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January 9 - 15, 2019

New year, new music



Harpist
Yolanda Kondonassis
and composer
Jennifer Higdon

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ABOOD

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CityPULSE



LOCAL EXPERTS

SERVICES

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ART SUPPLIES

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BANKING

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With the holiday season just passed, many Americans struggle with the debt the holiday season brings. According to Marketwatch, shoppers last year in the U.S. racked up an average of \$1,054 of debt during the Christmas season. If you are like many this holiday season, here are a few ways to get out of debt faster:

1. Pay off your credit cards by paying more than the minimum payment.
2. Write down all of the debt you owe and come up with a budget to pay off this debt.
3. Consider getting a temporary side job.
4. Sell items you have not used or do not need.
5. Whenever you have the urge to buy something that is not essential, put the money you would have spent on the item in a savings account.

The bottom line is that the holidays can put financial stress on many families. Use some of the presented ideas above as a platform to save and prepare for the following year.



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SUCH BUSY QUEERS

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Benefit show for local web series



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A colorful artist's reception



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Al Fusion's scrumptious octopus delight



**Cover
Art**

By Vince Joy

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Detective-in-Chief

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by TOM TOMORROW

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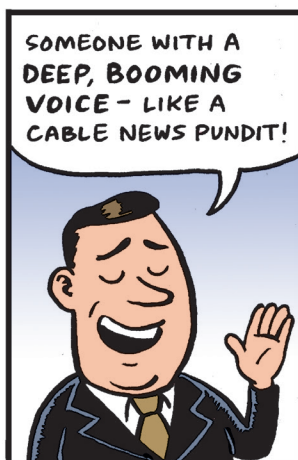


Next: an even STRANGER mystery! HOW CAN YOU IMPEACH SOMEONE WHO WON THE GREATEST ELECTION OF ALL TIME? I FIND THIS CONFOUNDING, AND I HAVE A VERY GOOD BRAIN, DON'T YOU AGREE?

IT IS DEFINITELY NOT FULL OF WORMS, SIR! WHAT?



NATTERING NOGGINS



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TOM TOMORROW © 2019

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Out of pot in Lansing

Legal medical marijuana drought keeps licensed shops shuttered

Looking for medical marijuana? Lansing might not be your best bet.

Only two dispensaries have been OK'd by the state to operate in the capital city. And neither has been able to open as an apparent shortage of medical-grade bud continues to pervade Michigan amid continued state licensing delays.

"Many patients will see their local stores close, making a hardship for sick and ill individuals," according to Rick Thompson, a founding board member at the Michigan chapter of the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws, or NORML. "Anyone with a heart or who has ever been sick knows this is bad for patients."

Homegrown Lansing, 1116 E. Oakland St., and Cannaisseur, 3200 N. East St., were the only pot shops in Lansing to net a state license in 2018. And a recent directive from state officials effectively ensured they'll remain the only local shops that can open, at least until another round of state licenses are doled out next week.

Homegrown and Cannaisseur also remained closed this week after an administrative rule previously barred them from stocking shelves with products from anywhere other than a handful of licensed processors or growing facilities. The end-result: Lansing has entered into a total and indefinite drought of medical marijuana.

A voicemail greeting at Cannaisseur indicates the shop is "unable" to find licensed products for its patients. It also urges patients to contact Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, state legislators and LARA to demand an urgent change. A sign at Homegrown points to "new guidelines regarding licensed medical marijuana facilities" without details.

And with only 29 licensed growing facilities statewide and many still months away from harvest, concerns over a shortage in the supply chain have reached a boiling point. Attorneys have long suggested that the limited number of growing facilities are simply incapable of providing an adequate supply to some 300,000 patients.

"This is not like closing a liquor store," Thompson added. "This is medicine. Treatment needs continuity in order to be effective. When these specialty medications are not available, it significantly affects the health and welfare of the people across the state. That should be a cause for concern for everyone involved."

Jeffrey Hank, marijuana advocate and co-owner of Lansing-based Edgewood Wellness, said the new state rules spelled the end of the road for his weed-related business ventures — at least "until the state gets its act together." He also apologized on Facebook to the hundreds of local patients that had relied on his expansive inventory.

Dispensaries need approval from the city and the state to operate. Edgewood Wellness, and 12 others were approved by City Clerk Chris Swope but haven't yet reached Michigan's Medical Marijuana Licensing Board for final approval. Hank also pointed blame to the state's "failure"



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

A sign on the front of Homegrown, one of the two Lansing dispensaries to get state licenses so far, explains why it is not yet open.

to process his application in a timely fashion.

The state set Dec. 31 as the deadline by which dispensaries that have yet to be fully licensed needed to close. David Harns, the spokesman for the Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Department, said the Dec. 31 deadline on temporarily operating facilities was designed to accommodate a transition from previously enacted emergency rules to more formalized guidelines. The new rules are also to be more permanent and provide clarity on restrictions that govern the entire industry, he said.

"It's been known for some time that we'd make this transition," Harns added. "We can't have some businesses playing by one set of rules, competing with businesses that follow a different set. That's just not a model for sustainable economic activity. At some point, we needed to move over to these administrative rules."

A total of 52 dispensaries have been licensed by the state to operate. It's unclear how many are open for business. Harns contended LARA has taken "great pains" for months to keep license-pending facilities open while slowly phasing into a fully regulated market. But a fair industry

See Pot, Page 6

Eye Candy OF THE WEEK



2858 Lake Lansing Road Meridian Charter Township

Rather than focusing on the current state of this building, we consider its potential, both as an individual building and as a catalyst for future development. Looking beyond the overgrowth and the "Posted" signs, the durable masonry exterior appears sound. Clad in multi-colored brick, the house is embellished with elaborately carved stone window lintels that continue around the perimeter, a two-story bay window and front porch supported by turned wood columns, leading to a tall entrance door. With a construction date in the 1880's, the home has watched the world develop around it for more than a century.

Although the future of the surrounding parcel is uncertain, a multi-building residential development has been planned for the former Walnut Hills Country Club. While a single-family residence fronting this busy road might be difficult to picture, perhaps the building could be incorporated within, to serve as a foil to the ubiquitous, over-sized residences found in cloistered contemporary subdivisions. Alternately, the building might be moved closer to the proposed subdivision entrance, where it could make a bold statement for the entry and set the tone for the new homes beyond, inspiring the new development to take its cues from this classic remnant of history.

Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

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

Creative financing eyed for performing arts center

Public-private partnership drives construction plans

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is anxious to break ground on a downtown performing arts center.

Larger cities like Grand Rapids and Detroit for decades have stolen away con-

cert crowds that might have otherwise landed in the capital city, if only it had a venue to accommodate them. Officials have long toyed with the concept of building a new stage. But financial restraints have repeatedly pushed the plans to the backburner.

But not this year. Schor, alongside his newly minted Arts and Culture Commission

and the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, are looking to move past trends set by prior city administrations. And he hopes that some “clever” financing mechanisms will ultimately allow shovels to hit the dirt on a new, downtown venue by the spring.

“It’s important for a city the size of Lansing to have its own performing arts venue,” Schor said. “We have a large popu-

lation of people here in the city who would love to bring these shows closer to home. This is something that has been worked on for at least 20 years. We’re taking a run at it as well. It’s an important asset for the city.”

Early plans call for a luxurious auditorium with an upper deck that seats 300 peo-

See Arts center, Page 7

Pot

from page 5

requires fair and enforceable restrictions, he said.

For LARA, that meant every unlicensed applicant was advised to stop selling pot immediately in 2019. Recently signed legislation will make those unlicensed operations criminal after June 1. The directive from LARA isn’t criminally enforceable but

threatens to curtail the licensing process for rogue applicants that continue business.

Thompson said the industry is predicated on servicing sick people — and that mentality needs to take precedence over any administrative concerns. He urged Whitmer’s administration to take action through an executive order but labeled that maneuver as “highly unlikely” amid other, possibly more pressing priorities.

As for the perceived shortage of options in Lansing? Harns said that sounds like a “local question.” The state board can only

license facilities that receive direct approval from their local municipalities. Lansing ordinances call for 20 dispensaries to be licensed in the first round of applications; Swope has only OK’d 13 local shops.

With locally denied shops pursuing ordinance-sanctioned license appeals, those remaining seven licenses might need to wait until March, Swope said. Meanwhile, his office announced last month it was accepting applications for five more licenses — then turned around last week and put that process on hold until appeals are resolved.

Most approved applicants have vacant storefronts, but Swope maintained that patient access remains a priority. The goal, he said in a recent release, is to “provide the best service to their patients and safety to our neighborhoods, while employing workers at a fair wage, and bringing an influx of long-term investment to Lansing.”

Rushing through the process would only create legal and logistical challenges, he added.

“We don’t have a timeline,” Swope said. “We’re just working through the applications. There’s obviously a whole process with the licenses with the state. Some (applicants) haven’t moved forward with the state. Others have been denied. We’ve had some ready to go and then they’ve been turned down by the licensing board.”

Swope also noted some recent state denials for marijuana businesses “sounded questionable,” shifting blame back to state officials. The politically appointed state board — with three Republicans and two

Democrats — has been widely criticized for what some believe to be an unfair level of scrutiny when reviewing applications.

Thompson points to dozens of state applicants he claims have been rejected licenses for “trivial” reasons. Perhaps most notably, former Detroit Lions players Calvin Johnson and Rob Sims were denied a dispensary license last month in part because of minor, unpaid traffic tickets that Johnson had accrued while visiting family in Georgia.

Continued troubles with the licensing board’s discretion are also part of the reason Proposal One to legalize recreational marijuana specifically sought to eliminate a formal board approval process for eventual applicants, Thompson added. He also believes the Whitmer administration will continue to oppose a board-centric process.

It’s still unclear, however, how the licensing process will unfold under new state leadership. Whitmer hasn’t spoken much on the topic but she told the Detroit Free Press that one body could eventually oversee both the medical and recreational licensing process. She also recognized past “mistakes” within the existing system.

“I want to make sure we have all the facts and work with the attorney general on that too,” she told the Free Press. “One of the biggest mistakes we made in 2008 when we passed medical marijuana is that there were never rules promulgated, and that’s what led to such a disparate system. And I don’t want to make that mistake again.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

Sealed bids marked **S/19/055, ABANDONED VEHICLES** will be accepted at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 1232 Haco Dr, Lansing Mi. 48912 until but no later than, **1:00 PM**, local time in effect **WED. Jan. 16, 2019**

Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Stephanie Robinson, Buyer, at (517) 702-6197 or email: stephanie.robinson@lansingcitypulse.com - 30day notice.

Vehicles may be inspected **WED. JAN. 16, 2019**, as follows:

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Swift Towing, 2347 N. Cedar Holt, MI 48842	9:15am
H&H Towing, 2818 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI	10:00am
Northside Towing, 226 Russell, Lansing, MI	10:45am

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Slotkin checks off campaign promises in first week

Nancy Pelosi is back as U.S. House speaker and it's not because new U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Holly, voted for her.

Fresh on the job last week, Slotkin upheld her campaign promise to not support the California Democrat by being one of two House Democrats to vote "present" on the question of speaker. In total, 15 Democrats didn't support Pelosi through various other votes.

Fellow new Rep. Anthony Brindisi actually voted for former Vice President Joe Biden, which he could do. While House speakers traditionally have been members, the Constitution doesn't require that to be the case.

The vote kicked off a busy first few days on the job and will continue after noon on Jan. 13, when Slotkin holds a public swearing-in ceremony at the Lansing Center.

Republican consultants took their shots at Slotkin for her first vote. The spokesperson for former U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop, the man she beat in November, said voting "present" isn't new leadership.

"It's chickening out," tweeted Stu Sandler, adding in a later tweet. "She

mised voters."

But for Slotkin, the writing was on the wall. Pelosi had the votes within the Democratic conference to be speaker. Nobody else was stepping forward as a viable option. She wasn't going to support Republican leader Kevin McCarthy.

It's presumed Pelosi gave Slotkin a pass on the vote when the two met. Slotkin needed to separate herself from Pelosi when running in Michigan's traditionally Republican 8th District. The GOP would eviscerate Slotkin in 2020 if she flip-flopped on her first congressional vote.

"It's important that for my very first vote to stick with my integrity," Slotkin told *The Detroit News*. "My voters reinforced this when I was home for the Christmas break."

The Pelosi vote was just the start for Slotkin. With part of the federal government shut over the border wall standoff, Slotkin took the unusual step of donating her congressional salary to the Alzheimer's Association until the shutdown ends. She joins 48 other members, according to a *Washington Post* story that featured Slotkin prominently.

"As a former federal employee who was personally responsible for managing the furloughing of hundreds of personnel

at the Department of Defense, due to sequestration and then due to a 17-day Government shutdown, I have seen up close the damage that a Government shutdown has on the mission of our Federal departments and the morale of Federal personnel," Slotkin wrote to Congress Chief Administrative Officer Phil Kiko.

On another issue, remember when Slotkin said during the campaign that the first bill she wanted to introduce would be on campaign finance reform?

Friday, Slotkin stood up with Pelosi and dozens of her House Democratic colleagues in support of HR 1, which was described in Roll Call as a "hodgepodge of policies Democrats have long promoted," such getting "dark money" out of politics and stronger ethics laws.

Slotkin didn't get to sponsor the measure, but she giddily posted a video of her going to the Capitol press conference announcing its introduction.

Of course, that's not what folks were talking about last Friday. That happened to be fellow Michigan freshman Rashida Tlaib, who said at a MoveOn.org rally that the House was going to "impeach the motherfucker" in reference to President Donald Trump.

CNN put Slotkin on air to talk about two issues: First, her thoughts on impeaching Trump, which she wasn't necessarily gung-ho about during the campaign, and the use of the F-bomb. Here's what she said:

"I want to understand what the (special counsel) Bob Mueller report is going to say. I'm a big believer in Bob Mueller. When he was FBI director, I was a baby CIA analyst. I have a lot of respect for him. I want to read his report and then we'll see what we're dealing with."

"In terms of the language, I just can't support that kind of language. We're trying to set an example for our kids. Some of the tenor and the tone that the president has set has been fundamentally unbecoming and I don't think it helps us to respond in kind."

In terms of living up to another campaign promise, Slotkin is listing on her congressional webpage a Lansing office, something Mike Bishop took a lot of heat around town for abandoning when he took office.

The address is listed as 1100 W. Saginaw St. Suite 3A in Lansing, which is on the corner of Saginaw and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on property next door to Sparrow Hospital's St. Lawrence campus.

Melinn, an editor of the Capitol news service MIRS, is at melinnky@gmail.com.

Arts center

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ple, with flexible seating for up to 1,200 on the ground floor. The location is far from finalized, but officials agreed: It needs to be downtown. Space could also be created there for the Lansing Public Media Center, small retail shops and an attached hotel.

But how can Lansing afford to build a performing arts center that's estimated to tally as high as \$40 million to \$50 million? The short answer: It can't. Officials said other items (like fixes for crumbling roads) almost always take priority.

But exploratory plans for a public-private partnership might allow Lansing to dodge the bill altogether.

Dominic Cochran, the city's director of community media, said officials don't want to build a city-managed facility. They're instead exploring plans for a public-private partnership that would leverage public access fees against a multi-million-dollar bond for new construction. And he said an unnamed developer could help cover the rest.

"We also want to collaborate with the symphony or create a standalone nonprofit to manage the whole operation," Cochran added. "We could bond against that steady flow of income. It can be used as seed money. That helps cover the performing arts and media center portions, but it'll save

costs on the whole thing."

One unique source of revenue would likely be the small portion of fees local cable TV subscribers pay for access that includes a few cents each to the city for the Lansing Public Media Center. Those fees — known as public, education and government fees — total to about \$350,000 annually and can only be used for infrastructure to enhance public access programming, Cochran said.

Over the years, those funds have swelled to about \$1.6 million, with \$200,000 projected to be retained this fiscal year, according to city records. If the Media Center were to move into a freshly built performing arts facility downtown, those PEG fees could eventually be allocated to help cover the costs. And the city could then use the fees to cover a \$4 million to \$5 million construction bond, Schor said.

"We've had at least three different entities approach us about creating a performing arts center," Schor said. "We're open to all of them. They all have different financial challenges and we're figuring out how we can do this reasonably and affordably for everyone. We're putting together finance deals and that can be complicated."

Cochran also suggested that the city subsidy — depending on how the plans come to fruition — could eventually be eliminated altogether. Schor said some part of the annual fees could also be paid as rent for the media center and be allocated toward infrastructure costs. The fees could also be leveraged in "other ways."

"It seems that with any of the ideas on the table, it's going to need to be a moneymaker for someone," Cochran added. "There's this multi-use possibility that might not even have it subsidized at all. A nonprofit could just create an endowment, and we have this pot of money we could use. We'd want to maximize revenues there."

Consultants are working with the city on the best governance models and business plans, Cochran said. The end-result could also look similar to a public-private hybrid like the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority, but "all options" are still on the table as the plans continued to be hammered out this week, he said.

Only Jeff Deehan at Urban Systems has been identified as a possible developer to partner on the project. He couldn't be reached for comment, but Cochran confirmed his involvement and suggested the project could total to "easily over \$100 million" when factoring in a parking ramp and other mixed-use amenities in the building.

Of course, city subsidies from the PEG fees couldn't be used for the more luxurious portions, he emphasized.

"We plan on moving as quickly as any of the developers that would want to work with us," Cochran said. "We don't want to be the stick in the mud here. We're in the process with the consultant, but that shouldn't take more than a couple months. I'd say we're really looking to move quickly on this one."

Lansing Symphony Orchestra Executive

Director Courtney Millbrook said a "key component" of the plan involves the governance structure that will eventually oversee the operation. She's hopeful a partnership with the right nonprofit will bolster orchestra performances beyond the walls of the Wharton Center in East Lansing.

"Before the Wharton was built, we were performing in high schools in East Lansing," Millbrook added. "It'd be nice to have a home closer to the downtown area. Wharton is fantastic, but it'd be nice to have more than one option. Also, with the availability, it can sometimes be hard to get dates for performances and rehearsals."

Cochran said new space, with an estimated 1,500 seats, would also fill a gap in the entertainment market. Broadway performances like "The Lion King" can fill the Wharton's Great Hall, but the theater is often too large for others. And the 585 seats in Wharton's Pasant Hall can sometimes be too cramped for mid-ranged talent.

"People are still driving across the state on a weekly basis to find these shows," Cochran added. "If we're going to be a part of the talent part of that equation in Lansing, that's not going to happen without a performing arts center. This option offers a middle ground and won't really compete with any of the existing facilities."

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for continued coverage as plans for a performing arts center continue to advance.

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com



‘We’re a living organism’

New harp concerto makes music history in Lansing

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

An instrument that’s over 5,000 years old is about to speak in a new voice.

Friday night, the Lansing Symphony will take part in the multi-city premiere of a new concerto by one of the world’s foremost classical composers, Jennifer Higdon, performed by the most formidable harpist in the world, Yolanda Kondonassis.

This stellar convergence could have happened in Chicago, L.A. or New York, but local bragging rights are not the point. These two women are on a mission.

Against steep odds, Higdon is body-checking Bach, Beethoven and Brahms to become a vital presence on the world’s concert halls, to the tune of some 500 performances a year.

A fearsome, athletic harpist, Kondonassis is out to demolish her instrument’s genteel image, even if she has to commission new music to do it.

Here is a closer look at the unique personalities involved, the nuts and bolts of making harp sausage, and how Lansing got a piece of the action.

Stuck with a mystery

People come up to Jennifer Higdon after concerts, often in tears. They email and write her surprisingly personal letters. With a Pulitzer Prize and several Grammys on the shelf, Higdon is at the top of her craft as a composer, but what grabs people about her music is that she has something to say.

Higdon’s “Blue Cathedral” is one of the most frequently performed new works in the world since its 2000 premiere. Between 20 and 40 orchestras perform it each year, an astonishing record for a contemporary piece.

“People look to music to reflect different aspects of their lives,” Higdon said. “We are all going through the same experiences — life, death, agony, falling in love.”

There’s a killer moment in “Blue Cathedral” when a flute pops into the mix. That lilt is the essence of Higdon, who was a flutist in her youth. A bit later, a clarinet joins in, representing her younger brother, Andrew Blue, who died of cancer before the piece was finished. Flute and clarinet briefly flit together. Too soon, tolling bells push the music on, into the unknown.

“I was trying to decide whether life was going to be about living or about dying,” Higdon told Hugh Sung in a YouTube interview a few years ago.

You can hear her choose life when a strange trumpet fanfare shudders from below, like an attempted suicide pulled out of an icy river and covered by a blanket.

Even if you don’t know the music’s backstory, its emotional power is the same. How does that work? If the composer herself doesn’t know, we’re stuck with a mystery — and she doesn’t know.

“How do you explain the feeling part of it?” Higdon mused. “It is really hard to explain, when something moves you — why, it moves you.”

The classics aren’t the only, or even the biggest, influence on Higdon’s music. Her dad, an experimental film-maker and short story writer, was into folk and rock. Higdon still counts the Beatles as her biggest influence.

At Bowling Green State University, where Higdon studied



Courtesy Michael Cavotta Studios

Yolanda Kondonassis adds shock and awe to her instrument’s softer qualities: “The harp doesn’t have to be stuck in this confined area of prettiness.”

flute, she struggled to keep up with classical music history, plugging holes in her knowledge as she went along.

A turning point came when a teacher asked her to write a two-minute piece for flute and piano, which she called “Night Creatures.”

Instead of stress, Higdon found liberation. She thought of Johannes Brahms, who sweated bullets over writing a symphony — and almost never did — because Beethoven, Haydn and all the other greats were looking over his shoulder.

“Not knowing everything that came before was a blessing,” Higdon said. “I found my own voice. I didn’t get intimidated by masterpiece syndrome.”

Boxes of bells

A child of the pop era in more ways than one, Higdon drinks a lot of Diet Coke, with caffeine, while composing.

“People hear my pieces and say, ‘Just how much Diet

Coke do you drink?’” she laughed. “My brain is wired to turn over ideas faster. Timing, knowing when to make a color change, the need for a clear pulse — I got all that from pop music.”

When the Lansing Symphony’s Timothy Muffitt conducts Higdon’s music, he can sense the audience leaning in — an exhilarating feeling for conductors who are used to spoon feeding new music in castor oil doses to resistant listeners.

“She’s not just filling space or trying to get from Point A to Point B,” Muffitt said. “I feel like her works grow organically from her own being.”

Unlike most composers, Higdon publishes her own music and owns the copyrights. In the ‘90s, before print on demand, she printed and bound them herself. She credits minimalist composer Philip Glass for advising her to own

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her own music when she was a student.

It was a leap of self-faith at first. Few mortals make a living as a composer these days, or any days. “Mozart tried to self-publish, get a subscription series going, but he couldn’t get enough people to sign on,” Higdon said.

She was lucky to get one order a month at first, “usually from someone I knew.” Now she averages four or five orders a day, mostly from orchestras.

Muffitt shakes his head at numbers like that.

“It’s amazing, and so exciting, that our living composers are getting that much exposure,” he said.

Higdon gets most of her income from publishing, freeing her to write more and teach less. She is proud of the life she’s earned for herself, but doesn’t take it for granted.

“The night before we read through ‘Blue Cathedral’ for the first time, I was pretty sure it wasn’t going to work,” she said. “I was convinced it was going to be a failure. I feel like I’m not a very good judge of this stuff.”

Beyond Blah-blah-ville

Yolanda Kondonassis first heard Jennifer Higdon’s music a dozen years ago, while waiting backstage to play a concert. She was doing her usual warm-up routine, hopping and stretching to get the blood moving, when the music blew backward from the orchestra like a hot breeze. She stopped in her tracks.

“I heard this new sound and knew she could do really cool things with the harp,” Kondonassis said.

Kondonassis searches for the next great harp adventure the way Captain Ahab scans the horizon for Moby Dick. “There’s nothing wrong with a brunch wedding, but that’s not what I do,” she said. For her, the traditional French and Romantic stuff for harp is a “guilty pleasure” at best.

“No dis on them, but it’s not what gets my whole body buzzing and tingling,” she said.

And that’s not all she doesn’t do.

“I’ll probably tick off a lot of people with this, but before I go somewhere, they always want me to sit in my car, or in a practice room, and make a video,” she said, imitating social-media gush: “Hey, I’m really looking forward to coming to Blah-blah-ville and I can’t wait to try their new restaurant, Urban 21!”



Courtesy Michael Cavotta Studios

Kondonassis rehearses the Higdon concerto with the Rochester Philharmonic and conductor Ward Stare in May 2018. Lansing is one of six cities to commission the concerto, which premieres here Friday.

Slowly, promoters are getting the idea that she’s not interested.

“I believe in presenting an art form, so people feel they are getting something that’s not tied to branding and imaging,” she said. “We get so diffused trying to cover all these bases we forget what the hell we’re doing — the art part.”

The art part was on fire at the Lansing Symphony’s previous brush with Kondonassis, in 2011, when she and Muffitt played the hell out of the prickly, Latin-tinged, quasi-modernist harp concerto by Argentine composer Alberto Ginastera. It’s still her signature work.

Impressed with Muffitt’s musicianship, Kondonassis approached the maestro with a proposition.

Would Lansing be willing to join a multi-city consortium of orchestras, pool their resources and commission a new work by Higdon?

“Tim is a blast,” Kondonassis said. “Jennifer’s music is very complex. You need a traffic cop at the podium in addition to a wonderful musician, and Tim is both. You need to be able to look up for a split second and know where ‘one’ is, where ‘three’ is.”

To Muffitt, it was a “no-brainer.”

“This is one way for an orchestra that isn’t the New York Philharmonic or the Boston Symphony to have a really significant impact on the direction of music,” he said.

Kondonassis has another Michigan connection. She chose to devote her life to the harp, and not the piano, after learning the Ginastera concerto at Interlochen, where she studied four years.

“Michigan is like a second home to me,” she said.

Kondonassis signed up five more orchestras — Harrisburg, Rochester, Fargo-Moorhead, Oklahoma City and Baton Rouge, where Muffitt serves his other music director gig.

With the principals and funding in place, all they had to do now was get a concerto.

Rocking out

After almost eight years of back and forth schedule jockeying, Kondonassis and Higdon finally spent a day together in Philadelphia.

They talked about life, music, politics. They grabbed a practice room at the Curtis Institute, where Higdon teaches. They borrowed a harp from the music department and settled in for an unusual master class — one master to another.

“I played for her for three or four hours, everything I knew,” Kondonassis said.

When it came to breaking the harp out of brunch wedding purgatory, they were on the same page.

“I felt like too many composers had written namby-pamby music for the harp. The harp can be pretty powerful, much more rock and roll-ish,” Higdon said. “I wanted to up the ante and give it some serious material.”

Higdon took out one of her ubiquitous notepads. She had a lot to learn about what was and wasn’t possible.

“She showed me about the hands, the pedals,” Higdon said. “Most people don’t know that harpists only play with four fingers. They don’t play with their pinky, ever.”

Despite her strong ideas about what works best for the



Into the harp-o-sphere

Harp is materializing in music well outside the classical world, including tracks by Britney Spears, Lady Gaga, Björk and Yoko Ono.

Here’s a sampler of recent picks, followed by a look back at some great non-classical harp moments.

Joanna Newsom – “Have One On Me” (2010), “Divers” (2015)

The arrestingly sculpted voice, steely fingers and mysterious lyrics of composer-vocalist-harpist Joanna Newsom grab you like ice tongs made of light. With one foot in the delicate world of indie rockers like Sufjan Stevens and the other in a muddy William Faulkner swamp, Newsom uses her classical training on the harp as a means, not an end, the way April uses rain.

Mary Lattimore, “Hundreds of Days” (2018); Meg Baird and Mary Lattimore, “Ghost Forests” (2018)

Mary Lattimore’s “Hundreds of Days” evokes both cradle and grave in one breath, juxtaposing a prickly, sticky harp sound with spectral synthesizers and percussion. In “Ghost Forests,” Lattimore and vocalist Meg Baird layer a gritty haze of harp atmospherics over fuzzy guitars and hypnotic vocals.

Jeff Majors, “For Us All” (1986; reissued 2018)

Jeff Majors trained in harp with the great Alice Coltrane and moved from jazz to gospel in the 1980s. “For Us All” is a unique fusion of trance, gospel, electronics and the Bible — cheesy, corny and uplifting all at once. Last year it was finally re-issued, complete with a harp-dusted covers of the Beatles’ “Let it Be” and the Gershwins’ “Summertime.”

More great moments in harp-dom

Dorothy Ashby, “In a Minor Groove” (1958, reissued 1992)

Ashby’s light touch turns the harp into a bright be-bop butterfly — a blue morpho with a light case of the blues. She leads a nimble quartet, with Frank Wess on flute, in this unusual and generous set that makes you wish more harpists gave jazz a try.

Alice Coltrane, “Journey in Satchidananda” (1970)

The psychedelic, spiritual jazz of harpist Alice Coltrane rises like incense in this classic album that takes the ecstasy jazz of John Coltrane, to whom she was married, in a completely different direction. For a dose of straighter-ahead jazz, hear Coltrane’s harp cascade over an all-star combo in pianist McCoy Tyner’s 1973 album

“Expansions.”

Yolanda Kondonassis, “Air” (2008) “Ginastera: 100” (2018)

Yolanda Kondonassis has recorded several adventurous albums in between a few “relaxing” ones that probably help pay the bills. “Air” is a Grammy-winning set of compositions by Toru Takemitsu and Claude Debussy; “Ginastera: 100” is indispensable for Kondonassis’ committed performance of Ginastera’s Harp Concerto, her signature work.



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harp, Kondonassis resisted the urge to check in on Higdon for a long time.

"That artistic process is important to respect," Kondonassis said. "You don't want to get into somebody's head."

'Thank you, Jennifer'

Now it was down to Higdon and her muse. She worked at her computer, surrounded by notepads full of musical sketches.

"There are days when there's nothing there," she said. "I keep writing because I know I have to move the work forward. Sometimes in my third or fourth hour of writing, a little bolt of inspiration might come up."

A grand piano at her back is connected to the computer via a Midi keyboard. In front of her is the latest can of Diet Coke.

It took a few dozen of them to make a harp concerto coalesce.

"Giving it enough material to make it interesting to listen to, and obey the physics of what a harp can do — that's a lot of thinking and daydreaming and crossing stuff out," Higdon said.

When the concerto was almost done, Higdon sent the harpist a few sketches — her first taste of the music — asking whether the fast parts were playable.

Kondonassis excitedly made iPhone videos of herself playing the bits in question.

"I can do it as fast as you want," she wrote Higdon.

As soon as the score arrived, Kondonassis started working it out for the first time on the harp — usually the most painful, fraught and potentially disappointing part of the process.

She found that Higdon had learned the instrument very well.

Taking a break from practice, she texted the composer.

"I always talk to myself when I do this, and this is the first time I've used language suitable for my daughter to hear," she wrote. "This is awesome. Thank you, Jennifer."

Weeks later, when Muffitt read the score, the maestro's ear heard a voice he hadn't heard yet from Higdon. Somehow, the composer turned the orchestra into a giant harp.



Courtesy Michael Cavotta Studios

Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon (center) and harpist Yolanda Kondonassis huddle after the May 2018 premiere of Higdon's harp concerto with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

"All the movements contain very elaborate interlocking structures, which, I'm guessing, are inspired by the harp, because the harp can produce those kinds of musical structures with great clarity," Muffitt said.

"I feel like a lot of the orchestral writing, even if the harp isn't playing, is harp inspired."

The music even starts with the harp playing alone, for a minute or so.

"It's a way for us all to get in the zone," Kondonassis said. "A lot of people just haven't heard the harp."

She described the second movement, 'Joy Ride,' as a "kick in the pants," and the fourth movement, "Lullaby," as an "ode to the wonder of childhood."

"I'm certain I waxed on ad nauseam about my daughter, who I'm in love with," Kondonassis said. The movement is a unique latticework of solos from various instruments and Kondonassis' harp, with no orchestral blasts.

The last movement, "Rap Knock," begins with Kondonassis knocking on the frame of the harp and launches into "very fast, technical passagework and general chaos."

"I'm a closet percussionist anyway," Kondonassis said.

Coda

This might seem like a lot of fuss over 25 minutes of music, but Friday's premiere is a not just a high note for Lansing and for its plucky orchestra. Vital signs like this make it harder and harder to dismiss classical music as a hospice case.

Muffitt is amazed that Friday marks the second big premiere in as many LSO concerts.

"We're a living, breathing organism," Muffitt said.

Last month, the orchestra premiered an eloquent concerto for trombone and orchestra by MSU composer David Biedenbender.

"These are not dinky little three-minute pieces," Muffitt said. "The response to David's piece was fantastic. It's like — we're not apologizing for doing this. I feel like our community is right there with us, and this is part of our identity as an orchestra."

Higdon thinks they "pulled it off," but don't ask her how. "I still find composing a mystery, even though I do it every day," Higdon said. "It's like, 'Where is this stuff coming from?' It seems a little magical."

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with smiles
and laughter.

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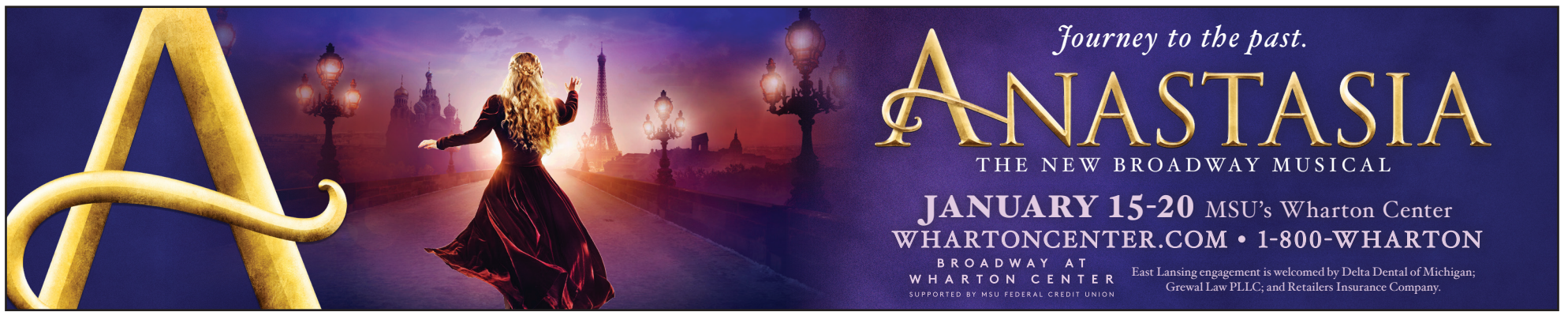
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Wahler steps down as Broad Museum director

'Very difficult decision;' search begins immediately

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Marc-Olivier Wahler, the soft-spoken, slyly subversive director of MSU's Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, has stepped down.

A serious illness in Wahler's family has kept his attention in recent months, leading to rumors of his departure as early as last fall. His last official day was Jan. 3.

Wahler plans to stay in Paris, where his wife is awaiting a liver transplant, for the foreseeable future.

"I took a leave, but we don't have the transplant yet, so I need to stay here," he said. "It was a very difficult decision."

The museum's board of advisers will meet Thursday to begin the process of picking a new director.

Wahler came to the Broad in July 2016, succeeding Broad Museum founding director Michael Rush, who died in March 2015.

"I'll miss so many things," Wahler said. "The staff is fantastic, and I want to praise them all. I even love the Broad cafeteria. You get a good cup there."

Wahler brought a feeling of serious play to the Broad. He ran a full program of about 30 shows a year at the Broad, from regional and national to international artists.

He singled out "The Hidden World," a wild collection of multi-media work by Michigan artists and punk rockers Mike Kelley and Jim Shaw, as a highlight of his tenure.

"I was really happy because it was about Michigan," Wahler said. "Going back to the '60s and '70s and '80s, having all these peo-



Wahler outside of Broad Museum.

ple that were close to Mike and Jim coming to the museum, brought all this energy. Michigan is a very special place."

ArtForum called the Shaw exhibit "a breathtaking and expansive journey through the myths and beliefs of America."

Wahler often called contemporary art "mental hygiene," a way to cut through media filters and established ruts of thinking.

He hit the ground running with his first major exhibit, "The Transported Man," a mischievous riff on Wahler's self-styled magician persona. He gave his opening talk for the show from the belly of a live alligator, via video trickery.

At the Broad, as in his 2006-2012 gig as

director of Palais de Tokyo in Paris, Wahler loved to duck under the velvet rope dividing high and low culture.

He often compared art to a magic trick — a painting, picture or sculpture appears, then disappears as a physical object, and reappears as "art."

Taking over the entire museum for several weeks, "The Transported Man" ran the gamut from a jaw-dropping upside-down, life-sized elephant sculpture by Daniel Firman to a tent full of real, flashing fireflies. In a typical Wahler touch, a bug zapper was included in the exhibit, along with the flies.

While at the Broad, Wahler jumped at the chance to work with MSU artists, scientists and researchers in every field from music to

astronomy, education, agriculture, African studies and dozens of other fields.

"That was one of my main motivations in coming to East Lansing," he said. "It took a year and a half to really get to know the people, the projects that were possible, and we were starting some amazing projects. That's what I'll miss, because that's unique."

Seeking to soften the museum's bunkered appearance and overcome community skepticism toward the Broad, Wahler got a \$1 million grant to jump over Grand River Avenue and start the ArtLab, a venue for community activities, outreach and temporary exhibits.

The ArtLab only launched in the fall, but Wahler said early feedback has been encouraging, as people wander in off the street and find out what's going on.

"I'm convinced that this space will change the cultural landscape in Lansing," he said. "For those who think contemporary art is hard to accept, or think it's not for them, having a building that looks like a shark that will eat you is a little intimidating."

Wahler is not making any professional plans for now, but he has been asked to participate in several projects, including an arts center due to open in Paris in 2021. "People are calling me to curate shows, but I don't want to make any plans until September," he said.

True to form, "The Transported Man" is hanging on to his sense of humor, even in trying times.

"Maybe this is part of my first performance at the Broad, when I was swallowed by an alligator," he said. "I always reappear somewhere, and that's the trick of magic."

New web series to dramatize Lansing LGBTQ community

By SKYLER ASHLEY

"This is our mainstream. These are our stories."

Sav Smith and Stephanie Onderchanin are producing a web series centered on the drama and lives of Lansing's east-side neighborhood LGBTQIA community.

"Such Busy Queers"

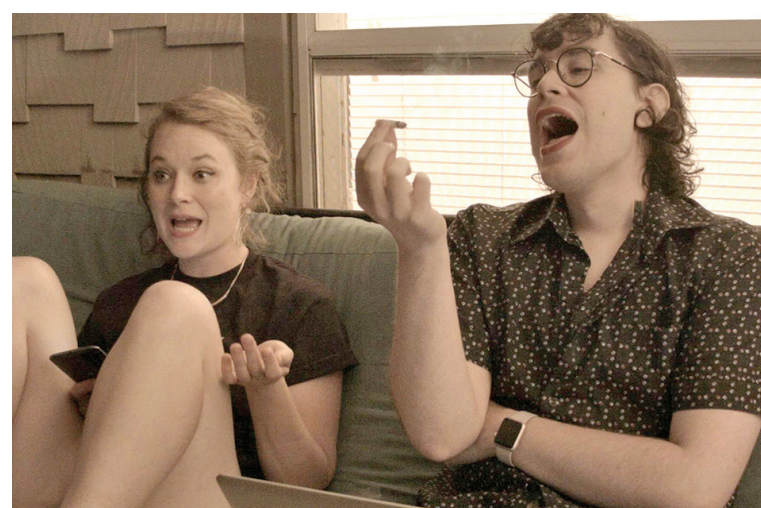
Benefit Show

Suggested donation: \$5-\$15
7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 10
The Avenue Café
2021 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
www.avenuecafelansing.com
(517) 492-7403

launched on IndieGoGo and a benefit show is booked to crowdfund the first season's completion.

While a romantic relationship didn't bloom after the two met through the dating app Tinder, a creative one certainly did. Smith, a musician and filmmaker, and Onderchanin, a standup comedian, spent a lot of time talking about producing an online show similar to HBO's "High Maintenance" — a string of vignettes about the customers of a marijuana delivery service. They agreed upon the anthological presentation and took a stab at exploring their own community.

Enter "Such Busy Queers," a six-episode, fictional mini-series written by the pair based on their experiences with the people they've befriended in Lansing. The first season takes viewers into a single neighbor-



(Left) Stephanie Onderchanin and Julia Rodriguez in a still from "Such Busy Queers."

See Busy, Page 12

Courtesy photo

'Bolero' and beyond

Romanian orchestra stops at Wharton on first U.S. tour

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Lovemaking should linger; catastrophes ought to be quick. That's how conductor Cristian Măcelaru sees Ravel's hypnotic, horrific masterpiece, "Bolero."

National Symphony Orchestra of Romania

6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13
Wharton Center
Cobb Great Hall
\$29 and up
(517) 432-2000

"A seductive dance begins as a thought, turns into reality and leads to complete destruction," he said. "It maintains a dreamlike state all the way to the end, and then becomes a nightmare."

You'll never hear a rote performance from Măcelaru, 38, and the youthful National Symphony Orchestra of Romania, due to arrive at the Wharton Center Sunday.

It's the first time any Romanian orchestra has toured the United States, part of a year long celebration of the country's 1918 unification.

The musicians — most of whom are younger than the maestro — perform with a folk-inflected, heady spice that steamed up from a small Central European country in the 20th century, slipped under the lid of Communist rule and exerted a disproportionate influence on music around the world.

You expect that spice to explode from Georges Enescu's "Romanian Rhapsody," leading off the bill Sunday, but it also works wonders for Richard Strauss, Tchaikovsky and Ravel.

"In 'Bolero,' you can play what's on the page, but that's a 2-D representation," Măcelaru said. "The melodies have a sensual element between the notes. There's a pulse and a groove that creates this inevitability of going someplace you don't want

to go!"

Măcelaru likened the orchestra to a rock band that plays for fun between meat-and-potatoes gigs. The group started 10 years ago as a youth ensemble, along the lines of Venezuela's famous Simon Bolivar Orchestra. By now, the earliest cohorts are in their early 30s, but they had such a great time getting together that they still come together once a month or so to do a tour, a festival, a CD or some other project.

"Being together with your friends, when you know it's only for a week or 10 days — it's a huge difference in how the music is made when you really want to be there," Măcelaru said.

The tour also gives Măcelaru a rare chance to be the oldest person in the room. Usually, he's herding the greatest orchestras in the world, like the New York Philharmonic or the Chicago Symphony, where he got a big break substituting for an ailing Pierre Boulez in 2012.

"It's just boundless energy, this feeling of excitement that's infectious," he said. "It's also like a high school reunion, nostalgic and warm."

Măcelaru has enjoyed a stunningly fast ride to the world's top orchestral podiums, from Berlin and Rotterdam to Los Angeles, London and Philadelphia, where he now lives, and it all began with a 1997 scholarship to Interlochen in northern Michigan.

Not only did the scholarship get Măcelaru out of Romania, where international opportunities were limited, but it also turned his life upside down. Măcelaru came to Interlochen as a violinist, but a remarkable conducting teacher, John Ross, had other notions.

"Conducting was the furthest thing from my mind," Măcelaru said. "I discovered conducting as a great art form and a way I could express myself."



Courtesy David Swanson

The youthful National Symphony Orchestra of Romania and its 38-year-old maestro, Cristian Măcelaru, hit the Wharton Center for the first time ever Sunday.

Măcelaru's mission on the American tour is to explore the cross-currents linking Romanian music, represented by beloved native son Georges Enescu, with the music of Romania's heavyweight neighbors, France, Germany and Russia.

Criss-crossing armies trampled back and forth across central Europe in the 20th century, with tragic consequences, but Romania's central location also turned it into a musical melting pot with influence out of proportion to its size. Add rich folk traditions to the mix and it's no wonder Romanian musicians have been welcomed around the world.

"In every orchestra I go to, from the Berlin Philharmonic to smaller orchestras, I always meet Romanian musicians," Măcelaru said. "It astonishes me because it's not a terribly big country. So many of them have managed to make lives and careers outside of Romania and I wanted to show some of that."

The orchestra took the cultural cross-

roads theme to extremes Friday by joining forces with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in New York to play a major opus by Măcelaru's friend and frequent collaborator, Wynton Marsalis.

Marsalis' Symphony No. 4, "The Jungle," is a huge, densely layered portrait of New York City, blending jazz and classical music. The massive first movement, cut from the symphony's premiere in 2016 for length, got its world premiere Friday.

It added a layer of complexity to the tour, but Măcelaru couldn't resist the opportunity.

"It's a way for us to understand jazz, American folklore, and open the way to a collaboration with arguably the greatest artist alive, in both the jazz and classical fields," Măcelaru said. "The thought of our two groups being together on the same stage, performing music written by Wynton — who would have thought of that a few years ago? But crazy things happen like that."

Busy

from page 11

hood; telling the stories of its inhabitants one house at a time. The first two episodes focus on Smith's character, who's just moved back to Lansing to stay with their sibling, Mariya.

"Each episode is about a different house and a different set of characters," Smith said. "Eventually through telling each isolated story, you get crossover from people going to each other's houses and being a part of the same community."

The cast of "Such Busy Queers" comprises Smith, Onderchanin and several Lansing locals playing semi-fictionalized versions of themselves.

"We gave all the actors the option to either make up a name, or use their own. Most people just chose to be themselves," Smith said.

"It's a story about the communities we exist in," Onderchanin added. "We made an intentional effort to find participants who are not prioritized in media representation."

While a show like "High Maintenance" takes place in the sprawling metro area of New York City, "Such Busy Queers" is strictly Lansing. Smith said the decision to keep the sets small gives the show a stronger, intimate connection between the viewer and the characters — making it a more accurate representation of the real life friendships it's based on.

Another vital aspect of a show like "Such Busy Queers" is simply its ability to accu-

rately depict the trials faced by members of LGBTQIA communities. Smith recalls feeling isolated by a lack of familiar characters or stories during her time as a film student at Michigan State University.

"I think it took me a lot longer to find the words to describe myself, because there was a lack of representation," Smith said. "I just wasn't presented with the things that I needed to know. I just didn't have the vocabulary."

Smith added that the goal wasn't to create a show filled with cliché LGBTQIA narratives often shoehorned into larger shows as one of many subplots.

"That's just normalizing queer and trans people of color. None of the storylines in the show are like, 'Oh, this trans person just found out they're trans!'" Smith said. "Instead it's just, 'This is a trans person, this is what their life is like, these are their friends and this is what they do.'"

"There's a lot of people who are not represented and are surrounded by media that doesn't represent them, or poorly portrays them," Onderchanin added.

Onderchanin hopes the series can expand beyond Lansing by generating more online interest — hopefully attracting the funding necessary to shoot a higher budget production. The IndieGoGo campaign, which is just around \$1,000 shy of its \$4,000 goal, should receive an extra push from Thursday's benefit show.

"There's a lot of brilliant people who don't have the means to make stuff, so please support their work because it needs to be made," Onderchanin said.

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

Flint water crisis doctor, MC5 guitarist among Michigan Notables

By BILL CASTANIER

It's no coincidence that three Michigan Notable Book-recognized authors, Richard Ford, Michael Zadoorian and Josh Malerman, had their work turned into movies this past year.

The film adaptation of Malerman's 2014 apocalyptic novel, "Bird Box," starring Sandra Bullock and John Malkovich, is crushing the ratings on Netflix. Zadoorian, a Royal Oak native, also hit the big time with his novel "The Leisure Seeker," starring Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland, which follows an aging couple on their final cross-country trip. The Pulitzer Prize-winning Ford also had one of his early books, "Wildlife," adapted for the screen this year.

Ford once cautioned me not to measure an author's worth by whether a book is made into a movie. Case in point: It took more than three decades for "A Confederacy of Dunces" to become a movie.

Another of Zadoorian's books made the 2019 Michigan Notable Book list, "Beautiful Music," tells the tale of a teenager's love of music and how it enables him to rise above his father's death and the resulting dysfunctional family life. The book, set in Detroit circa 1970, takes you back to the sights and sounds of that era.

Two books on the list about the Flint water crisis provide high drama speckled with corruption and greed. Anna Clark's "The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy" is a piece of stunning investigative journalism, while Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha's

"What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance and Hope in an American City" towers among this year's memoirs.

Two children's picture books were singled out for their depiction of Michigan women. Gary Schmidt's "So Tall Within: Sojourner Truth's Long Walk Toward Freedom" considers the life of the trail-blazing woman who was born a slave, and Lindsey McDivitt's "Nature's Friend: The Gwen Frostic Story" is a look at the pioneering Michigan artist and entrepreneur.

Other books on the list: "Notes from a Public Typewriter," by Michael Gustafson, which makes sense of the musings of bookstore customers, "Abbott," a series comic book by Saladin Ahmed, turns to a journalist caught in a brutal and corrupt Detroit in '70s; "The Truth Lies Here," by Lindsey Klingele, follows an aspiring journalist as she investigates some unusual happenings; "Across the Great Lake," by Lee Zacharias, reflects on an 85-year-old boat ride across Lake Michigan through the eyes of a 5-year-old; and "Drum Roll, Please," by Lisa Jenn Bigelow, shows how music and a same-sex love affair changes a teen girl's life.

Also included on the list are five Detroit-centric books that explore the complexities and soaring accomplishments of Michigan's largest city. "The Russian Five: A Story of Espionage, Defection, Bribery and Courage," by

Keith Gave, is the story of the Detroit Red Wings' "recruitment" of Soviet Union hockey players.

Two books consider Detroit's love of Faygo pop and pie. "Faygo Book," by Joe Grimm, is a fascinating look into a mostly unknown history of this carbonated beverage and the family who created it. "Sister Pie: The Recipes & Stories of a Big-Hearted Bakery in Detroit," by Lisa Ludwinski, isn't a typical cookbook — although it does have 75 recipes. The bakery created a pay-forward system for customers wanting a piece of pie but without any money.

Two other Detroit loves — the rock group MC5 and modern architecture — provide the topics for these next two books. Wayne Kramer, one of the leaders of the MC5, leaves no drug or stone unturned in the memoir "Hard Stuff: Dope, Crime, the MC5 & My Life of Impossibilities" and "Building the Modern World: Albert Kahn in Detroit," by previous Notable-winner Michael Hodges, is the story of the amazing architect.

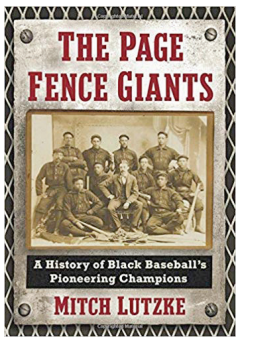
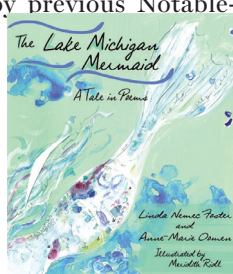
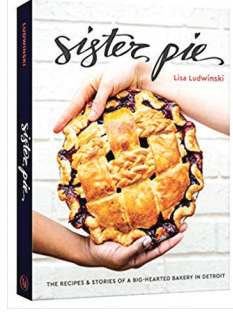
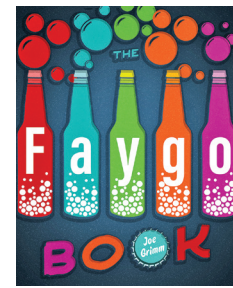
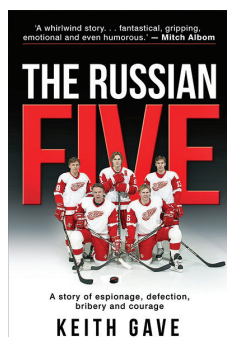
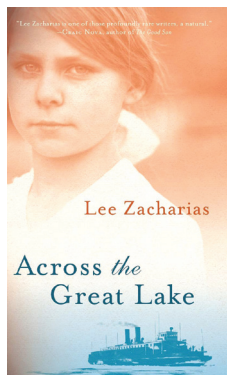
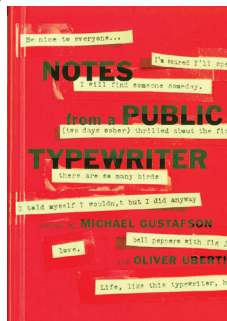
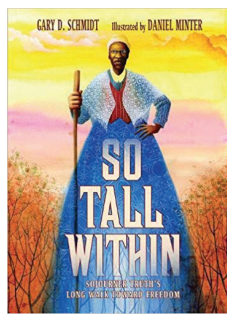
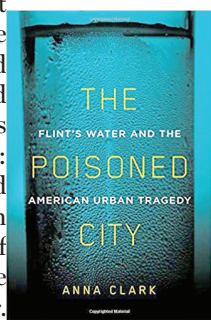
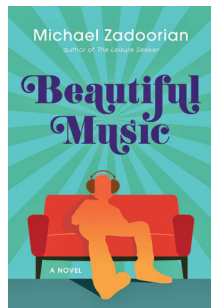
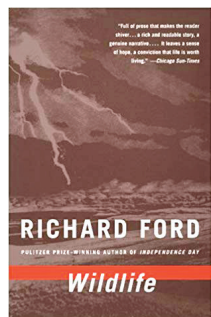
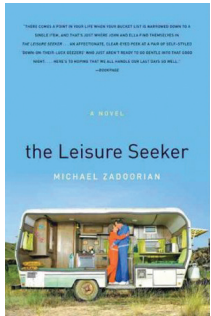
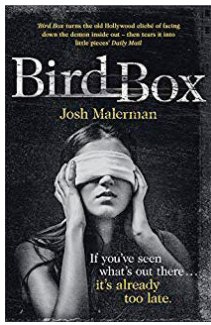
Anne-Marie Oomen scored two wins: one for "Lake Michigan Mermaid," a poetic tale of friendship and the life giving power of water co-written with Linda Nemec Foster, and another for "Elemental: A Collection of Michigan Creative Nonfiction," which she edited.

"Manoomin: The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan," by Lansing resident Barbara J. Barton, was also singled out. The story of an Adrian, Michigan, all-star black baseball team from the 1890s will surprise a lot of readers. "The Page Fence Giants: A History of Black Baseball's Pioneering Champions," by Mitch Lutzke, is the first book written about this incredible team.

Finally, a book that could be easily overlooked in the deserved first-lady

frenzy of Michele Obama's memoir is the biography "Betty Ford: First Lady, Women's Advocate, Survivor, Trailblazer," by Lisa McCubbin.

The 2019 Michigan Notable Book List is issued each year by the Library of Michigan, and to be considered for the list authors must be from Michigan or write about Michigan. The authors will be feted at "The Night for Notables" on April 6 at the Library of Michigan. City Pulse is a cosponsor of the event. This writer serves on the selection committee.



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January Author Events

More information may be found on our website and Facebook page

Joe Koenig

Tuesday, January 22 @ 7p

Getting the Truth "I am D. B. Cooper"

The legend of D. B. Cooper is known as one of the most daring and creative robberies in the history of aviation. Now Joe Koenig, lead investigator of the James R. Hoffa disappearance, is releasing the details of his investigation into this case.

Erin Bartels

Thursday, January 24 @ 7p

We Hope for Better Things

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

Dr. Madeleine Albright

Friday, February 8 @ 7:30p

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*.

Children's Story Time

Saturday, January 19 @ 11a

Join us as one of our booksellers reads a book and guides your child in a small art project or related activity to instill the love of reading in your little one.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, January 9

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Mindfulness Meditation. From 7 to 9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Lansing.

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.

Writing a Business Plan: Your Roadmap to Success.From 6 to 7 p.m. Free! To Register Call: (517) 483-1921. MSU Federal Credit Union, 3777 West Road East Lansing. (517) 485-3963.

EVENTS

East Lansing Roller Derby New Skater Orientation. From 8 to 10 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78 East Lansing.

Thursday, January 10

EVENTS

Drop-in Minecraft Coloring Grids . From 3 to 5 p.m. Capital Area District Libraries Haslett Branch, 1590 Franklin St. Haslett. 517-339-2324.

English Country Dancing. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. \$6/ students \$4/MSU students FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, The intersection between Grand River Ave. and Bogue St. on MSU campus East Lansing. (517) 355-1855.

Friday, January 11

MUSIC

Lansing Symphony MasterWorks 3
Tickets: \$20 - \$55
Student pricing available. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln East Lansing. 5173531982

Saturday, January 12

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Lansing Death Cafe. From 10 to 11:30 a.m. Donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

MUSIC

CloudHoppers Band Live at Center Stage!!!!. From 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Center Stage Night Club, 1785 W. State Road DeWitt.

Old-Time String Band Fiddle Tune Repertoire Week 1, Key of D. From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$20. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 372-7880.

EVENTS

Saturday Storytime. From 11 to 11:30 a.m. free. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

Sunday, January 13

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

Monday, January 14

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Beginning West Coast Swing. From 7:15 to 8:05 p.m. \$135.00 per person for this ten week class. MAC members - \$95.00 per person. Call MAC Concierge to register at 517-364-8888. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing. (517) 364-8870.

Intermediate West Coast Swing. From 8:15 to 9:05 p.m. \$135.00 per person for this ten week class. IF you are a MAC member, prize is 95.00 per person for the ten week class. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing. (517) 364-8870.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

Microscopic Masterpieces . From 4 to 6 p.m. free. Capital Area District Libraries Aurelius Branch, 1939 South Aurelius Road Mason. 517.628.3743.

EVENTS

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

Tuesday, January 15

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Beginning Hustle. From 8:15 to 9:05 p.m. \$135.00 per person for the ten week class. IF a MAC member, price is \$95.00 per person. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing. (517) 364-8870.

Bronze level (beginning) American Style Foxtrot. From 7:15 to 8:05 p.m. \$135.00 per person - if a MAC member, \$95.00 per person. Michigan Athletic Club, 900 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing. (517) 364-8870.

Google Seminar: Get Found on Google Search & Maps. From 10 to 11 a.m. Free! To Register Call: (517) 483-1921.. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

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

THEATER

Anastasia . Tickets from \$43 . Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln East Lansing. 5173531982.

EVENTS

Paws for Reading. From 6 to 7 p.m. Free. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.



Svitlana Martynjuk's 'All That is Color' Opening Reception

Artist Svitlana Martynjuk will be onsite at the Arts Council to answer questions about her abstract expressionist work. Her mediums of choice are acrylics and watercolors. Martynjuk first got into painting through practicing watercolors in her native Ukraine. She grew up in the rural western capital region of Rivne, spending time in her great-grandmother's cottage home in

the countryside. After spending 13 years in Texas, Martynjuk moved to Lansing with her husband to work on her master of science management, leadership and strategy degree from Michigan State University. Her piece "Breathe" is available nationally, having been picked up by West Elm, a subsidiary of Williams-Sonoma. Following the opening reception, Martynjuk will embark on an artist's residency in France. Light refreshments will be served. Martynjuk's work will be on display at the Arts Council through Jan. 31.

X-Golf Lansing

By DENNIS BURCK

Six simulators rigged with the latest and greatest in golfing technology will provide Greater Lansing golfers a new home during the frigid months. Better yet, patrons can expect a full service bar and shareable fare while waiting for their turn on the green.

The Okemos location, across from the Meridian Mall on Marsh Road, will bring the total of eight X-Golf facilities to Michigan.

The national chain offers state of the art golf simulators archived with major courses from around the world, metrics on golf swings, automated push button golf tees and putting capabilities.

Owners and avid golfers Nick and Kelly Swanson, of Clarkston, Michigan, visited other X-Golf locations and wanted to bring one to Lansing.

"I went to MSU and always was looking for a way to give back to the community somehow and immerse myself in a place that's done a lot for me," Nick said. "I love the area. We've been Spartan football season ticket holders for 10 years. This is the perfect marriage."

Winter time can be hard on golfers, Kelly said.

"Prior to going to simulators in the winter, I would go to domes and could only do a half-hour before I quit. The best thing about X-Golf is you aren't stopping in the fall then relearning in the springtime."

Summer golf leagues can also roll over into the winter months with X-Golf, she added.

X-Golf will bring approximately 10 jobs to Lansing, Nick said. One of those jobs



Courtesy photo

X-Golf's simulators generate metrics on golf swings and have automated push button golf tees and putting capabilities.

will be a PGA professional to offer lessons to newcomers and veterans alike.

"Having a PGA professional on staff that can help you become the best you as a player is hugely important in terms of learning how to play the game," Nick said. "Each person has an individual swing."

X-Golf offers flex pricing for simulator bay rentals ranging from \$35 during off times to \$55 during high traffic times. Each bay can house a troop of six golfers in rotation.

This is cheaper than playing 18-holes and is great for beginners, Kelly said.

"If you don't know how to golf, it can be very intimidating to go to a golf course. Here, it is very casual and laid back."

There will be kid-friendly courses available.

"We have a course called the Moonlight Country Club. It has windmills, slides and rainbows with shorter distances of 40 to 125 yards," Nick said. "We also offer free rentals for juniors. We want to help grow the game."

The full service bar will have a focus on local brewing as well as signature golf inspired cocktails. Golf-inspired cocktails

X-Golf
Opening late-January
4996 Marsh Rd.,
Okemos
9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Monday through
Wednesday
9 a.m. to midnight
Thursday and Friday
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday
Contact:
nick@xgolflansing.com



include the John Daly, a booze-filled take on an Arnold Palmer, and the Green Jacket with Jameson, lemon juice, soda water, Midori and Blue Curacao.

"My grandma played till she was 89 years old," Nick said. "Independent of your age and ability level, you can still play and have a good time. That's the cool thing about golf."

For more information, visit www.xgolfmichigan.com

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Not the Best of 2018"-we've saved the very worst for last. Matt Jones Across

1 Santa-tracking defense gp.

6 Not yet decided, briefly

9 Club counterpart

14 NBA venue

15 Regret

16 "Citizen Kane" director Welles

17 Extremely annoying kids' song ("doo doo doo doo doo doo") which also featured in themed clothing like a pajama set or graphic T

19 Greek goddess trio, with "the"

20 Action sequel called the worst movie of 2018 by multiple critics (with hastily-edited ads ending in "Rated R")

22 They use toner

25 Abbr. for some low-income shoppers

26 Goes outside of coverage

27 Grass or weed

29 Network bringing back "Temptation Island" in January 2019

32 One of 30 on a dodecahedron

33 Words in an infomercial disclaimer

35 Collectible disk for '90s kids

36 Stout relative

37 College football team ranked 121st out of 129 by CBS Sports (between New Mexico and Kent State U.)

38 AAA map abbr.

39 To be, in Toledo

40 Receipt figure

41 "The Shape of Water" director Guillermo del ____

42 Curve in a figure eight

43 Chicken, pejoratively

44 Moving day rental

45 Corney key

46 Paid no heed to

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	48	49				50	51							
52						53					54	55	56	
57						58				59				
60						61				62				

48 Entertainer criticized for a racially insensitive tweet in October--not a good look for the Divine Miss M

52 Chip in a Mexican dish named for its inventor

53 Canceled Fox sitcom with a first episode aptly titled "Pilot" (that's Pilot with a capital "P")

57 Western film, slangily

58 "Let's call ____ day"

59 You are here

60 Great honor

61 Laze, with "out"

62 Nine, in some "Sesame Street" episodes

Down

1 Apprehend

2 "Been Lying" singer Rita

3 Civil War soldier, for short

4 Day or night

5 Some Morse code symbols

6 Links hazards

7 "Perry Mason" star Raymond

8 Apollo astronaut Slayton

9 Convertible furniture for sleeping

10 Chris of "The Lego Movie 2"

11 On the subject of

12 Active type

13 Funny duo?

18 "On ____ Majesty's Secret Service"

21 Leave the airport

22 Origami step

23 A bunch

24 Cellphone forerunners

27 Excavate

28 Greg who missed the entire 2007-08 season after his #1 NBA draft pick

29 Commotion

30 "I totally agree"

31 Dating from time immemorial

33 Pedicurist's stone

34 Cartoon crimefighter ____ Ant

37 Progressive online news site since 2004

41 "Walden" author

44 Lopsided

45 Early anesthetic

46 Item on a dog collar

47 Day- ____ (fluorescent)

48 Deity worshiped by Canaanites

49 ____ Cooler ("Ghostbusters"-themed Hi-C flavor)

50 1054, in Roman numerals

51 "Must've been something ____"

52 December drink

54 Ph.D. hopeful's exam

55 Off-road ride, briefly

56 " ____-Ra and the Princesses of Power"52 December drink

SUDOKU

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

Intermediate

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 24

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny

January 9-15, 2019

Aries (March 21- April 19) Computer-generated special effects used in the 1993 film "Jurassic Park" may seem modest to us now. But at the time they were revolutionary. Inspired by the new possibilities revealed, filmmakers like Stanley Kubrick, George Lucas, and Peter Jackson launched new projects they had previously thought to be beyond their ability to create. In 2019, I urge you to go in quest of your personal equivalent of "Jurassic Park's" pioneering breakthroughs. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you may be able to find help and resources that enable you to get more serious about seemingly unfeasible or impractical dreams.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) : I'm a big proponent of authenticity. I almost always advise you to be yourself with bold candor and unapologetic panache. Speak the truth about your deepest values and clearest perceptions. Be an expert about what really moves you, and devote yourself passionately to your relationships with what really moves you. But there is one exception to this approach. Sometimes it's wise to employ the "fake it until you make it" strategy: to pretend you are what you want to be with such conviction that you ultimately become what you want to be. I suspect now is one of those times for you.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) The students' dining hall at Michigan State University serves gobs of mayonnaise. But in late 2016, a problem arose when 1250 gallons of the stuff became rancid. Rather than simply throw it away, the school's Sustainability Officer came up with a brilliant solution: load it into a machine called an anaerobic digester, which turns biodegradable waste into energy. Problem solved! The transformed rot provided electricity for parts of the campus. I recommend you regard this story as a metaphor for your own use. Is there anything in your life that has begun to decay or lose its usefulness? If so, can you convert it into a source of power?

Cancer (June 21-July 22): If you grow vegetables, fruits, and grains on an acre of land, you can feed twelve people. If you use that acre to raise meat-producing animals, you'll feed at most four people. But to produce the meat, you'll need at least four times more water and twenty times more electric power than you would if you grew the plants. I offer this as a useful metaphor for you to consider in the coming months. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you should prioritize efficiency and value. What will provide you with the most bang for your bucks? What's the wisest use of your resources?

Leo (July 23-August 22) : Modern kids don't spend much time playing outside. They have fun in natural environments only half as often as their parents did while growing up. In fact, the average child spends less time in the open air than prison inmates. And today's unjailed adults get even less exposure to the elements. But I hope you will avoid that fate in 2019. According to my astrological estimates, you need to allocate more than the usual amount of time to feeling the sun and wind and sky. Not just because it's key to your physical health, but also because many of your best ideas and decisions are likely to emerge while you're outdoors.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) : NASA landed its robotic explorer Opportunity on Mars in January of 2004. The craft's mission, which was supposed to last for 92 days, began by taking photos and collecting soil samples. More than 14 years later, the hardy machine was still in operation, continuing to send data back to Earth. It far outlived its designed lifespan. I foresee you being able to generate a comparable marvel in 2019, Virgo: a stalwart resource or influence or situation that will have more staying power than you could imagine. What could it be?

Libra (September 23-October 22) : In 1557, Welsh mathematician Robert Recorde invented the equals sign: =. Historical records don't tell us when he was born, so we don't know his astrological sign. But I'm guessing he was a Libra. Is there any tribe more skillful

at finding correlations, establishing equivalencies, and creating reciprocity? In all the zodiac, who is best at crafting righteous proportions and uniting apparent opposites? Who is the genius of balance? In the coming months, my friend, I suspect you will be even more adept at these fine arts than you usually are.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21): There's a modest, one-story office building at 1209 North Orange Street in Wilmington, Delaware. More than 285,000 businesses from all over the U.S. claim it as their address. Why? Because the state of Delaware has advantageous tax laws that enable those businesses to save massive amounts of money. Other buildings in Delaware house thousands of additional corporations. It's all legal. No one gets in trouble for it. I bring this to your attention in the hope of inspiring you to hunt for comparable situations: ethical loopholes and workarounds that will provide you with extra benefits and advantages.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): People in the Solomon Islands buy many goods and services with regular currency, but also use other symbols of worth to pay for important cultural events like staging weddings and settling disputes and expressing apologies. These alternate forms of currency include the teeth of flying foxes, which are the local species of bat. In that spirit, and in accordance with current astrological omens, I'd love to see you expand your sense of what constitutes your wealth. In addition to material possessions and funds in the bank, what else makes you valuable? In what other ways do you measure your potency, your vitality, your merit? It's a favorable time to take inventory.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) In 1984, singer-songwriter John Fogerty released a new album whose lead single was "The Old Man Down the Road." It sold well. But trouble arose soon afterward when Fogerty's former record company sued him in court, claiming he stole the idea for "The Old Man Down the Road" from "Run Through the Jungle." That was a tune Fogerty himself had written and recorded in 1970 while playing with the band Creedence Clearwater Revival. The legal process took a while, but he was ultimately vindicated. No, the courts declared, he didn't plagiarize himself, even though there were some similarities between the two songs. In this spirit, I authorize you to borrow from a good thing you did in the past as you create a new good thing in the future. There'll be no hell to pay if you engage in a bit of self-plagiarism.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18) Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book" is a collection of fables that take place in India. Three movies have been made based on it. All of them portray the giant talking snake named Kaa as an adversary to the hero Mowgli. But in Kipling's original stories, Kaa is a benevolent ally and teacher. I bring this to your attention to provide context for a certain situation in your life. Is there an influence with a metaphorical resemblance to Kaa: misinterpreted by some people, but actually quite supportive and nourishing to you? If so, I suggest you intensify your appreciation for it.

Pisces (February 19-March 20):) Virginia Woolf thought that her Piscean lover Vita Sackville-West was a decent writer, but a bit too fluid and effortless. Self-expression was so natural to Sackville-West that she didn't work hard enough to hone her craft and discipline her flow. In a letter, Woolf wrote, "I think there are odder, deeper, more angular thoughts in your mind than you have yet let come out." I invite you to meditate on the possibility that Woolf's advice might be useful in 2019. Is there anything in your skill set that comes so easily that you haven't fully ripened it? If so, develop it with more focused intention

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.

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Thu. Jan. 10

JAMES GARDIN OPENS MARC REBILLET SHOW



Local emcee returns to The Loft

Thursday, Jan. 10 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
18+, \$15, \$13 adv., 7 p.m.

Over the last 15 years, Lansing-based rapper James Gardin has dropped six solo releases and four group projects and promises there is “a lot more on the way.” His artful brand of alternative hip hop fuses classic R&B, pop, indie rock and Christian music into a spiritual hybrid of soulful sounds.

In the past couple of months, he’s kept busy releasing those works via the Seattle-based label Illect Recordings. Two freshly issued tracks, “Joy” and “Home,” are streaming on both Spotify and YouTube.

It was a bustling 2018 for Gardin, who stayed active with a number of concerts and new business ventures. The 33-year old songwriter landed a couple of his tracks on high-profile commercial spots. “In 2018, I was releasing a lot of singles and trying to figure out the licensing game,” Gardin said. “I came into the year with an ESPN placement [‘Complaining’], but the high point of 2018 was definitely getting a placement on ads for the latest Tommy Hilfiger collection and hearing my song [‘Iconic’] on the runway in Shanghai.”

With so much busy work to be done, Gardin said his free

time has been limited, but when he’s not in the studio or on stage, he’s staying involved in a number of community programs and charities. Of course, he already has his first 2019 show booked as well. Thursday, area fans can hear his new batch of tracks live when he opens the Marc Rebillet show at The Loft. Also warming up the stage are DJ Ruckus and Blaine & His Keyboard.

“When I’m not writing or performing, I don’t know if that even exists at this point,” said the always-busy Gardin. “I’ve been doing a lot of work with AOTA (All of the Above) teaching songwriting and emceeing with high school students in the Lansing School District. Outside of that, I’m probably meditating or reading a book.”

As for 2019, Gardin said it’s going to be yet another busy year. “I want to get some touring in, release at least two projects and a lot more singles,” he said. “I’d like to get some more placements, and keep finding ways to teach and invest in the next generation of music.”

For those who have followed Gardin since his early days

— when he went by the stage name “P.H.I.L.T.H.Y” and regularly rapped with the Blat! Pack collective — they’ve probably noticed a sonic evolution in his rhyming and delivery.

“Over the years, I’ve definitely done a lot more singing and paid more and more attention to melody when it comes to my delivery,” he said. “I’ve also been growing more as a producer and working on creating all parts of the music. I’ve definitely grown a lot farther than I thought I would be 15 years ago.”

Aside from his own music career, Gardin is a long-time supporter of the Lansing music scene as a whole, often playing mixed-genre bills with a diverse batch of local songsters.

“I know this city has so much talent, so even if it’s not me on a bill I challenge you to go see a local act perform,” he said. “I promise; you’ll be surprised by how much talent we have here.”

LIVE AND LOCAL

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The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.		Such Busy Queens Benefit Show 7PM	Toxic Disko 9PM	Starving Arts 8 PM
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		
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia			Homespun 9PM
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies Band	Jeff Shoup & Friends	Smooth Daddy	Smooth Daddy
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night	Karaoke	Mix Pack	TBA
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia Night W/Sporcle 9PM		Deerfield Run 7PM	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Marc Rebillet 7PM	The Q106 Home Grown Throw Down 6:30PM	Juggalo Unity Tour 8PM
Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Krissy Booth 7PM	Oigs Fest III, Against The Grain
Nuthouse, 420 E Michigan Ave.		Music Bingo 7PM		
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			The New Rule 7PM	The New Rule 7PM
Unicorn Lounge, 327 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave.	Comedy Open Mic	Game Night		

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Urban grocer to open in East Lansing by spring

By DENNIS BURCK

Locally sourced produce and on the go goods will be available amid a sea of takeout options in downtown East Lansing once winter thaws. Campbell's Market Basket, the brainchild of East Lansing native Ken Campbell, turns Campbell's passion for agriculture into a brick and mortar storefront at 547 E. Grand River Ave. across from MSU's Broad Museum.

"People don't realize how much produce is around them," Campbell said. "But it is out there if you know where to look."

The store will bring around eight part-time jobs to the city in addition to coffee, baked goods, meats and cheeses.

"My bread and butter is produce, so what I want to do is tie the freshness of produce into other healthy meals."

Typical deli fare like soups, salads and sandwiches will be offered as takeout options.

"You can absolutely find quality produce from around the world, and you have to in this day and age, but if we can source food seasonally in Michigan, I think it is 10 times better than what you can get anywhere else."

But due to Michigan's shorter grow season, local can't be everything, he added.

"The goal for me is to have the freshest food year-round."

Studying agriculture at Albion College, Campbell worked on and managed produce



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Owner Ken Campbell of future East Lansing urban grocer Campbell's Market Basket beside his storefront across from the MSU Broad Museum.

farms throughout Michigan, including his own Community Supported Agriculture, or CSA, in Grand Ledge.

"I helped run farmers' markets and did everything from getting my hands dirty growing to putting on farm-to-table dinners," Campbell said. "It was my introduction into the food and farm scene that sparked my love for local produce."

To have an urban grocer in East Lansing has been a long time coming, Campbell said.

"We are coming into a cycle where people want to be healthier, more conscious and more educated than ever about what they are eating and where it's coming from."

The last locally owned grocery in East Lansing to offer Michigan-based produce

was the East Lansing Food Co-op. After 40 years of business, it closed in 2017 after competitors Fresh Thyme and Whole Foods brought more grocery options to the area.

The market will not compete with big box stores for someone looking to shop long term, Campbell said. Instead, he will look at convenience and target the day-to-day shopper.

With the latest developments downtown, the market will be a great asset to East Lansing newcomers, Campbell said.

Mixed-use developments Center City District and The Hub look to bring more walkable shopping to the area. The former will house 92 senior housing units and 273 market housing units when finished. The Hub, set for completion in Fall 2019, will offer 347 apartment units.

Both businesses will be within walking distance of the market.

"I hope to serve the university, but also my hometown. I live right down the street and can walk to work."

An urban market can also bring more of a diverse crowd into downtown Lansing, he said.

"We have an awesome farmers' market, but it is a short season. Between the East Lansing community and students, that's where the success will be found."

For now, installing fixtures and hiring is the next big steps, Campbell said.

"We've got a lot of work to do, but I'm so excited."

For more information on job openings and Campbell's Market Basket, visit www.campbellsmarketbasket.com

Takoyaki at AI Fusion Sushi & Grill

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Takoyaki is a unique Japanese snack that you can order as an appetizer at AI Fusion Sushi & Grill. It consists of a fried dough ball, filled with crunchy octopus and glazed with Takoyaki sauce — a variant of Worcestershire sauce



blended with a Japanese noodle soup base. Often served by small Osaka food vendors, Takoyaki is notable for its street food vibe. The hot dough's crispiness paired well with the octopus when the dish first arrived and seemed to melt as my mouth reached the octopus. However, having gotten my arms around the octopus, I began to notice that the Takoyaki was cooling fast, becoming increasingly mushy in the process. The sauce was delicious and savory, though, and really put it over the top. In short, I would highly recommend this as a refreshing alternative to other squid/octopus dishes like calamari. Just don't let it go cold before you've fully enjoyed it.

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FREE DINNER MUST BE OF EQUAL OR
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NOT AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY. EXP. 1-13-19
MUST PRESENT COUPON

MON-WED: 11AM - 10PM
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DINE IN • CARRY OUT • DELIVERY

Koala Bakery & Cafe



- Dessert
- Appetizers
- Bubble Tea

This Ad is Good for Free Fried
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East Lansing
Mon-Sat 11-11 • Sunday 11-10

Appetizers

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RESTAURANT LISTED?
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 <p>DELHI CAFE AUTHENTIC GREEK FAMILY • CASUAL • DINING</p>	<p>Delhi Cafe Family Restaurant 4625 Willoughby Road Holt, MI 48842 (517) 694-8655</p>	<p>COME JOIN THE FAMILY! COMFORT FOOD FROM GENERATIONS! A great meeting place for family and friends. Relax with a glass of wine and try our daily lunch/dinner specials, soups, salads, Greek plates and more. Breakfast Saturday & Sundays. Quiet atmosphere and friendly staff. Visit us and continue the tradition!</p>	 <p>Tacos E Mas 3500 S. Cedar St. #101 Lansing, MI 48910 (517) 272-7979 tacosemas.com</p>	<p>SOUTH SIDE LANSING'S FAVORITE MEXICAN RESTAURANT! We have a fresh delicious twist on all your favorite meals with the best ingredients and innovated preparation. We call it Fresh Mex! Dine in, carry out, or delivery. Lunch specials. Party trays perfect for your next fiesta, too!</p>
 <p>Coach's All American PUB & GRILL</p>	<p>Coach's 6201 Bishop Rd. Lansing, MI 48911 (517) 882-2013 www.coachspub andgrill.com</p>	<p>LANSING SPORTS BAR FUN! Seasonal craft brews that change weekly. We've got room for your large holiday party - family get-togethers and business lunches. Online ordering is coming soon. Keep up with all our changes, daily specials and promotions on Facebook!</p>	 <p>Cask & Co. 3415 E. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 580-3750 www.caskandcompany.com</p>	<p>A LOCAL SPOT FOR LUNCH, DINNER AND DRINKS. A dining experience that is like no other. Featuring a fresh lunch buffet for a quick bite, an extensive dinner menu and happy hour specials, too! Screens to watch your favorite sporting events with your favorite people. Michigan craft brews abound here as well.</p>
 <p>Pizza House 4790 S. Hagadorn Rd. Stes 114-116 East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 336-0033 pizzahouse.com</p>	<p>EXPERIENCE LANSING'S PREMIER CHICAGO-STYLE PIZZA or explore our menu featuring many family favorites. Quick lunch bites or catching the game on one of our many big screens, Pizza House's service and menu will leave you truly satisfied!</p>	 <p>Capital Prime 2324 Showtime Dr. Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 377-7463 Capital Vine 2320 Showtime Dr. Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 377-8463</p>	<p>LOOKING FOR A FINE DINING EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER? Come into Capital Prime. We pride ourselves on fabulous steak and seafood and exceptional service. SPEND THE EVENING AT CAPITAL VINE'S WINE BAR We offer the largest selection of wine in Lansing. Happy hour selections include special small bites and starters as well as drink specials.</p>	
 <p>Taqueria El Chaparrito 401 E César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing, MI 48906 (517) 574-3020 taqueriaelchapparrito.com</p>	<p>FRESH INGREDIENTS - MADE FROM SCRATCH We offer delicious and authentic Mexican Food. We do catering and we also host events. Breakfast and seafood coming soon! Be transported to a warm Mexican beach with our rich, fresh flavors!</p>	 <p>La Cocina Cubana 123 S Washington Sq. Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 708-8144 FB: @cubanLLC</p>	<p>LOOKING FOR FRESH FOOD? Come to La Cocina Cubana where you can eat good and fresh authentic Cuban food. Breakfast and dinner are served all day. Sandwiches, tacos, empanadas, croquettes and desserts, Cuban coffee, Mexican and Cuban sodas. Come and enjoy our amazing service. Te esperamos.</p>	
 <p>BUDDIES</p>	<p>Buddies Holt 2040 Aurelius Rd, Ste 12 Holt, MI 48842 (517) 699-3670 www.buddiesbars.com</p>	<p>DISCOVER YOUR NEW FAVORITE SPOT! Traditional classics and great drinks. Burgers, Mexican entrees, pizza and appetizers. Five versions of loaded tots and Buddies Bowls you can't get anywhere else. Locally owned and operated for over 20 years.</p>	 <p>Meat Southern B.B.Q. & Carnivore Cuisine</p>	<p>Meat Southern BBQ 1224 Turner Rd. Lansing, MI 48906 (517) 580-4400 meatbbq.com</p>
			<p>WE BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES GREAT BBQ. Award winning BBQ. Ribs, French fry bar, chili, sides including BBQ pit baked beans, mac n' cheese. 18 rotating taps of craft, Michigan made beers. Craft cocktails. We cater, too!</p>	

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NIGHT

JAN. 11, 2019

OUT

VENUES

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- Clark Hill PLC
- Elderly Instruments
- Great Lakes Art & Gifts
- Katalyst Gallery
- Metro Retro
- MICA Gallery
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8	7	3	2	1	9	5	4	6
9	2	4	5	8	6	1	3	7
1	6	5	4	3	7	2	8	9
3	4	2	9	5	8	6	7	1
6	5	8	7	4	1	9	2	3
7	9	1	6	2	3	4	5	8
4	8	9	3	6	2	7	1	5
5	1	7	8	9	4	3	6	2
2	3	6	1	7	5	8	9	4

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 15

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