019

**PUBLIC NOTICE
City of East Lansing
Wetland Use Permit Application**

The City of East Lansing has received an application for a Wetland Use Permit under authority of Chapter 49, Wetland Protection, of the East Lansing City Code from applicant, Parks and Recreation Department of the City of East Lansing for the White Park Trail Extension Project.

The project site is located at Albert A. White Memorial Park owned by the City of East Lansing. The City of East Lansing received a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to extend the Northern Tier Trail through the Albert A. White Park. A secondary trail shall loop through a wetland and will provide the public with views to wetland and vernal pool with interpretive signage. The purpose of the secondary trail is educating the public about the wetlands and vernal pool as well as allow the public to enjoy the natural beauty. The trail inside wetland areas will be constructed using combination boardwalk and turnpike trail. In addition to trail improvements, invasive vegetative species along the trail corridor shall be removed from the wetland. Areas disturbed by construction shall be restored using wetland mix.

The applicant proposes the following wetland uses:

1. To extend the Northern Tier Trail by constructing a 361-foot long by 8-foot, 10-inch wide elevated boardwalk and a 131-foot long by 10.5-foot wide pathway with timber borders through wetland. The pathway will entail placement of 17 cubic yards of clean fill within wetland. The trail improvements will impact 0.14 acre of wetland.
2. To mechanically dredge 1942-cubic yards of sediment from an existing 0.83-acre pond associated with the Taylor Drain to enhance fishing habitat within the pond including installation of 2 10' wide by 30' long by 2' tall temporary construction pads for dredge machine access and the construction of a pond shelf through the installation of 723 linear feet of 12" coir logs and native wetland plantings for bank stabilization.

The proposed project is also regulated under Parts 301 Inland Lakes and Streams & Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. The applicant also submitted a wetland permit application to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for the same proposed activities and has received approved permit WRP018164 v.1. Site Name: 33-Lake Lansing Road-East Lansing-Albert White park; Issued September 9, 2019, expiring September 9, 2024.

All persons wishing to make comments shall furnish their written comments to Catherine DeShambo, Environmental Services Administrator, City of East Lansing, 1800 East State Rd. East Lansing, MI, 48823, cdesham@cityofeastlansing.com within 8 days after the date of this notice.

Copies of the Wetland Use Permit Application materials, the report, and recommendation of the City Wetland Consultant may be obtained at the City of East Lansing, Department of Public Works, 1800 East State Road during normal business hours. The City will approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application within 90 days after receipt.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#19-271

**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, October 9, 2019 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 Ordinance 1470, an ordinance request from 3225 West Road, LLC to rezone the property at 3225 West Road from RA, Residential Agricultural, to B-2, Retail Sales Business.

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.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#19-268

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider a special use permit application from Target Corporation for the property at 201 East Grand River Avenue to allow the sale of packaged beer, wine, and spirits for off premise consumption. The subject property is located in the B-3, City Center Commercial District.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Tailwind Group to modify the approved site plan for the property at 6210 Abbot Road for the construction of 50, two-bedroom residential units in a mix of 3- and 4-unit buildings, and the conversion of existing commercial space to two residential units. The subject property is located in the RM-8, Planned Unit Development District.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider a site plan and special use permit application from Northern United Brewing Company, LLC to establish a brewery, winery, distillery and artisan pizza restaurant and bar at 218 Albert Avenue. The subject property is located in the B-3, City Center Commercial District.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider a modified site plan application from Tailwind East Lansing III, LLC for the property at 6210 Abbot Road to modify the site plan conditions of approval for the Gaslight Village development to remove the limitation on leasing for periods of less than two years. The subject property is located in the RM-8, Planned Unit Development, zoning district.
5. A public hearing will be held to consider a site plan and special use permit application from Royal Apartments, USA and Vlahakis Development for the properties at 314, 328, 334, and 340 Evergreen Avenue. The applicant is requesting approval to demolish all of the existing structures on the described parcels and construct the following development in a mixed-use building:

Park Place West – a 9-story, 110-foot-tall mixed-use building containing two levels of underground parking, commercial space “market” on the first floor, and market rate and income qualified rental apartments on the upper floors. The building has 23,008 square feet of commercial space “market” with 139 parking spaces, 184 rental units with 46 low- to moderate-income qualified and 138 market rate units.

The development also includes improvements to public property through the realignment of Albert Avenue, utility improvements beyond the scope of the project and a public plaza along the former Evergreen Avenue. The subject properties are located in the RM-32, City Center Business zoning district.

6. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from GTW Investment Properties, L.L.C. for special use permit approval for the properties at 215 and 217 River Street. The applicant is requesting approval of a four-story sorority to house 44 people. The subject properties are located in the EV, East Village, zoning district.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-377.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#19-270

State government isn't going to shut down

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer notified state employees this week that 38,000 state employees could be placed on a temporary lay-off if state government is forced to shut down Oct. 1 for lack of a 2020 budget.

Nobody could buy Michigan lottery tickets. Retail stores couldn't get their

hard alcohol purchases approved by the Liquor Control Commission. Secretary of state offices wouldn't open. State road projects and welcome centers would freeze.

There'd be no student financial aid checks. Revenue checks to local government or schools wouldn't go out on

schedule.

The prisons, State Police, bridges and Child Protective Service workers would still be running, but that's about it.

Will state government really shut down? By all appearances, yes. In reality, no.

Whitmer is essentially daring Republican lawmakers to give her budgets she hasn't OK'd. As of today, Republican lawmakers are calling the Democratic governor's bluff.

They're slated to give her a budget Sept. 24. If she wants to veto it and shut down government, it's on her, as far as the GOP is concerned.

In the meantime, Whitmer and legislative leaders have shadowboxed. On Tuesday, Whitmer wrote legislative leaders to send her a completed budget before enjoying "Mackinac Island with your fellow partisans" at "your weekend getaway" — the Michigan Republican Party's biennial leadership conference this weekend.

She said she'd like to have the budget at least two weeks before Sept. 30 so her administration officials can review the hundreds of pages, line items and provisions.

"I am writing to respectfully ask that prior to socializing with Mike Pence, Betsy DeVos, Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Haley Barbour, you compete all of the necessary work to get your budgets passed and sent to me with time for my team and me to review them and get them signed by Sept. 30," she wrote.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey responded with, "She was kind enough to send us an advance copy before making it public ... yawn."

Excuse Shirkey for being bored with the back-and-forth. After months of budget talks with "my" governor and House Speaker Lee Chatfield, they haven't agreed to squat.

One of their last meetings punctuated why. Whitmer wants to raise gasoline taxes 45 cents a gallon over 18 months to generate \$2.5 billion to pay for more road construction and better fund public schools.

Shirkey is willing to raise the gas tax by 10 cents or so, but he'd rather free up about \$800 million in road-funding money by stretching out teacher pension payments further into the future. That frees up money without raising taxes.

But Whitmer would rather sink any freed-up money into public schools. Between K-12 schools, higher education and community colleges, there haven't been many substantial increases in the last 17 years.

She doesn't want to use free up money as backfill for a road funding tax shift scheme that Chatfield has put up.

So at this closed-down meeting, Whitmer, Shirkey and Chatfield sat around the table and reportedly just looked at each other. Nobody was willing to budge. Nothing got done. Again.

But keep in mind the following. Nobody has actively threatened to shut down government.

Unlike 2007, a conservative Republican Senate isn't being pushed into a corner to raise taxes in order for the state to have the money for government to run.

In 2019 the government has enough money to operate.

Whitmer's \$60.2 billion budget is only 1.4% bigger than the \$59.3 billion the Senate passed. They're not far apart. Whatever the House and Senate send her next week will include much of her March proposal.

Whitmer wanted a tax increase to improve roads and schools. She isn't going to use the livelihood of 38,000 state employees as leverage for the GOP to raise taxes. She just isn't. Outside of the tumult it would cause mostly union families unnecessarily, there's other reasons.

Her national reputation is on the rise. She beat President Donald Trump by a week in proposing a ban on flavored e-cigarettes. She's being mentioned by some pundits as a potential Democratic running mate.

And while Whitmer said Mnday she doesn't want to be vice president, if Joe Biden calls on April 16, 2020, after sewing up the nomination and asks her to be his vice presidential nominee, how could she possibly say no?

A younger, charismatic female attorney and elected official from a swing Midwestern state? If she's told she gives Democrats a better shot at preventing a Donald Trump second term? It's an easy decision.

Yes, =it appears Whitmer is rhetorically chastising Republicans for steamrolling her in budget discussions right now, but she may still have another trick up her sleeve.

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CONTRACT I – EMERGENCY WORK FOR THE RAYNER CREEK DRAIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Patrick Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, on behalf of the Rayner Creek Drain Drainage District (OWNER), will receive bids on **October 1, 2019**, at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, located at 707 Buhl Street, Mason, Michigan, 48854 **until 2:00 pm**. Bids relative to Contract I – Emergency Work will then be opened and publicly announced for work to be undertaken in connection with a drain known and designated as the "Rayner Creek Drain".

The following quantities are viewed as the major items of work comprising this work and the following quantities are approximate. Final payment will be made based upon measured quantities.

113 LF 24-inch Storm drain RCP C-76 Class IV
1,586 LF 24-inch Storm drain SLCPP Perforated and Non-perforated
461 LF 12-inch Storm drain SLCPP Perforated and Non-perforated
4 EA Manhole, 48-inch Dia. Concrete w/ casting & grate
8 EA Manhole, 30-inch Dia. Fabricated w/ casting & grate
3 EA Driveway removal & replacement including 12-inch CMP drive culvert
340 SY MDOT Plain Riprap
Miscellaneous excavation and sediment removal
Miscellaneous tile connections
Miscellaneous fence removal and replacement

Bidding Documents are on file, and may be examined at the following locations after **September 18, 2019, 9:00 am** local time: Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, located at 707 Buhl Street, Mason, Michigan, 48854 AND LSG Engineers & Surveyors, 3135 Pinetree Road, Suite D, Lansing, Michigan 48911, (517) 393-2902.

Bidding Documents may only be obtained after **September 18, 2019, 9:00 am** local time, at the office of LSG Engineers & Surveyors, 3135 Pinetree Road, Suite D, Lansing, Michigan 48911, (Alan Boyer 517-393-2902 x225), upon payment of a \$35.00 non-refundable deposit. An additional non-refundable charge of \$10.00 will be required for sending out these Bidding Documents. Electronic copies of Bidding Documents may be obtained free of charge at <https://www.lsg-es.com/bidding.html>. An access code from LSG Engineers & Surveyors is required to download "FOR BID" contract documents.

Bids will only be accepted from Plan Holders of Record who have attended the mandatory pre-bid conference (see below). In order to be a Plan Holder of Record, Bidding Documents MUST BE OBTAINED from the Issuing Office.

A security deposit equal to 5% of the bid amount and in the form of a cashier's check, money order, certified check or bidders bond shall be submitted with any bids. No cash will be permitted. The security deposits of all unsuccessful bidders shall be returned after the Contract is awarded. Bids may not be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the actual date of opening thereof. This time period may be extended by mutual agreement of the OWNER and any Bidder or Bidders.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at **2:00 pm, September 23, 2019**, at the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, located at 707 Buhl Street, Mason, Michigan, 48854. Representatives of the Drain Commissioner and Engineer will be present at the pre-bid conference. Prospective bidders are required to attend and participate in the conference. All bidders must sign in by name of attendee, business represented, and email address. Only bids from bidders in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be opened. All others will be considered non-responsive. The Engineer will transmit any Addenda the Engineer considers necessary in response to questions arising at the conference to all prospective Bidders of record. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.

One contract is being let for this work, which will include all material necessary to perform same. This contract will be let in accordance with the Contract Documents and bids will be made and received in accordance with these documents.

The payments for the above-mentioned work will be made based upon completion of Unit Price work on a monthly basis as outlined in the Contract Documents. Bidders shall comply with the Ingham County policies regarding the payment of Prevailing Wages, and Equal Opportunity/Nondiscrimination, as set forth in Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolutions #02-263 and #02-283, respectively. The work must be substantially complete on or before **November 8, 2019** and completed and ready for final payment on or before **June 15, 2020**.

September 10, 2019

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
707 Buhl St, Mason, Michigan, 48854
(517) 676-8395

CP#19-266



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ARTS & CULTURE

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BluesFest headliner Jamiah Rogers brings funktacular rock

By DENNIS BURCK

Jamiah Rogers is known in Chicago as the “Blues Superman.” His live shows jet through splintering fast, traditional blues tunes only to release into crooning, reggae waltzes and funky blues-rock jams.

The rumbling one, four, five chord pattern was instilled in him from growing up in a household of Chicago blues musicians. His father, bassist Tony Rogers, was never short for work.

By age 7, Rogers gravitated toward the drums and found “the pocket,” which he would scarcely leave. Rogers said his performances as a youth garnered city-wide attention, which earned him the title “most talented kid under the age of 12” by The Chicago Music Awards three years in a row.

Hot off a tour in France and Switzerland, Rogers returns to the U.S. for the top slot at the Michigan Blues Fest.

“I was always in the basement and it was the playground,” Rogers said. “My father was a blues guitarist, and he had his band. At the times they were rehearsing, I would be sitting on the stairs creeping and listening to what was going on.”

Once the rehearsal came to a close, Rogers would sneak down into the basement to fiddle with the instruments.

“You can’t just go fiddling around with someone’s instrument when you’re not in the band, but I was careful,” Rogers said.

Prowling around the guitars, drums and bass, Rogers became a triple-threat musician that could play each instrument with ease. He said by age 9, music became “a full-time job,” as he recalled “sneaking” into clubs and performing throughout the city.

The youngster eventually caught the attention of Buddy Guy, an acclaimed Chicago bluesman. Rogers began playing and attending shows at Buddy Guy’s Legends, the guitarist’s personal blues bar.

“I was basically, if not the youngest, one of the youngest blues musicians in the industry,” he said.

Now Rogers does more than hold the modern torch of blues tradition, he is committed to passing it. Apart from touring the world, Rogers studies music education at Chicago State University.

“Superman is someone that is focused on saving what’s good, I like to think I’m that for the blues,” he said.

However, for his newfound fame, Rogers scoffs at the traditional path of musicians getting signed to a record label. Gone are the romanticized blues days of Chicago’s Chess Records, famed



Courtesy Photo

Jamiah Rogers performs at BluesFest Saturday. For a full schedule, see page 15.

for giving its signed artists a brand new Cadillac and promoting trailblazers like Chuck Berry, Etta James and Muddy Waters.

Instead, Rogers prefers to remain independent to keep his music and intellectual property close to home.

“It is nothing to take away from them, but I like owning everything I make and making everything back on it,” the bluesman said. “Everybody deserves what they work for. There are too many

signed people who are famous, but don’t have anything in the bank to show for it.”

While some see a blues guitar solo as a means to show off, Rogers said when he plays a solo, it is like he’s crying.

“When you cry, you make a lot of noise and the notes are high,” Rogers said. “If you’re actually crying and holding the note from the gut, people can hear you mean it. That comes over the guitar if you mean what you’re playing.”

Twenty years of blues with Stan Budzynski and 3rd Degree

By DENNIS BURCK

After 20 years of gigs at dive bars, festivals, parties and everything in between, Stan Budzynski and 3rd Degree take on the Michigan Bluesfest with zeal. The group isn’t hanging up its laurels anytime soon.

After winning the Capital Area Blues Brawl in May, they are poised to compete in Memphis for the International Blues Challenge as one of 260 acts representing blues music from around the world.

“We never thought we were going to do anything with the competition,” lead singer Catherine Groll said. “The

guys did it as a favor to me. We ended up winning and we couldn’t be happier with that. We had no expectations with that.”

Now the group is trying to perfect a four to five song set for the judges to hear to be advanced to the next round. Groll added that many female vocalists have won the competition and that the handpicked list comprises tunes she can “really feel something about.”

The band’s first gig was at the fore-runner of the Michigan Bluesfest in 1999, called the Mid-Michigan Blues Festival. It was held at the now-de-

funct Jambalaya’s restaurant in Laingsburg.

“They had some big-name blues artists like Otis Rush on that show and we’ve been playing together ever since,” guitarist Stan Budzynski said.

For Budzynski, blues is a way of life. “I’ve made a living off of playing music since high school,” he said.

Despite being together for decades, the group is just starting to test the waters with original music.

“I would just hum tunes on voice memo and try to write a melody to it,” Groll said.

What she came up with Budzynski is called “Me Too Voodoo,” a raucous blues romp on the #MeToo movement.

“It started out as a horrible sex song and ended up being a Trumpfest about the state of politics,” Groll added.

The song features breaks where

Groll’s smokey, gravelly voice really shines.

“I’m a growler with a low voice to begin with, from a lot of smoking and whiskey-drinking back in the day,” she said.

Bassist Ron Bretz said the band will be bursting with energy come time for its Michigan Bluesfest set.

Bretz, a Detroit native, cut his teeth as a teenager with the band “The Bouys,” which played at the legendary Grande Ballroom when the MC5, Cream and Bob Seger defined rock music.

Though the internet offers a better means to share music, the consequence is that live music is devalued, Budzynski said.

“Some people say we are keeping the blues alive, but I think we are really keeping live music alive,” he added.

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Dear readers,

Do you value the local content in City Pulse?

If so, I hope you will take a few minutes to let Kroger know you want City Pulse to continue to be available in Kroger stores. That's where more than 3,100 people a week pick up their copies – 15% of City Pulse's circulation. Such a significant loss of readership is going to translate into less advertising revenue, far and away City Pulse's leading source of funds. And that will mean fewer pages of content at a time when other sources of local news are declining.

Please help keep local journalism in City Pulse strong by contacting Kroger. On this page, you will find multiple ways of doing so.

Time is of the essence. This is the next to last issue that Kroger will permit in its stores.
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Thank you.



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Please explain that you disagree with Kroger's decision to ban free publications and that you want to continue to pick up City Pulse at Kroger stores in the Lansing market. Note: If someone tells you it is not a corporate decision, please reply that local Kroger employees say it is and to please pass along your message to the right person.

SIGN OUR PETITION

Visit Lansingcitypulse.com/Kroger to sign and comment

EMAIL KROGER

Kristal Howard is the communications director for Kroger. Her email address is Kristal.howard@kroger.com. Please put something in your subject line like this: Keep City Pulse in Kroger. Here is an email from a reader for suggestions on what to write:

Dear Kristal Howard,

I am writing you as a concerned shopper who has, for many years, done grocery shopping at Kroger stores, a habit I fear that my family, friends, and I may soon have to break. I have just learned that Kroger is planning to discontinue one of the most useful services it provides to our community, the distribution of the City Pulse. I often shop at Kroger stores, despite being able to find the same or similar products at lower prices elsewhere, so that I can pick up a copy of the City Pulse. So I sincerely hope that you will rescind this policy change. The idea that the distribution of publications like City Pulse does not enhance "customer engagement" is simply untrue. It sounds so hollow, in fact, that I wonder what the real reason for this change might be.

I have also been disconcerted to discover, upon calling both several local Kroger stores and the national 800 number, that those responding to calls were either unaware of the change in policy or did not know much about it. I should add, however, that everyone I spoke to was as helpful as possible and handled the call with civility.

Thank you for reconsidering this policy. I want to continue being able to shop at Kroger stores.

Yours,

Michael Koppisch

Thank you! Keep local journalism strong! Don't lose local news!

Diva and anti-diva, Audra McDonald grounds LSO opener

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It's symphony time again in Lansing, but sit tight, Ludwig. Light up another stogie, Brahms. Shoot another round of pool, Wolfgang. Audra McDonald's got this.

The noble profile of an American musical treasure, hovering over I-496 on a classy ad all summer, proclaims a coup for the home team and a unique opener to the Lansing Symphony Orchestra's 90th season.

McDonald has six Tony Awards on her shelf, more than any other performer in history, along with a National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama. She's a TV star, a classical Grammy winner and can grow to 75 feet tall, if those billboards are accurate.

She will deploy her molten, ductile voice and winning stage presence Saturday, in a set of favorite songs from her vast Broadway catalogue and classics from the Great American Songbook.

It's a rare visit, but not quite unprecedented.

"I did a tour of 'The Secret Garden' a million years ago, and one of the stops was East Lansing," McDonald said in a phone interview. (It was in the 1993-94 season.)

"We've been trying to find a date for some time now, before I start filming this television show again in the fall."

McDonald is carrying on a prolific, Emmy-winning TV career with her portrayal of attorney Liz Lawrence in "The Good Fight," a legal-themed spinoff of "The Good Wife," for CBS All Access.

"When I get a chance to sing with a symphony, it's always an exciting thing for me," she said.



Courtesy Photo

McDonald

The feeling is mutual.

Lansing Symphony maestro, Timothy Muffitt, hopes McDonald will help the symphony reach out to new listeners.

"Our regular classical concert goes well love her because she's such a great musician, but also maybe we'll get a few other people who are huge fans but maybe haven't come to hear the orchestra before," he said.

Juggling stage, concert and TV work comes naturally to McDonald.

"They all play off of each other," she said. "The work I've done on the stage and on TV informs the concert work I do — gives it more specificity than it might have had — and I can bring the freedom of being onstage to my work in front of the camera."

A grand concert tour will hit the spot after an intense, non-singing summer.

"I've just come off Broadway with 'Frankie and Johnny,' which is a very serious play — no singing, just speaking," she said.

In truth, she worked a tiny bit of singing into this summer's Broadway revival of Terrence McNally's intimate, two-person play, "Frankie and Johnny

in the Claire de Lune." To cap the sex scene that opens the play, director Arin Arbus played cleverly off of McDonald's musical persona by allowing her a free-form aria of bedroom ecstasy one reviewer called a "Puccini orgasm."

Saturday, McDonald will stick to more structured material.

"I'll be singing songs written as far back as 1930-something, all the way up to songs written as recently as 2008, and everything in between — Bernstein, Sondheim, Jule Styne, Gershwin and some of the younger composers as well," she said.

Muffitt has worked with McDonald twice before.

"She brings an approach to this music that is fully developed," he said. "This is where she lives, musically, and you feel it — we, her collaborators, and the audience, in a really exciting and engaging way."

Juggling classic roles with new material, while upholding a dual persona of diva and anti-diva, McDonald is the personification of the energy, power and appeal of the new Broadway.

"Broadway has started to incorporate new blood to re-infuse the art form — not that the art form isn't already brilliant, but you have to continue to nurture it," McDonald said. "The classical world needs to nurture all the incredible, young, diverse talents that are out there, that are doing what they can to bring new voices in compositions."

Muffitt said that the classical world can indeed learn a lot from McDonald's polymorphic artistry, and from the way Broadway keeps re-inventing itself by folding in new themes, new talent and new forms of expression, as in the hip-hop-based "Hamilton."

Lately, the maestro has been going through applications for a new composer-in-residence project in Lansing and he loves what he is hearing.

"This most recent generation of composers — they're writing in a style that reminds me of new Broadway," he said. "It's still classical orchestral music, but they've taken the experience of being in this world in the 21st century and it's coming out in the music. They're not afraid to cross genres and styles. It's not even a thing. It's just the way it is."

McDonald is used to swimming in musical cross-currents.

"I studied classically, but it's not what I feel most comfortable doing," she said. But that hasn't stopped her from tackling big classical roles, including operas by Francois Poulenc and Kurt Weill. The latter project, "The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagony," won two Grammys, including Best Opera Recording and Best Classical Album of 2009.

"In the end, it's all music," she said. "It's all communion between the artist and the audience, and about being in touch with our humanity."

She relishes diving into a new project, but for her, a select bouquet of standards remains evergreen.

"I'll always sing something by Sondheim — 'The Glamorous Life.' I'll try and sing it when I'm 92," she said. "I'll probably have to be six octaves lower, but I'll be singing it."

Saturday, she'll sing one of her signature songs, "The Stars and the Moon" by Jason Robert Brown. Toggling from wide-eyed wonder to grounded irony, she inflates a series of romantic balloons and pops them one by one.

"It's never left my repertoire, I just love it so much," she said. "Summertime' is another one I'll never get tired of." The Gershwin classic from "Porgy and Bess" is also on Saturday's slate.

"Just keep lowering the key and I'll sing it as long as I can."

A trashy musical more fun than a monster truck show

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

The "Great American Trailer Park Musical" is rich with fun surprises. Shocking F-bombs, outbursts of lewdness and unexpected humor, are welcomed

"The Great American Trailer Park Musical"

Sept. 19-22
Thurs-Sat., 8-10 p.m.
Sun. 2-4 p.m.
\$12, seniors \$10, student \$7
Ledges Playhouse
137 Fitzgerald Park Drive,
Grand Ledge
(517) 318-0579
Overtheledge.org

eye-openers and jaw-droppers. It's easy to be amused by quips like, "Strippin's like an all-you-can-eat waffle bar, you got to know when to walk away," or "Panic. Just like Whitney Houston feels in the customs line," and "Just like clothes from Walmart, my love life is falling apart." The witticisms are endless, and I counted only one fart joke.

"The Great American Trailer Park Musical," with music and lyrics by David Nehls and book by Betsy Kelso, takes place in a Floridian trailer park. Its characters are certainly American. And with 13 songs, it qualifies as a musical. But to earn the title of greatness, there must be something prodigious.

The Over The Ledge Theatre Co.'s version of the farce is full of remarkable elements that help make it a "great" show. The production at the Ledges Playhouse in Fitzgerald Park lives up to its name.

The musical has a talented ensemble that brings to life wacky characters that are comic varieties of trailer trash stereotypes. Strong acting and singing makes the collection of misfits from "this side of the tracks," an especially amusing septet.

A story of love, heartbreak, betrayal and huffing felt-tip pens takes place at

"Armadillo Acres."

The realistic set includes a cleverly crafted trailer containing a gaudy strip club. Another trailer has a cut-away exterior with an exposed, furnished, interior. Joseph Dickson, Mary Job, Jeff Miller, Miranda Hartmann, Adam Carlson and director Brian Farnham, all had a hand in the design and construction of the elaborate set.

Mighty voices give the goofy songs, such as "Flushed Down the Pipes" and "Road Kill," as extraordinary impact. The five women in "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" have marvelous singing skills and get their chance to prove it. Ann Marie Foley, as Jeanne Garstecki, uses her moments to give her timid character a forceful voice.

Charlotte Maybury Ruppert as Betty, Adriana Flores as Pickles and Kayla Henry as Lin, narrate the silliness through songs. They also show versa-

tility by changing into multiple character exaggerations, including a hilarious trio of mustached "men" watching Ellen Weise's comical strip routine as Pippi.

Farnham keeps the folly flowing with finesse. Dickson's spot-on spotlights are a technical bright spot. Theresa Dunn's costumes as well as Henry's hair, wigs and make-up, gussy up the play's charm.

A capable four-piece, featuring guitar, bass, keyboards and drums — hidden behind mailboxes and latticework onstage — gave the musical its oomph. The combo directed by Angie Schwab provides an ideal back up that never overpowers.

This play it's not for kids, those easily offended or theatergoers searching for "high art." For everybody else, "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" is more fun than tickets to the Ice Capades or a monster truck show.

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SEP. 19, 20 & 21

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Welcome to Michigan BluesFest!

The more things change, the more they stay the same, and so this year we will once again bring the very best blues acts from around the Midwest, along with thousands of fans, to come together and celebrate the Blues. This year's BluesFest offers four stages, and is featuring Jamiah Rogers, from Chicago, Southern Avenue from Memphis, The Groove Council from Detroit, plus international musicians and local guests.

The longstanding mission of the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art, which organizes both the Lansing JazzFest and Michigan BluesFest, is to create open spaces where people can make new friends, meet old friends, and in the context of the arts explore ways to make a better community.

We hope you come, and bring someone new with you!

KidzBeat

North Turner Street

Fri: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Sat: 12:00pm-5:00pm | Dance & Free Music Lessons

KidzBeat is a range of activities giving kids arts experiences first-hand - including through playing music themselves, learning dance through workshops and demos, and one-on-one sessions with a wide range of musical instruments, mentored by professional musicians.

Accessibility

As an outdoor street festival, the venue is wheelchair accessible. Handicap-accessible parking is available on César E. Chávez. Accessible restrooms are provided.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We truly can't thank our volunteers enough for taking the time to make our events the fun and successful festivals that we're proud to bring to Old Town. The Michigan BluesFest relies on these volunteer efforts and donations of our attendees who love to see the blues brought to Lansing's Old Town. Please consider donating your time and effort to the 2019 Michigan BluesFest, and bring a friend! For information, please e-mail bluesfest@micharts.org or call (517) 371-4600.

Turnaround Lounge - \$10 GOOD FOR BOTH NIGHTS

The Turnaround Lounge Beverage Tent is the prime location to experience music while enjoying adult beverages. Admission is \$10, which is good for both Friday and Saturday. Thank you in advance for this contribution to support the festival. Entry is on the north side of Turner at Clinton. Enjoy a wide variety of beer, wine and spirits, including:

Cans:

Miller Lite
Coors Light
Labatt Blue
White Claw Black Cherry
Corona
Uncle John's Cider
Blue Moon
Truly Wild Berry

Wine:

Cherry Creek Wood Duck Riesling
Cherry Creek Wood Duck Rose
Rios de Chile Cabernet Sauvignon
Rios de Chile Chardonnay
Rios de Chile Reserve Pinot Noir
Aura Moscato

Draft:

Lansing Brewing Co. Penninsula Pils
Lansing Brewing Co. Amber Cream
Ellison Crescent Fresh
Ellison Dawn Street Pale
Sam Adams Octoberfest

American Fifth Spirits:

Vodka
Gin
Whiskey

MICHIGAN BLUESFEST

Thurs, September 19

BluesFest Kick Off Jam

7:00pm - 10:30pm | UrbanBeat

Sax for Blues - George Howard & Margherita Fava

7:00pm - 8:00pm



Tomas Esparza Blues Band

8:30pm - 10:30pm

UrbanBeat

Tomas Esparza has created something original using the building blocks of the traditional harmonica greats of the 50's. His passion, electrifying energy, and incredible harmonica skills are joined by David Ludington on drums, Any Callis on the keyboard,

Fri, September 20

KidzBeat

6:00pm - 9:00pm | North Turner Stage

Dance Groups

6:00pm: Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan
7:00pm - Greater Lansing Ballet Company
Kahlia Cummings | 8:00pm - 9:30pm

Fred Isaac

6:00pm - 10:00pm

Turnaround Lounge

Frederick Isaac brings his unique, improvisational style incorporating classical, jazz and the avant garde in a special blues sound.



Latin Blues Quintet

Friday, Sep. 20

6:00pm - 10:00pm
UrbanBeat

Saturday, Sep. 21

3:30pm - 10:00pm
UrbanBeat

Experience the blues from a new perspective...played on classical chamber instruments by international musicians and led by Daniela Diaz Violin-Venezuela and Pericles Gomes, chello and percussion, from Brazil. Featuring Daniela Diaz and Kayla Green, violin, Sarai Aboites, viola, and Pericles Gomes, cello/percussion.



Kathleen & the Bridge St Band

6:15pm - 7:30pm

South Turner Stage



Kathleen Walters has been captivating audiences for many years with Steve Dely slide guitar, Doug Fritch guitar, Tim Brouhard bass/harmonica, and Eric Payne drums. Their masterful blend of blues, country rock and heart-wrenching ballad will take the stage by storm!



Nicky T & the Snake Charmer

8:00pm - 9:15pm

South Turner Stage

Hailing from Detroit, Nicky T & The Snake Charmer

are a stone-cold blues band with a contemporary edge. With David Krammer vocals, Frankie Lee the bass, Pete Berg drums, Andy Szymanski the keyboard, and Nicky T guitar, this band is a powerhouse of traditional blues and a force to be reckoned with!

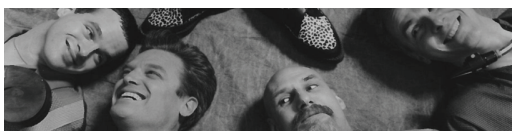


Southern Avenue

9:45pm - 11:00pm | South Turner Stage

Southern Avenue is Memphis soul, blues and rock and roll band that is turning the scene on its head. The boundary-breaking Memphis combo sparked a one-band musical revolution, embodying an organic soul/blues/R&B fusion that reflects the band member's diverse roots and commitment to their individual style.

Southern Avenue combines the talents of a prodigiously talented set of young musicians who create music that carries the Southern soul legacy into the 21st century, spanning the band member's wide-ranging musical interests while showcasing the powerful chemistry and electrifying live show they've honed through extensive stage and studio experience.



Junior Valentine & the All-Stars

11:00pm - 1:00am | UrbanBeat

Inspiration from the Beatles and British Invasion bands is evident in their smooth, groovy jams. Junior Valentine keeps rhythm, blues, and roots rock 'n roll fresh. Junior Valentine, guitar/bass/vocals, is joined by Chris, Rumel bass, Johnny Large, drums, and Troy Amaro, guitar. This limited-seating Afterglow show is not to be missed!



Buy a BluesFest poster and get it signed by artist Julian VanDyke at UrbanBeat!

Saturday, Sep. 21st
4pm - 6pm

Sat, September 21

KidzBeat

12:00pm - 5:00pm | North Turner Stage

Instrument Petting Zoo, MSU Community Music School, Guitar and Bass Workshops, and more!

Dance Groups & KidzBeat Music

12:00pm - 5:00pm | North Turner Stage

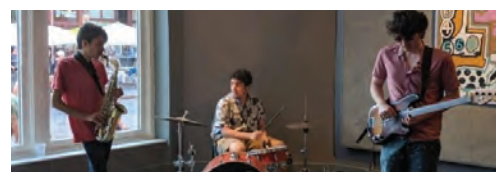
3:00pm: Capital Flow

4:00pm - Greater Lansing Ballet Company

LACE

5:30pm - 9:30pm | North Turner Stage

This group of young talent plays bluesy, jazzy, rockin' fusion kinda sound! With Devin Pierpoint, Eric Seymour, and Michael Castellanos. Sure to delight!



Steve Hilger

3:00pm - 3:45pm

South Turner Stage

Steve Hilger, this year's CABS solo winner, started out finger-picking acoustic guitar, and a high-energy electric blues jazz fusion sound. He returns to his roots and will play all original finger-picking Delta acoustic blues!



Corzo Effect

4:00pm - 9:30pm | Turnaround Lounge

The Corzo Effect strives to create a laid-back atmosphere for people to come relax and groove to some smooth blues tunes! With Josh Corzo, bass, Stephen Boone, keys, and Caleb Robinson, drums.



Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree

4:30pm - 5:30pm | South Turner Stage

Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree, one of the most recognizable names in blues throughout Lansing's music scene, features prominent slide guitarist Stan Budzynski, bassist Ron Bretz, drummer Rick Alicea, keyboardist Roger Little. With their smoky vocalist Catherine Groll, their sound has a fresh element of energy and new harmonies, and is winner of the CABS Blues Brawl.



MICHIGAN BLUESFEST



Grady Hall & the Disciples of Funk
6:00pm - 7:00pm | South Turner Stage

Grady Hall & the Disciples of Funk are best known for getting the dance floor moving with their roots in old-school funk, blues, soul, with a touch of Latin grooves. This is a band that knows how to entertain with their captivating, high-energy performances that transport audiences back in time with a blend of musical styles and creativity.



Kathleen Murray & the Groove Council
7:30pm - 9:00pm | South Turner Stage

The Groove Council is the band to catch when you need some funky, horn-driven R&B with that old-school Detroit soul sound. When you put Kathleen's vocals over a cookin' rhythm section and tasty horns, you get a delicious blend of soul, blues, R&B and funk that keeps audiences coming back for more!



Jamiah Rogers
9:45pm - 10:45pm | South Turner Stage

"The BAAADEST Bad Blues Man in Chicago Land, They Call Him The Blues Superman!"

The Jamiah Rogers band is one of the midwest's hottest bands and favorites of the Chicago area. With Jamiah Rogers on lead vocals and guitar, Dione Skinner, and Tony Rogers on background vocals and bass, this band will be taking the stage and showing us why they get INCREDIBLE reception from around the world! These three musicians play on one accord, doing what they love to do! They play from the soul, speak to the people, and embrace their gifts.



Abbey Road 2.0
11:00pm - 1:00am | UrbanBeat

Abbey Road 2.0: Not your father's tribute band! This Beatles revival band interprets Beatles classics from the post-1966 catalogue, putting on a show that will captivate, surprise, entertain, and have you smiling for days, featuring Greg Nagy vocal/guitar. Don't miss this show!



KIDZBEAT

The Michigan BluesFest is fun for EVERYONE!

Our 2019 program includes:

Instrument Petting Zoo
MSU Community Music School

Dance Workshops
Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan
Greater Lansing Ballet Company
Capital Flow

Musical Workshops
1pm - 5pm Saturday, Sep. 21st

Josh and Bob Wilson
Guitar and Bass

Chuck Deyo
Ukelele



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WKAR will be at Michigan BluesFest, Sep. 20-21st to produce a livestream broadcast on wkar.org!

Michigan BluesFest Photo Contest

Winner will have photos shown during MICA Gallery in December exhibit! Go to our Facebook for instructions!





Thursday, September 19

FESTIVAL KICKOFF at URBANBEAT (limited seating) 1213 Turner St.

7:00pm - 8:00pm.....Sax for Blues - George Howard & Margherita Fava
8:30pm - 10:30pm.....Tomas Esparza Blues Band

Friday, September 20

NORTH TURNER STAGE North of Clinton on Turner

6:00pm - 8:00pm.....Dance Workshop
8:00pm - 9:30pm.....Kahlia Cummings

TURNAROUND LOUNGE STAGE Inside Beverage Tent

6:00-6:30pm, 7:45-8:15pm, 9:30-10:00pmFred Isaac

URBANBEAT (limited seating) 1213 Turner St.

6:00pm - 10:00pm.....Latin Blues Quintet

SOUTH TURNER STAGE Turner St. + César E. Chávez Ave

6:15pm - 7:30pm.....Kathleen & the Bridge St Band
8:00pm - 9:15pm.....Nicky T & the Snake Charmer's
9:45pm - 11:00pm.....Southern Avenue

AFTERGLOW at URBANBEAT 1213 Turner St.

11:00pm - 1:00am.....Junior Valentine & the All-Stars

Saturday, September 21

NORTH TURNER STAGE North of Clinton on Turner

12:00pm - 5:00pmDance Groups + KidzBeat Music
5:30pm - 9:30pmLace

SOUTH TURNER ST. STAGE Turner St. + César E. Chávez Ave

3:00pm - 3:45pm.....Steve Hilger
4:30pm - 5:30pm.....Steve Budzynski & 3rd Degree
6:00pm - 7:00pm.....Grady Hall & the Disciples of Funk
7:30pm - 9:00pm.....Kathleen Murray & the Groove Council
9:45pm - 10:45pm.....Jamiah Rogers

URBAN BEAT (limited seating) 1213 Turner St.

3:30-4:30pm, 5:30-6:30pm, 7:30-8:30pm, 9:00-10:00pm.....Latin Blues Quintet

TURNAROUND LOUNGE STAGE Inside Beverage Tent

4:00-4:30pm, 5:30-6:00pm, 7:30-8:00pm, & 9:00-9:30pm.....Corzo Effect

AFTERGLOW at URBANBEAT 1213 Turner St.

11:00pm - 1:00am.....Abbey Road 2.0



* Map is subject to change

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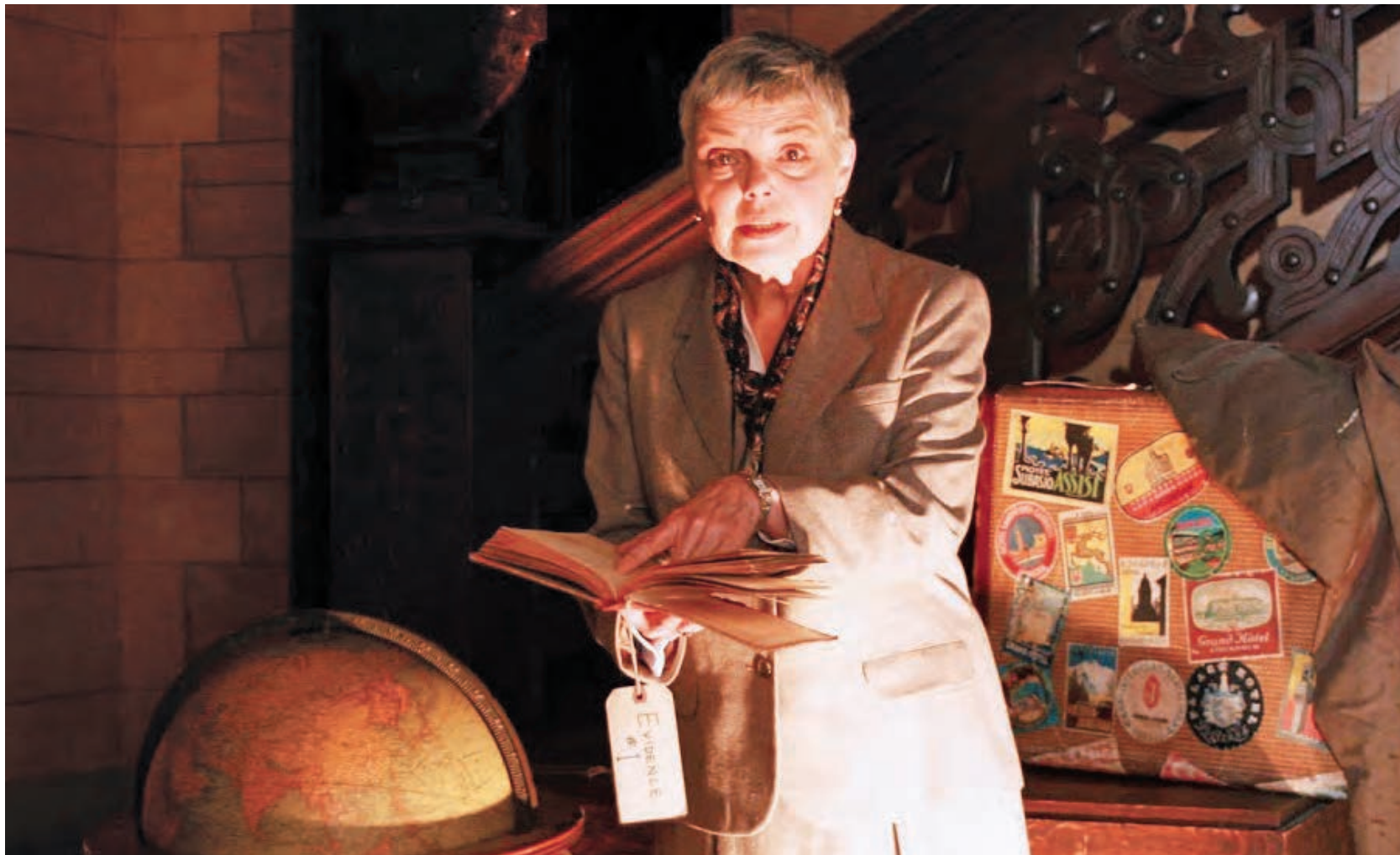
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Limited seating. Schedule subject to change.

'Let's try it again'

The making, and remaking, of Kristine Thatcher



Courtesy Photo

Thatcher's one-woman turn in "Underneath the Lintel" at Chicago's First Folio Theater earned her a 2013 Jefferson Award nomination, the Tony of Chicago theater.

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

When Kristine Thatcher was 14 years old, she sat in a creaky seat in a stuffy barn in Grand Ledge and lost herself in John Peakes' dying eyes.

The play was "A Thousand Clowns," at the now-defunct Ledges Playhouse. Peakes played a whip-smart free spirit, a comedy writer forced to turn out commercial junk that kills his soul.

In a flash, Thatcher knew what she wanted to do with her life — and what she didn't want to do.

And she's still not doing it. Over the decades, Thatcher has sold out many a house as an actor, director, theater head and playwright — but she's never sold out.

And she never gives in. Now 68, her latest "adventure," in her words, is ovarian cancer.

"If you give in to it, you're a goner," she said. "I've been kicking cancer's butt for seven years and I'm not going to stop. You've got to keep your life together, keep your wits together."

The coming weeks offer a couple of juicy opportunities to bask in the presence of Kristine Thatcher, in person or through her vivid work as a playwright.

Beginning Oct. 3, the Williamston Theatre will present the local premiere of Thatcher's latest work, "The Safe House." An open house and fundraiser for Thatcher's mounting personal expenses is set for Monday (Sept. 23) at Stober's Bar. Thatcher will be there to greet old and new friends.

A tavern might seem to be a strange place for a fundraiser, but "The Safe House" is deeply rooted in Thatcher's own childhood in Lansing. Her feisty German grandmother, the central figure in

the play, was co-owner of Stober's Bar when it was called the German Village.

But nostalgia isn't Thatcher's style. Set in the 1980s, the play tackles a sensitive issue: Should the grandmother, who is losing a few steps with age, be packed off to a nursing home?

The subject will hit close to home for a lot of people, but Thatcher's deft braiding of humor and pathos tumbles down as naturally as life itself. (Only wittier.) She's given voice to hundreds of tough roles and subjects as an actor and playwright, from Lady Macbeth to civil rights icon Rep. Barbara Jordan, but her approach to drama, and life, is simple.

"In every play, each character has an overall desire," Thatcher explained. "You've got to figure out what that is and they've got to be going for that the whole way. It works because that's sort of how it works in life. You know what you want and you go and get it — hopefully."

Kristine Thatcher got her desire early in life and hasn't let go yet.

Switched on from inside

Karen Stock met Kristine Thatcher in 1976, when Stock was cast in a few supporting roles in BoarsHead's Theatre's winter season. By then, Thatcher's star was shining so brightly at BoarsHead that the theater's co-founders, John Peakes and Richard Thomsen, were building seasons around her. "Kristine was their ingénue, the lead female in just about every play during that time," Stock said. "That's how much confidence and faith they had in her. She was such a lovely actor with that wonderful, unusual voice."

Thatcher's voice is like no other sound in

nature. It's more grounded and textured now, but in her ingénue years, words just seemed to float out of her face, like violet bubbles.

Chicago actor Michael Joseph Mitchell took a stab at pinning down Thatcher's magic, then and now.

"She's just switched on from inside," Mitchell said. "There's this combination of wonder and awe, and this mischievous glint in her face, that you want to know what she's thinking and you've got to know what she's going to say next."

Mitchell has worked in hundreds of roles, from NBC-TV's "Chicago Fire" to a slew of Shakespeare. In 2008, Thatcher directed him in a one-man BoarsHead play, "Underneath the Lintel."

"I am my best self as a performer and my best self, frankly, as a human being in her company," Mitchell said. "I don't think there's a selfish bone in her body."

The 1970s were halcyon years at BoarsHead. Named after the fabled tavern in Shakespeare's "Henry IV," BoarsHead evolved from summer stock at the Ledges to a year-round slate of classics and new plays. Falstaff and Prince Hal weren't around, but Peakes, Thomsen, Thatcher and top actors like Anthony Heald and Carmen Decker formed the nucleus of a close-knit, evolving repertory company.

"I felt lucky for someone to cast me when I was 15 years old," Thatcher said. "I always wanted to be an actress, but when I finally got to work with them, that did it. I was there for life."

Hollywood actor Richard Riehle still treasures his time with BoarsHead and

See Thatcher, Page 20

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Courtesy Photos

(Left) Thatcher and future TV and film actor Richard Riehle face off in the famous card game in “Born Yesterday” at BoarsHead Theatre in 1975.
(Right) Thatcher shared a moment with a canine co-star in 2005, around the time she took over as artistic director of the BoarsHead Theater.

Thatcher

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Thatcher in the summer of 1976 and 1977.

Riehle started out as a dead body in a John Wayne movie, the first and tiniest of nearly 200 film roles, from “The Fugitive” and “Glory” to “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas” and the 1999 cult favorite “Office Space.” His panicky confrontation with Joe Pesci in “Casino” makes your skin crawl. He has worked with many heavyweights, but he still lights up at the memory of locking eyes with Thatcher.

“It was great to watch her work, as much as working with her,” Riehle said. “It was incredible being on stage with her, but I would just come to see her

A Night at Stober's With Kristine Thatcher

7-10 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23
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“The Safe House” By Kristine Thatcher

Directed by Casandra Freeman
Oct. 3-Nov. 3, 2019
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston
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to “The Mindy Project” and “Black-ish.”
“The two years I spent at BoarsHead

were optimal for my career,” Riehle said. “We did everything from Shakespeare to Woody Allen — and musicals. I couldn’t have done it without Kristine’s support.”

In “Guys and Dolls,” Riehle was thrust reluctantly into the lead role of Nathan Detroit, opposite Thatcher as his fiancée, Miss Adelaide.

“I’m not a musical person, but they made me sing and dance,” he said. “With her, it was a cinch. All I had to do was take a look at her on stage and I immediately knew all that I needed to know about Nathan Detroit. Her Adelaide was phenomenal, like everything else she did.”

Riehle got a face-full of Thatcher’s power in “Born Yesterday,” when he played the bullying gangster who is fleeced by a chorus girl in a tour de force card game.

“She was always right there,” Riehle said. “You knew when you looked in her direction you were going to get exactly what you needed to make that response, to do that particular bit of dialogue or bit of business.” Thatcher had equal praise for Riehle, but she didn’t let him completely off the hook. “I’ll never forget ‘Born Yesterday,’” she said. “He was so good. It doesn’t surprise me that he’s got a career that goes on and on, in so many films. But tell me — does he do any theater?”

Glowing presence

In the 1980s, Thatcher left BoarsHead and Lansing to act, direct and write plays for theaters through the Midwest and beyond, from Chicago and Milwaukee to New York and Seattle.

She taught colleges drama, made

countless friends and established several bases of operation, including the Milwaukee Repertory Theater and the nation’s oldest summer theater, the Peninsula Players in Fish Creek, Wisconsin.

She found her voice as a playwright in the early 1990s with a witty, luminous drama about unsung Wisconsin poet Lorine Niedecker. Thatcher herself played the lead, to glowing reviews, at the Writer’s Theatre in Chicago in 1997. Niedecker lived in a cabin, unknown to the world, and wrote just for the love of poetry. The working artist, happy to dwell among the lakes and do her thing without clawing for fame, selling out or moving to the coast, was an apt avatar for Thatcher herself. It was the first in a growing stack of plays by Thatcher about strong, smart, funny, steadfast women well worth knowing.

In 2005, Thatcher pulled a Niedecker of sorts and came back to Lansing to become artistic director at her old haunt, BoarsHead. Although performing took a back seat to directing plays and running the theater,

Thatcher’s acting experience made her the perfect actor’s director.

Katie Doyle had many jobs at BoarsHead going back to 1971, including assistant director under Thatcher.

“She started as an actress, and she can speak to an actor from an actor’s mindset,” Doyle said.

Thatcher directed Mitchell in the one-person play, “Underneath the Lintel,” in 2008 at BoarsHead.

“It just cemented us for life,” he said. “It was the single most rewarding expe-

rience, to this day, that I’ve had in the theater.”

In Thatcher’s presence, ideas bubbled up faster than they could be processed.

The set of “Lintel” was strewn with seemingly random objects, until someone came up with the idea of using each object to underscore a plot point. When a mysterious character is identified as “A,” a ladder was opened to form an “A” and a light lying next to the ladder was turned on, suggesting the period, and so on.

“We’d finish each other’s sentences and didn’t know whose idea was whose,” Mitchell said.

Theater lore is replete with clashes of egos, dictatorial directors and tense rehearsals, but it’s never been Thatcher’s way to dress down a performer or a stage hand, or read a crew the riot act.

“People who do that don’t accomplish a thing,” Thatcher said. “They are destroying their own work when they do that, limiting the actors. I’ve worked with directors who interpret every line for you. You don’t dare move unless they tell you to. Ugh.”

She directed Gary Houston in a Chicago run of her play about legendary Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, “Voice of Good Hope.”

“It was easy as hell for me,” Houston said. “Her way is to support the good things and the bad things will just flake away of their own weight.”

Houston saw Thatcher get upset only once, when one actor lost his temper with another in a rehearsal of “Heroes”

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Thatcher

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at Stormfield Theater.

“We took a break, and when we resumed, she was still very upset about it,” he said. “It wasn’t a dressing down or an angry thing, but she was letting us know how unhappy she was about it, and we got the point.”

Doyle, who served as stage manager for part of Thatcher’s run as BoarsHead’s artistic director, can still close her eyes and hear the creative ferment and camaraderie backstage.

“There was laughter, a lot of laughter, even with a play that was more dramatic,” she said.

Thatcher would often quietly confer with the actors, with a cup of tea in her hand. Doyle watched Thatcher closely as she listened to her cast.

“She would say, ‘I hear you. Thanks for that. Let’s try it again,’” Doyle recalled. “That sounds really simple, but that’s how she treats everything. Even the cancer, she keeps on saying, ‘OK, let’s get up and do this again, more chemotherapy, until we get it right.’”

Exits and entrances

Thatcher was widely credited with re-invigorating BoarsHead and bringing in younger audiences, but by 2009, the economic downturn and a loss of support from a major donor put the squeeze on a budget that was challenged in the best of times.

The theater board laid Thatcher off.

“That was a difficult time,” Doyle said.

Undaunted, Thatcher started a new theater, Stormfield, in an unlikely box of a building tucked into the Frandor Shopping Center parking lot.

Loyal Thatcherites — staff, crew and actors from Boarshead — jumped along with her into the quixotic project. Loyal donors kept the theater afloat, even though many of them sensed it was doomed.

“It was a former car wash, with a street address, in the middle of a mall,” Joan Mattson said. Mattson and her husband, Jerry, were on the Stormfield board. “No one could find it,” she said. “I wanted to paint it purple but it had to match the color scheme of the mall.”

The mix of “let’s put on a show” pluck and Actor’s Equity (union) professionalism was intoxicating. Thatcher rolled up her sleeves and dove into painting and cleaning the new space. Judo mats were hung in the windows to keep the house dark. Pots, tin cans and buckets caught leaks.

Stormfield’s first fully staged produc-

tion, in October 2010, was aptly named: “Among Friends,” written by Thatcher, with Lansing mainstays Aral Gribble and John Lepard and Chicago import Bill Bannon. Thatcher’s pull with the Chicago theater community brought top talent to the humble box under the Sears tower.

“Those three guys came together, committed to it and put on one of the best productions I’ve ever seen, in that tiny little space,” Thatcher said.

2011’s bizarre “Kimberly Akimbo,” with veteran actress Carmen Decker as a prematurely aging teenager, was another highlight.

It was all over by 2012.

“We needed a full-time person just to go after the money, but we were all wearing two or three hats already,” Thatcher said. “But it was a good run.”

At about the same time, Thatcher was diagnosed with cancer. Her theater was dead. She hadn’t appeared on stage in the nearly eight years she’d spent running BoarsHead and Stormfield.

So, naturally, she said “yes” to the last thing anyone would expect. She shipped off to Chicago and starred in a demanding 90-minute, one-woman play.

“Underneath the Lintel,” rewritten for a female lead, scored big with Chicago audiences and critics. Thatcher was spellbinding as a librarian-turned-metaphysical sleuth who traces a 113-year-overdue book back to the original Wandering Jew. She was nominated for a 2013 Jefferson Award — the top theater awards in Chicago, second nationally to the Tonys — for best solo performance.

David Rice directed Thatcher in “Underneath the Lintel.”

Rice’s wife, Alison Vesely, and Kristine were close friends. Both women had ovarian cancer as they worked on the production. Vesely died in 2016.

“They were both fighting the same monster,” Rice said.

Rice and Vesely talked Kristine into doing it, despite her doubts about her energy.

“We told her we’d work around her,” Rice said. “She’s one of the most extraordinarily talented people we’d ever known. There was no question in our mind that she was more than capable of doing it.”

Thatcher begged Rice and Vesely to fire her more than once. They laughed and said “No.”

They watched her closely and made sure she got good food and plenty of rest between shows. “It took a toll, but I think it invigorated her, emotionally and mentally, because it was a triumph, and it was a part of what she needed at



Courtesy Photo

Thatcher (seated, second from left), as Jenny Diver, flirts with Mack the Knife (John Peakes) in Kurt Weill’s “Threepenny Opera” at BoarsHead in 1976.

that moment,” Rice said.

Miracles happen here

The first read-through of “The Safe House” at Williamston Theatre last week made Thatcher very happy.

After years of fighting to keep BoarsHead and Stormfield going, she has a special regard for Williamston Theatre founders Tony Caselli, Lepard, Christine Purchis and Emily Sutton-Smith.

“They’ve got the tiniest theater, but they keep it running,” Thatcher said. “The audience alone, big or small, does not keep it open. It’s got to be so many other things that are behind the scenes. But it’s worth it because miracles happen there. People have so much fun on stage.”

Several years ago, Chicago theater director Terry McCabe named Thatcher a playwright-in-residence at City Lit Theatre.

In 2015, the partnership produced Thatcher’s play “Bloodhound Law,” a hard-hitting pre-Civil-War drama about the Chicago City Council’s decision to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act. In 2017, she finished “The Safe House,” with more plays to come.

“Bloodhound Law” was a major challenge, logistically and thematically, but “The Safe House” took Thatcher to more familiar territory. Writing dialogue for the grandmother, based on Thatcher’s own grandmother, took her back to her own childhood.

“She talks all about how she grew up in a tavern so she wanted a tavern when she grew up,” Thatcher said. “She worked at Capitol Laundry and my grandfather worked at Oldsmobile when they first got here. They saved their money and when that tavern went up for sale, they knew that was it. She

used to say ‘Oh, it was a dirty place.’ They cleaned it up and opened it within days of quitting their other jobs.”

Although “The Safe House” deals frankly with the tough theme of physical decline, it was a pleasure for her to write.

“Eventually, you don’t have to think about what you’re going to do,” she said. “The characters tell you. I know my uncle and my grandmother so well that they just talked. I could hardly keep up with them.”

McCabe expects a new play every two years from his resident playwrights, and he’s showing Thatcher no mercy. The challenge gives her a juicy bone to chew in semi-retirement, along with occasional bouts of panic.

For a while, she was unsure what to write about after “Safe House.”

“I could not land on a subject,” she said.

A few weeks ago, McCabe informed Thatcher of an obscure anecdote from American history: a bizarre 1876 plot by a band of Chicago counterfeiters to steal Abraham Lincoln’s body.

Thatcher’s mordant sense of humor, like a glowing bed of embers, flares into flame in the darkest situations. At the mention of the Lincoln plot, she smelled comedy.

“What are they going to do — sell it?” Thatcher said. “It was just the stupidest idea.”

So these days, between rounds of cancer treatment, she’s diving into research on the project and toying with all sorts of delicious ideas, like having Lincoln himself come out of the casket and narrate the story.

“It’s gotta be one I’ll really like writing,” she said.

Eclectic furniture retailer opens south-side shop

By DENNIS BURCK

When you step into Rhea's Unique Furniture and Eclectic Decor, you can see thematic elements from all over the world. Italian marble resides in an dining set, Asian art resides in hand-in-laid china cabinet and wicker furniture made in Michigan's Upper Peninsula embodies the region's pastoral quality.

The small gallery of worldly furniture is the work of owner Danny Buchanan, who got his experience in sales by working at a furniture store before opening his own. From eyeing estate sales and small-town deals, Buchanan stocked two rooms full of unique items.

"I like selling furniture. I'm looking for character, age and beauty," Buchanan said.

He named the store after his mother, but likes to also think of the name for its Greek roots meaning "a flowing stream."

The flow of goods in the store traverse all styles and price points.

"I started to dabble in entrepreneurship and figured furniture is something I find worth doing. I just wanted a small little store for something I like."

The store stocks mostly vintage furniture from the '50s to the '90s.

"For the most part, I don't see much brand-new furniture that strikes me," he said. "I don't think mid-century modern ever went out of fashion. It's getting more popular with the millennials."

Some striking items out of the bunch are an Asian-style hutch with hand-painted, golden inlay work. The



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Rhea's owner Danny Buchanan collects off-the-wall furniture with character at his new south-side furniture shop.

furniture curator seeks pieces with "a lot of character" noting the contrast of the hutch's regal interior. A bust of Egyptian queen Nefertiti also sticks out from the rest, a special piece Buchanan pulled from an estate sale in Okemos.

"I had to go to work and something said 'No you have to go there and the queen is waiting on you,'" he said. "I turned around in the street and went to the estate sale. I go down the stairs and the first thing I do is look left and there she is staring at me. I felt like she was calling me to pick her up."

Now the queen sits surrounded by

a set of Egyptian-themed collectibles from the Franklin Mint.

Buchanan said he isn't worried about his "little podunk furniture store on the corner of Cedar and Holmes" competing against Lansing's bigger furniture stores. Buchanan prefers his items to build a reputation for quality at a fair price.

"I didn't want it to be known as just a regular furniture or antique store," the owner remarked. "I like to appeal to people with beats of their own, whether they are eclectic or similar to my own."

Rhea's Unique Furniture and Eclectic Decor

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'The Wolves' reveals a cauldron of intensity within a soccer team

By TOM HELMA

A fully immersive theater experience, "The Wolves," is Ixion's cold plunge dip into the secret world of adolescent girls on a contemporary high school soccer team.

This is not much about soccer. The nine-member ensemble? They have acutely sharp minds of their own, a raging roller coaster of bubbling-over angst. They reveal depths of anguish, about which,

we adults, have no clue whatsoever. (Unless, we are currently parents of our own tenacious teenagers.)

All this takes place, in our faces, on a minuscule stage of green felt suggesting the sideline of a soccer field. Staging consists of warmup exercises, with whole group conversations happening at the speed of light, ranging from the Middle East to Middle Earth, from Cambodia and the Czech Republic, to boyfriend issues and Grandma's breast cancer. They all talk at the same time, overlapping and interrupting each other. At times, one can't figure out who is saying what. No matter. They replicate the reality

of 16 to 18-year-olds.

The play takes place over six Saturdays. Warmup sessions unfold a wide range of personal tableaux that separate one from the other, but ultimately bring all of them together in unity.

Parents and grandparents might proudly argue as to which of these profound athletes stands out most from the pack.

#25, Sarah Wietecher, is the team captain, barking cohesion into chaotic conversations with her best impression of Al Pacino. She draws multiple F-word expletives from #7, Liz Croff, her antagonistic nemesis whose political perspectives are 100 percent rebellion.

#46, Neysa McGarrity, is the odd woman out. She's homeschooled and has played soccer all around the world

but mostly for fun. She finds the group strange, they in turn find her out of place.

Each of the nine women have their moment in the sun, all are highly verbal and challengingly contentious. In a scene near the end of the play, Sara Frank-Hepfer shows up as the blathering soccer mom who goes on about girls who use the word "like" displaying insecurity — the whole group shuts up in a silence. Whatever.

Frank-Hepfer represents, and does it well, the without-a-clue parent who knows not the cauldron of intensity that exists in the soccer team.

"The Wolves" ends with a group chant, "We are the Wolves." If one looks closely, these are the women who will one day emerge as leaders and senators. One, perhaps, the president.

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Mary Doria Russell's chronicles the heroine of Michigan miners

By **BILL CASTANIER**

The closest most Michiganders get to Copper Country, and its default “capital” of Calumet, is eating a pasty, the folk food of the Western Upper Peninsula.

Even the lowly pasty makes an appearance in Mary Doria Russell's new book, “The Women of Copper Country,” about the 1913 Copper Strike and its leader, 25-year-old Annie Klobuchar Clemenc, who becomes a tragic heroine of Shakespearian proportion. (The author changed the woman's name to Clements for the novel.)

In 1913, after another grim death of a miner, Clements is thrust into the role of leading the strike of 9,000 miners

who are protesting not only safety conditions, horrendous hours and low wages, but also what is commonly known as the “company town” — where the world's largest copper company Calumet & Heck (C&H) own virtually everything, including miner's homes.

The miners were mostly immigrants, especially Finns, Swedes, Italians, Cornishmen, Hungarians and Austrians.

Enter “Big Annie” Clements stage left. Towering over 6 feet, Clements leads daily demonstrations and organizes relief efforts for the miner's families. Carrying a large American flag, Clements becomes instantly recognizable and is dubbed America's Joan of Arc.

The cast of characters is as sweeping and unique as the rugged landscape of Copper Country. Russell draws from her in-depth historical research to create composites for outside union organizer Charlie Miller, crusading documentary photographer Michael Sweeney, heartless mine manager James MacNaughton and a cast of thuggish strike-breakers.

As the workers and organizers march toward denouement, Russell creates a dramatic narrative focusing on the interpersonal relationships of the main characters, including an adulterous love affair between Clements and the photographer.

Russell, who has written two acclaimed science fiction books (“The Sparrow” and “Children of God”), two historical fiction novels on the old West and a murder mystery featuring Doc Holiday, the gun-toting dentist.

Her curiosity about Big Annie began while watching a PBS documentary called “Red Metal: the Copper Strike of 1913.”

“I knew it was a tragic story and one



Courtesy Photo

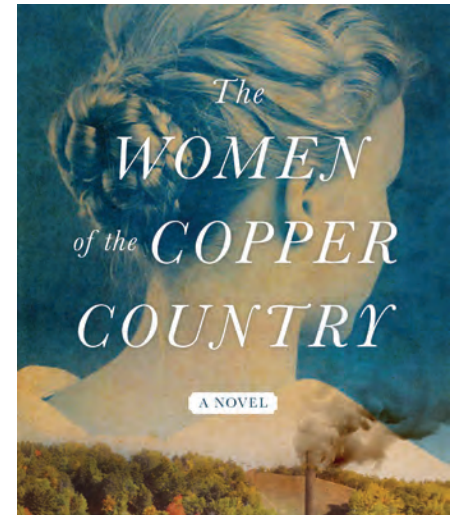
Russell

that needed to be told,” Russell said. “Clements was trying to be a heroine. She was childless at a time when most women married in their teens and had children. She had the time, the motive and the opportunity.”

Russell, who has a Ph.D. in behavioral biology, theorizes that because of Clement's height, as a child, she was expected to act as an adult and that led to “everyone expecting her to be responsible as a leader.”

“In retrospect, Annie didn't always make good decisions and was probably wrong to call the strike when she did,” she said. “Strikers hadn't built up a strike fund to carry them through the days without pay.”

Russell said for the book, she simplified much of Clement's tragic life, which included three marriages, three divorces and later a daughter who was struck by a car and lost an arm. Clements was also pregnant during the strikes, a detail often left out of popular



biographies.

Coining the term “backbone character,” Russell inserts a 14-year-old girl who becomes a protégé of Clements and invites Mother Jones, a crusader and firebrand, for a visit to Copper Country.

Russell said in doing her initial research, she turned to a mining archaeologist to learn more about hard rock mining in the Upper Peninsula. Russell also converts this knowledge to describe the daily, dangerous drudgery of extracting copper from the mines that descend thousands of feet into the earth.

Russell drives the book to a terrifying conclusion, the oft-chronicled death of 73 in the 1913 Italian Hall Disaster. The majority were children attending a Christmas Eve party, when someone yells “fire,” causing a deadly stampede.

Following the massacre, Clements begins to have doubts about her actions. Russell said at the end, the labor organizer “just wanted to walk away.” Clements moved to Chicago and opened a successful millinery store.

Russell said she completed the first draft of “The Women of Copper Country” in 2016, wondering if there would be much of a market for a book on women activists.

“It has come out at a time when the pendulum is swinging,” she said.

During her research, Russell, who lives in Cleveland, took a road trip to Calumet, which she called “a long, long way.”

She will return in October for an appearance at the Calumet Public Library and at the Michigan Technological University in Houghton, where she is scheduled to give a TED Talk on what modern activists can learn from Copper Country.

SCHULER BOOKS

SCHULER BOOK CLUB September 18 • 6pm

Join us monthly for the Schuler Book Club—a great way to create community, and engage with new books. *This month's book is The Leisure Seeker by Michael Zadoorian.*

BOARD GAME NIGHT September 19 • 6pm

Join us once a month in the cafe for board games! Bring some of your favorites or choose one of ours. Beginners welcome!

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Wednesday, September 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Living a Good Life On Your Own - Workshop Series. 4-5:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Using Classical Biological Control to Save our Ash Trees - 7-9 p.m. Michigan Nature Assoc., 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 100, Okemos. wildoneslansing.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Adventure Club Storytimes - 4-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Library, 131 E. Jefferson. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Family Storytime (Ages up to 6) - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CADL Webberville, 115 N. Main St., Webberville. cadl.org.

EVENTS

Allen Farmers Market - 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St, Lansing. 517-999-3911.

CCBS Workday - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Drive, Lansing, michiganaudubon.org.

Lansing Area Mindfulness Community - 7-9 p.m. at the Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S MLK, Lansing 517-420-5820. lamc.info.

Summer Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

Tiny Tots Tumbling Tour - 10-11 a.m. World Tour Cheer and Tumble, 1860 1/2 W Grand River, Okemos.

ARTS

BookWorks - Exhibit. 12-4 p.m. The Peoples

Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-6074. thepeopleschurch.com.

Nostalgia for the Light - 7-8:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Water, Wildlife, Sky and Earth - Exhibit. 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-6074. thepeopleschurch.com.

MUSIC

Become a Better Jammer! a Workshop with Mile Twelve at Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington, Lansing. 517-372-7880. elderly.com.

Mile Twelve Live - 7-9 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-372-7880. elderly.com.

Thursday, September 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Clean Eating Lunch: Mexican - Instructor: Deb Dillon, MS, RDN. 12:15-12:45 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Conversational Spanish (Adults) - Expand your knowledge of Spanish. 10:30-11:30 a.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. cadl.org.

Good Food, Better Health Nutrition and Cooking Class Series - 12 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing.

Open Call: Pinhole Camera Workshop - 6-8 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu

LITERATURE AND POETRY

American Sign Language Storytime (Ages 3-7) - 5:30-6:30 p.m. CADL Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Rd. #1, Williamston. cadl.org.

Chipmunk Story Time - 10-11 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Meet Author Tobin Buhk (Adults) -6:30-8 p.m. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org.

EVENTS

Autism Support Group -6:30-7:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Bath Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13751 Main St., Bath. shopbfm.org.

Country Line Dancing & Lessons at VFW Post #7309 - 7-9 p.m. 1243 Hull Rd., Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

Hispanic Heritage Film Screening - (adults & mature teens) 6:30-8:30 p.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. cadl.org.

Maltese American Heritage Day 2019 - Join Rep. Camilleri 10am-2pm. 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

New World Flood Raindrop Gala & Auction - 6-9 p.m. Old Town Marquee, 319 Cesar E Chavez Ave, Lansing.



Public Going Away Party for Amber Cordell

A special gathering to honor local singer-songwriter, Amber Cordell, who is moving to Atlanta. **Going Away Party** Wednesday, Oct. 18, 7-10 p.m. Sir Pizza Grand Café 201 E. César Chavez Ave. Old Town

McKeever will play at 8 p.m. as the featured acts of the "Mic and Cheese" open mic. Food and full bar will be available. Richard Merrill and Ron St. Germain will host.

EVENTS

Chair Massage - 12:30-2:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Holt Farmers Market Mini-Market - 2-6 p.m. 2150 Cedar St, Holt. delhitownship.com.

MSU Community Club Welcome Reception - 1-3 p.m. University Club of MSU, 3435 Forest Rd., Lansing. 517-351-3944.

Refuge Recovery Lansing - 7:30-8:30 p.m. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing.

TGIF Dance Party - 7 p.m.-12 a.m. at Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com.

Timber Fest - Fun for the whole family. 4-7 p.m. Vista Springs Timber Ridge Village, 16260 Park Lake Rd, East Lansing. 517-339-2322.

Twilight Trek - 7:30-9 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing.

ARTS

"Everyone's a Critic" Dinner Theater - fundraiser. 6-9:30 p.m. Webberville United Methodist Church, 4215 Holt Road, Webberville.

Friday Clay Lab - Summer - 4:30-6:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Small Stained-Glass Panel Lamp Shade

See Out on the town, Page 28

The Pathology of Political Polarization—The Story of Israel's 2019 Elections - 7-9 p.m. James Madison Library, Case Hall, MSU, 842 Chestnut Rd, East Lansing. 517-432-3493.

PeaceQuest Hike and Yoga with Shiloh - 5:45-7 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E Mt Hope Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4224.

South Lansing Farmers Market - 3-7 pm, in the parking lot at St. Casimir Church, 800 W. Barnes Ave, Lansing. 517-374-5700.

TOPS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly - 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin, Haslett.

Yawn Patrol Toastmasters - 7:15-8:30 a.m. Two Men and Truck Corporate, 3400 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. 517-214-3327. yawnpatrol.com.

ARTS

Adult Craft Night (Adults) - 5:30-6:30 p.m. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 N. Aurelius Rd., Holt. 517-694-9351. cadl.org.

Crafting with a Cause - 4-5:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

MUSIC

Thursday Night Live 6:7:30 p.m. Lawn in front of historic Ingham County Courthouse in downtown Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

Friday, September 20

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20 >> REO BLOCK PARTY WSG JOHN BELTRAN AND TALL BLACK GUY



This artsy slice of town can't stop partying. Riding the glow from last weekend's Art Attack, this free event celebrates the sixth day of Below The Stacks, a mural-painting festival, which has transformed the Cadillac Room parking lot's north wall. Cohosted by local art mavens Muralmatics, Outside In and All Of The Above Hip Hop Academy, the all-ages concert will top your charts.

6-9:30 p.m.
The Cadillac Room
1115 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
belowthestacks.com

THURSDAY, SEPT. 19 >> FARMERS MARKET AT THE CAPITOL



More than 75 vendors from across the state will come to the Capitol lawn to sell fresh produce, food and artisan goods for Farmers Market at the Capitol. At least five food trucks will also be in attendance. It will be the last Farmers Market at the Capitol event for the season.

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Michigan State Capitol
110 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing
<http://mifma.org/fmatthecapitol/>
(517) 373-2353

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Be a Superhero"-- they all wear one.

by Matt Jones

Across

1 Technique taught at the Groundlings and UCB

7 Here, in Paris

10 Like 7 or 13

13 Airport serving Tokyo

14 Magnetic metal

15 "La ___ en Rose"

16 ___ Berry Farm (California theme park)

17 1991 De Niro thriller, or what you shouldn't have when answering the theme clues?

19 "Caribbean" plant more commonly called allspice

21 Holy Roman leader (abbr.)

22 Golf course supply

23 Piano exercises

26 "I'm off!"

28 Chiwetel Ejiofor, in 2019's "The Lion King"

31 Donut maneuver

32 Start of many rap names

35 Cracker in sleeves

37 ___ Wonder (Robin's nickname)

38 Puzzle activities where you want to leave?

41 Film street of nightmares

43 Turn from bad to mad, maybe?

44 Luau paste

45 Inventive Goldberg

47 "Eat It or ___ It" (Smosh Pit show on YouTube)

49 "Diary of ___ Black Woman" (2005 film)

53 Phobic

55 Old saying

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12
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53				54				55	56	57		58	
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63	64									65			
66				67						68			
69				70						71			

58 Drink that may be pale or Scotch

59 Key ingredients in boba tea

63 1990s web browser now owned by Verizon

65 Silent film's successor

66 Olive loved by Popeye

67 Scott Turow memoir about law school

68 More malevolent

69 Small, in Scotland

70 Former M&M hue

71 Can't stand

Down

1 Type of computer printer

2 Bahrain's capital (not to be confused with a Central American country)

3 On time

4 "One Day at a Time" star Moreno

5 Super Bowl XXV MVP Anderson

6 Explorer ___ da Gama

7 "Dies ___" ("Day of Wrath")

8 Duracell battery feature

9 Unskillful

10 Adds vocals to, maybe

11 ___ de los Muertos

12 ___ Spiegel

14 Gathering of the Juggalos band, to fans

18 Family conflict

20 Freemium game breaks, often

24 "Achtung Baby" co-producer Brian

25 Tough section of a jigsaw puzzle, maybe

27 "Happy Days" hangout

29 Minotaur's island

30 Go on the radio

33 Neat drink's lack

34 "The People's Princess"

36 Where zebras may be spotted

38 Fortify for fighting

39 Pizzeria order

40 "Pulp Fiction" role

41 "Nurse Jackie" settings

42 "Star Trek" captain Jean-___ Picard

46 Notable timespans

48 Org. with wands and X-ray machines

50 The Duchess of Sussex's original surname

51 Partners

52 Dry zone

54 Center of Disney World

56 Director Michael of the "Up" series (now at '63 Up' in 2019)

57 Make on a loom

60 Amenable

61 Cartoon unit

62 Hit the ground

63 Right this moment

64 Knack for detailblog

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

September 18 - 24, 2019

ARIES (March 21-April 19): We're in the equinoctial season. During this pregnant pause, the sun seems to hover directly over the equator; the lengths of night and day are equal. For all of us, but especially for you, it's a favorable phase to conjure and cultivate more sweet symmetry, calming balance, and healing harmony. In that spirit, I encourage you to temporarily suspend any rough, tough approaches you might have in regard to those themes. Resist the temptation to slam two opposites together simply to see what happens. Avoid engaging in the pseudo-fun of purging by day and bingeing by night. And don't you dare get swept up in hating what you love or loving what you hate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "I tell you what freedom is to me: no fear." So said singer and activist Nina Simone. But it's doubtful there ever came a time when she reached the perfect embodiment of that idyllic state. How can any of us empty out our anxiety so completely as to be utterly emancipated? It's not possible. That's the bad news, Taurus. The good news is that in the coming weeks you will have the potential to be as unafraid as you have ever been. For best results, try to ensure that love is your primary motivation in everything you do and say and think.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Some things don't change much. The beautiful marine animal species known as the pearly nautilus, which lives in the South Pacific, is mostly the same as it was 150 million years ago. Then there's Fuggerei, a walled enclave within the German city of Augsburg. The rent is cheap, about one U.S. dollar per year, and that fee hasn't increased in almost 500 years. While I am in awe of these bastions of stability, and wish we had more such symbolic anchors, I advise you to head in a different direction. During the coming weeks, you'll be wise to be a maestro of mutability, a connoisseur of transformation, an adept of novelty.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Granny Smith apples are widely available. But before 1868, the tart, crispy, juicy fruit never existed on planet Earth. Around that time, an Australian mother of eight named Maria Ann Smith threw the cores of French crab apples out her window while she was cooking. The seeds were fertilized by the pollen from a different, unknown variety of apple, and a new type was born: Granny Smith. I foresee the possibility of a metaphorically comparable event in your future: a lucky accident that enables you to weave together two interesting threads into a fascinating third thread.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Every masterpiece is just dirt and ash put together in some perfect way," writes storyteller Chuck Palahniuk, who has completed several novelistic masterpieces. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you Leos have assembled much of the dirt and ash necessary to create your next masterpiece, and are now ready to move on to the next phase. And what is that phase? Identifying the help and support you'll need for the rest of the process.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1959, scandal erupted among Americans who loved to eat peanut butter. Studies revealed that manufacturers had added so much hydrogenated vegetable oil and glycerin to their product that only 75 percent of it could truly be called peanut butter. So began a long legal process to restore high standards. Finally there was a new law specifying that no company could sell a product called "peanut butter" unless it contained at least 90 percent peanuts. I hope this fight for purity inspires you to conduct a metaphorically comparable campaign. It's time to ensure that all the important resources and influences in your life are at peak intensity and efficiency. Say NO to dilution and adulteration.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In 1936, the city of Cleveland, Ohio staged the Great Lakes Exposition, a 135-acre fair with thrill rides, art galleries, gardens, and sideshows. One of its fun features was The Golden Book of Cleveland, a 2.5-ton, 6,000-page text the size of a mattress. After the

expo closed down, the "biggest book in the world" went missing. If it still exists today, no one knows where it is. I'm going to speculate that there's a metaphorical version of The Golden Book of Cleveland in your life. You, too, have lost track of a major Something that would seem hard to misplace. Here's the good news: If you intensify your search now, I bet you'll find it before the end of 2019.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In 1990, the New Zealand government appointed educator, magician, and comedian Ian Brackenbury Channell to be the official Wizard of New Zealand. His jobs include protecting the government, blessing new enterprises, casting out evil spirits, upsetting fanatics, and cheering people up. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to find your personal equivalents of an inspirational force like that. There's really no need to scrimp. According to my reading of the cosmic energies, you have license to be extravagant in getting what you need to thrive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Do silly things," advised playwright Anton Chekhov. "Foolishness is a great deal more vital and healthy than our straining and striving after a meaningful life." I think that's a perspective worth adopting now and then. Most of us go through phases when we take things too seriously and too personally and too literally. Bouts of fun absurdity can be healing agents for that affliction. But now is NOT one of those times for you, in my opinion. Just the reverse is true, in fact. I encourage you to cultivate majestic moods and seek out awe-inspiring experiences and induce sublime perspectives. Your serious and noble quest for a meaningful life can be especially rewarding in the coming weeks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Before comedian Jack Benny died in 1974, he arranged to have a florist deliver a single red rose to his wife every day for the rest of her life. She lived another nine years, and received more than 3,000 of these gifts. Even though you'll be around on this earth for a long time, I think the coming weeks would be an excellent time to establish a comparable custom: a commitment to providing regular blessings to a person or persons for whom you care deeply. This bold decision would be in alignment with astrological omens, which suggest that you can generate substantial benefits for yourself by being creative with your generosity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Actress and author Ruby Dee formulated an unusual prayer. "God," she wrote, "make me so uncomfortable that I will do the very thing I fear." As you might imagine, she was a brave activist who risked her reputation and career working for the Civil Rights Movement and other idealistic causes. I think her exceptional request to a Higher Power makes good sense for you right now. You're in a phase when you can generate practical blessings by doing the very things that intimidate you or make you nervous. And maybe the best way to motivate and mobilize yourself is by getting at least a bit flustered or unsettled.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Syndicated cartoon strip "Calvin and Hobbes" appeared for ten years in 2,400 newspapers in fifty countries. It wielded a sizable cultural influence. For example, in 1992, six-year-old Calvin decided "The Big Bang" was a boring term for how the universe began, and instead proposed we call it the "Horrendous Space Kabloolie." A number of real scientists subsequently adopted Calvin's innovation, and it has been invoked playfully but seriously in university courses and textbooks. In that spirit, I encourage you to give fun new names to anything and everything you feel like spicing up. You now have substantial power to reshape and revamp the components of your world. It's Identify-Shifting Time.

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Answers Page 28

SUDOKU

Advanced

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

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 28

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

Sat. Sept. 21

'CULTURE CLASH' BRINGS HIP-HOP TO THE AVENUE CAFÉ



Oddisee's "The Iceberg" LP is available via Mello Music Group



Oddisee performs Saturday at The Avenue Café. The event, Culture Clash, is the closing event for the Below the Stacks Festival. (photo by Asha Efia)

Brooklyn emcee Oddisee featured at Below the Stacks closing ceremony

Saturday, Sept. 21 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. free, 6 p.m., All ages until 10 p.m., 21+ after 10 p.m.

Over the last decade, Brooklyn-based emcee Oddisee has remained both prolific and relevant thanks to a tall stack of albums, EPs, singles and mixtapes. While he started his career as solely a producer, the acclaimed rapper made a name for himself as a lyricist, creating a style that Pitchfork calls a "focused beam of live-band and hip-hop soul that rattles loudly in our present political moment." Since 2008, he's been signed with Mello Music Group, which is also home to the likes of Kool Keith and Open Mike Eagle.

As the closing set for the Below the Stacks Festival, Oddisee's dynamic set hits the stage Saturday at The Avenue Café. Openers for the show are Finale from Detroit and Ozay Moore from Lansing. Local DJs will also spin tracks throughout the evening, including Ruckus,

Etta, Omni, EssBe & Yz Council. While doors are at 6 p.m. and the event goes until 2 a.m., the live music runs from 7-10 p.m. Since Below the Stacks is Lansing's inaugural mural festival, this closing ceremony will also feature images of the murals from the seven-day arts and culture celebration.

Raised in Silver Spring, Maryland, by Sudanese and American parents, Oddisee (real name Amir Mohamed el Khalifa), 34, grew up listening to East Coast hip-hop artists like A Tribe Called Quest, Eric B. & Rakim and De La Soul. By chance, his neighbor was the late Garry Shider, aka "Diaper Man," the band leader and guitarist for Parliament Funkadelic. It was in Shider's analog home-studio that he first delved into hip-hop production, and Oddisee was born.

In 2005, after relocating to Washington, D.C., he dropped his first instrumental mixtape and never looked back. By 2010, his "Odd Spring" release was included on The Washington Post's "Best Local Hip-Hop Mixtapes" list.

Since then, he's grown an international fan base through his solo releases, as well as produced tracks for legends like DJ Jazzy Jeff and De La Soul. Along the way, he's performed with The Roots and formed rap outfits like the Low Budget Crew and The Diamond District — which features fellow Washingtonians X.O. and yU.

Aside from scoring press in Time Magazine, USA Today and Rolling Stone, his work was featured on Facebook's "Humans of New York" series and a Google product unveiling.

In 2017, he performed more than 100 shows around the globe with his band Good Compny in support of his album "The Iceberg." The sharp album goes deep, according to the HipHopDX music blog, suggesting the 45-minute album "might just be too smart for a mainstream audience, who seemingly prefer hollow, bubblegum rap to intelligently constructed social commentary."

As for Oddisee's overall message, in 2017, he broke it down in a VICE interview. "No one really wants to do the hard work of understanding why things are the way they are," he said. "My message is to try to bring everyone together to realize that we're not all that different."



Upcoming show? Contact Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Trivia Night: Trailer Park Boys 10PM	Open Mic 8PM	Karaoke 9PM	Culture Clash free 6PM
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd.				Kicking Joe 9PM
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River, East Lansing		Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM	Karaoke 9PM
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Old School Thursdays w/Jalese 8:30PM	Avon Bomb 9:30PM	Avon Bomb 9:30PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.		Karaoke	Medusa	StarFarm
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia with Sporecle 9PM		Live Music with The Knock-Offs 8PM	Brewtoberfest 3PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Doug Stanhope 8PM	The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus 6PM	Biomassive 9PM	Gettoblaster 9PM
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Storm Area 51 8PM	Skiptraccer 7PM	Hexum 7PM	Vincie D 8PM
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27			The New Rule 6PM	The New Rule 6PM
Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave.		Constance Schroeder 7PM		Ixon Theatre Ensemble 8PM
Urnicorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing			Live Music with Frog & The Beeftones 9PM	Live Music with Gina Garner Band 9PM
Urban Beat, 1213 Turner Rd.		Michigan BluesFest Kick-Off Jamm 7PM	Michigan BluesFest 6PM	Michigan BluesFest 3 PM

From Page 25

- 9:30-11:30 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

MUSIC

Celebration In Song - Church Anniversary Celebration - 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Community Church, 1007 Kimberly Dr., Lansing. 517-484-2180.

Prime Music Festival - 4 p.m. Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing.

Saturday, September 21**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

Everything You Need to Know About Parenting - 2:30-5 p.m. East Lansing Library, 950 Abbot Rd., . 517-351-2420. bestbabykit.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org

EVENTS

18th Annual Hearse Fest - Fowlerville Family Fair / Fowlerville Agricultural Society, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. 8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville.

2019 WOW Conference Lansing - 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Kingdom Ministries, 3000 W. Miller Rd., Lansing.

Building a Peace Economy - Conference 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. University UMC, 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. 517-515-5634. peaceedcenter.org.

Capital City Comic Con, Issue #5 - 10 a.m. Breslin Student Events Center, 534 Birch Rd, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA, East Lansing.

Harvest Moon: Tales around the Campfire. 7-8:30 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

The Kindness Rally - 12-4 p.m. Capitol Building Lawn, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Lansing Urban Farm Project Harvest Gala - 6-8 p.m. Urbandale Farm, 701 S Hayford Ave, Lansing. 517-230-6183. lufp.org.

Las Culturas de America Latina! (All Ages) - Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. 1:30-4 p.m. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. cadl.org.

Mason "Sunshine" Farmers Market - The outdoor market is back for our 15th year! 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

Native Michigan Plant Sale - 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4224. wildoneslansing.org.

Oktoberfest - 5:30-11 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing. 517-882-6330.

Paws FUR Pink - Grab your furry friend and join us in the fight against breast cancer! 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Washington Park, S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

Stewardship Mornings - Every day is Earth Day! 9-11 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Summer Farmers Market - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

ARTS

Dr. Fox and the Impossible Cure for Death - 7:30-10 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. whartoncenter.com.

"Everyone's a Critic" Dinner Theater - fundraiser. 6-9:30 p.m. Webberville United Methodist Church, 4215 Holt Rd., Webberville.

MUSIC

Ukulele Strum-n-Sing (Adults & Teens) - strum-n-sing along. 10 a.m.-noon. Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Rd.. 517-347-2021. cadl.org.

Ukulele Workshop: The Emotional Value of Chords with Jim D'Ville. 2-3:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-372-7880. elderly.com.

Will Goodale King of Kickball Fun Day - 12-5 p.m. Towner Road Park, 2055 Towner Rd, Haslett. willgoodale.com.

Sunday, September 22**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

Juggling - Learn how to juggle! 2-4 p.m. Orchard Street Pumpthouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing.

EVENTS

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Freedom Festival and Steam Engine Show - 9 a.m. Stewart Farm Museum, 10138 Tompkins Rd., Rives Junction.

Pack Walk - We enjoy meeting other dog parents in the Lansing Area! 8:30-9:30 a.m. Brenke Fish Ladder, 216 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing.

Resilience Film: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope. 6-8 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 5509 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing.

Sweary September Yoga At The Fish Ladder - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Brenke Fish Ladder / Bad Annie's, 1209 Turner, Lansing. 517-927-8293.

World Rhino Day - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

ARTS

Dr. Fox and the Impossible Cure for Death - 2-4:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. whartoncenter.com.

MUSIC

"If Music Be the Food...Lansing" - 4-6 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Lansing, 218 W Ottawa St., Lansing.

Young Hyun Cho, piano - 3-4 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Monday, September 23**LITERATURE AND POETRY**

Homeschool Study Group - 1-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

Book Discussion Group (Adults) - 7-8 p.m. CADL Webberville, 115 N. Main St. cadl.org.

EVENTS

DDL Walking Club - 10-11 a.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Rd, DeWitt. 517-669-3156. dewittlibrary.org.

"How Frontier Jews Made American Judaism," 7-9 p.m. Wells Hall, MSU, 619 Red Cedar Rd., Room B-342, East Lansing. 517-432-3493.

Mason Chess & Backgammon Club - 6-8 p.m. Bestsellers Books and Coffee, 360 S. Jefferson, Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

MSU Group Tours - 1-3 p.m. MSU Union, 49 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

Refuge Recovery Lansing - 6-7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing.

ARTS

A Night at Stober's with Kristine Thatcher - 7-10 p.m. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-490-0481.

Tuesday, September 24**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

Community CPR - American Heart Assoc. CPR certification course for the lay person. 4-7 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Drop-in Citizenship Test Prep - 1-2 p.m. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. cadl.org.

Fun with Papercrafting (Adults) - 1-2 p.m. CADL Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Rd. #1, Williamston. cadl.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Fly Guy Celebration (Ages 5-10) - 3:30-4:30 p.m. CADL Webberville, 115 N. Main St., Webberville. 517-521-3643. cadl.org.

Preschool Storytime - for 3-6 year olds. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

I	M	P	R	O	V		I	C	I		O	D	D			
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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

SUNDAY, SEPT. 22 >> ALL FAMILIES! AT EVERYBODY READS, BOOKS AND STUFF

Raising a child in a household with two moms? There's a book for that. Two dads? There's a book for that. A book highlighting the unconditional love of a single parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle? There's a book for that too. Celebrating unique and universal stories, families are invited to browse the bookstores inclusive and family-friendly selection.

2-4 p.m.
Everybody Reads, Books and Stuff
2019 E. Michigan Ave.
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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



HE ATE

.....**Tannin**.....

SHE ATE



Best show in town

By **MARK NIXON**

We all love a good show, right? Then belly up to the bar at Tannin. It's the only spot in this place with an up-close view of restaurant staff scurrying, crafting and creating, like watching street artists at work.

We watched, we craved, we ordered and we partook. Behind the bar, just a few feet from the barstools, we watched long ribbons of pasta being churned out from scratch. Simultaneously, the bartender fired up a torch and quickly had a dipper of honey liqueur in a roiling boil. Others scrambled from pans to plates, from pasta to garnish.

Before the chow, I couldn't resist ordering Tannin's take on a margarita, called the TeKeelan. It's named after one of their bartenders, Keelan, which also happens to be the name of my father and grandson. How could I resist? I couldn't.

We started with a pear and arugula salad (\$6 as a side). It's a masterful assembly of fresh arugula, dotted with goat cheese and almonds. Anchored amidst all that are pear slices poached in red wine. Finally, a lemon thyme vinaigrette is drizzled on top.

This is one of the best salads I've tasted in years. My only quibble: I loved the vinaigrette so much that I wanted more. Next time, I will gladly pay more.

We chose small, sharable plates for our entrees; steamed mussels (\$10), asparagus (\$7) and meatballs and sausage (\$11). The standout of the three were the mussels, served in a broth of white wine and a smoky marinara, with a hint of fennel. The only thing I would add is garlic. Please know, though, I am garlic-obsessed.

The asparagus in cream sauce did have enough garlic, and just enough parmesan cheese, to add another flavor texture.

The meatballs and sausage were OK. They needed a flavor boost, and were served a bit on the cool side.

On our second visit, my baked lasagna (\$11) was a missed opportunity.

The interior was packed with pasta but little flavor. The brown-baked top was masked by some type of sweet berry compote. The sweetness doesn't work without savory counterpoints within the lasagna.

Finally, came dessert, and Tannin rebounded for a victory. We all tried the limoncello creme brûlée (\$8). Beneath the thin glaze of caramelized sugar rests a sweet custard that virtually sparkles with lemon flavor. This is certainly one of the best creme brûlées I've ever tasted.

Tannin is another bound-for-success story to add to other such dining stories along Michigan Avenue. It was formerly occupied by a Mediterranean restaurant. Before that, it was a drive-through Kentucky Fried Chicken. The drive-through window remains, though it's not in use.

As was the previous iteration of Tannin in Okemos, Tannin II bends heavily toward minimalist decor. As in none at all. Rich, dark-orange paint swaddles the dining room, interspersed only by windows. If a photo or gewgaw adorned some wall, I missed it. The starkness may be intentional, to direct one's attention to food, drink and conversation. Personally, I'd prefer something besides orange and windows.

Speaking of windows, the west-facing windows catch a lot of sun in summer afternoons and evenings. I had to scooch my chair into the shadows and out of the glare. Recommendation: Blinds that can be raised and lowered.

The window issue is not a deal breaker. I'll be back for the creme brûlée. And the show enacted daily behind the bar.

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

I've said it before, and I will continue to say it, Lansing's east side is hot right now. However, when I heard that Tannin was relocating from a chichi location in Okemos to a former KFC, I had some questions. Would the drive-thru remain? It does, for now, although it's not operational. Would there be booths? No. Would the food be better than the overthought, under impressive fare offered during my early visits to the Okemos location? In a word, yes, but I have a lot more words to say on the subject.

Mr. She Ate and I rehashed our week over dinner recently and were intrigued by the layout of the evening menu. The entrees and pasta dishes are offered in two sizes, which was a wonderful option to construct our meal from small plate selections to shareable plates. We chose the fried lasagna, chicken parmesan and fettuccini alfredo with chicken, plus a side of honey-roasted carrots.

The lasagna was traditional Bolognese style, sliced into half-sized pieces and pan-fried. While the lasagna itself was what I'm looking for, in terms of a richly flavored sauce and layers that retain their structure, the frying lent itself to a kind of shriveled, sad lasagna.

The chicken alfredo got points for dark meat chicken, an unexpected flavor bomb in what can be a one-dimensional dish, but lost points for the thin sauce. It would be nice to have the sauce thick enough to coat the (again, perfectly prepared) noodles and not remain in a puddle on the plate.

We finished our meal with a flourless chocolate

tart, and while I generally don't have high expectations for chocolate desserts at restaurants, this one was exceptional.

On a return visit for lunch, I started with an anchovy-laden Caesar salad per my request. I am down with the pungent, umami-packed little fish. Note: If you say that you hate anchovies but you like Caesar dressing, you don't know what anchovy tastes like. We moved on to an appetizer of lightly breaded calamari with a tomatoey romesco sauce, and my friend and I agreed that this might be the best calamari we've ever had. The romesco brought the acidic hit that the fried dish needed. The amount of breading wasn't overwhelming.

A word on the lunch menu, it is completely different from the dinner menu. The two sizes of entrees aren't offered at noon. I knew that if I ate a plate of pasta at lunch, the rest of the afternoon would find me napping under my desk, so I instead chose the chicken parm sandwich.

The chicken itself, was again, overcooked. I wanted a moist cutlet with sauce and cheese. What I got was chicken with breading that was so crispy that it became uncomfortable to eat. The fingerling fries served with sandwich selections were actually roasted fingerling potatoes, but they were crispy and salty, so I was into them.

In short, Tannin has survived its move. This new iteration, with more approachable dishes and price point, will make it attractive to an entirely new population of diners. Yeah, it used to be a KFC. But Mr. She Ate used to consider a bowl of Cinnamon Toast Crunch a complete breakfast, and this morning I packed him up with egg muffins and fresh fruit. The times, they are a-changin'.



Gabrielle Lawrence/City Pulse

The chicken parmesan sandwich comes in a lightly-buttered challah bun with a side of crispy potatoes.

Tannin

10 a.m. to 11 p.m., daily
1620 E. Michigan Ave.
Tannineatery.com
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Correction:

Because of a reporting error, a story two weeks ago incorrectly reported when the Old Town Diner is open. It is open seven days a week.

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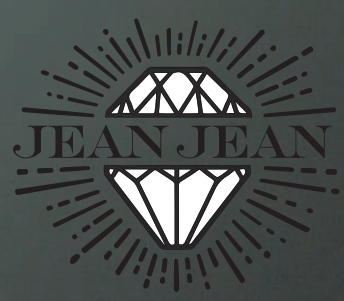
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