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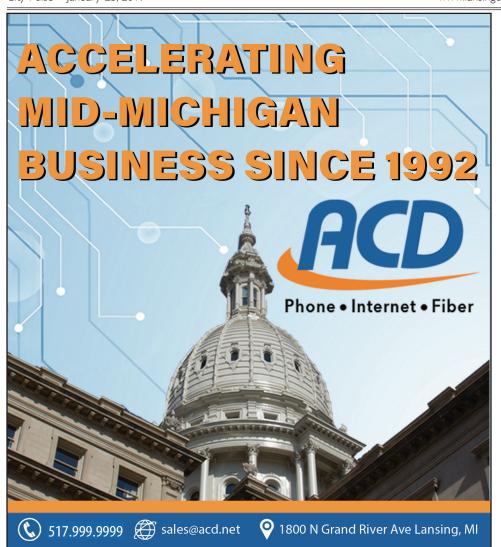
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Regular meetings of the Charter Township of Lansing for fiscal year 2019 will be held at 3209 W. Michigan Avenue on the following dates and at the times specified:

BOARD OF	TRUSTEES:	Meetings hel	d at 7:00 p.m.
	4/16	8/6	11/26
1/8	4/30	8/20	12/10
1/22	5/14	9/3	
2/5	5/28	9/17	
2/19	6/11	10/1	
3/5	6/25	10/15	
3/19	7/9	10/29	
4/2	7/23	11/12	

PLANNING COMMISSION	(when case is	pending)	Meetings held at	7:00 p.m	١.
1/16	4/17	7/17	10/16		
2/20	5/15	8/21	11/20		
3/20	6/19	9/18	12/18		

BOARD OF APPEALS	(when case is	pending)	Meetings held at	7:00 p.m.
1/28	4/22	7/22	10/28	
2/25	5/20	8/26	11/25	
3/25	6/24	9/23	12/16	

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD (DDA) Meetings held at 9:00 a.m., Location to be determined.

1/9	4/3	7/10	10/2
2/6	5/1	8/7	11/6
3/6	6/5	9/11	12/4

BUILDING AUTHORITY: 2nd Wednesday when business is pending.

Minutes of the above meeting will be available in the Office of the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services planning to attend any Township meeting should notify the Township Clerk's Office in advance of the meeting that will be attended

Susan L. Aten, Clerk **Chart Township of Lansing**

CP#19-016

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By Nevin Speerbrecker

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PULSE NEWS & OPINION

What's holding up that tower?

18 years vacant, Oliver Towers finally gets a makeover

Taking a brisk winter stroll through the empty shell of Oliver Towers in downtown Lansing with general contractor Howard Olsen is like touring a wine cellar with Bacchus himself.

Olsen, 76, is a connoisseur of concrete with almost 60 years in the construction business under his belt. He's been around so long, he got his start working on a Roman aqueduct. Really.

For now, concrete is about all that's left inside Oliver Towers.

"But it's solid," Olsen said. "A split form job." Vintage: 1968 A.D.

After nearly 20 vacant years and a dozen false starts and failed plans, the eight-story former senior apartment complex at the corner of Ionia Street and Capitol Avenue is finally getting a full-on, \$14 million "Mad Men" style makeover, with 88 chic one-bedroom apartments and eight with two bedrooms, scheduled to be ready by the end of this year.

Lit by temporary shop lights, the concrete panels look as creamy as Chardonnay now that Olsen's team has scoured off the blistering plaster and accumulated mold of 20 years.

The panels at Oliver Towers are an impressive 3 to 6 inches thick, but Olsen has seen thicker. He was a general contractor on the 72-story Water Tower Place, the tallest all-concrete building in Chicago.

"We brought in Japanese mining equipment to dig the trench," he said. His team lined the underground parking structure with concrete 4 feet thick.

Olsen huddled with project superintendent Jerry Risch and his team from Lansing's Wieland Construction last week to make sure work was on track.

The freezing temperatures at Oliver Towers were no big deal for Olsen. He knows what it feels like to be dropped by a crane to the bottom of a 90-foot-deep hole to inspect a caisson.

"The sky was a tiny dot and there was nothing holding the clay walls back," he said.

He has even worked for Disney and lived to tell the tale. In the 1970s, he helped build two pavilions at Epcot Center.

At 20, Olsen was already an assistant construction superintendent, specializing in concrete, when he quit the job to go to



Lawrence Gosentino/Gity Pulse

In the bowels of Oliver Towers, Eyde Co. contractor Howard Olsen inspects the concrete panels his team will turn into chic apartments this year.

college, angering his superiors.

"If I didn't do it then, I figured I never would," he said.

But he didn't really quit. To complete a project for a world literature class, he could have read a book — but no. He built a scale replica of a Roman aqueduct. He sculpted a clay mold and filled it with plaster reinforced by coat hangers. "I added vermiculite around the edges to make it look old," he said.

When the Eyde Co. called Olsen in 2015, he had just spent over six years renovating the Landmark, a massive condo and hotel complex tucked into the foothills of the Colorado Rockies.

Olsen had been retired for about a minute when the Eydes asked Olsen to help run its biggest project ever, the former Owens Corning Fiberglas headquarters in Toledo. The landmark 28-story mid-century glass tower is nearly finished.

Oliver Towers may seem like a mere bagatelle in comparison, but it has its own challenges. The cleanup, for one, was extensive and nasty. In the course of nearly 20 winters, every pipe that could break did so. The mold cleanup required protective gear.

Oliver Towers was built in 1968 as a subsidized senior apartment block for seniors. It was abandoned in 2000, after a fire gutted the first floor and damaged the fire and elevator systems. A frustrating series of plans to re-use the building came and went, from a new City Hall to high-income townhouses to a new downtown library to a homeless shelter.

The Eyde Co. bought the property in 2015, sensing a wave of new housing and other developments in downtown Lansing. The sale required approval from the Lansing Housing Commission and the federal Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

The city rezoned the property for mixed-use and multi-family housing. The Eyde Co. agreed to redevelop and reuse the building, a key term of the sale.

One of the most significant things about the tower is that there's nothing really significant about it. It's not a historic landmark crying to be re-purposed, like the Art Deco Knapp's Centre, which the Eyde Co. renovated and occupied in 2012. It's just a part of the urban fabric that would be a shame to waste.

See Tower, Page 6





4500 Aurelius Road, Lansing

This ugly warehouse on Lansing's south side is pending local approval for a medical marijuana growing operation. City records indicate officials at Canna-Corp Inc. wanted to turn it into their "Great Lakes Farm" but are prohibited from doing so without an operating license. The property, meanwhile, is continuing to decay.

Aging paint chips from the bricks. Windows are shattered. Litter collects in the unpaved parking lot outside.

John Grettenberger Jr., CEO of neighboring LorAnn Oils, hasn't seen anyone use the building in decades. Like many of neighbors on that block, he would also like to see the owners take some pride in the condition of their property.

Their identity, however, remains a mystery. Grettenberger — like City Pulse — has tried and failed to make contact. County records point largely to a series of shell companies that have owned the property since 2017. And the registered agent for the current owner, Washington Heights Properties LLC, didn't return phone calls.

NAI Mid-Michigan TMN Commercial has the site posted online for \$495,000 as a "possible grow location," but the listed real estate broker, Dave Robinson, also didn't return our phone calls for more information.

Grow operation or vacant land: Anything would probably be better than this shabby southside eyesore.

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

Tower

from page 5

"It shows the strength of downtown, that private investment is willing to come into the community and take the risk," Eyde Co. general counsel Mark Clouse said. There were no historic credits, but the city approved a Brownfield tax credit and the Michigan Economic Development Corp. approved a \$2.4 million low-interest loan.

All big developments are a gamble, but Oliver Towers is looking less so with every passing week. Clouse cited Pat Gillespie's rollout last summer of another major downtown development, with a Meijer-owned boutique grocery store, the prospect of a downtown performing arts center, and even the planned switch from one-way to two-way traffic on Capitol Avenue as all contributing to a spiraling downtown synergy.

"A lot of positive things have fallen into place," Clouse said.

The renovation team is keeping the apartments about the same size as the old senior units - 400 to 500 square feet. Clouse hopes the compact units will appeal to a variety of prospective tenants, from empty nesters to students to legislators and other state workers who spend part of their time in Lansing.



"We're trying to appreciate the 1960s architecture," Clouse said. "There's no sense making this building something it

After consulting with an Italian firm that specializes in making tiny old spaces feel big, an architectural team from Grand Rapids is using a variety of tricks to make the small units feel more spacious, such as open shelves between rooms and lively (but not too lively) colors.

"The architects have done a great job maximizing these spaces," Olsen said.

On the outside, the tower's expansive courtvard will get a fresh look. The overgrown plaza will be cleaned up so residents can bask in the shade of a stately row of sycamores along Ionia Street.

"They wanted to take them down and I told them, 'No way,' Olsen said.

The tower's exterior stone panels, while pretty," were full of asbestos, Olsen said. They'll be replaced by his favorite material - vintage 2019 concrete siding, stained to simulate wood grain as an accent.

"It's going to be real slick," Olsen said.

LAWRENCE COSENTINO

B/19/072 MDOT MOWING as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept **sealed bids** at the City of Lansing, C/O LBWL, Purchasing Office, 1110 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing, Michigan 48912 until 2:00PM local time in effect on FEB. 5, 2019 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197 email: stephanie. robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

> **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, February 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom

CP#19-021

Oliver Towers will bring 96 apartments and 4,500 square

feet of retail

to downtown

\$14 million

year.

renovation is

done late this

Lansing when a

Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting proposals for Commercial and Industrial Real Estate Professionals. The Request for Qualifications packet is available January 23, 2019 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 10 am on February 6, 2019 and will be opened at 10 am February 6, 2019. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are CP#19-020 encouraged to apply. RFQ#: Real Estate 01-2019

CP#19-017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers

Trustees: Broughton, McKenzie, DeLay MEMBERS ABSENT: **Trustee Harris**

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes. Minutes of the meeting held on December 11, 2018 approved.

Agenda approved as amended.

Adopted Resolution 19-01: Resolution to Opt Out of Publically Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act 152 of 2011.

Adopted Resolution 19-02: Township Board Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income

Approved Used Car Lot License Renewals for University Foreign Car Repair and B&Q Auto Mall, LLC.

Approved general fund budget amendments.

Claims approved.

Executive session held to discuss attorney-client privileged communication. Board returned to regular session.

Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019, AT 7:00 P.M.

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1449, an ordinance to add Division

8 - Building Height Overlay District - and Sections 50-805 and 50-806 to Article VII -Other Districts - of Chapter 50 - Zoning - of The Code of the City of East Lansing to create an overlay district for building height.

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

Dated: January 17, 2019 East Lansing, MI 48823

2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing

CP#19-018

Rumors abound, but few candidates for Lansing City Council — thus far

What a difference four years makes in the land of Lansing city politics. With three months until the April 23 candidate filing deadline, the scuttlebutt on potential challengers for the



four City Council seats seems restricted to political unknowns or prior unsuccessful candidates.

Top-tier candidates with a strong base of support or the ability to raise the needed money to make a credible run aren't there at this point.

Either the Lansing City Council members are doing better at getting along or they're doing a really good job of faking it. The days of failing to be able to come to a consensus on a Council president are in the rearview mirror. It's probably good for the city, but it doesn't make for the best headlines.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor isn't trying to build a political machine like his predecessor, Virg Bernero.

Also unlike Bernero, Schor is not obsessed with beating Council President Carol Wood with some hand-picked candidate. In fact, Schor has gotten along with basically everyone running for re-election and intends to stay neutral on the races, at this point.

And, yes, Wood is running for reelection, by the way. She said she put it on Facebook that she's running and, yet, she's still hearing the following rumor: That she's so happy in her new job as executive director of the Lansing Retired, Seniors and Veterans Program — RSVP — through the United Way that she's not going to run again. Instead, 3rd Ward Councilmn Adam Hussain would allegedly take Wood's spot on the ballot as an at-large candidate and Elaine Wolmboldt of Rejuvenating South Lansing would run in the 3rd Ward.

"I don't know where this keeps coming from," Wood said.

"Can we put a stake in this rumor as not true?" she was asked.

"Put a stake in it," she responded.
So there's no mayor stoking the fires of a split 4-4 Council these days. The Lansing chamber and the labor groups are seeing a much more functional city government and are less motivated in getting involved in finding replacements for the four incumbents, all of whom appear to be running again.

At-Large Councilmember Patricia Spitzley and 1st Ward Councilmember Jody Washington both appear to be running for reelection without a perceived top-tier opponent, at this point. Washington would seem to be the biggest target due to her vocal opposition to marijuana facilities, but this position isn't new and she's won twice in the 1st Ward

Mike Ruddock, who came within 197 votes from advancing to the general election for an at-large seat in 2017, had talked about coming back for a run against Washington in 1st Ward, but that has since cooled.

Former City Council candidate Kyle Bowman, the commander of the state's security operations with the Michigan State Police, has been mentioned, but hasn't made any serious efforts in that direction.

Kelly Collison, the Michigan Democratic Party's progressive caucus chairwoman, took a look at a run against Washington, but has since opted out. Collison, who finished second in the 68th House District race last year, is concentrating her efforts on organizing local enthusiasm for a Bernie Sanders presidential run.

Her former campaign manager, Brandon Betz, a senior policy analyst at the Anderson Economic Group, is a possibility in the 1st Ward.

Scott Hughes, the juvenile justice and community outreach coordinator at the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office is the furthest along with a potential challenge. He's taken to Facebook with a slogan, "Progressive — For a Change," but whether the political consultant for former mayoral candidate Judi Brown Clarke can raise the needed support is still an unknown.

The biggest challenge could come in the 3rd Ward, where the hardworking Hussain could get a challenge from former County Commissioner Dale Copedge, who left office in 2012 to make a state House run.

Speaking of former House candidates, Farhan Sheikh-Omar, a 24-year-old Kenyan refugee, may be making a bid for a Council position. He's the only person who has asked for petitions with the Lansing Clerk's Office. He received 589 votes last year in the 68th House District.

In the at-large races, other candidates who have been mentioned include Lansing Medical Marijuana Commission member Jason Peek and Yanice Jackson, who finished sixth in 2017 out of 12 at-large candidates.

Former City Council member Tina Houghton may be returning as an at-large candidate, after losing her seat in the 2nd Ward in 2017. And, Julee Rodocker, who also didn't win in the 2nd Ward in 2017, is also being mentioned.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **February 14, 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 for the purpose of considering a request from Jim Woodend, for the property at 208 and 210 Orchard Street, to demolish and remove a two-car garage in the back of the property.

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

Dated: January 17, 2019 East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#19-019

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE WATER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS TO THE ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE EAST LANSING-MERIDIAN WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the East Lansing-Meridian Water and Sewer Authority (the "Authority") intends to issue bonds in an amount of not to exceed \$2,000,000 (the "Bonds"). The Bonds may be issued in one or more series.

The bonds shall be issued for the purpose of defraying the cost to design, purchase, acquire, install and construct improvements to the Authority's water system, including but not limited to improvements to the Authority's water plant and facilities including but not limited to replacement and upgrading of HVAC equipment and components and any related appurtenances as well as all work, and equipment necessary and incidental to these improvements and to pay the costs of issuing the bonds and capitalized interest, if any.

The bonds of this issue shall mature within the maximum terms permitted by law with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law payable over not more than thirty (30) years from the date of issuance of the Bonds. The bonds shall be issued pursuant to Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The principal of and interest on the bonds shall be payable from the net revenues derived from the operation of the Water System.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

The bonds will be issued without a vote of the electors approving such bonds, unless, within 45 days from the date of publication of this Notice of Intent, a petition, signed by not less than 10% of the registered electors residing within the limits of the Authority shall have been filed with the Board Secretary or other recording officer of the Authority requesting a referendum upon the question of the issuance of the bonds. If such a petition is filed, the bonds shall not be issued until approved by the vote of a majority of the electors residing within the Authority qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

This Notice is published pursuant to the requirements of Section 33 of Act 94 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1933, as amended.

Board Secretar

8 www.lansingcitypulse.com City Pulse • January 23, 2019

Donation drives park improvements

Frances Park nets \$200K cash infusion

June Knostman always gave back to the city of Lansing. And she still does — even after her death.

As the unofficial flower queen of the capital city, Knostman had developed Frances Park into her throne. She lived across the street and regularly strolled the woodland trails and expansive rose gardens that encompass the westside park. She didn't have any children, but the park was like her adopted child.

Knostman, who died in 2017 at 96, left

\$200,000 to the city's Parks and Recreation Department in her trust. On Monday, Council members plan to approve accepting that donation to be used exclusively for enhancements to the park's rose gardens and Grand River overlook later this year. Frances Park is on Moores River Drive.

"June was a true friend to Lansing parks and recreation, and her efforts towards the beautification of Frances Park will be enjoyed by patrons for years to come," explained Parks Director Brett Kaschinske. "She was a great lady that just had a love for the city and really wanted to make this part of her legacy."

Specific plans will be assembled this year but Kaschinske labeled the donation "huge" for the park.

Knostman, according to her obituary, was a "tireless booster" of the city, including time spent

on the Public Service Board, The Friends of Frances Park and the Garden Club of Greater Lansing. She was also a nationally accredited flower show judge and had traveled the world for various competitions.



Knostman

Kaschinske said her previous contributions replaced chain-link fencing with a wrought-iron design at Frances Park. As a lover of music and art, Knostman had a passion for her community and a desire to leave the world a better and more beautiful place. That legacy, obviously, will continue to live on.

"She was a spitfire," said Linda Hall, a close family friend. "We loved how she was always thinking about her community, right up until the day she died. It's just so lovely that she seemed to always find ways to give back to the city — even after she passed. We're just delighted about these improvements."

- KYLE KAMINSKI kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

\$2 million Rotary Park to revitalize downtown riverfront

Community Foundation matches 11 private donations

Big plans are underway for some Grand River frontage in downtown Lansing.

Mayor Andy Schor signed an executive order Tuesday to name a slice of parkland between the Lansing City Market and the Shiawassee Street Bridge. And Rotary Park, as it will now be known, will soon encompass a community-driven, \$2 million investment to transform the space into a recreational gem.

"A lot of different organizations donated dollars toward redeveloping that part of the city," Schor explained. "Transforming the riverfront is important. We need to maximize the use of the riverfront; It's something that I ran on. An active and activated riverfront is an important amenity to have in the community. We need this."

Community input gathered years ago by the Capital Region Community Foundation identified several priorities to help bolster downtown economic development. Executive Vice President Laurie Strauss Baumer said repeated suggestions for improvements along the riverfront eventually led to the idea for the park.

About \$1 million raised through 11 private donations was matched by the community foundation, Baumer said. The Rotary Club of Lansing was the largest donor — with about \$400,000 — earning it the naming rights.

"We're just really thrilled that we had a lot of funders willing to support this project," Baumer added.

Plans include a transformation of the newly named Delta Dental Plaza behind the Lansing City Market with new furniture, an outdoor fireplace, shade sails and string lighting. A "lighted forest" will also be designed to the north with multi-color lighting and a high-quality sound system near the Lansing River Trail.

Baumer said those portions, labeled

Phase I, should be complete by May. The next steps include the construction of a 165-foot staircase from the bridge to the river that should be finished before autumn arrives. The staircase Baumer said, will also meet a newly renovated beachfront at the base of the Grand River.

A new performance venue labeled the "HUB" —for Happening Under the Bridge — will also allow for small concerts within Rotary Park during the warmer months. About \$1.2 million in donations will be used to enhance the riverfront; The rest will be set aside for maintenance.

Baumer and Schor were joined for today's announcement by Rotary Club board member Kevin Schumacher and Jack Schripsema, president and CEO of the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We have a beautiful riverfront that needs to be used," Schumacher said. "There couldn't be a better gift for us to give the city of Lansing than this gift."

Delta Dental, Dewpoint, Auto-Owners Insurance and the Gillespie Group were recognized for their contributions.

"This project isn't just about a pretty park or a pretty penny," said Margaret Trimer, director of communications and corporate citizenship at Delta Dental of Michigan. "This project is about young people who are full of dreams, full of potential, and will be empowered to transform our community in ways we never dreamed of."

The City of Lansing will also provide brownfield development reimbursement funds for part of the project to help generate private investments along the riverfront.

"Once of the great things you get to do as mayor is name different parks," Schor said. "This one is an easy one because Rotary — and really many others as well — are really doing a lot to help transform our city in this area."

- KYLE KAMINSKI and DENNIS BURCK



Courtesy Capital Region Community Foundation

The north part of the park will be a "lighted forest."



Dennis Burck/City Puls

Mayor Andy Schor signs an executive order naming Rotary Park. Looking on are (from left) Margaret Trimer, director of communications and corporate citizenship at Delta Dental of Michigan; Kevin Schumacher, Rotary Club board member; Ken Theis, CEO and president of Dewpoint; Laurie Strauss Baumer, Capital Region Community Foundation executive vice president; Michael Gilmore, president of Red Cedar Investment Management; Pat Gillespie, president of Gillespie Group.

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MSU ends John Engler's 'reign of terror'

Presidential search continues under new leadership

ident of Michigan State University, officials there hope to craft a renewed vision of healing and accountability on campus. It's a refreshing mentality that many said might have been all but impossible under a bullheaded former governor with a penchant for saying the wrong thing.

Engler's brief and often highly criticized tenure — amid possibly the darkest period in the university's history — was marred by distrust from the start. And shortly after his appointment last year, another fire began to burn. Many students felt blindsided after officials opted to put the often brazen political operative behind the wheel.

"For a person who was a very effective governor, Engler was just out of his league as the president of MSU," explained retired State Rep. Sam Singh, D-East Lansing. "It became very clear, very early on, that he was not ready for that environment over there. He was kind of like this beeper guy living in a smartphone world.

"His time was the 1990s; It wasn't 2018. He was just out of touch with how to effectively communicate."

As Michigan's Republican governor from 1991 to 2003, Engler developed an uncanny reputation for his artless approach to politics. He wasn't afraid to speak his mind and often shot from the hip to achieve his goals. His mindset arguably helped serve the state, but not so much a university focused on healing past missteps.

A student mounted the board table in protest after Engler's unanimous appointment last January, and that helped set the tone for 2018. After convicted pedophile Larry Nassar was sentenced to prison, students wanted assurance they'd be involved in properly mending the wounds. And Engler just wasn't cut out for the job.

Although the MSU Board of Trustees was initially confident in its selection, a series of offensive statements from Engler eventually helped turn the tide. Hundreds of students and staff urged him to resign less than a month after the original appointment; It took university trustees about a year to finally land on the same page.

"Leadership climate is set from the top — and it has been clear from Engler's repeated disparaging remarks toward survivors that he is not the person to be charged with creating a safer environment at MSU," said U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Holly. "I called on him to resign in June; I support his decision to step down now."

A unanimous board vote last week effectively opened a new chapter at the university as trustees accepted Engler's forced resignation and appointed MSU administratorSatish Udpa to serve as president until they can land on a more permanent selection. And perhaps MSU Trustee Brian Mosallam best summarized Engler's presidential tenure as a "reign of terror."

"Today is a new day at MSU," Mosallam said, noting the campus had been "held hostage" by Engler over the last year. "On this new day, our courageous survivors no longer have to go to bed in sadness, feeling no one would listen to them.



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

MSU Trustee Brian Mosallam labeled John Engler's stint as interim president a "reign of terror."

Today, the healing can truly begin. John Engler's reign of terror will finally be over."

Former President Lou Anna K. Simon resigned last January as Nassar was sentenced for sexually assaulting hundreds of women under the guise of medical treatment. Questions abounded: Who knew about the abuse? When did they know about it? And board members were ultimately left to select a new leader to fill the gap.

As the state Attorney General's Office launched an investigation into "systematic issues with sexual misconduct," the board was left to choose between Engler and former Democratic Gov Jim Blanchard. After an initial deadlock, closed-door negotiations (and funding pressures from a Republican Legislature) led the board to select Engler.

Some — like Ingham County Commissioner Thomas Morgan — contended that Democratic Trustee Joel Ferguson ultimately flipped his initial preference for Blanchard to give Engler majority support on the board. Engler's behavior in office, however, would ultimately lead officials to regret that decision less than a year later.

Ferguson, for his part, was the only board member to withhold comment during discussion of Udpa's appointment. He also declined to be interviewed for this story. Many have since called for his resignation as well. For the university to truly move forward, Morgan argued Ferguson ultimately needs to follow Engler out the door.

"A wrong has been righted today," Trustee Kelly Tebay said before the vote. "I'm sorry it took so long."

Engler reportedly offered to cut a six-figure check to sexual assault survivors in exchange for dismissed lawsuits. He accused others of receiving "kickbacks" for continued legal action. He also leaned on former colleagues for important university jobs and moved to gut funding that was initially designated for those victimized by Nassar.

"In choosing Engler, MSU prioritized its own political image over the university's need for cultural change," said State Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., D-East Lansing. "It was clear from Day One that he lacked the understanding and compassion to



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Board Chairwoman Dianne Byrum said Engler's demise "came together organically."

lead MSU through what should have been a period of healing and accountability."

The university's "Spartan" alumni magazine last year also sought to address the scandal, but Engler intervened and shifted the narrative to a more positive light. The university had a reputation to protect; Engler had a public perception to manage. And his unapologetic attitude only helped catalyze an institutional crisis.

Rumblings for Engler's resignation reached a head when an interview was published Jan. 11 in The Detroit News. Engler suggested that Nassar survivors might be "enjoying" the media spotlight. Survivors, students and advocates fumed. For the board, it was the final nail in Engler's presidential coffin.

"It came together organically," explained Board Chairwoman Dianne Byrum. "Following John

See Engler, Page 10



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Critics call Joel Ferguson Engler's "buddy" and say he should be the next to go. He declined comment.

Engler

from page 9

Engler's latest, ill-advised, inappropriate and hurtful comments, people started to say, 'Enough is enough.' For all the reforms we're making, we keep slipping backwards. That's when we started having these conversations."

In February, under Engler's specific direction, MSU had established a risk management, ethics and compliance office. That department, however, was later reportedly merged with an existing office on campus and the financial stream to support the new operations were temporarily dammed. Engler continued to face criticism

Emails also surfaced last year that detailed how Engler had claimed Rachael Denhollander — the first of many to accuse Nassar of sexual abuse — had received a "kickback" for encouraging other gymnasts into coming forward with allegations. Engler apologized about a week later, but tensions were already reaching a climax.

Nassar survivor Kaylee Lorincz later said Engler offered her \$250,000 to drop a lawsuit against the university. The backlash from the campus community continued while some officials, at the time, labeled the accusation as "fake news." Denhollander still maintained that Lorincz's claim was truthful and scolded Engler on Facebook.

"He is so used to bullying, manipulating, and focusing on money and power that he can't conceive someone else does not," Denhollander said earlier. "I honestly pity him at this point. What an empty way to live."

The following month, Engler drew criticism for appointing former state Supreme Court Justice Bob Young to the university's legal team. Many argued Young — who was appointed to the court when Engler was governor — was unfairly picked for the position because of his existing, collegial relationship with the former governor.

The university in July also froze the \$10 million Healing Assistance Fund for Nassar survivors after concerns about fraudulent payments surfaced. It was reopened this year, but for many survivors the damage by Engler had already been done. And it was growing clear that Engler was balancing reputation with meaningful action.

In June, the trustees considered a motion by Mosallam to fire Engler, but it failed. Republicans ensured he'd remain at the helm until two Democrats landed on the board earlier this year and continued to push for leadership changes amid the backlash.

"Good riddance," added Progress Michigan Director Lonnie Scott. "It's too bad Michigan had to suffer more than once with the insufferable lack of leadership that is John Engler. It has always been clear Engler was unfit for such a critical position at a critical time for the university. This was long overdue."

In December, state investigators issued a scathing report about a "culture of indif-



ference" toward sexual assault at MSU in favor of protecting its reputation. It noted the university issued misleading statements, drowned investigators in irrelevant documents and waged needless battles over the release of pertinent materials.

Among the findings? Eleven MSU employees failed to report Nassar's abuse. The university's Title IX office failed to investigate allegations in 2014. The common thread: MSU employees routinely gave the benefit of the doubt to Nassar instead of the young women who came forward with allegations against him.

Investigators labeled the response a "failure of people, not policy" and advocated a "top-down cultural change at MSU." By then, Engler had became the most obvious — and outspoken — obstacle to that shift.

For his part Englerblamed his recent departure on the new political makeup of the board. He was essentially forced to resign or risk being fired, he outlined in a lengthy resignation letter. He included a list of his "accomplishments" and argued the university was better off after a year under his leadership.

John Truscott, founder of Truscott-Ross-

man Public Relations and Engler's gubernatorial press secretary, said the Democrats on the board were "looking for any reason" to send Engler packing — and they found it in his recent statements to The Detroit News. "They were simply out to get him," Truscott contended.

"He was hired to clean up probably the worst mess of any university in America," Truscott added. "That's pretty tough to do if you're tiptoeing around the issues and not making a lot of decisions. His letter explained it, but he set MSU up for a much brighter future. You can't ignore his accomplishments since he took office at MSU."

Engler donated his \$510,000 salary to university programs and touted a list of other achievements. Among them were the implementation of 24-hour counseling services, restructured health colleges and clinical programs and the creation of a relationship, violence and sexual misconduct work group staffed with therapists and advocates.

But for many, Engler's progress has been largely overshadowed by his repeated, public missteps in office.

Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

(Above) A sign at the Hannah Administration Building, where the trustees meet. The Detroit Free Press reported that Engler walked into a meeting and told staffers planning an event to "get that teal shit out of here."

(Left) Teal ribbons, here seen on a statue of legendary MSU President John Hannah, have come to symbolize support for victims of Larry Nassar.

"The disrespect for survivors was so disheartening," said East Lansing City Councilman Aaron Stephens."I'll start recognizing Engler's accomplishments when he starts recognizing the damage he did through his comments, his procedures and his total inability to cooperate with state investigators about those problems."

The search for a new president will continue under Udpa's temporary leadership; Byrum hopes to have a permanent replacement by the summer as a nationwide search continues. In the meantime, newly elected Attorney General Dana Nessel wants to interview Engler as the investigation at MSU continues into another year.

AG spokeswoman Kelly Rossman Mckinney said Nessel's office is still fighting in court over the release of 29 university documents related to the handling of the Nassar investigation. She declined to mention the content of the upcoming interview with Engler but said the goal is to "really determine who knew what and when."

"I don't believe it's over," added MSU Trustee Dan Kelly at the recent meeting. "I don't think it'll ever be over. I think this is a chapter in our history that we can't ignore or forget. We have to learn from it. I think it would be a mistake to suggest to the new president that they're coming in here with the belief this has all been done."

KYLE KAMINSKI
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The anti-Engler

Peers praise Satish Upda for empathy, expertise, tone

MSU, a longtime leader in particle physics, unveiled a new particle last week: the anti-Engler.

In its first week under the microscope, the particle has already demonstrated that it attracts rather than repels. A gentleman and a scholar, a collaborator and a listener, a University Distinguished Professor and a deft administrative hand, acting president Satish Udpa gets almost ludicrously high grades from his peers.

Physicist Wolfgang Bauer called Udpa "the kindest person I've ever met."

"He never raises his voice," Bauer said. "He treats everybody with respect, and that leadership style is really what's needed now."

Udpa, 68, rose to his current post as executive vice president for administrative services in 2013, after seven years as dean of the College of Engineering. He quickly recruited Bauer, who was then Physics Department chairman, into the administration.

Together, they developed one of the boldest and most conspicuous projects at MSU in recent years, the solar arrays that cover the parking lots in south campus. Bauer and Udpa also worked together on projects involving the campus water supply, IT, power plant and mobility on campus.

"He solves problems by consensus, not by decree," Bauer said.

Bauer will likely take over some of Udpa's administrative roles, including overseeing design and construction of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams.

On Thursday, his first day on the job, Upda held a conference call with MSU

"There will be times when I ask your input," he told the deans. "But even when I don't ask for it, give it to me anyway."

Rachel Croson, dean of MSU's College of Social Science, said the call was "heartening."

"He is very collaborative in his leadership style," Croson said. "When you interact with him, he is empathic, caring, respectful, gentle. I think those are all traits we really need."

Trustee Dianne Byrum predicted that Udpa, who is not seeking the presidency, will "calm the university."

"It's important to get an interim president who is not going to be the source of negative headlines in newspapers both in Michigan and across the nation," Byrum said.

At beleaguered MSU, words like "kindness" and "empathy" fall like water in the desert after the prolonged Larry Nassar scandal and the ham-handed treatment of sexual abuse survivors by former President Lou Anna Simon and interim President John Engler.

"Following Engler's latest ill-advised, inappropriate and hurtful comments that broke from a story in The Detroit News, people started to say this is enough," Byrum said. "For all the reforms we're making, we keep slipping backwards."

Under Simon, MSU had an intermittently bruising relationship with its assigned college roommate, the city of East Lansing, but Mayor Mark Meadows is pleased the board picked Udpa.

"Satish is a wonderful guy," Meadows said.
"In terms of not rubbing people the wrong way, he was definitely the right choice. He's a very smart man that knows how to get his points across without ramming them down people's throats."

Kindness and calmness are the order of the day, but Udpa's qualifications run much deeper.

As dean of engineering from 2005 to 2013, he reached beyond his field to other MSU colleges and the broader community with an array of innovative outreach projects. As an administrator, he oversaw all of the non-academic campus systems, including human resources, land management, IT and the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, or FRIB.

"That's quite a portfolio, and he's done it in a gentle and thoughtful way," Stephen Esquith said. Esquith, dean of MSU's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, has been one of the most vocal critics of MSU's handling of the Nassar scandal.

Esquith credits Udpa with quietly mitigating Engler's negative impact on the university all year.

"While we've had somebody in the president's office who's a bit of a bull in a china shop, Satish has tried to buffer units from all those Engler pronouncements and dictates that come from on high," Esquith said.

Once the trustees decided Engler was toast, Udpa's name kept on coming up as a possible successor, Byrum said.

"The major activities of the university, the big picture items — those come through his office and across his desk currently," Byrum said. "He was in a situation to step right in and keep traffic running and keep the university moving forward without a hiccup."

"He's not coming in with any enemies, any baggage," Croson said. "He has social capital so people will follow when he points." Even Udpa's engineering research specialty, "nondestructive evaluation," has a conciliatory ring. (The term refers to ways of testing materials without damaging them.)

Siddharth Chandra, director of MSU asian studies, has worked with Udpa for 10 years. Chandra called Udpa "a complete package" and a "fantastic choice."

"It's very rare to find a person who combines the qualities of being a really distinguished academic, as well as being an incredibly nice person to work with," Chandra said. "He has phenomenal interpersonal skills and a brilliant organizational mind."

"He knows both sides of the university, the academic side and the operational side," Croson said. "Few people have that scope of understanding."

One of the first phone calls Croson got after joining MSU as dean of the College of Social Science three years ago was from



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

The board selected Satish Upda as acting president to replace Engler.

Udpa

Udpa was looking for help with several big projects on campus mobility, including the use of autonomous vehicles. Udpa wanted to know how people would react to the presence of autonomous vehicles on campus and what unforeseen impacts they might have on the physical and mental environment.

It impressed Croson that Udpa was reaching out of the engineering silo to the social, legal and urban planning fields.

"It's an example of him reaching out to make sure everyone had the chance to contribute to make the outcome strong as it can be," Croson said.

As dean of engineering, Udpa put a high value on communication skills. That impressed Esquith.

"Engineers have to work with non-engineers in community settings," Esquith said. "He stressed that his engineering students don't come out as mere technicians, that they come out sensitive to ethical issues, capable of communicating well with different audiences."

As dean of engineering, Udpa also developed a range of "pipeline" programs to recruit minority and under-resourced groups. He got MSU engineering students involved in everything from Lego competitions to robotics fairs across the state.

Under Udpa, engineering students worked hand in hand with students from Esquith's college to mount a major art installation at Peckham Inc., Art@Work.

"It wouldn't have been done without Satish," Esquith said.

Esquith said such projects reflects Udpa's holistic view of culture, science and work.

"It's never been part of his agenda to downsize the core colleges — Arts and Letters, Natural Science, Social Science, the residential colleges," Esquith said.

Chandra said Satish has shown a strong

interest in the cultural side of STEM education.

"I'm not an engineer. I'm a social scientist, an economist," Chandra said. "I'm absolutely confident he will take a very holistic approach to how the university works."

Besides putting a stop to the drip of toxic Engler remarks, many people in the MSU community say it will be a welcome change to have a quiet professional at the helm.

Chandra didn't mention Engler by name, but it was clear he was drawing a contrast.

"Maybe, when you go through crises, they call for special circumstances, but to be back in professional administration mode will be great for the university," he said.

In addition, Udpa's calming presence will make it easier for MSU to recruit a strong president, Croson said.

"They won't be walking into a world where there are protests and people are angry and yelling on campus," Croson said.

Bauer admitted that the acting presidency is a new level of exposure for Udpa.

"It's good for the university," he said.
"Whether it's good for him, I don't know.
There's an attention level from the press. It
was obvious from the board meeting this
morning — 10 TV cameras, radio, press in
the room."

But Bauer is grateful that he no longer has to brace himself for more toxic spills from the front office.

"There are people who really like to hear the sound of their own voice on TV, but he is not one of those," Bauer said.

It is likely that Udpa will not have to handle the added scrutiny for long.

Byrum said she expects him to be president "for the next three board meetings." "We'll be assembling the candidate pool until the end of the month," she said. "It's not a long period of time."

-LAWRENCE COSENTINO

ARTS & CULTURE

ART · BOOKS · FILM · MUSIC · THEATER

The secret folk art below BWL's John Dye Water Conditioning Plant

By DENNIS BURCK

The acclaimed Charles Pollock and Frank Cassara murals of Lansing's John Dye Water Conditioning Plant's main lobby are not the only works stored in the Art Deco inspired building. In the plant's basement bowels, a smorgasbord of art from over 80 years ago springs forth from dusty columns.

A section of the plant, the Cedar Pumping Building, goes back even further to its construction in 1883. Inside the building, among other water processing equipment, is a long-retired steam pump from the turn of the 20th century sitting dormant in almost a third of the upper floor. It supplied Lansing with water, and used the smokestack behind the Nuthouse Sports Grill for its coal smoke exhaust.

"We still use this pumping station as a backup for the city of Lansing," BWL water division director Scott Hamelink said. "What you see here is all the piping that brings the water from the reservoirs and pushes it out into the system."

Descending down into the pump building's basement opens up to a labyrinth of pipes running in every direction. Cable carriers that look like miniature train tracks weave throughout rows of arches and pipes to their final destinations.

The folk art murals are condensed primarily on two sets of arches. Running through it is a massive pipe entitled "Suc. 4," acting as a suction pipe from a reservoir

It was all the work of one boiler opera-









Dennis Burck/Gity Pul

(Clockwise from top left) A flashlight reveals the face of a woman on the basement pillar. A poem about BWL "narrowbacks," a slang term for electricians. A check Clarence "Charlie" Hewes wrote to himself for \$1,000,000 from BWL. Folk art arches under the Cedar Pumping Building, the work of former BWL boiler

tor, Clarence "Charlie" Hewes.

operator Clarence "Charlie" Hewes.

"He had a lot of time on his hands. Usually those boiler operators used to

take reads that took maybe five to ten minutes total. Then he probably came back down here to paint for the other 40 or 50 minutes," Hamelink said.

Hewes had even more time on his hands because he was a night shift employee. "Our loads would go down at night and the boiler wouldn't have to be observed during his shift as normal."

An excerpt from Michigan State University Press' 1978 publication "Rainbows in the Sky: The Folk Art of Michigan in the Twentieth Century," by C. Kurt Dewhurst and Marsha MacDowell, mentions Hewes' work and corroborates Hamelink's statement:

"Hewes once gave the following account of the work responsibilities, which afforded him an opportunity to spend time at work painting: 'When the load drops off after 8 or 9 at night, there's not much to do. The only two men here are an operator and a fireman, and they can usually tell if something goes wrong by the sound."

Under lighting, the art appears. It's a dizzying mishmash of BWL staff rosters, art deco ornamentation, every Lansing water station, amateur poems and worker depictions.

Recognizable names like general manager Otto Eckert and chief chemist John Dye hold top positions in the archway. There is also a painting on the top of the arch of a check Hewes presumably wrote to himself for \$1 million from BWL.

"We try to be sensitive to them when we work down here and try not to damage anything. But it is just the sands of time have taken their toll on them," BWL CEO and general manager Dick Peffley said.

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Wally Pleasant returns with 'Happy Hour'

Lansing songwriter to perform new album at Robin Theatre

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Fifteen years since his last proper studio release, longtime Lansing favorite Wally

Wally Pleasant

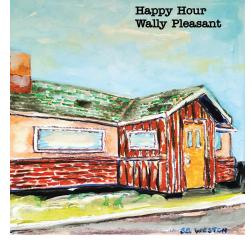
6:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 26 \$15 general, \$10 student The Robin Theatre 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing (989) 289-9729 www.therobintheatre.com Pleasant returns with "Happy Hour," a comedic string of songs with a sardonic look at small-town life. He'll perform the album in its entirety, along with some old favorites, at the

Robin Theatre Saturday.

"It's kind of like the dark side of small-town life. I was inspired by Flannery O'Connor's stories — that dark rural feel," Pleasant said.

It's a new sound for Pleasant, backed with a talented cast (Steve Simonson and Dave Schettler on drums, producer Jim Diamond on bass, Mike Lynch on keyboard/accordion, guitarists Drew Howard and Alex Lumelsky and backup vocalists Matt Dmits, Alison Lewis and Nat Spinz). The group has forged an effective pastiche of twangy country and surf rock, which Pleasant's voice, a touch smokier this time around, sits on top of very

This style came to Pleasant through his house work playlists, which were heavily populated by early-70s country staples, like



You can purchase a copy of the CD at Saturday's show, or find it online by searching "Wally Pleasant Happy Hour" on YouTube.

Waylon Jennings and Guy Clark.

"I would listen to a lot of country music from the early-70s and I ran out of stuff to listen to, so I had to write my own," Pleasant said.

"In Colorado" begins the album on an unfamiliarly somber note for a Wally Pleasant album, telling the story of a man waving goodbye to his lover who leaves for Los Angeles and hits it big in the music industry. Pleasant sings of hearing them on the radio and seeing them on billboards while he continues to lead a boring life.

The mix of humorous absurdity and sadness lingers through the next two songs. In "Bless the Day," Pleasant sings about all the

things he'd do to guarantee his loved one's return. "Addition Subtraction" uses several math metaphors to look back on a painful separation.

Each track gets a huge boost from the solid rock 'n' roll production stylings of Jim Diamond, who notably worked on the White Stripes' early albums. There's rolling bass lines, tight snare rolls and lush lap steel and electric guitar leads.

The title track, "Happy Hour," is one of the album's key tunes. It sees Pleasant running through a mid-Michigan bar scene that is ankle deep. He portrays a picture of folks only content on the surface while watching sports highlights and stuffing their faces with jalapeño poppers. If you've been to a bar in any rural American area, you know how painfully accurate that disappointing description often is.

Pleasant sticks with comedy at his own expense for the Side A closer, "Doctor Please" — both a condemnation of aging and the United States healthcare system. "I was going to do a fourth verse," Pleasant sings at the bridge of the song, "but the pre-existing conditions in the first three verses make you ineligible for musical coverage at this time."

Side B begins with "You're Just Right," a love-letter track comparing the object of his affection to seemingly benign things, like salad bars and dish-washing gloves. It comes off as effectively coy and charming.

"Moustache Man" is self-deprecating, as Pleasant mocks himself for selling cars and, of course, for having an especially large, bushy moustache, which he's grown of late. It's followed by "Mixed Tape," which mourns the loss of mix tape culture, or tapes produced by holding a tape player's microphone up to a radio to produce bootleg compilations of top 40 hits, and "Neck Tattoo" — a teasing look at those bold enough to tattoo their face: "I have a neck tattoo, because working retail is something I won't do."

Then comes "Excitedly Britannica," a sleepy ballad dedicated to Americans overly enamored with British culture, "No burgers for me, fish and chips instead, telly is playing something from the BBC."

At the close is the second serious highlight, "Sad Rock 'n' Roll Story," a lament for Pleasant's teenage punk rock days and his early band's aspirations that never came close to coming true: "We thought we'd be playing arenas, even though we never impressed anyone that'd ever seen us."

Pleasant — real name Wally Bullard — explained the track's origins.

"I was 15 and my parents would drop me off at the drummer's mom's house every Saturday morning," Pleasant said." We didn't even have a name, because we'd spend most of the time arguing about what we should name ourselves. 'Sheena is a Punk Rocker' and 'Should I Stay or Should I Go?' — that was about all we knew."

After such a long hiatus, it's a good thing that "Happy Hour" pushes Wally Pleasant's music in a much more fleshed out direction, rather than treading the same old waters. It's the title track, along with "Sad Rock 'n' Roll Story," that make the album worth checking out

World-class dance company comes to Wharton

Jessica Lang Dance visits East Lansing as part of its final season

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Jessica Lang Dance, having won sweeping critical appraisal from The New York Times, The Boston Globe, you name it — is

Jessica Lang Dance
Tickets start at \$29
7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24
Wharton Center
750 E. Shaw Ln., East
Lansing
www.whartoncenter.com
(517) 432-2000

in its twilight. The company, led by the Bessie Awardwinning Jessica Lang rolls through the Wharton Center Thursday and several other

cities in April as part of its final season.

"The entity of Jessica Lang Dance is sun-setting at this point," Lang said in a telephone interview. "It's much like the end of a good television series — when you've done what wanted to do and are ready to move in a different direction."

The New York City-based Jessica Lang Dance, which has been on the road in various seasons since 2011, performs a unique show everywhere it goes, picking from its repertoire of more than a dozen ballets based on what's offered by the venue and its core audience.

For its performance in East Lansing, Lang's dancers will open with "Lyric Pieces," a ballet originally commissioned by the Birmingham Royal Ballet in 2012



Jessica Lang Dance.

and later introduced to her own company's repertoire in 2017. "Lyric Pieces" derives its name from its soundtrack, 10 volumes of piano music by mid-19th century Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg. The work received high marks for its innovative use of black, pliable paper props, which dancers effortlessly interact with during their movements.

Following "Lyric Pieces" is "The Calling," an old signature piece of Lang's excerpted from the larger "Splendid Isolation II," originally commissioned by the Ailey II dance theater in 2006. "The Calling" is a solo piece that features a lone woman draped in a white dress dancing to the medieval choral piece "O Maria, Stella Maris."

And then there's "Us/We," a collaboration

with visual artist José Parlá and costume designer Moriah Black created in residency at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign. "Us/We," which celebrates the interweaving of world cultures with New York City as a backdrop, is rooted in the ideas presented by composer David Lang's work "The National Anthems," which blends lines from 193 separate national anthems into a cohesive work.

"It brings us to this beautiful idea of New York City, a patchwork of societies that live among each other," Lang said. "We take it into the greater landscape of America, demonstrating a passage of time with music."

But the night will finish on a lighter note with "This Thing Called Love," based on the music of Tony Bennett, which premiered in 2018 and was commissioned by the Performing Arts Center at Purchase College.

"It's a fun, lighthearted and beautiful work," Lang said.

Lang's next move is to take her talents in freelance fashion to various companies, starting with the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

"When I work as a guest in someone else's company, or an institution that requires a choreographer, the same kind of connections are made between myself and the dancers," Lang explained. "The longer you work with someone, the more you find out about them and they find out about you. I don't think either is more rich or more valuable, it's what you take from each opportunity — each creation is different."

Bonfire of gratitude

MSU's generous King tribute mixes old and new

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Review

Review

The night after MSU's indoor winter bonfire of a Martin Luther King tribute concert Sunday — and I offer this humbly, with truth as a defense — I had a dream.

There was a mighty wedding feast. The food was ambrosial, but everyone sat on the floor. People were welcomed off the street. The cake, a frosted castle 20 feet high, came apart into little boxes that slid into people's laps. From the looks on their faces, the boxes contained their heart's desire.

That's how the annual King concert, mounted by the Jazz Studies area and the College of Music, messes with your mind. It wasn't just the fine oratory, blazing jazz, razor clean poetry, the lovingly retooled soul and R&B classics. The warmth, camaraderie, generosity, breadth and breath of it all whooshed like a bellows onto the last dying embers of January until everyone had enough heat to last until it's spring again in America.

The body English and beyond-Stevie-Wonder vocal pyrotechnics of Sean Holland III on "How I Got Over" would have been enough to steal the show, were this not a Utopia where everybody could steal as much as they wanted. Holland worked himself into a tornado of gratitude for life as he danced, cajoled, pleaded and sent his larynx high into the ecstasy zone.

Later in the evening, silver-throated guest vocalist Kenny Washington strolled through a set of Marvin Gaye tunes with impeccable phrasing, behind-the-beat confidence and an incandescent inner light. MSU's arranger-bandleader Diego Rivera and the sterling Jazz Orchestra matched him with high professionalism, note for note.

In recent years, Whitaker has ceded more of the spotlight to Rivera, his assistant jazz studies director, a killer saxophonist with a stage presence that grows more commanding every year. In the midst of the set with Washington, Rivera turned around, pulled out his saxophone (from where?) and tussled one-on-one with Micheael O'Neill, the bearish, down-and-dirty reedman Washington brought with him from the San Francisco Bay Area. Rivera tore it up, to everyone's delight, O'Neill's most of all.

The MLK concert has always been a happy blend of community stalwarts like Whitaker and Rivera with new faces. This year's mix was especially lively.

A new MSU group, Color Me Music, curated a wide-ranging tribute to soul icon Aretha Franklin. Jordyn Davis and Jadrian Tarver, founding members of the group, both contributed warm vocal performances. MSU College of Music Dean (and silver eminence) James Forger pointed to Davis, a woman of color, and said, "that's what leadership in the 21st century looks like."

Tarver pleaded that it was a tough task to follow Holland's explosive "How I Got Over," and then proceeded to roll like the Rock of Gibraltar on chariot wheels through a mesmerizing, mercurial arrangement of "Amazing Grace." Whitaker led the orchestra in a romantic, sugar-sweet take on his own favorite Aretha Franklin tune, "Day Dreamin."

Passionate spoken word artistry was a key part of the night's generous mix. Poet William Langford, aka "Will the Poet," gave his proud, defiant take on the resurgence of his home town, Detroit, from the inside, reminding the wine sippers, "fair weather fans" and casino tourists in the audience to "always bet on black."

Pamela Bellamy, fighting off a hamstring injury, took to center stage on crutches to lift Maya Angleou's "Still I Rise" into great green mountains of resounding humanity.



Courtesy Candice Wilmore

There was so much more to take in, from the mad volleys of solos from each member of the orchestra to the muted trumpets that keened like cicadas in Diego Rivera's arrangement of "What's Going On." But it all came together when vocalist Brysien Beer, wearing a gray fedora Martin Luther King would have rocked, stepped forward to sing King's favorite hymn, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord." Whitaker explained that when things got rough, King would call gospel

singer Mahalia Jackson and ask her to sing this hymn.

Beer sang his heart out, channeling King's hopes, fears and doubts into a universal human plea.

The rhythm section locked into a sweet gospel sway. All of the evening's vocalists came to the stage and closed ranks in a gospel chorus behind Beer. Suddenly, it felt like I could reach out and touch King's unquenchable yearning to make us whole. What a gift.

Conductor and composer Diego Rivera layered a blazing sax solo onto a set of Marvin Gaye arrangements with the MSU Jazz Orchestra.

Teaching your children to love reading with 'Pout-Pout Fish' series

By BILL CASTANIER

More and more research shows the secret of a new born or toddler's success lies in reading. A recent article by Megan Cox Gurdon in The Wall Street Journal, the newspaper's weekly writer of "Children's Books," underlined the importance of reading to children especially in place of plopping them in front of a screen.

"Reading to children removes the negative of extra screen time while adding a terrific positive in the form of skill-and brain-building effects," she wrote.

She also cited research that the sound of the reader's voice, the protective warmth while cuddled with an adult reader and non-moving pictures add to the experience of reading to children.

An additional bonus is that when children who were read to at a young age grow up, they will likely become avid readers.

Children are also great mimics and if they see a parent on the phone, a laptop or an iPad, guess what they will want to do.

Read and your children will read too. Many remember the fabulous Dr. Seuss books being read to them and then reading them to their own children.

That early reading helps develop your ability to recognize sounds and later see how written word relates to spoken word. You also develop a vocabulary and learn the meaning of words. Thank you Richard

Grand Ledge author Deborah Diesen, the writer behind the acclaimed "Pout-Pout Fish" books, has been writing picture books since 2008 that accomplish all these things.



Courtesy photo

Deborah Diesen with a copy of her book "The Pout-Pout Fish."

Her books feature an undersea creature who confronts sometimes difficult situations, such as the first day of school, fear of the dark or the inability to sleep.

The stories are told in a rhyming scheme that reinforces certain sounds and are accompanied by the colorful artwork of illustrator Dan Hanna.

"At the time of the first book neither of us could've predicted the series' success," Diesen said in a phone interview.

In the beginning, the author and the illustrator had not met, which is not unusual in the publishing business. However, 10 years later, Diesen and Hanna are awaiting their eighth Pout-Pout Fish book, which comes out early this summer.

Diesen does not shy away from contem-

porary and complex issues in her picture books. She just doesn't hit little children over the head with them.

In her forthcoming book, "The Pout-Pout Fish Cleans Up the Ocean," Pout-Pout rallies the "little guppies" to help clean up the ocean.

"It was fun and interesting to write," Diesen said, "But it's not an issue book. The fish learn about a problem and work together to solve it."

Working together is a theme that transcends most of Diesen's books. She attributes her attention to community building to her time as a librarian for the Allen Neighborhood Center.

"I really want to reach people and to inspire them," she said.

Diesen said she is currently in the last stages of finishing a children's picture book with illustrator Magdalena Mora called "Equality's Call" on the history of voting rights in this country.

"It's hard to take a complex subject and make sense of it without being comprehensive," she said. "I hope it will resonate. I didn't want to focus on people, but rather the issue."

The book will be published in 2020, the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment which gave women the right to vote.

Diesen said another difficult book to write was "The Pout-Pout Fish and the Bully-Bully Shark."

"It's a complex issue and challenging story to write," she said.

Despite the success of the Pout-Pout Fish series, making the New York Times Best Seller List and selling more than a million books, Diesen is humble about her success.

"By having success in my mid-to-later life, I don't fool myself. The books have done well, but it was the luck of the draw," she said.

"My best luck was getting paired with Dan. The book's cover was so engaging it gave us a bump of awareness and ended up being placed 'front-facing' on bookstore's shelves," Diesen said.

"Getting a book published is luck and persistence — mostly luck," she said.

In addition to the Pout-Pout Fish series there have been numerous offshoots. There's plush Pout-Pout Fish toys and even Pout-Pout Fish fabric. She has also written several books for Sleeping Bear Press.

"I still enjoy meeting with readers and connecting with them," Diesen said. "I have had some very moving moments with my readers and that's when the book becomes a shared creative experience."

The Pout-Pout Fish book series is available at Schuler Books, Barnes ♂ Noble and local libraries.

SchulerBooks

Your Local & Independent Bookstore

January Author Events

More information may be found on our website and Facebook page

Erin Bartels Thursday, January 24 @ 7pm

Publishers Weekly called Erin's book, We Hope for Better Things, "...a deeply moving story of heartbreak, long-held secrets, and the bonds of family." Her talk will touch on national and Michigan history including the Detroit riot of 1967.

Coming in February

Dr. Madeleine Albright Friday, February 8 @ 7:30pm

Our sister store, Nicola's Books in Ann Arbor, hosts a conversation with Secretary Albright at the Michigan Theater. Tickets include a signed paperback copy of Fascism: A Warning. More information at NicolasBooks.com.

Children's Story Time Saturday, February 2 @ 11am

Join us for story-time on the first Saturday of each month when a Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative volunteer reads a picture book to help instill a love of reading in little ones.

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

from page 12

Appointed CEO in 2015, Peffley has worked at BWL for 42 years.

"There are not a lot of people on the board who don't know these are even down here," Peffley said. "The water department is a division of a bigger company. I knew they were down here because I worked over here for awhile when I first hired in."

Most BWL employees see the Charles Pollock and Frank Cassara murals as more emblematic of the company, Peffley

"This is a little out of sight and out of mind." People used to know the story of Hewes' art more, but it is still passed down occasionally, he said.

"The story stays pretty accurate. There are still a lot of people here who have been here for 40 years and we keep it original."

Though there are many imitators with permanent markers scrawling their names next to the art, Hewes' writing is unmistakable.

"When I start recognizing the names, I know they are the add-on stuff."

For some BWL employees, it has become an unofficial rite of passage when retiring to scrawl their names beside the folk art.

Peffley and Hamelink recognize a few new names since their last visit to the

"Look at this - 'Scott,'" Peffley said while pointing out a fresh name in permanent marker. "He just retired after being hired on in 1985. He left only about a month ago."





(Top) The most intact part of the folk art is preserved under the arches. (Bottom) A painting of a water worker by Clarence "Charlie" Hewes.



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

Wednesday, January 23 **CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS**

Mindfulness Meditation ■ From 7 to 9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing.

MSU Libraries' Game Studies Guild: Critical Let's Play. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. free MSU Library Digital Scholarship Lab, 2W. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

MSU Libraries' GIS Club. From 6 to 8 p.m. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

MSU Libraries' Quilting Bee Wednesdays. From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

Open Studio Life Drawing. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Info 517-337-1170. Model fee: \$2 students (LCC, MSU, High School), \$5 all others. Room 208., Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium East Lansing.

ARTS

MSUFCU Art Exhibit . MSUFCU (Headquarters), 3777 West Road East Lansing.

Thursday, January 24 **CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS**

Guest Lecture--L'Heavek: Wrestling with the Divine in Syrian Jewish Mexico City. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free to the public at the James Madison College Library, Case Hall, MSU, 842 Chestnut Rd East Lansing.

MUSIC

Absolute Music Chamber Series. From 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$10. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing.

Lachrymose: Romantic Piano & Strings. At 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$20. Purchase online at http:// www.absolutemusiclansing.org/buy-tickets.html. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing.

Friends' of Delta Township District Library annual Book Sale. From 3 to 7 p.m. entrance free hardbound books 75 cents, paperbacks 50 cents, children's books 25 cents. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr. Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

Friday, January 25

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

MSU Libraries' Introduction to Story Maps. From 4 to 5:30 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

MSU Libraries' Special Collections Pop-Ups. From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

MUSIC

TGIF Dance Party with DJ Rock Dog at Hawk Hollow 8 PM-12 AM. Learn to Dance the Jitterbug with Claudia Bleil before the dance 7:15-7:45 PM. Doors open at 7 PM. Complimentary dance lesson & buffet included in price of admission for only \$15. 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath.

Ten Pound Fiddle: Matt Watroba and Robert Jones ? The American Experience: From Roots to Rap, A Musical Celebration of **His.** From 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$20 Public; \$18 Fiddle Members; \$5 Students. Available online or at the box office at 6:30 PM. http://www.tenpoundfiddle. org/event/matt-watroba-robert-iones-americanexperience-roots-rap-musical-celebration-historydiversity/. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Rd. East Lansing. (517)355-7661.

THEATER

Staged Reading Weekend. At 8 p.m. Free!. The Downeaster Theatre, 1120 N Pennsylvania Road Lansing.

MSU 2nd Annual Social Justice Art Festival. From 12 to 7:30 p.m. Free to attend. Please RSVP at the MSU Social Justice Art Festival Eventbrite page. Snyder/Phillips Hall, The intersection between Grand River Ave. and Bogue St. on MSU campus East Lansing, (517) 355-1855.

Saturday, January 26

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

ARTEMIS SPYROU - YEAR OF THE PERIODIC TABLE: THE SYNTHESIS OF THE ELEMENTS IN THE STARS AND IN THE LAB. At 10:30 a.m. Event held at 1300 FRIB Laboratory. This is a free event open to the public. . Michigan State University, 241 W. Brody Rd East Lansing. 517-432-1451.

Make Up Workshop. From 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$20/members and \$25/non-members. The Downeaster Theatre, 1120 N Pennsylvania Road Lansing.

Reiki One. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$75 Pre-register. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

Marshall's School of Music Open House. From 2 to 4 p.m. free. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700.

EVENTS

Drop-in Valentine Craft • From 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Capital Area District Libraries Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St. Haslett. 517-339-2324.

See Out on the town, Page 18



'The Wizard of Oz' 80th anniversary at Celebration Cinema

'The Wizard of Oz'

Regal Cinema: Jan. 27, 2 p.m. Jan 29 7 n m Jan. 30, 7 p.m. \$12.50 Celebration Cinema: Jan. 27, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Jan. 29, 7 p.m. Jan. 30, 7 p.m. \$12 Regal Cinema 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing (844) 462-7342 www.regmovies.com/theatres/regal-lansing-mall-rpx Celebration Cinema 200 E. Edgewood Blvd., Lansing (517) 393-7469 www.celebrationcinema. com/showtimes/lansing

See Cowardly Lion find courage, the Scarecrow find a brain, the Tin Man find a heart and Dorothy find her way back home as the 1939 film that redefined cinema returns to the big screen for its 80th birthday. Hosted by TCM and Fathom "The Events,

Wizard of Oz" will be the first in a series of 14 classic films returning to theaters. The others are "My Fair Lady," "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Ben-Hur," "True Grit," "Steel Magnolias," "Field of Dreams," "Glory," "Hello, Dolly!," "Lawrence of Arabia," "The Shawshank Redemption," "Alien," "The Godfather Part II" and "When Harry Met Sally." Fathom Events is a leader in bringing indie and alternative content in movie theaters nationwide. The classic film series will air Sundays and Wednesdays. Next in the series, "My Fair Lady" will be in theaters Feb. 17 and 20.

WEDNESDAY JAN. 23 >> MSU FILMETRY FESTIVAL

See MSU poets and filmmakers collaborate for 15 new short films screened at the Residential College for Arts and Humanities Theater. The RCAH Center for Poetry will host. Its mission is to incite reading, writing and discussion of poetry in everyday life.

7 to 9 p.m., Snyder Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing (517) 333-5246 www.poetry.rcah.msu.edu/index



THURSDAY JAN. 24 >> 'CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG'

Sing along to the tunes of this timeless musical stage adaptation of the classic 1968 film Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Directed by Brian Farnham, watch the Potts family and their flying car come to life.

7 to 9:30 p.m., \$26, Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing (517) 482-5700 www.riverwalktheatre.com

Jonesin' Crossword By Matt Jones "Late to the Movie"-what did I miss? Matt 1 "Space Ghost Coast to Coast" character with a spinoff series 22 5 Isaac Hayes soundtrack 10 The Krusty ___ ("SpongeBob 33 SquarePants" locale) 14 "Archer" character 15 Pelvic bones 16 Minigolf segment 17 2018 movie about Cathy being startled by a big cat? 19 Unknown quote source 50 52 20 Blue Apron offering 55 dead, Jim" ("Star Trek" line) 22 "Metropolis" director Lang 23 Play division 25 Inject 27 "That's amazing!" 31 Type of doll for the

64 2018 movie about an

66 Cicero's love

35 Palindromic parent

36 2018 movie about

39 British baby carriage

42 "Morning Joe" cohost

43 2018 movie about a

cinematic alien's voice?

47 Amino acid that helps

50 Fire engine feature

Hornet's true identity)

59 Considers carefully

63 Mt. Ka'ala is its highest

57 More, in Mexico

53 "___-wee's Big Adventure"

46 Brain activity diagnostic

48 Deli bread option, maybe

Reid (The Green

bowling lanes?

41 Stair part

Brzezinski

test, for short

treat cold sores

Internet

68 Steel ingredient

colored, for dragon fruit

1 Comic book explosion sound

2 "The Amazing 3 "Johnny's Theme" composer Paul

4 Gabe of "Welcome Back,

5 1040 info

8 "___ Off the Boat"

6 Owns, archaically

Down

annoying Irishman?

67 They may be dank on the

69 Bright and evenly

70 He played one of the

71 Figures out

7 Has a yearning (for)

9 Road repair stuff

10 Sudan's capital 11 Pasta (boxed dinner) 12 Bunches

13 Mercedes-

18 Acronym on a record

22 Yard component 24 Baton master

26 Venn diagram feature 27 Drive forward

28 Rick's grandson, on TV 29 Apple desktops from a while back

30 Oklahoma city 32 More desertlike

33 In tune 34 "August: County" (Meryl Streep movie)

37 JFK flier, once 38 Take some time at the Mount Snowden with his nose. But perhaps our opinion would become more expansive once we knew that he engaged in this stunt to raise money for a charity that supports people with cancer. In any case, the coming weeks would be a favorable time for you, too. to engage in extravagant, extreme, or even outlandish behavior in behalf of a good or holy cause.

Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

Aries (March 21-April 19): We might initially be inclined

to ridicule Stuart Kettell, a British man who spent four

days pushing a Brussels sprout up 3,560-foot-high

Taurus (April 20-May 20): The Taurus guitar wizard known as Buckethead is surely among the most imaginative and prolific musicians who has ever lived. Since producing his first album in late 2005, he has released 306 other albums that span a wide variety of musical genres — an average of 23 per year. I propose that we make him your patron saint for the next six weeks. While it's unlikely you can achieve such a gaudy level of creative self-expression, you could very well exceed your previous personal best in your own sphere.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)): Novelist Arthur Conan Doyle created Sherlock Holmes, a fictional character who personifies the power of logic and rational thinking. And yet Doyle was also a devout spiritualist who pursued interests in telepathy, the occult, and psychic phenomena. It's no surprise that he was a Gemini, an astrological tribe renowned for its ability to embody apparent opposites. Sometimes that quality is a liability for you folks, and sometimes an asset. In the coming weeks, I believe it'll be a highly useful skill. Your knack for holding paradoxical views and expressing seemingly contradictory powers will attract and generate good fortune.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): In 2006, a 176-year-old tortoise named Harriet died in an Australian zoo owned by "Crocodile Hunter" and TV personality Steve Irwin. Harriet was far from her original home in the Galapagos Islands. By some accounts, evolutionary superstar Charles Darwin picked her up and carried her away during his visit there in 1835. I propose that you choose the long-lived tortoise as your power creature for the coming weeks. With her as inspiration, meditate on questions like these: 1. "What would I do differently if I knew I'd live to a very old age?" 2. "What influence that was important to me when I was young do I want to be important to me when I'm old?" 3. "In what specific ways can my future benefit from my past?" 4. "Is there a blessing or gift from an ancestor I have not yet claimed?" 5. "Is there anything I can do that I am not yet doing to remain in good health into my old age?'

Leo (July 23-August 22): John Lennon claimed that he generated the Beatles song' "Because" by rendering Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" backwards. Even if that's true, I don't think it detracts from the beauty of "Because." May I suggest you adopt a comparable strategy for your own use in the coming weeks, Leo? What could you do in reverse so as to create an interesting novelty? What approach might you invert in order to instigate fresh ways of doing things? Is there an idea you could turn upside-down or inside-out. thereby awakening yourself to a new perspective?

Virgo (August 23-September 22): The Tsonga language is spoken by more than 15 million people in southern Africa. The literal meaning of the Tsonga phrase I malebvu ya nghala is "It's a lion's beard," and its meaning is "something that's not as scary as it looks." According to my astrological analysis, this will be a useful concept for you to be alert for in the coming weeks. Don't necessarily trust first impressions or initial apprehensions. Be open to probing deeper than your instincts might influence you to do..

Libra (September 23-October 22): The old Latin verb crescere meant "to come forth, spring up, grow, thrive, swell, increase in numbers or strength." We see its presence in the modern English. French, and Italian word "crescendo." In accordance with astrological

omens, I have selected crescere and its present participle crescentum to be your words of power for the next four weeks. May they help mobilize you to seize all emerging opportunities to come forth, spring up, grow, thrive, swell, and increase in numbers or strength.

January 23 - 29, 2019

Scorpio (October 23-November 21): When animals hibernate, their metabolism slows down. They may grow more underfur or feathers, and some add extra fat. To conserve heat, they may huddle together with each other. In the coming weeks, I don't think you'll have to do what they do. But I do suspect it will be a good time to engage in behaviors that have a resemblance to hibernation: slowing down your mind and body; thinking deep thoughts and feeling deep feelings; seeking extra hugs and cuddles; getting lots of rich, warm, satisfying food and sleep. What else might appeal to your need to drop out of your fast-paced rhythm and supercharge your psychic batteries?

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): When people tell me they don't have time to read the books I've written, I advise them to place the books under their pillows and soak up my words in their dreams. I don't suggest that they actually eat the pages, although there is historical precedent for that. The Bible describes the prophet Ezekiel as literally chewing and swallowing a book. And there are accounts of sixteenth-century Austrian soldiers devouring books they acquired during their conquests, hoping to absorb the contents of the texts. But in accordance with current astrological omens, I suggest that in the next four weeks you acquire the wisdom stored in books by actually reading them or listening to them on audio recordings. In my astrological opinion, you really do need, for the sake of your psychospiritual health, to absorb writing that requires extended concentration.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19): Among the top "how to" search inquiries on Google are "how to buy Bitcoin," "how to lose belly fat fast," "how to cook spaghetti in a microwave," and "how to make slime." While I do think that the coming weeks will be prime time for you to formulate and launch many "how to" investigations, I will encourage you to put more important questions at the top of your priority list. "How to get richer quicker" would be a good one, as would "how to follow through on good beginnings" and "how to enhance your value" and "how to identify what resources and allies will be most important in 2019."

Aquarius (January 20- February 18): A motivational speaker and author named Nick Vujicic was born without arms or legs, although he has two small, unusually shaped feet. These facts didn't stop him from getting married, raising a family of four children, and writing eight books. One book is entitled Life Without Limits: Inspiration for a Ridiculously Good Life. He's a positive guy who has faith in the possibility of miracles. In fact, he says he keeps a pair of shoes in his closet just in case God decides to bless him with a marvelous surprise. In accordance with current astrological omens, Aquarius, I suggest you make a similar gesture. Create or acquire a symbol of an amazing transformation you would love to attract into your life. Pisces (February 19-March 20): About 11 percent of the

Philippines' population is comprised of Muslims who call themselves the Bangsamoro. Many resist being part of the Philippines and want their own sovereign nation. They have a lot of experience struggling for independence, as they've spent 400 years rebelling against occupation by foreign powers, including Spain, the United States, and Japan. I admire their tenacity in seeking total freedom to be themselves and rule themselves. May they inspire your efforts to do the same on a personal level in the coming year.

Answers Page 18

Beginner

40 Dehumidifier's target

44 It may be listed before

51 Fading flame feature

55 "Bohemian Rhapsody"

58 British weapon of WWII

60 Ancient Greek harp

62 Phoenix court team

65 "The buck stops here"

presidential monogram

52 "Birdman" actress Watts

or after "per

45 Krispy __

49 K-Cup maker

54 Pigpen dweller

56 Denny's rival

61 Pirate spoils

64 "Wow!" in texts

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SUDOKU 4 9 9 8 2 4 3 5 2 6 9 7 6 2 4 3 9 9 5 3 6 4 8 2 6 2 6 5 1 4 6 9 8 2 3 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 18

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

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE BY RICH TUPICA

Friday, Feb. 1

HEARTSICK RELEASES 'SLEEP CYCLES' LP AT THE LOFT

Lansing metal vets unveil their 'heaviest record'

Friday, Feb. 1 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$10, \$20 VIP, 5:30 p.m.

For 15 years, Know Lyfe kept busy touring across Michigan and nearly every state across the country. From warming up stages for Every Time I Die, Fear Factory and Hatebreed, to playing Van's Warped Tour, the band of locals quickly established a far-reaching grassroots following. In that time, the group also unleashed six independent releases and remarkably reached the Billboard charts. However, three years ago, the progressive-metal band rebranded, changed its name to Heartsick, and promptly released a new LP under the new moniker: a self-titled, 2015 full-length record.

Next week, the band returns with its second album as Heartsick, a fiery 13-track album titled "Sleep Cycles." The release show, set for Feb. 1 at The Loft, has VIP tickets still available, which includes a hardcopy of the album and other



swag, like a limited-edition tour laminate. While a bulk of the new tracks were cut back in October 2017 at Random Awesome Studios in Midland, the labored-over LP was not fully completed until late 2018. In short, it was a busy year for the ambitious foursome.

"In 2018, we played a ton of shows and finally got to do our first out-of-the continental U.S. tour in my home country of Puerto Rico," said lead vocalist Alfonso Civile. "Of course, we also finished recording our new record and, in between all that, shot some new music videos."

Along with Civile, Heartsick comprises Waylon Fox (bass), Richard Pruneau (guitar) and drummer Justin Robison — all of whom contributed to the songwriting process. According to the band's front man, "Sleep Cycle" blazed an exciting new path for the metal scene vets, who shaped heavy, yet melodic soundscapes in the studio. Along with the hooky, classic riffs the band is known for, there's also no shortage of inventive guitar wizardry and experimental vocal deliveries interspersed throughout — most notably on tracks like "Slave Labor" and "Loveletter."

"This is 100-percent above and beyond anything we have ever done. We went into this with the idea that we'd record the heaviest record we've ever done — but also the most diverse sonically, with serious melodies," Civile said. "I really feel we accomplished that and then some. We have managed to stay relevant while retaining our vision as a band and I am beyond proud of the work we all put into this record."

After issuing stacks of hardcore tracks over the years, Civile said he prefers to pull lyrical stimuli from a vast range of delicate topics for "Sleep Cycle." From politics to psychodynamics, the diverse batch of songs ignores thematic boundaries in favor of honest, emotional verses.



"Literally, every song on this record lyrically is different than the other," he said. "There are songs about the current social state of the world, humanity's impact on our planet, but also death, love and family—plus the effect of war on a soldier, slavery and depression."

Along with Heartsick, the album release show features a laundry list of local hard rock bands, including: Of Virtue, Assume Nothing, Greywalker, Biffy the Beat Slayer, the Amber Tide, Lifecurse, Foxbat, Low Graves, Some People's Kids and In Ghosts.

So what's next for the band? "The plan is to play out of the state and out of the country as much as we can," Civile said. "We are gearing up for a few out-of-country tours and some out-of-state runs this year. The goal is, hopefully, to gain the attention of someone who really believes in us and land a label home."



DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.		Open Mic At The Avenue 9PM	Fishgutzzz & The Stinkin Orchestra 9PM	Millenium Y2Karaoke 9PM
Buddies, 1937 W Grand River Ave		Karaoke, 9PM		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Wednesday Night Live	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke, 9PM
Claddagh, 2900 Towne Center Blvd.		Trivia, 7:30	The Oxymorons 7PM	
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia			Kathy Ford Band 9PM
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies Band	Jeff Shoup & Friends	Be Kind Rewind 9:30 PM	Be Kind Rewind 9:30PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night	Karaoke	Star Farm	Star Farm
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia Night W/Sporcle 9PM		Fangs and Twang 8PM	Shelby & Jake 8PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Midnight Gold, Lemoncollies, Beirut 66 8PM	Q106 Homegrown Throwdown Round 3 6:30PM	Joe Hertler & The Rainbow Seekers 7PM
Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Bogues / Romancer 7PM		Mr. Godbey and King Lee 7PM	
Nuthouse, 420 E Michigan Ave.		Music Bingo 8PM		
Unicorn Lounge, 327 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave.				From Big Sur 9PM
Urban Beat Event Center, 1213 Turner St		Absolute Music Chamber Series 7:30 PM		

Out on the town

from page 15

ARTS

Make Your Own Art Journal. From 12 to 2 p.m. Registration required, call 517.374.6400.. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N. Washington Sq. Lansing. 517-374-6400.

Sunday, January 27

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

Reiki 2. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$125 pre-register. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

EVENTS

Atheists and Humanists Meeting. From 5 to 8:30 p.m. Buffet is \$11.49 plus tax and \$1.85 service fee. Drinks are \$1.85 extra, except for complementary hot tea. Asian Buffet, 4920 Marsh Rd. Okemos. (517) 381-8388.

Michigan Coral (Reef Aquarium) Expo . From 12 to 5 a.m. \$10 admission, kids under 16 are free.. Causeway Bay Hotel, 6820 S. Cedar St. Lansing.

Monday, January 28

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Spiritual Book Study. From 10 a.m. to noon Donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

EVENTS

Lansing Christian School All School Information Night. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way Lansing. (517) 882-5779.

Tuesday, January 29

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

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

SATURDAY JAN. 26 >> JOE HERTLER AND THE RAINBOW SEEKERS

Hometown heroes and national touring musicians Joe Hertler and the Rainbow Seekers return to Lansing after two years on the road for an all ages show with special guest Young Pioneer. The band describes themselves as post-Motown folk rock and has performed at Bonnaroo, Electric Forest and Summer Camp music festivals

7 to 11 p.m., \$20, The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing (517) 913-0103, www.theloftlansing.com



FRIDAY JAN. 25 >> SHANE MAUSS STAND UP SCIENCE

Comedian Shane Mauss performs and hosts while Lansing area scientists take a crack at stand up sets of their own. An audience Q&A will follow the set with the panel of scientists and Mauss fielding questions.

8 to 10 p.m., \$23, The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing (517) 867-5309 www.thefledge.com



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SUNDAY JAN. 27 >> LCC FACULTY JAZZ CONCERT WITH RAFAEL STATIN

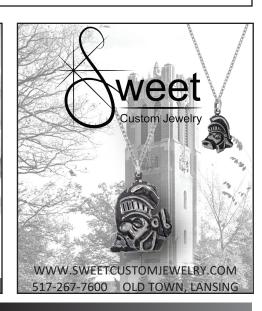
Kicking off LCC's Black History Month programming, hear the legendary music of John Coltrane douse the Dart Auditorium in bebop and free jazz vibes with special guest Detroit multi-instrumentalist Rafael Statin, Light refreshments will be served after the performance with opportunities for conversation. .

4 to 5 p.m., LCC Dart Auditorium. 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing (517) 483-1122, www.lcc.edu/showinfo









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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

A Cuban sandwich, pastele and churros from

Habana Delights.

Habana Delights

By DENNIS BURCK

Parked outside Replay Lansing is a new food truck in Old Town. With a bright pink paint job, Habana Delights offers pressed Cuban sandwiches, coffee, handmade desserts and all too scrumptious churros with hot chocolate.

Owner Yohana Ferra left Cuba and arrived in Lansing in 2014. She spent her past life working as a baker in Havana. But her new life in the United States gave her a jolt — with newfound access to fresh ingredients from all over the world, she realized she still had a lot to learn about cake.

"In Cuba, I made cakes for weddings, quinceañeras and everything. But when I started living in Lansing, I saw all the different types of cake and gasped," Ferra said. "I had only seen these cakes in magazines before."

Ferra left Cuba to pursue a better life for her children and a chance to open her own business, she said. She came to Lansing because she had an uncle here who told her "If you can survive the winter, Michigan isn't too bad."

There were many challenges with adjusting to life in Lansing for Ferra at

"I didn't speak English. Nothing. So, the first thing I did was go to LCC to learn the language. I had to learn to drive too. I never thought I would drive in my life. In Cuba, I could've never gotten a car."

While attending LCC, she became fast friends with her instructor Maria Shafer and credits Shafer with helping her business become a reality.

She showed me a business plan and helped me take things step by step, Ferra said. "She was my guardian angel."

Opened on Dec. 28, Ferra made her dream of owning her own business a real-

Among her traditional Cuban baked desserts are three milk, guava and coconut cakes as well as guava pasteles, akin to turnovers.

Her hot chocolate and churros were a winter tradition in Havana, she said.

A far cry from hot chocolate packets, Ferra's hot chocolate is made by stirring in high grade Barry Callebaut Belgian chocolate chips into hot milk.

The popular Cuban sandwich is on the menu as well. The pulled pork on a Cuban sandwich should never be made of barbecue pork, Ferra said. She oven roasts the pork shoulders slowly over-



Habana Delights 536 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing Tuesday to Saturday

night to completion.

Ferra also offers another native Cuban sandwich not many people have heard of called the Elena Ruz. It is a pressed sandwich consisting of turkey, strawberry jam and cream cheese.

Though both are native to the island, they aren't very popular there, Ferra said.

"Many people know about the Cuban sandwich, but the people who actually live in Cuba don't eat this sandwich,



Owner Yohana Ferra poses next to Habana Delights, Old Town's newest food truck.

because it is too difficult for people to buy the meat and cheese."

Ferra said she is happy to further extend the Cuban food scene in Lansing.

"My children give me the force and hope that I can succeed," Ferra said. "Here, I can find everything I could ever want. It gives me inspiration."



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- 2. Meat. Southern BBQ (517) 580-4400 1224 Turner Rd., Lansing | www.meatbbq.com
- 3. Saddleback BBQ www.saddlebackbbq.com
 1147 S. Washington Ave., Lansing | (517) 306-9002
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 - **4. Eastside Fish Fry (517) 993–5988** 2417 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing | www.eastsidefishfry.com
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Szechuan chicken, Colala Special soup at Colala Express

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The space on 2010 W. Saginaw St., the former home of Jumbeaux and many others, is becoming a revolving door. Its



latest occupant is a Chinese takeout place called Colala Express. On my first venture, I ordered Szechuan chicken with fried rice

and the Colala Special soup.

The main issue I run into with Chinese takeout is a certain rubbery, fatty texture

Colala Express

2010 W. Saginaw St., Lansing Monday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. (517) 763-2228 www.colalalansing.com throughout the chicken. Colala Express' chicken avoided that — it was lean, juicy and glazed with just the right amount of sauce. It passed that test easily, but I wish the sauce bordered

closer to the spicier end of Szechuan, rather than the savory sweet side. The rice was a little dry, but the addition of bean sprouts gave it a special flair.

The Colala Special soup was an oddity. It's almost a standard vegetable soup, filled with potatoes, carrots and chicken, but the special ingredient here is banana. Perhaps the banana chunks add to the flavor of the broth, but biting into bananas, mixed with chicken and potato, is a little too jarring, and that's coming from somebody with a penchant for "strange" food.

But Colala Express is inexpensive, convenient and tastes just fine, which is what you really want in takeout — isn't it?











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