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Alook at Lansing's Mexican food scene

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GEORGE HINCHLIFFE'S UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

"Superbly tuneful fun!" -NYTimes.com

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 7:30PM

WHARTONCENTER.COM • 1-800-WHARTON Soonsored by The Doctors Company with additional support from McLaren Greater Lansing. Media S MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY WHARTON CENTER

February 20 - 26, 2019

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PROMETHEA IN PRISON

Exploring the impact on the incarcerated, including actors Sonja Sohn, who played Detective Kima Greggs on The Wire, and Deirdre Lovejoy, also of The Wire & more.

FEB. 27, 7:30рм

Photo by Marco Govel.

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> W H A R T O N C E N T E R FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Favorite Things=

Loomis Law Firm senior attorney Jack Davis and his rare book collection

I went through college specializing in history and literature. I graduated with a history major. All of my college life I read literature and history, and was evaluating different philosophies and the meaning of life.

As you go through college there are books everyone raves about. They make you read them. Why? Because each has a way of producing a story that is very unique. Hemingway has his unique approach. F. Scott Fitzgerald has his unique approach. You read these in literature courses and you can learn why they are unique.

To read a good novel like "Huckleberry Finn," you can appreciate the quality of writing and the story telling. That's one aspect of literature. What I liked to observe is the philosophy of life represented in literature.

As you go through college, you are trying to formulate your world view and it is good to have all these different points of view: To read Marx is helpful, to read Ayn Rand and "The Fountainhead" and the significance of the individual is helpful. It helps formulate your view of what you think you should be doing with your life, and how to deal with issues in society.

I've tried hard to be involved in social issues and have a background on different points of view. This helps me formulate a view on what direction we should be going.

The one that influenced me the most is Voltaire's "Candide." The plot revolves around Voltaire's ridicule of the philosophical theme of the day that "all is for the best in this best of all possible worlds." This theme was entrenched with theologians, royalty, military and philosophers. Candide ends the novella by ignoring the philosophy



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Davis holds a first edition of Hemingway's novel "The Sun Also Rises" from his rare book collection.

that all turns out for the best by the necessity of God's will, and rather than expressly emphasizing pessimism, which dominates the plot, he ends with "we must cultivate our garden."

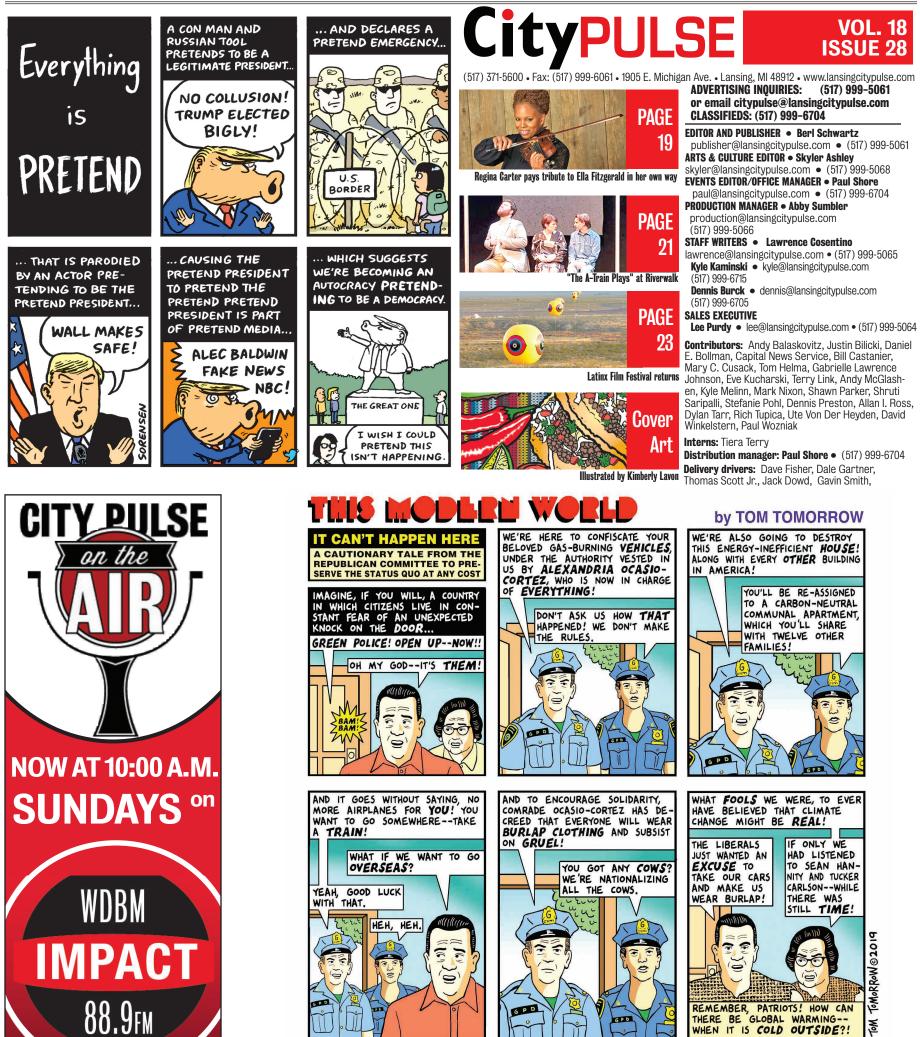
When I got into my 40s, a lot of people talked about how it's important to have a hobby. I thought I would like to collect something I'm interested in.

I like to collect books that promoted and brought about change. I'll take the author then I'll move with the literature that logically created the change.

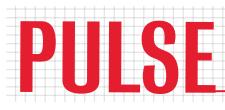
At some point, what starts happening is you get the main works by the author, like "Roots," by Alex Haley ,or "The Feminine Mystique," by Betty Friedan. In collecting, you have to then decide if you want to fill out your collection with basically everything they wrote. That's where it turns from an intellectual interest into becoming a collector.

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





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Face the face

MSU prof helped identify famous 'kissing sailor'

Norman Sauer looked at The New York Times Monday and spotted a familiar hairline.

We've all seen that hairline, but few people have studied it as carefully as Sauer has. One of the 20th century's most famous images is Alfred Eisenstadt's Life magazine photo of a celebratory kiss in Times Square on Aug. 14, 1945, at the end of World War II.

George Mendonsa, who claimed for decades that he was the sailor engaged in arm-locking and lip-locking a nurse in the photo, died Sunday at 95.

Sauer, a retired forensic anthropologist at Michigan State University, was one of several experts who analyzed the photo, compared it with other photos of Mendonsa and came to a consensus that his claim was probably valid.

It was unusual work in a career devoted mainly to helping prosecutors and defense attorneys analyze crime images. "It was my most high-profile job, but

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Retired MSU forensic anthropologist Norman Sauer helped solidify George Mendonsa's claim that he was the kissing sailor in the famous photo, similar to this one, taken in Times Square celebrating the end of World War II. Mendonsa died Sunday.



NEWS &

Snow structures everywhere

Gaelic mythology tells the story of the hag Cailleach, who controls the weather and sets out annually on the first of February to collect a supply of wood to last her the remainder of the winter. If she intends to extend the colder weather, she creates a sunny day, giving her time to gather plenty of firewood to sustain her. A storm on that day is an indication of her intention to welcome an early spring.

Until recently, it seemed we might pass the entire winter without snow. Last year's "Green Christmas" season advanced well into January before we received a significant dose of winter weather, which alternated between a cold too frigid to endure and a soaking rain. Finally, last week the temper fallen snow into the sweet spot between hard-packed ice and grey slush. Our neighborhoods sprouted with a variety of forts and figures.

While many would have been fine with no snowfall, others enjoy the varied seasons and welcome the change to mark the passing of time. As we continue our advance toward spring, we hope that Cailleach will deliver a few more sunny days and the perfect packing snow the warmth brings. – 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.

Racial tensions smolder at Lansing Fire Dept.

Top officials sacrifice diversity amid paramedic shortage

Claretta Duckett-Freeman is determined to be one of the first black women at the Lansing Fire Department.

After working several years as a medic in the U.S. Army, Duckett-Freeman was quickly attracted to the fire service. The starting wage was decent. Saving lives had developed into her passion. And the second-largest fire department in the state was looking to bring in more than a dozen new employees last year. It was a no-brainer.

But a stark warning from her wouldbe superiors led to some hesitation. Duckett-Freeman said multiple officers within the upper echelons of the department — including former Assistant Chief Bruce Odom — had told her point-blank before she applied: Racial tensions are a critical concern at the Lansing Fire Department.

"It's probably more of a cultural issue," Odom later explained to City Pulse. "You still have the good ol' boys type of club going on over there. Is racial discrimination a part of that? Yes. That's all part of it. You have racism, cronyism, nepotism, all types of -isms. This really boils down to a cultural issue within that department."

Fire departments nationwide have long struggled to attract minority candidates. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 95 percent of all firefighters are men and 85 percent



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse The city said Claretta Duckett-Freeman did not qualify for a firefighter's job in 2018, when it apparently hired all white men.

of them are white. In Lansing, it's 92 percent men, 71 percent white, according to the city's Human Resources Department. And as Odom explained, those fire departments can be slow if not outright unwilling — to adjust to cultural changes.

"Those concerned about addressing the issue need to do actually something about it," Odom added. "What I've seen across the board is a lot of talk and no actual show of effort. Basically, we have people just reproducing the same practices that created this problem. People can talk about making changes, but it's just not happening."

Duckett-Freeman completed her emergency medical technician training, but without immediate state certification she was unable to formally check all the boxes to meet the city's criteria last year. She was disappointed, but not totally deterred — at least until she saw the photo of those who were hired instead.

"Every one of those firefighters were white men," Duckett-Freeman said. "There wasn't even a white woman. That's when I knew something was wrong. If you look at previous years, it just wasn't like that. The staff was more diverse. How do you go from years of having people of color to none? That doesn't happen by accident."

That contrasts with the department's hiring record in the last three years of the administration of former Mayor Virg Bernero. Officials said 56 firefighters were hired between 2014 and 2016, Bernero's last year in office. Of those, at least 22 were minority candidates, meaning they identified as anything other than white men. Precise statistics weren't available for last year's hires, but city officials were roundly disappointed with the lack of

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diversity. And photos helped showcase the problem.

The latest class appears to be composed entirely of white men. Former Interim Chief Dave Purchase suggested one could be Hispanic. A Freedom of Information Act request for a more specific tally wasn't immediately returned to City Pulse, but it's clear that efforts to diversify the department had somehow taken a backseat.

So what changed?

Before former Chief Randy Talifarro abruptly resigned last year, he was dedicated to creating more opportunities for women and people of color within the department — specifically for those who lived in Lansing. At the time, more than 70 percent of his employees were living outside the city, he explained.

The hiring protocol was revamped to reduce heavy-lifting requirements for hoses and ladders, ultimately allowing women to have a better shot at meeting the physical rigors of the job. Less



New firefighters in the Class of 2018 appear to be all white men — a departure from recent years.

emphasis was placed on certificates and formal training; Talifarro said he instead hired more people who were simply "fit for the job."

Licensed paramedics require far more training than standard EMT certification. The Lansing Fire Department doesn't necessarily require that level of expertise, but it's strongly preferred. Talifarro favored on-the-job training over those formal requirements, and it expanded (and greatly diversified) the applicant pool in the process.

"They needed to be a part of the

community," Talifarro said. "If we only focused on technique and tactical things, we'd miss out on a big part of what it takes to become a successful paramedic and firefighter. We needed people with empathy and cultural sensitivity. That's what we focused on when we put together a hiring plan."

The bar wasn't necessarily lowered; it was just widened to allow more flexibility in the hiring process. Those without EMT certificates were given a chance to work at the department (with smaller paychecks) while they continued their training. All told, 18 trainees — including 10 minorities were hired and later became EMTs.

As a result, the Fire Department was casting a wider net, attracting people of color who lived in the city but might not have necessarily had the wherewithal to undergo the typically expensive training to become a firefighter. Unprecedented strides were made to diversify the department, but Talifarro said it ultimately cost him his job.

"The union leadership wanted the paramedic licenses and fire certifications to be the only consideration in hiring," Talifarro said. "They were less concerned about other issues. I think diversity was one of those issues."

International Association of Firefighters Local 421 President Eric Weber initially declined to comment about closed-door negotiations regarding hiring practices. He contended the union had a good relationship with Talifarro, but later he noted that he had to seek a court-ordered ceaseand-desist notice against Talifarro for publicly discussing details within his personnel file.

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this is not a high stakes case," Sauer said by phone Tuesday. "It was a lot of fun. High stakes is trying to identify or exclude somebody that's committed a murder."

The stakes must have seemed high to Mendonsa, who clung so tightly to his claim that he was the kissing sailor that he sued Life magazine for not positively identifying him.

"How many people in a lifetime do something famous?" Mendonsa said in a 1995 interview with the Daily Mail.

In 1980, when Life ran the photo a second time, dozens of men claimed to be the kissing sailor, 11 of whom had a credible claim, according to the Times. (Three women claimed to be the nurse.)

In 2010, Sauer was approached by Lawrence Verria, author of the 2012 book, "The Kissing Sailor: The Mystery Behind the Photo that Ended World War II."

Earlier studies, including a 3-D mapping of Mendonsa's face, had failed to disprove his claim. Sauer and his MSU students took a few weeks to do a fresh analysis.

Sauer used methods that were simi-



al comparison. Sauer "We take the

face apart and look at a number of individual characteristics, and see if they're consistent from one image to the next," Sauer said. "Starting from the top of the head — hairline, height and shape of the forehead, the eyebrows, the shape of the nose, the mouth — all these things have to match."

There's a bit of art to Sauer's science. He often has to take into account changes in facial expression and changes caused by aging. In criminal cases, Sauer takes his own pictures of the suspect to get the exact same angle as a surveillance image or photograph of the known perpetrator.

"I never took pictures of Mendonsa. I just used available photographs," he said.

To complicate matters, the sailor's face was tilted at an angle more suitable for osculation than morphological analysis.

But Mother Nature gives Sauer a lot to work with. Eyebrows alone have dozens of listed traits — shape, thickness, density, width, curvature and distance apart from each other.

"In this case, I couldn't find any significant differences," he said. "I found no way of excluding Mendonsa as the kissing sailor." Note the cautious language. When Sauer testifies in criminal cases, he tells defense attorneys there is no way of knowing for sure whether a person in one photo is the same person in another. He can only exclude (or not exclude) suspects from consideration.

Defense attorneys sometimes bring Sauer in just to caution the jury about the limitations of the analysis. Prosecutors are often disappointed that Sauer can't provide positive identification. However, if Sauer doesn't find a deal-breaking mismatch of features from one photo to another, the evidence can help to build a broader case against the defendant.

"I used the very same techniques on a particularly heinous murder that took place in Lansing," Sauer said.

In 2001, Ingham County assistant prosecutor Mike Ferency called upon Sauer's testimony in the case of a robbery-murder at a Marathon gas station.

Sauer analyzed video and still frames from surveillance tapes that captured the crime and superimposed them over photographs of the defendant. He testified that he could not conclude that the defendant, Ron Allen, was not the person on the tape.

Sauer's analysis was consistent with other evidence presented at trial and Allen was convicted of the crime.

In the case of the kissing sailor, Sauer did exclude "one or two" other candidates after finding features that were inconsistent between the Eisenstadt photograph and other photographs.

"Often, people think that's a weak application of science, but that's the scientific method," Sauer said. "You don't prove things in science, typically, you set out to disprove them. If there are enough unsuccessful attempts at disproving, what are you left with?"

Even modern computer programs and phones with facial recognition software can only exclude people from consideration, Sauer said, not positively identify them.

Verria told the Times that after "several experts in different fields," including Sauer, have looked at the case, the evidence is "overwhelming" that Mendonsa was the kissing sailor.

As always, Sauer was careful to distinguish his personal opinion from his professional conclusion.

"Yeah, I think it's him," Sauer said. "Is it him? I don't know."

- LAWRENCE COSENTINO

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"He was asked to leave and he's not happy about it," Weber added. "People are entitled to their opinions. I'm not going to do tit for tat in the media. The Fire Department is steeped in a tradition of inclusion for all people. We do not have racial tension within the department. As a whole, we're a united group. We work together."

But Talifarro said the union ultimately pressured him to lift his rigid preference on local hiring and diversity in exchange for more highly skilled and fully trained paramedics. And that continued pressure ultimately played a factor in his decision to resign, he said. Talifarro left in June. Odom followed him out the door in August.

"Racial tensions are introduced when there's a perception that you only changed the standards for diversity," Talifarro said. "Of the 18 people trained, eight of them were white. It wasn't just for diversity. It became very apparent that people in the union



Purchase

leadership just weren't comfortable with this new direction we had taken."

"There was very little to no support across the board, and I'm at a point in my career where I just don't need to deal with that. I've been in the service for 35 years, and I can recognize when there might be other agendas here."

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, who took office last year, named Purchase as the interim chief in Talifarro's absence. He filled in for several weeks before he left last month, but Purchase helped navigate the department through the next round of hiring. Talifarro said Purchase was also tasked to repair the widening rift between the department and the union.

Lansing firefighter alleges racial bias

Regardless of their hiring practices, Lansing officials are forced to address concerns of racial discrimination in the Fire Department. as a black firefighter wages a federal lawsuit against the city.

Michael Lynn Jr., a black firefighter, is waging a federal lawsuit against the city. Lynn claims a banana pinned to his truck's windshield in 2017 was the tipping point in a series of discriminatory behavior toward him and other minorities in the department. The suit alleges racial discrimination and harassment and claims officials turned on him when he tried to blow the whistle.

"My goal is and always has been to protect myself from discrimination and retaliation," Lynn said in a statement. "I made every effort to make the city of Lansing aware of the abuse that was going on with multiple Human Resources complaints, which were all met with excuses and dismissive action."

City Pulse filed a Freedom of Information Act Request for those human resources complaints.

Lynn claims former Chief Randy Talifarro's diversity-focused hiring process created a hostile environment for black firefighters. He also said white firefighters frequently scrutinized his race and job qualifications – which directly led to a medical leave for stress, anxiety and depression. Upon return, the problems continued, he said.

"This dream eventually became a nightmare for me," Lynn added. "I want to make clear that the masses at this department are honorable people who mean only to protect and serve our community and aim to do that honestly and with integrity. But there are some who make it their job to inflict unjust harm and punishment."

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor said he was "confident" the city would prevail in the lawsuit as it continues in federal court.

"We held training and we moved forward," Schor added. "We have not heard any other specific complaints. There was one individual who has not been happy. We'll respond through the legal system. I don't want to minimize any concerns here, but we addressed that situation quickly and we've moved forward."

– KYLE KAMINSKI

kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

Talifarro Tobin

Purchase said Talifarro's hiring scheme - paired with several retirements - had ultimately tipped the department into crisis mode. Advanced Life Support ambulance calls legally require a licensed paramedic to be on board. And with the comparatively watered-down hiring requirements, paramedics were becoming scarce.

"These guys were just overworked," Purchase explained. "If we didn't quickly infuse the system with some additional paramedics, it was getting to the point where we wouldn't have ambulances leaving the garage. It was putting this added stress on the system, and we needed to be able to properly staff our rigs first and foremost."

Enter the paramedic class of 2018. Schor, after ordering racial sensitivity training for the department and launching the city's first Diversity and Inclusion Commission, was obviously disappointed with the results. Nobody intentionally whitewashed the department, he said, it just needed qualified paramedics on staff.

And none of the minority applicants – including Duckett-Freeman – could meet the new standards, he said.

"My priority was hiring paramedics so that we can have ambulances on the road. Diversity is a goal, but having ambulances respond is a requirement," Schor said. "I was disappointed with

the lack of diversity in that pool." Subsequent plans to launch a cadet program are still in the works. Schor and Purchase suggested the Fire Department could do more to reach applicants from a younger age to develop an early passion for the job. The plan: Attract diverse candidates from local schools and prepare them for a

lifelong career with the department. "The goal is to get Lansing residents involved and wanting to be a part of the department," explained Interim Chief Michael Tobin. "It's difficult for the fire service in general - diversity out of the question - to attract candidates. Everyone is having these difficulties. There is just a shortage of people. Period."

Tobin is filling in until March, when the city's new fire chief, Michael Mackey, arrives from Palm Beach County, Florida. Taliferro is African-American. Tobin and Mackey are white.

While future plans could someday build on Talifarro's diversification efforts, many said the latest class, regardless of the looming paramedic shortage, is a step in the wrong cultural direction. Racial tensions were already burning within the department; an allwhite class of firefighters just allowed the blaze to continue its spread.

"Everything that Chief Talifarro had See LFD, Page 10

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on March 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing,

- A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Hansons Window on behalf of the property owner, for the property located at 165 Orchard Street, to replace 14 wooden windows with 14 vinvl windows
- A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request 2. from Michelle Miele, for the property located at 604 Sunset Lane, to replace the non-functional garage door with a new garage door with an opener.

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

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

> Jennifer Shuster City Clerk

Dated: February 14, 2019 East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#19-047

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CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE No. 1452

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE SERIES 2019 REVENUE BOND AS AN ADDITIONAL BOND UNDER ORDINANCE NO. 1296; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE SERIES 2019 REVENUE BOND.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. <u>Definitions</u>. Whenever used in this Ordinance, except when otherwise indicated by the context, the following terms when capitalized shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Act 94" means Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended.

- (b) "Additional Revenue Bonds" means Revenue Bonds issued under Section 20 of Ordinance No. 1296, including Revenue Bonds of prior and senior or equal standing and priority of lien with the Series 2013 Bond, Series 2015 Bond, Series 2017 Bond, and Series 2019 Bond.
- (c) "Adjusted Net Revenues" means for any operating year the excess of revenues over expenses for the System determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, to which shall be added depreciation, amortization, interest expense on Bonds and payments to the City in lieu of taxes, to which may be made the following adjustments.
 - (i) Revenues may be augmented by the amount of any rate increases adopted prior to the issuance of Additional Revenue Bonds or to be placed into effect before the time principal or interest on the Additional Revenue Bonds becomes payable from Revenues as applied to quantities of service furnished during the operating year or portion thereof that the increased rates were not in effect.
 - (ii) Revenues may be augmented by amounts which may be derived from rates and charges to be paid by new customers of the System.
 - (iii) If there is a bond reserve account to be funded from the proceeds of Additional Revenue Bonds, then the Revenues may be augmented by an amount equal to the investment income representing interest on investments estimated to be received each operating year from the addition to the bond reserve account to be funded from the proceeds of the Additional Revenue Bonds being issued.

The adjustment of revenues and expenses by the factors set forth in (i), (ii) and (iii) above shall be reported upon by professional engineers or certified public accountants or other experts not in the regular employment of the City.

- (d) "Authorized Officer" means the Finance Director of the City or, in her absence, the City Manager.
- (e) "Bonds" means any Bonds which may be issued by the City for the purpose of making repairs, extensions, enlargements and improvements to the System, for the payment of which the City intends to use Net Revenues.
- (f) "City" means the City of East Lansing, Counties of Ingham and Clinton, State of Michigan.
- (g) "MDEQ" means the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, or any successor agency.
- (h) "Ordinance" refers collectively to Ordinance No. 1296 adopted by the Council on February 19, 2013, Ordinance No. 1345 adopted by the Council on February 17, 2015, Ordinance No. 1410 adopted by the Council on May 9, 2017, this ordinance, and any other ordinance amendatory to or supplemental to Ordinance No. 1296.
- "Outstanding Revenue Bonds" means, as of any given date, the Series 2013 Bond, Series 2015 Bond, Series 2017 Bond, Series 2019 Bond, and any Additional Revenue Bonds of equal or prior standing hereafter issued and delivered under this Ordinance except:
 - (i) Bonds (or portions of Bonds) paid off at or prior to such date;
 - (ii) Bonds (or portions of Bonds) for the payment or redemption of which moneys or Sufficient Government Obligations equal to the principal amount or redemption price, as the case may be, with interest to the date of maturity or redemption date, shall be held in trust under this Ordinance and set aside for such payment or redemption (whether at or prior to the maturity or redemption date) provided that if such Bonds are to be redeemed, notice of such redemption shall have been given as provided in the Bond or provision shall have been made for the giving of such notice; and
 - Bonds in lieu of or in substitution for which other Bonds shall have been delivered.
 - "Revenue Bonds" means the Series 2013 Bond, Series 2015 Bond, Series 2017 Bond, Series 2019 Bond, and any Additional Revenue Bonds of equal or prior standing

hereafter issued under this Ordinance.

- (k) "Revenues" and "Net Revenues" means the revenues and net revenues of the System and shall be construed as defined in Section 3 of Act 94, including with respect to "Revenues" the earnings derived from the investment of moneys in the various funds and accounts established by this Ordinance, and other revenues derived from or pledged to operation of the System.
- "Series 2013 Bond" means the Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2013 authorized by Ordinance No. 1296.
- (m) "Series 2015 Bond" means the Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2015 authorized by Ordinance No. 1345.
- (n) "Series 2017 Bond" means the Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2017 authorized by Ordinance No. 1410.
- (n) "Series 2019 Bond" means the Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2019 authorized by this Ordinance.
- (o) "Series 2019 Project" means the improvements to the City's Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) and Sewage Collection System and related appurtenances, site improvements and other related activities, including but not limited to: (1) installation of an additional combined sewer line along Michigan Avenue and Harrison Road in order to optimize the amount of flow sent to the WRRF and to reduce the volume of Combined Sewer Overflows during rain events, (2) construction of a new pump station to replace the existing Woodingham Pump Station which has exceeded its useful life, and (3) WRRF Solids Handling Improvements with Digestion including installation of solids handling improvements to replace and enhance the existing solids thickening and dewatering equipment, construction of a new anaerobic digester, and installation of a combined heat and power unit to generate electricity for use at the WRRF.
- (p) "Sufficient Government Obligations" means direct obligations of the United States of America or obligations the principal and interest on which is fully guaranteed by the United States of America, not redeemable at the option of the issuer, the principal and interest payments upon which, without reinvestment of the interest, come due at such times and in such amounts as to be fully sufficient to pay the interest as it comes due on Bonds and the principal and redemption premium, if any, on Bonds as it comes due whether on the stated maturity date or upon earlier redemption. Securities representing such obligations shall be placed in trust with a bank or trust company, and if any Bond is to be called for redemption prior to maturity, irrevocable instructions to call the Bond for redemption shall be given.
- (q) "System" means the entire sewage disposal system of the City, including such facilities as are now existing, the Series 2019 Project, and all enlargements, extensions, repairs and improvements thereto hereafter made.

SECTION 2. <u>Necessity</u>; <u>Approval of Plans and Specifications</u>. It is hereby determined to be a necessary public purpose of the City to acquire and construct the Series 2019 Project in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by the City's consulting engineers, which plans and specifications are hereby approved.

SECTION 3. <u>Costs: Useful Life</u>. The cost of the Series 2019 Project is estimated to be not-toexceed Fifty-Two Million Dollars (\$52,000,000) including the payment of incidental expenses as specified in Section 4 of this Ordinance, which estimate of cost is hereby approved and confirmed, and the period of usefulness of the Series 2019 Project is estimated to be not less than twenty-five (25) years.

SECTION 4. <u>Payment of Project Cost; Series 2019 Bond Authorized, Conditions Permitting</u> <u>Issuance of Additional Bonds.</u> To pay the cost of acquiring and constructing the Series 2019 Project, including payment of legal, engineering, financial and other expenses incident thereto and incident to the issuance and sale of the Series 2019 Bond, the City shall borrow a sum of not-toexceed Fifty-Two Million Dollars (\$52,000,000), as finally determined by the Authorized Officer at the time of sale of the Series 2019 Bond, and issue its Series 2019 Bond pursuant to the provisions of Act 94. The remaining cost of the Series 2019 Project, if any, shall be defrayed from City funds on hand and legally available for such use.

The Council hereby determines that if the Series 2019 Bond is issued within the parameters of this Ordinance with a true interest cost of 2.00% or less, then during the preceding operating year (ending June 30, 2018) the Adjusted Net Revenues of the System shall be at least equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the maximum amount of principal and interest thereafter maturing in any operating year on the Outstanding Revenue Bonds (the Series 2013 Bond, Series 2015 Bond, and Series 2017 Bond) and the Series 2019 Bond, as required by Section 20 subparagraph (b) of Ordinance No. 1296 for the issuance of Additional Bonds.

The Council hereby determines that the City is not in default in making its required payments to the Operation and Maintenance Fund or the Revenue Bond Redemption Fund established by Ordinance No. 1296.

Therefore, Council hereby finds that the conditions of the Ordinance for the issuance of the Series 2019 Bond as an Additional Bond have been met.

SECTION 5. <u>Issuance of Series 2019 Bond; Details.</u> The Series 2019 Bond shall be designated as the "SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2019." The Series 2019 Bond shall be payable solely out of the Net Revenues and other moneys pledged under this Ordinance, and shall not be a general obligation of the City. The Series 2019 Bond shall constitute an Additional Bond as defined in the Ordinance and shall have equal standing and priority of lien as to the Net Revenues of the System with the outstanding Series 2013 Bond, Series 2015 Bond

FROM PAGE 8 and Series 2017 Bond.

The Series 2019 Bond shall be issued in the form of one or more fully registered, nonconvertible bonds, dated as of the date of delivery, payable in annual principal installments in the amounts and on the dates as determined by the order of the MDEQ and approved by the Michigan Finance Authority and the Authorized Officer, provided that the final payment on the Series 2019 Bond shall occur within the period of usefulness of the Series 2019 Project as set forth in Section 3 of this Ordinance. Final determination of the Principal Amount and the payment dates and amounts of principal installments of the Series 2019 Bond shall be evidenced by execution of a Purchase Contract (the "Purchase Contract") between the City and the Michigan Finance Authority providing for sale of the Series 2019 Bond, and the Authorized Officer is authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Purchase Contract.

The Series 2019 Bond shall bear interest at a rate or rates to be determined by the Authorized Officer at the time of execution of the Purchase Contract, but in any event not exceeding the maximum amount permitted by law, payable semiannually on the dates as determined in the Purchase Contract. In addition, if required by the Michigan Finance Authority, the Series 2019 Bond will bear additional interest, under the terms required by Michigan Finance Authority, in the event of a default by the City in the payment of principal or interest on the Series 2019 Bond when due. The Series 2019 Bond principal amount is expected to be drawn down by the City periodically, and interest on each installment of the principal amount shall accrue from the date such principal installment is drawn down by the City. Principal installments of the Series 2019 Bond will be subject to prepayment prior to maturity as permitted by the Michigan Finance Authority and approved by the Authorized Officer.

The Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to execute the Series 2019 Bond by manual or facsimile signature. At least one signature on the Series 2019 Bond shall be a manual signature. The Series 2019 Bond may be transferred by the bondholder as provided in the Series 2019 Bond as executed.

SECTION 6. <u>Payment of Series 2019 Bond; Security.</u> The Series 2019 Bond and the interest thereon shall be payable solely and only from the Net Revenues, and to secure such payment, there is hereby created a statutory lien upon the whole of the Net Revenues which shall continue until payment in full of the principal of and interest on the Series 2019 Bond, or, until sufficient cash or Sufficient Government Obligations have been deposited in trust for payment in full of the principal of and interest on the Series 2019 Bond to maturity, or, if called for redemption, to the date fixed for redemption, together with the amount of the redemption premium, if any. Upon deposit of cash or Sufficient Government Obligations, as provided in the previous sentence, the statutory lien shall be terminated with respect to the Series 2019 Bond, the holder of the Series 2019 Bond shall have no further rights under this Ordinance except for payment from the deposited funds, and the Series 2019 Bond shall be considered to be defeased and shall no longer be considered to be outstanding under this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. <u>State Revenue Sharing Pledge</u>. If required by the Michigan Finance Authority, as additional security for repayment of the Series 2019 Bond, the City Council agrees to pledge the state revenue sharing payments that the City is eligible to receive from the State of Michigan under Act 140, Public Acts of Michigan, 1971, as amended, to the Michigan Finance Authority as purchaser and holder of the Series 2019 Bond. The Authorized Officer is authorized to execute and deliver a revenue sharing pledge agreement between the City and the Michigan Finance Authority.

SECTION 8. <u>Applicability of the Ordinances</u>. Except to the extent supplemented or otherwise provided in this ordinance, all of the provisions and covenants provided in Ordinance No. 1296 shall apply to the Series 2019 Bond issued pursuant to provisions of this ordinance, such provisions of the Ordinance being made applicable to the Series 2019 Bond herein authorized, the same as though the Series 2019 Bond was originally authorized and issued as a part of the Outstanding Revenue Bonds issued pursuant to Ordinance No. 1296.

SECTION 9. <u>Bond Proceeds.</u> The proceeds of the sale of the Series 2019 Bond as received by the City shall be deposited in an account separate from other money of the City and held in a bank or banks qualified to act as depository of the proceeds of sale under the provisions of Section 15 of Act 94 designated "2019 SRF PROJECT CONSTRUCTION FUND" (the "2019 Construction Fund"). Moneys in the 2019 Construction Fund shall be applied solely in payment of the cost of the Series 2019 Project including any engineering, legal and other expenses incident thereto and to the costs of issuance of the Series 2019 Bond. Any balance remaining in the 2019 Construction Fund after completion of the Series 2019 Project may be used for any other improvements to the System if such use is permitted by state law and will not cause the interest on the Series 2019 Bond to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code. Any remaining balance shall be paid into the Revenue Bond Redemption Fund and used as permitted by state law.

SECTION 10. <u>Revenue Bond Form</u>. The Series 2019 Bond shall be in substantially the following form subject to such changes, including references to additional security, as may be required by the Michigan Finance Authority:

[FORM OF BOND TO BE COMPLETED AFTER BOND SALE]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTIES OF INGHAM AND CLINTON

CITY OF EAST LANSING SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2019

Registered Owner: Michigan Finance Authority

Principal Amount: [amount]

Date of Original Issue: [date]

The CITY OF EAST LANSING, Counties of Ingham and Clinton, State of Michigan (the

"City" or the "Issuer"), for value received, acknowledges itself to owe, and for value received hereby promises to pay, but only out of the hereinafter described Net Revenues of the City's Sewage Disposal System (hereinafter defined), to the Michigan Finance Authority (the "Authority"), or registered assigns, the Principal Amount shown above (subject to any principal forgiveness as provided for in Schedule I), or such portion thereof as shall have been advanced to the City pursuant to a Purchase Contract between the City and the Authority and a Supplemental Agreement by and among the City, the Authority and the State of Michigan acting through the Department of Environmental Quality, in lawful money of the United States of America, unless prepaid prior thereto as hereinafter provided.

During the time the Principal Amount is being drawn down by the City under this bond, the Authority will periodically provide to the City a statement showing the amount of principal that has been advanced and the date of each advance, which statement shall constitute prima facie evidence of the reported information; provided that no failure on the part of the Authority to provide such a statement or to reflect a disbursement or the correct amount of a disbursement shall relieve the City of its obligation to repay the outstanding Principal Amount actually advanced (subject to any principal forgiveness as provided for in Schedule I), all accrued interest thereon, and any other amount payable with respect thereto in accordance with the terms of this bond.

The Principal Amount shall be payable on the dates and in the annual principal installment amounts set forth on Schedule I attached hereto and made a part hereof, as Schedule I may be adjusted if less than \$[amount] is disbursed to the City or if a portion of the Principal Amount is subject to any principal forgiveness or prepaid as provided below, with interest on the principal installments from the date each installment is delivered to the holder hereof until paid at the rate of 2.00% per annum. Interest is first payable on [date], and semiannually thereafter, and principal is payable on the first day of [month] commencing [date] (as identified in the Purchase Contract) and annually thereafter.

Principal installments of this bond are subject to prepayment by the City prior to maturity only with the prior written consent of the Authority and on such terms as may be required by the Authority.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this bond, as long as the Authority is the owner of this bond, (a) this bond is payable as to principal, premium, if any, and interest at The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., or at such other place as shall be designated in writing to the City by the Authority (the "Authority's Depository"); (b) the City agrees that it will deposit with the Authority's Depository payments of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on this bond in immediately available funds by 12:00 noon at least five business days prior to the date on which any such payment is due whether by maturity, redemption or otherwise; in the event that the Authority's Depository has not received the City's deposit by 12:00 noon on the scheduled day, the City shall immediately pay to the Authority as invoiced by the Authority an amount to recover the Authority's administrative costs and lost investment earnings attributable to that late payment; and (c) written notice of any redemption of this bond shall be given by the City and received by the Authority's Depository at least 40 days prior to the date on which such redemption is to be made.

Additional Interest

In the event of a default in the payment of principal or interest hereon when due, whether at maturity, by redemption or otherwise, the amount of such default shall bear interest (the "additional interest") at a rate equal to the rate of interest which is two percent above the Authority's cost of providing funds (as determined by the Authority) to make payment on the bonds of the Authority issued to provide funds to purchase this bond but in no event in excess of the maximum rate of interest permitted by law. The additional interest shall continue to accrue until the Authority has been fully reimbursed for all costs incurred by the Authority (as determined by the Authority) as a consequence of the City's default. Such additional interest shall be payable on the interest payment date following demand of the Authority. In the event that (for reasons other than the default in the payment of any municipal obligation purchased by the Authority) the investment of amounts in the reserve account established by the Authority for the bonds of the Authority issued to provide funds to purchase this bond fails to provide sufficient available funds (together with any other funds which may be made available for such purpose) to pay the interest on outstanding bonds of the Authority issued to fund such account, the City shall and hereby agrees to pay on demand only the City's pro rata share (as determined by the Authority) of such deficiency as

For prompt payment of principal and interest on this bond, the City has irrevocably pledged the revenues of its Sewage Disposal System, including all appurtenances, extensions and improvements thereto (the "System"), after provision has been made for reasonable and necessary expenses of operation, maintenance and administration (the "Net Revenues"), and a statutory lien thereon is hereby recognized and created. This bond is of equal standing and priority of lien as to the Net Revenues of the System with the City's Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2013 dated April 9, 2013, Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2015, and Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2017, dated June 23, 2017.

This bond is a single, fully registered, non convertible bond issued in the Principal Amount pursuant to Ordinance No. 1296 and Ordinance No. [XX] duly adopted by the City Council of the City (the "Ordinance"), and under and in full compliance with the Constitution and statutes of the State of Michigan, including specifically Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended, for the purpose of paying the cost of acquiring and constructing improvements to the System.

For a complete statement of the revenues from which and the conditions under which this bond is payable, a statement of the conditions under which additional bonds of superior and equal standing may hereafter be issued and the general covenants and provisions pursuant to which this bond is issued, reference is made to the Ordinance.

This bond is a self-liquidating bond and is not a general obligation of the City and does not constitute an indebtedness of the City within any constitutional, statutory or charter limitation, and is payable both as to principal and interest, solely from the Net Revenues of the System and certain funds and accounts established under the Ordinance. The principal and interest on this bond are secured by the statutory lien hereinbefore described.

The City has covenanted and agreed, and does hereby covenant and agree, to fix CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

from page 7

headed and I didn't agree with the agenda."

Talifarro said Bernero was also a champion for racial and gender diversity. As for Schor?

"I'm a show-me person," Talifarro

said. "If you truly value diversity, then show it in your results. It would've been much easier for me to just not make any of these changes. But to just say we tried and couldn't do it? That's unacceptable to me. If diversity is truly important, that would be reflective in the people you're hiring." Schor said any candidates that may

have identified as minorities during the interview process were ultimately

unqualified for the job.

Duckett-Freeman is still training to become a paramedic in hopes that she can someday nab a job at her hometown department. While she didn't make the last round, Purchase said he still expects up to 40 percent of the workforce to retire by 2021. And Duckett-Freeman still spots an opportunity on the horizon.

added. "There is going to be racism wherever I go. Honestly, I just want to work in my community. This is my home. These are my people. I don't think it's fair to say this issue is only going at the Lansing Fire Department. We just need more compassion, more knowledge and to be more open minded."

- KYLE KAMINSKI "I live here," Duckett-Freeman kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

that as long as any of the Bonds remain Outstanding and unpaid as to either principal or interest:

- The City will cause the Series 2019 Project to be acquired and constructed promptly and (a) in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor.
- (b) The City shall, to the extent permitted by law, take all actions within its control necessary to maintain the exclusion of the interest on the Series 2019 Bond from gross income for federal income tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including, but not limited to, actions relating to any required rebate of arbitrage earnings and the expenditure and investment of bond proceeds and moneys deemed to be bond proceeds, and to prevent the Series 2019 Bond from being or becoming a "private activity bond" as that term is used in Section 141 of the Internal Revenue Code.

SECTION 12. <u>Conditions Permitting Issuance of Senior or Prior Lien Bonds</u>. The City reserves the right to issue Additional Revenue Bonds of senior or prior standing and priority of lien on the Net Revenues of the System to the Series 2019 Bond (the "Senior Lien Bonds"). If Senior Lien Bonds are issued, then Net Revenues of the System would be used first to pay debt service on the Senior Lien Bonds prior to providing for payment of the Series 2019 Bond, Series 2017 Bond, Series 2015 Bond, and Series 2013 Bond.

SECTION 13. Negotiated Sale: Application to MDEQ and Michigan Finance Authority. The City Council has considered the option of selling the Series 2019 Bond through a competitive sale and a negotiated sale and determines that it is in the best interest of the City to negotiate the sale of the Series 2019 Bond to the Michigan Finance Authority because the State Revolving Fund financing program provides significant savings to the City compared to competitive sale in the municipal bond market. The Authorized Officer and the Director of Public Works and Environmental Services are authorized to apply to the Michigan Finance Authority and to the MDEQ for placement of the Series 2019 Bond with the Michigan Finance Authority. The actions taken by the Authorized Officer and the Director of Public Works and Environmental Services with respect to the Series 2019 Bond prior to the adoption of this Ordinance are ratified and confirmed. The Authorized Officer and/or the Director of Public Works and Environmental Services are authorized to sell the Series 2019 Bond to the Michigan Finance Authority and to execute and deliver the Purchase Contract, the Supplemental Agreement and the Issuer's Certificate in the forms provided by the Michigan Finance Authority. The Authorized Officer and the Director of Public Works and Environmental Services are further authorized to execute and deliver such contracts, documents and certificates as are necessary or advisable to qualify the Series 2019 Bond for the State Revolving Fund program.

SECTION 14. Approval of Bond Details. The Authorized Officer is authorized to determine final bond details for the Series 2019 Bond to the extent necessary or convenient to complete the transaction authorized by this ordinance, to exercise the authority and make the determinations authorized pursuant to Section 7a(1)(c) of Act 94, including but not limited to determinations regarding interest rates, prices, discounts, maturities, principal amounts, denominations, dates of issuance, interest payment dates, redemption rights, the place of delivery and payment, and other matters.

SECTION 15. Repeal, Savings Clause. All ordinances, resolutions or orders, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, repealed.

SECTION 16. Severability; Paragraph Headings; and Conflict. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be held invalid, the invalid the ordinance. The paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Ordinance. The paragraph headings in this Ordinance are furnished for convenience of reference only and shall not be considered to be part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 17. Publication and Recordation. This Ordinance shall be published in full in the City Pulse or other newspaper of general circulation in the City qualified under State law to publish legal notices, promptly after its adoption, and shall be recorded in the Ordinance Book of the City and such recording authenticated by the signatures of the Mayor and the City Clerk.

SECTION 18. Effective Date. This Ordinance is hereby determined to be immediately necessary for the preservation of the peace, health and safety of the residents of the City, and is adopted to provide for the adequate operation of the System, which was established under Act 94 and therefore, pursuant to Section 6 of said Act 94, shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Adopted and signed this 12th day of February, 2019.

Jennifer Shuster City Clerk

CP#19-041

FROM PAGE 10 and maintain at all times while any bonds payable from the Net Revenues of the System shall be outstanding, such rates for service furnished by the System as shall be sufficient to provide for payment of the principal of and interest on the bonds payable from the Net Revenues of the System, as and when the same shall become due and payable, to provide for the payment of expenses of administration and operation and such expenses for maintenance of the System as are necessary to preserve the same in good repair and working order, and to provide for such other expenditures and funds for the System as are required by the Ordinance.

This bond is transferable only upon the books of the City by the registered owner in person or the registered owner's attorney duly authorized in writing, upon the surrender of this bond together with a written instrument of transfer satisfactory to the City, duly executed by the registered owner or the registered owner's attorney, and thereupon a new bond or bonds in the same aggregate principal amount and of the same maturity shall be issued to the transferee in exchange therefor as provided in the Ordinance, and upon payment of the charges, if any, therein prescribed.

It is hereby certified and recited that all acts, conditions and things required by law to be done precedent to and in the issuance of this bond have been done and performed in regular and due time and form as required by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City, by its City Council, has caused this bond to be executed by its Mayor and its City Clerk and the corporate seal or a facsimile to be impressed or printed hereon, all as of the Date of Original Issue.

CITY OF EAST LANSING

[Mayor to sign bond By Mayor

(Seal)

Countersigned:

Its <u>[City Clerk to sign bond]</u> City Clerk

Name of Issuer: City of East Lansing DEQ Project No.: CWSRF 5632-01 DEQ Approved Amt: \$[ar \$[amount] Loan Amount Forgiven: \$[amount] Loan Amount to be Repaid: \$[balance]

SCHEDULE I

Based on the schedule provided below unless revised as provided in this paragraph, repayment of principal of the bond shall be made until the full amount advanced to the Issuer is repaid. In the event the Order of Approval issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (the "Order") approves a principal amount of assistance less than the amount of the bond delivered to the Authority, the Authority shall only disburse principal up to the amount stated in the Order. In the event (1) that the payment schedule approved by the Issuer and described below provides for payment of a total principal amount greater than the amount of assistance approved by the Order, or (2) that less than the principal amount of assistance approved by the Order is disbursed to the Issuer by the Authority, or (3) that any portion of the principal amount of assistance approved by the Order and disbursed to the Issuer is forgiven pursuant to the Order, the Authority shall prepare a new payment schedule which shall be effective upon receipt by the Issuer.

Due Date

Amount of Principal Installment Due

Interest on the bond shall accrue on that portion of principal disbursed by the Authority to the Issuer which has not been forgiven pursuant to the Order from the date such portion is disbursed, until paid, at the rate of 2.00% per annum, payable [date], and semi-annually thereafter.

The Issuer agrees that it will deposit with The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., or at such other place as shall be designated in writing to the Issuer by the Authority (the "Authority's Depository") payments of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on this bond in immediately available funds by 12:00 noon at least five business days prior to the date on which any such payment is due whether by maturity, redemption or otherwise. In the event that the Authority's Depository has not received the Issuer's deposit by 12:00 noon on the scheduled day, the Issuer shall immediately pay to the Authority as invoiced by the Authority an amount to recover the Authority's administrative costs and lost investment earnings attributable to that late payment.

Not to exceed amount. Loan reductions at close out will result in a proportional decrease.

SECTION 11. General Covenants. The City covenants and agrees with the holders of the Bonds

Baker Street irregulars

Mayor praises partners in South Side resurgence

It wasn't unusual for Lansing Mayor Andy Schor to stick around after a press conference to take a few questions.

But the first question was a bit striking.

"Whoooo?"

A huge Eurasian eagle owl from Potter Park Zoo, wrangled by zoo staffer Dennis Laidler, gently "whoooed" several times that afternoon, and aptly so. The nascent resurgence of Lansing's Baker neighborhood, the subject of Thursday's press conference at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, is more a matter of "who" than "what."

"We're here to celebrate the power of partnership," Schor said.

Schor took the opportunity to recognize a broad coalition of groups and people, from the YMCA to Americorps and the Land Bank to community cops, clerics and cleanup volunteers who are joining forces to help out a challenged South Side neighborhood.

One of Schor's first acts as mayor was to create the Dept. of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement, which follows an "asset-based community development model."

"In the Baker neighborhoods, the assets are many," Schor said. "Longterm committed residents, new resi-



dents with fresh energy, established faith-based organizations and new organizations like the Cedar Street Art Collective."

The owl was there to represent one such asset, the Potter Park Zoo. A "Zoo in Your Neighborhood" program distributed 114 free passes to Baker Neighborhood community partners last year.

The Baker (sometimes called Baker-Donora) neighborhood stretches from the Grand River on the north to Mt. Hope Road on the south, and from Pennsylvania Avenue on the east to South Cedar Street on the west about 650 rooftops.

Schor and Police Chief Mike Yankowski, who sat nearby, announced

ORDINANCE #2606

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning cla	ssification of the property described as follows:
Case Number:	Z-7-2018
Parcel Number's:	33-01-01-32-278-121 & 33-01-01-32-278-131
Address:	Two Vacant Lots, Northwest corner of W.
	Cavanaugh Road & Lowcroft Avenue
Legal Descriptions:	Lots 54 & 55, Foster S. Holmes Road Subdivision,
	from "A" Residential District to "C" Residential
	District.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on February 11, 2019, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

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

CP#19-045



Lansing Mayor Andy Schor (left) acknowledged a panoply of partners working to improve the Baker neighborhood at a press conference Thursday at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Afterwards, resident Virginia Bauman (above) told the group what it was like to grow up in the neighborhood in the 1940s and 1950s.

that victim and property crimes in the neighborhood have decreased 33 percent from 2017 to 2018.

Some of the numbers thrown around Thursday were less reassuring.

Jeanna Paluzzi, director of the Ingham County Land Bank, said the Baker neighborhood has seen tax foreclosure on 17 percent of its 700 parcels since 2005.

Out of 70 parcels owned by the land bank — more than 10 percent of the neighborhood — 62 vacant homes were demolished and five have been rehabbed. Paluzzi and others are trying to flip that liability into an asset.

Paluzzi invited residents to "ingrain their presence here by taking on a side lot to increase the size of their yard."

One key vacant property in the neighborhood is on the verge of renewal, according to Rawley van Fossen of the Capital Area Housing Partnership. Van Fossen told the group Thursday about the planned redevelopment of the 200,000-square-foot Walter French Academy at 1900 S. Cedar St., built in 1925 and vacant since 2008.

"Our goal is to submit this project for funding, which will bring new housing to the area and provide historic renovation of the historic auditorium and gymnasium," van Fossen said.

Another vacant lot is a pocket park, with a pavilion, a fence decorated with murals and sports rental equipment, thanks largely to the grant writing skills of Elizabeth Stewart, a seventh grader at Everett High School, who also got a nod from the Mayor Thursday.

An impressive series of speakers touted public art projects, art workshops, food drives, dance lessons, life drawing courses and other activities going on in the area's re-purposed spaces, including the Cedar Street Art Collective (formerly Dicker and Deal resale shop) and the former John Bean factory.

Vicki Hamilton Allen, president and CEO of Capital Region Habitat for Humanity, said that 200 volunteers were mobilized in the Baker neighborhood in 2018 to repair siding and porches and build wheelchair ramps on 15 homes in the area and and even replace a few roofs, in tandem with a federal home loan bank based in Indianapolis.

Hamilton Allen said Capital Region Habitat has invested \$100,000 in the neighborhood, along with several partners, including the Capital Region Community Foundation.

After the mayor opened up the session for comments, a white-haired lady tentatively stood up in the back of the room and proceeded to steal the show.

Virginia Bauman, 81, grew up with five brothers a few blocks away from Bethlehem Church, at 527 Avon St. She lived there from September 1946 until she got married in 1959 and still lives in Lansing. She told the group about walking to Christiancy Grade School and Walter French Junior High and Lansing Eastern.

"My brothers and I played touch football in the street," she said. Her oldest brother was a soda jerk at a Britten's Drug Store a block away. "In the winter, we walked down Baker to ice skate at Sycamore Park."

She praised the assembled partners for their work in helping out the neighborhood.

"Well, you can't top that," Schor said. When the press conference broke up, some neighbors buzzed around Bauman for more stories about the old days, others schmoozed for a while over Valentine's Day cupcakes and everybody got back to work. – LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Crisis actor Fake emergencies, real threats and marks for the con By JEFFREY C. BILLMAN

On Friday morning, Donald Trump walked into the Rose Garden to declare that while he'd done a better

Informed Dissent

job of border security than anyone ever had, there was now an unprec-

edented emergency that required diverting funds from actual military projects to build a southern border wall that Congress had explicitly refused to pay for.

Here, verbatim, is how he explained his decision: "I could do the wall over a longer period of time. I didn't need to do this. But I'd rather do it much faster. I don't have to do it for the election. I've already done a lot of wall for the election, 2020. And the only reason we're up here talking about this is because of the election, which it looks like they're not going to be able to do. And this is one of the ways they think they can possibly win is by obstruction and a lot of other nonsense. I think that — I just want to get it done faster, that's all."

About six hours later, emergency in effect, he flew to Mar-a-Lago to play golf.

Introducing 'Informed Dissent'

Jeffrey Billman is the editor in chief of INDY Week in North Carolina's Research Triangle. He's been an investigative reporter, news editor, political journalist, features writer, and foul-mouthed blogger for a number of newspapers, magazines, and websites. He'll be paying off student loans on his political science master's degree until he's dead. Email him at jbillman@indyweek.com or find him on Twitter @jeffreybillman.



At this point, there's barely any use in debunking Trump's lies. The reality is what it is: Border apprehensions have been declining for nearly two decades, according to Trump's own Department of Homeland Security. But Trump — probably to appease his MAGA rubes, possibly because his head is made of straw, maybe both — has rejected that reality and substituted his own, a hell-scape dystopia of brown invaders coming to kill your wives and rape your daughters.

Still, the absurdity of the president inventing a national emergency out of whole cloth shouldn't obscure the holy-shit-seriousness of the president inventing a national emergency of whole cloth.

Since the National Emergencies Act was passed in 1976, it's been invoked 59 times. Thirty-two of those emergencies are still in effect: Most sanction people involved in human rights abuses or narcotics trafficking. None, before now, was a transparent usurpation of congressional spending authority.

Trump is relying on two powers the law grants him: One lets him redi-

rect Army civil works projects toward "authorized civil works, military construction and civil defense projects that are essential to the national defense." The other permits the secretary of defense to begin military construction projects "necessary to support such use of the armed forces." (Obvious, but worth reiterating: This all presupposes an actual emergency.)

In Washington, the few Republicans who still bother pretending at intellectual honesty are furiously stroking their chins, fretting about what a Democrat could do with such powers. (Address climate change? The horror!) Maybe they'll vote with Democrats to condemn Trump's declaration — or not, as most have the backbone of a squid — but it's unlikely there'll be enough votes to override a veto.

The wall will almost certainly get gummed up in the courts, however, where Trump's elocution Friday — "I didn't need to do this" — won't do him any favors. Still, courts have given presidents wide latitude on what constitutes an emergency, so who knows. (Like so much of the Trump presidency, we're in uncharted waters.) More problematic, Trump wants to reroute military resources to border security, a civilian operation, which courts tend to frown upon. And it'll difficult to argue that the wall is "essential to the national defense," because, well, judges have eyes.

Even if Trump prevails, nothing is likely to happen before the next election, which, for the president, is just as well. To Trump, building a wall is secondary to looking like he's building a wall. In his mind, declaring an emergency makes him look strong, and having the wall as an election issue gives him license to rage about scary brown invaders, which riles up his base. Sure, Trump probably wants the thing, but for his vanity – because he doesn't want his supporters to think him weak, because he can only envision a legacy through edifices.

At its core, though, this is all farce, a con for the president's simpleminded marks. (If you don't see that, sorry, you're a mark.) But that doesn't mean we should roll our eyes at it. The National Emergencies Act perhaps naively presumed that presidents would use it in good faith, not to subvert the gravity of their office to the pettiness of their ego. Perhaps Donald Trump is too incompetent to be dangerous, but when he's gone, this genie won't want to go back into the bottle.

And the next guy who wants to use a make-believe crisis to circumvent an inconvenient Congress might be able to string a coherent sentence together.





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Frosh Rep. Anthony tackling bullying, credit history

One in five students report they've been bullied — 15 percent in the last 12 months.

Those statistics from the National Center for Education Statistics are among the reasons Rep. Sarah Anthony has introduced a bill introduced requiring teachers to receive at least one hour of training on bullying prevention.

Anthony, D-Lansing, says teachers are often the frontline. Some additional training to help teachers spot when "things are going sour" could help pull some kids out of a hard spot.

"An hour of training in order to spot this type of behavior doesn't seem extremely unreasonable," Anthony said.



She expects the support of the Michigan Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers.

"We are always concerned with adding things to the certification process, but this is such a critical issue," said MEA spokesman Doug Pratt. "The fact is, most

teacher prep institutions and school districts do more than an hour on this, so setting that as a baseline makes sense. We are looking forward to working on this issue continually with Rep. Anthony and anybody else who wants to tackle this as an issue in our schools."

Michigan lawmakers have already taken steps in recent years to tighten

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019, AT 7:00P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers Trustees: Broughton, Harris MEMBERS ABSENT: ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes. Minutes of the meeting held on January 22, 2019, approved. Agenda approved as amended. Approved amended site plan SPR-18-16. Approved special use permit SP-18-18. Approved On-Premise Liquor License for 2328 Showtime. Adopted Resolution 19-03: Board of Review Appointments. Claims approved. Meeting adjourned. Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#19-038

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from The Dimension Group for special use permit approval for the property at 918 East Grand River Avenue, Suite #1, for the sale of packaged beer, wine, and liquor under an SDM and SDD liquor license. The subject property is located in the EV, East Village, zoning district.

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

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

Jennifer Shuster City Clerk

Dated: February 14, 2019 East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#19-046

up the laws about bullying, including expanding the definition of bullying and creating guidelines for districts to develop action plans to combat it.

Under state law, districts are required to adopt and implement a policy to prohibit bullying but are not required to equip students or teachers with tools to deal with the issue.

"We need to make sure our teachers are equipped to combat bullying by using de-escalation techniques and other best practices and are able to support students with comprehensive counseling methods," Anthony said.

Pratt said that having teachers trained in how to prevent bullying is a good idea, but they can't be expected to deal with the problem alone. He noted that guidance counselors, too, are needed in the effort, which is a problem since Michigan's standard of one for every 750 students is the highest in the nation.

And because bullying does go beyond the school walls, he said, parents have to be enlisted in the effort.

Anthony noted that some students have experienced bullying so severely that they refuse to attend school. It increases depression rates and, in some cases, has resulted in students committing some form of self-harm.

Anthony, a freshman legislator, is not sitting back. She has also introduced a bill to prohibit employers from inquiring about a job applicant's credit history, except for certain positions, like a bank employee or a casino worker.

"It is kind of the chicken and the egg," she said. "Folks said, 'Finally, because a job is going to help me rebuild my credit. I will actually be able to have some money to pay down some of this debt.' It was like an ah-ha moment. Most of those folks were either young folks or working families who are simply trying to rebuild their lives."

Charles Owens, state director of the National Federation of Independent Business, said his organization will be opposed.

"Small businesses and employers need the flexibility to determine if someone is the right person for the job, and the more we limit the ability for them to get that information at the front end, the more heartache it causes for both the prospective employee and the employer at the back end," Owens said.

The legislation would prohibit employers from making hiring decisions based on an individual's credit history or making inquiries about it.

There is an exception "if a good credit history is an established bona fide occupational requirement of the particular position or employment classification." And the bill specifically exempts employees of banks, savings and loans, credit unions, casinos and insurers.

Anthony said young people might have poor credit because they're strapped with student loan debt, and that doesn't mean they wouldn't make good employees. Low-income workers ought not be disqualified because they are in the process of trying to rebuild their credit scores, she contended.

"You would be surprised at how many people, working professionals, are still trying to rebuild their credit based on a lot of different factors, and even from the recession, folks whose homes were foreclosed upon. These weren't people that were lazy," she said.

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

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, for the purpose of an amendment to Chapter 1460, Sections 1460.01 and 1460.02 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances to adopt the 2015 International Property Maintenance Code with certain additions, deletions, and alterations.

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

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

CP#19-042



ATTENTION: ALL CANNABIS PURCHASES WILL REQUIRE AN MMMP CARD UNTIL DECEMBER 2019 f: @MMMPCard intessa 517.339.9900

Markets are hidden gems of culture and delicious food

By DENNIS BURCK

hile Lansing has many great Mexican restaurants, its markets are where a lot of underappreciated ingredients and dishes can be purchased. Here are just a few you should definitely check out.

DON PANCHOS' MARKET, SOUTHSIDE

Attached to the Mexicone Sweets and Treats ice cream shop, Don Panchos Market has been serving the south side of Lansing since

Don Pancho Market 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. 7 days a week 2120 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI (517) 374-0044

2014. Inside, colorful piñatas dangle above aisles waiting for their lucky chance to be stuffed with candy and smashed to smithereens. The

shelves are lined with dried peppers, spices and snacks. All roads lead to the butcher counter.

"Our fresh meat is what we are known for," said Denise Cervantes, the owner's daughter and employee. "My dad was a butcher in Mexico, so he knows a lot of the cuts used with Mexican food. A lot of them you can't find in other grocery stores with pre-packaged meat."

Included with the usual butcher offerings of cuts are big rings of Chorizo Mexican sausage, fried barbacoa, chicharrones and menudo meat.

Don Pancho's offers the usual authentic Mexican cuisine of tacos, burritos and tortas, but has a few off the well known path worth checking out.

Foremost is the esquites, a corn dish served in a cup with cotija cheese, chili pepper and mayonnaise. It also offers chicharrones preparados, a dish with a fried wheat base, pickled pork skin on top and the usual accoutrements of lime, cilantro, sour cream, avocado and tomato.

'We are a place for the Hispanic community," Cervantes said. "This is what my parents have done their whole life. We've always been supported by the community."

HANDY'S FOOD MARKET, OLD TOWN

This Old Town building is over 100 years old and Handy's has seen 50 years of service with it. Housing

Mexican sodas, the vintage

pearly-white Tyler refrigera-

tion unit in the back proud-

ly proclaiming "Please Serve

Yourself" looks like the day

it was likely installed in the

Handy's Food Market 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to

Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday 424 W. Willow St., Lansing MI (517) 977-0266

1950s.

Owner Daniel Pesina took over the longtime ownership of Handy's Food Market in 2017 after working there since 2005.

"It is the little knick-knacks that keep us special and different from everybody else," Pesina said. "Our product goes all over. People come from Holt, Dimondale, Grand Ledge, Haslett and all around to get certain items. They'll spend \$5 in gas to buy something here for \$4."

Aside from freshly made meats for tacos, burritos,





Photos Dennis Burck/City Pulse (Above) Owner of Handy's Food Market Daniel Pesina. (Left) Pinatas hang over a large selection of Mexican products.

tortas and menudo, Handy's also imports handmade tamales from Evie's Tamales in Detroit's Mexican Town neighborhood.

Lansing's Mexican food scene has changed for the better over the years, Pesina said.

"What I've seen change is the passion for Mexican food. In the past, people didn't have the passion, and were just running a store or restaurant throwing things together and calling it a meal."

Handy's also has a deli with homemade salsas, chips and other on-the-go goods.

"What makes us popular is we take the time to actually care what we are feeding people. If they are going to love to eat it, we want to make sure we do too.'

SUPERMERCADO LA ESTRELLITA, **NORTHSIDE**

Fresh baked sweet breads of all shapes and sizes line the counter of Supermercado La Estrellita, the only Mexican bakery in Lansing.

However, the sweet aroma turns

savory after a stroll to the back of

the market where meats like cho-

rizo, carnitas and barbacoa sizzle

Taking family recipes from a

fellow family store in Holland,

Michigan, Supermercado La

Estrellita has been a Lansing

for patrons during lunch hour.

Supermercado La **Estrellita** 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday to Saturday 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday 2604 N. East St., Lansina. MI (517) 267-1201

mainstay for 10 years.

The bakery runs special breads depending on Mexican holidays, cashier and owner's son Jonathan Sarmiento said.

We bake very traditional breads. This past January, we have special breads like tres reyes," Sarmiento said.



Photos Dennis Burck/City Pulse (Above) Cashier Jonathan Sarmiento at Supermercado La Estrellita. (Right) La Estrellita is Lansing's only Mexican bakery and regularly stocks conchas.

"It's an oval bread you put babies in and if you happen to get a baby, you are supposed to have a tamale party for those who were there. Though people don't tend to do that here, it is still a tradition we uphold."

Pan de muerto, or Day of the Dead bread, is also baked special during the October holiday season, he added.

"You leave food and offerings for relatives who have passed away. You take that and visit you and they'd take that to eat.

Regularly, the bakery stocks sweet conchas and empanadas.

The biggest challenge of running the market is its size, he said. "We are starting to reach our capacity and are trying to see other options as far as expanding."

For those outside of the Hispanic and Latin community looking to grab something more authentically Mexican, Sarmiento has one piece of advice - eat it first and ask what it was made of later.

"If people hear what it is made of like cow tongue or intestines, they might get a little hesitant to eat it."

The menudo made with intestines and la lengua cow tongue are just as staple meat options as carnitas or barbacoa traditionally, he added.

There are sufficient authentic Mexican food options in Lansing, and fusion and Tex-Mex restaurants don't make much of a difference, Sarmiento said.

"If people enjoy it, they enjoy it. It will all start to blend together anyway. I think people will enjoy something different than what they regularly eat every day."

The dizzying amount of Mexican food in Lansing

By SKYLER ASHLEY

At Casa de Rosado, more than a dozen are gathered to watch Latino activist Lorenzo Lopez demonstrate on how he cooks his signature enchiladas. It has the atmosphere of a lighthearted cooking show, sangria is poured and tortilla chips with salsa - made with Lopez's own recipe are served. Many interject with jokes as Lopez proceeds with his instructions and laughs are shared.

When the food is served and the forks finally connect with the soft, warm chicken-filled tortillas doused with the homemade enchilada sauce, everyone seems immediately elated.

The day was a great opportunity to learn more about what makes Mexican food so endearing to so many. A sort of microcosm of Mexican cuisine's ability to bring people together with its dishes that provide infinitely unique flavors, with seemingly no one true method of preparation. For several attendees, it was a great opportunity to learn.

"I am not Latino, so I have everything to learn. It's hard if you don't know the ins and outs – having to try every single restaurant," said Jessica Bibbee. "I think it's important for everyone to know what goes into the food and to know a little bit about the history and techniques."

Every family regardless of regional roots in Mexico seems to have its own take on how to make tamales, tacos, burritos - each incorporating different sauces, meats and cheeses. So, it's almost impossible to nail down a single recipe as the single true "authentic" way.

"The concept of an enchilada is universal. But how you prepare the sauce, which tortilla you use and what you put in it is your own choice. It's not right or wrong," Lopez said. "When you say things like, 'None of them get it right,' well they get it right according to them."

Lopez elaborated that the history of several Mexican dishes go so far





Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

back in time, and involve so much assimilation and commodification between different cultures, that making the distinction of an original recipe is nearly impossible.

"What is today's modern Mexican food originated thousands of years ago with all of the indigenous cultures that thrive in what is now Mexico. Before the Europeans came, all of those indigenous groups had their own cuisine," Lopez said.

Add a healthy dose of regional traditions and it gets even more complex.

"The cool thing about Mexican cuisine is there's a lot of dishes that can vary from a lot of different areas let's say southern Mexico or northern Mexico," said Victor Banda, owner of the Taquero Mucho food truck. "Then there's the street style, which is the street tacos you can find in the city at





any little food stand in Mexico."

RESTAURANTS IN TOWN

But there's always a discussion among Lansing eaters about how Americanized dishes rank up with the traditional Mexican methods. The access Lansing has to great authentic Mexican food is palpable – there are countless local options beyond Taco Bell or QDoba.

Mexican food restaurateurs in Lansing are happy to prepare the original recipes and also provide the versions many Americans have grown accustomed to via these massive chain operations.

"We didn't want to separate ourselves with authentic and American styles. We wanted to mix it up; we wanted to set it up so our customers could choose. They can see what both styles are like at the same time," said Jorge Vera, manager and co-owner of Acapulco Mexican Grill, in Frandor.

Food has always been central in Vera's household, whether while growing up in Guanajuato, in Central Mexico, or after his family moved to Lansing and started the Cancun Mexican Grill chain of restaurants across Mid-Michigan and now Acapulco.

"Growing up in Mexico, everywhere you go - the first thing they do is ask you if you want to eat. As you walk (Left) Lorenzo Lopez stirs his enchilada sauce (Below) The finished product at a workshop at Casa de Rosado.

in the house they are like, 'Oh, you're hungry, you want to eat?" Vera said.

Vera's favorite restaurant besides his own? Pablo's Old Town Mexican Restaurant.

Pablo Maldonado opened Pablo's in 2005 after looking to purchase a mixer to make bread to sell to his friends as a side business to his truck-driving career. Upon meeting with a woman selling her mixer, he learned she was selling everything - all the equipment and the building itself.

"My main focus is to give the customer what they want. If I go somewhere and eat, I expect the best," Maldonado said. "Why would I give somebody something that I don't like it? That's the most important part."

Maldonado himself has felt the growth in popularity in Mexican food, noticing the increase in customers that aren't Latin or Hispanic.

"A lot of people who aren't Mexican that prefer good Mexican food," Maldonado said. "Most of my customers are from other countries, especially Americans."

"I eat at Pablo's and I feel like I am back home," Vera said.

Alongside Pablo's, another favorite of many is Aldaco's Taco Bar, opened in 1995 by Juvencio Aldaco. After Famous Taco, which opened in 1968,

Mexican food

from page 16

it's Lansing's oldest, still-running Mexican restaurant.

Aldaco's Taco Bar was born when Juvencio tried to offer advertising to a restaurant, only to be told by the owner that it was hemorrhaging money and that would he sell it to him on the spot for \$5,000.

Juvencio took him up on it, returning home and letting his family know he planned to purchase a restaurant. As he knew little about the food industry, Juvencio's family stepped in. Juvencio's son Daniel said the recipes all came from his stepmother, Maria. Aldaco's Taco Bar would open that New Year's Day.

'My stepmom got the recipes from her mom, and I learned them too. Basically, all of the recipes from Aldaco's come from our family," Daniel Aldaco said.

Having been in the business for more than two decades, Aldaco's Taco Bar has been subject to the changing landscape of Mexican food. Still, Daniel maintains the clientele has been steady; he's just noticed that more people of different backgrounds visiting the restaurant.

"When we were in Old Town when we first opened, it was more Hispanic people - now it's everyone," Daniel said.

Tacos Monterrey is a newcomer to the scene. Owner Ismael Alejandro Puente Rodriguez based the concept off his mother Alejandra's food truck in Monterrey, Mexico, and felt he could do a lot of things better than the restaurants he had been working for.

"When it is real, authentic Mexican food, you are going to know it when you are tasting the food," Rodriguez said. "You can taste artificial flavors; artificial seasonings – you can detect when something is cooked fresh daily and hasn't been frozen for days or weeks."

Since he moved to Lansing in 2010,



Saturday 11AM-10:30PM Sunday 11AM-9PM 300 N. CLIPPERT STREET, SUITE 17 LANSING, MI 48912 • 517.203.0096



Pablo Moldanado stands outside his restaurant in Old Town.

Rodriguez said the scene has grown handily.

"In the past four years, I've seen a lot of new Mexican restaurants come to Lansing."

FOOD TRUCKS

A big purveyor of Mexican food culture trends for Lansing has been the food truck. Mexican food, with many of its hallmarks easily prepared on a flattop griddle, is conducive to the mobile restaurant formula.

Victor Banda's Taquero Mucho is one of the new trucks that earned some fanfare in 2018.

"You don't really need an upscale restaurant to bring out the good flavors in Mexican food," Banda said.

Taquero Mucho's dishes are directly inspired by the food Banda's mother prepared for him as a child.

The basic idea of opening up a food truck was a dream my mother had. It was something I wanted to do for her," Banda said.

It's a common thread for many Mexican restaurants in Lansing, especially the food trucks.

Tacos E Mas

El Oasis – often seen as the crown

FREE DINNER MUST BE OF EQUAL OR

MUST PRESENT COUPON MON-WED: 11AM - 10PM

THUR-SAT: 11AM-11PM

SUN: 11AM - 9PM

517-272-7979 tacosemas.com 3500 S. Cedar St. Lansing, MI 48910 jewel not just for Lansing food trucks but Lansing restaurants in general (Mexican or not) - shares a similar history. Its current owner, Ricardo Gutierrez, took over for his mother after he graduated from East Lansing High School.

"The recipes have stayed in the family from generation to generation. We make family style meals," Gutierrez said.

The fact these trucks are able to survive in such inclement weather - Taquero Mucho reopens March 1 after facing the brunt of the polar vortex - is a testament to the love Lansing has grown for them.

"We appreciate it and that's why we're here. We may not be as cold, but

we're still chilly. We still got to come here and shovel the snow," Gutierrez said. "People are loyal; we appreciate everybody and respect them."

Mexican Restaurants in Lansing

Pablo's Old Town Mexican Restaurant

311 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. pablosoldtown.com (517) 372-0887

Aldaco's Taco Bar

6724 S. Cedar St., Lansing Monday-Thursday & Sunday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. aldacosauthenticmexican.com (517) 272-4600

El Oasis

Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

2501 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eloasistruck.com (517) 648-7693

Taquero Mucho

Reopens March 1 2408 S. Cedar St., Lansing Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (517) 303-7882

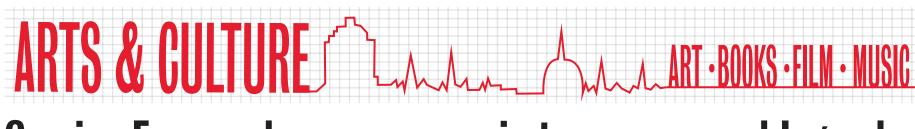
Tacos Monterrey

212 S. Washington Sq., Lansing Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (517) 657-7585

Acapulco Mexican Grill

300 N. Clippert St. Suite 17, Lansing Monday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. acapulcolansing.com (517) 203-0096





Comics Forum showcases comic treasures and legends

By DENNIS BURCK

Whether you are a fair-weather fan or an unapologetic elitist nerd, the Michigan State University Comics Forum has a page-turning fix for all.

This year's event will feature tours of the world's largest comics collection in MSU Special Collections, 16 dialogue and discourse panel talks on comics, an artist's alley with over 30 vendors and keynote presentations by comic artist Gregory "Seth" Gallant and comic scholar Qiana Whitted.

MSU Comics Forum Feb. 19 to Feb. 23 Michigan State University Main Library, 366 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing, MI (517) 353-8700 comicsforum.msu.edu/ Dr. Julian C h a m b l i s s and Dr. Salah Hassan of MSU will kick off the forum on Feb. 19 with a pan-

el discussion on a Muslim's journey in comics. Chambliss is the incoming panel coordinator for the MSU Comics Forum and assistant professor in the MSU Comics Minor.

"My colleague and I are going to be doing a discussion around 'Green Lanterns Vol. I: (Rebirth) Rage Planet,' which is a series that starts in 2006 with two Green Lantern characters."

In the comic, Simon Baz of Dearborn receives the fabled Green Lantern ring.

"This is a way to talk about the depictions of Muslim-Americans in comics. Baz is a real attempt to update and improve what has been somewhat stereotypical depictions of Muslims in comics, think characters like Ra's al Ghul in Batman for example."

Other panel discussions on comics range from cultural re-contextualization to Afro-futurism.

Keynote speaker Seth's illustrations and comics have appeared on the cover of The New Yorker and New York Times Magazine. He was also the designer of the complete collection volumes of popular comic strip "The Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz.

"Seth is the kind of creator that the comic forum strives to bring to the public. He is someone who's had a long and very consistent career as a creator," Chambliss said. "He cultivated a style that is professional and fans of his work have taken to because of the authenticity and voice he brings." Despite indie hits like "Palookaville," published on Drawn and Quarterly comics, Seth is still a relative unknown, Chambliss said.

"This is a great opportunity for MSU to bring him into the spotlight. He puts a spotlight on the diversity, the complexity and the innovation you can find in comics. I'm looking forward to his keynote."

The second keynote speaker, Qiana Whitted, wears many hats. She's a com-







Photos by Demis Burck/City Pulse An edition of "Palookaville" (above) by comic book artist and keynote speaker Gregory "Seth" Gallant. As part of MSU Main Library's spotlight on Canadian comic books, the library features editions of "Dirty Plotte" (above left) and "Captain Canuck" (below) and others.



ic scholar, associate editor for "INKS: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society," chair of the International Comic Arts Forum and director of the African American Studies Program at the University of South Carolina.

She is currently in the process of releasing a book titled "EC Comics: Race, Shock, and Social Protest" in 2019.

"EC Comics was a very famous comic book publisher," Chambliss said. "Tales From the Crypt was a comic book from EC. Those horror comics from the 1950s were renowned for the shocking twists and social commentary." The questions of race and equity depicted in those comics are still relevant today, he added.

"We are doing something to bring attention to these narratives of race and identity at a pivotal moment. The kids that are reading those books the same time they were accepting the Brown vs. Board of Education decision."

If interested in seeing EC Comics or any others, Special Collections will offer the tour of its Comic Art Collection Feb. 23. It is the largest collection of comics in the world, totaling 300,000 items from 1840 to present day. The envy of other comic repositories around the world is an intact set of seven 1840 first edition comics from Swiss cartoonist Rodolphe Töpffer. It is considered to be the first comic ever made.

Attendees must reserve tour spots via email to emcordes@lib.msu.edu.

"If you view comics as a unique art form with a lot of respectability and engagement with a broad audience, now is the golden age of comics," Chambliss said. "There is both a serious consideration of comics as a literary art form and source of scholarly engagement."

For more information, visit comicsforum.msu.edu

Voice and instrument

Regina Carter pays a personal tribute to Ella Fitzgerald

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

There is a sweet symmetry to Detroit violinist Regina Carter's Ella Fitzgerald

Regina Carter: Simply Ella

8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22 Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall From \$31 (517) 432-2000 whartoncenter.com

tribute project, coming to the Wharton Center Friday. Fitzgerald's voice

matched jazz's greatest instrumentalists in virtuosity and power. Carter breathes the warmth

of the human voice into an instrument that is often pushed to exhibit sheer virtuosity. Their two voices — or instruments - meet in a logical, but surprising, place.

When Carter put together a tribute CD and a live concert series honoring Fitzgerald's 100th birthday, she left many classic songs, like "How High the Moon," untouched on their lofty shelf.

"I didn't want to do the tunes people think of, or everyone else would do," Carter said. "Ella recorded so much music, and in so many genres. I thought, 'Why don't I do a B-side record?"

From Carter's choice of little-known songs to her use of surprising blues, funk and R&B flavors, it's clear that she is paving tribute to Fitzgerald, not by imitating her, but by being true to herself.

"If I were a vocalist, I don't think I'd do a tribute record to Ella," she said. "I can't be Ella. There's only one Ella."

Some songs at the tribute will begin with a clip of Fitzgerald singing, then segue into Carter's original arrangement, backed by MSU's stellar jazz professor Xavier Davis on piano, Chris Lightcap on bass, Marvin Sewell on guitar and Alvester Garnett on drums.

When you're on a doubtful trail, it sometimes helps if you get a sign. A few years ago, Carter played a fundraising gig for a San Francisco homeless shelter. The promoters left her a gift in her hotel room: a stack of old magazines with Ella Fitzgerald on the cover, and a framed quote that's pure Ella: "Don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love or inspiration, I don't think you can really go wrong."

Carter keeps that quote in her office.

"I take that as her green light that it's OK for us to do this," she said. "We're supposed to take the music, do something different with it. It can't remain the same."

As she delved into the project, Carter found new ways to relate to a singer she has loved all her life.

"I learned that she was extremely shy,



Carter

which you'd never know," Carter said. "She would sit in her dressing room, drink her tea, read the paper. She really didn't like going to parties."

Carter has a similar personality. "I'm extremely shy, to the point where I should introduce myself to someone, say something, but I get in my own way," she said.

A key to both artists' personalities can be found in a tune Fitzgerald fans are likely to recognize at the tribute: "Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive," a jaunty paean to optimism written in the horrific year 1944.

Carter researched the tune and found that lyricist Johnny Mercer got the phrase from a sermon by Father Divine, an African-American evangelist. Carter used it as the title of her tribute album, which at first was called "Simply Ella."

"Reading the words, and knowing

what was going on in the world and how ugly things had turned, I thought, 'This is perfect.' It's the perfect title for this time," Carter said.

The song's message seemed to sum up Fitzgerald's approach to life and music.

"She had a troubled life growing up," Carter said. "I think of how she, and other musicians and women, paved the way so I could have a viable career in this music, and of some of things she had to deal with - you don't hear that in her music. Her music seems to be the place where she found her light. That was her safe spot."

Carter can relate to that as well.

"When we're playing, I feel like we leave our physical bodies," she said. "Not just the musicians, but also the audience. It's our chance, in that room, to come together on a more spiritual plane. When I can let go and go into that spot, it soothes my soul."

Not content with soothing her own soul, Carter is currently involved in hospice volunteer work, sitting with hospice patients, talking with them, playing the violin for them if they want. She is mulling over a recording project that will draw upon that experience in some way.

"I feel like we here in the Western world don't really deal with it, it's such a scary and taboo subject," Carter said. "I want to find a way through the music to open up those conversations more. It doesn't have to just be sad. We can use it to celebrate people and find a way to not make it so scary."

Oh what a beautiful show

BY PAUL WOZNIAK

"Oklahoma!" is sweeping down the

Review

plains of East Lansing and it's a must-see show. High expectations come with

producing one of the most popular and parodied Broadway musicals ever created. But the Michigan State University Department of Theatre production, now playing at the Fairchild Theatre, is so good that you will forget you're watching collegiate actors.

Rodgers and Hammerstein's groundbreaking show about horny farmers and cowboys first opened in 1943 to a culturally divided nation. With few exceptions, it's remarkable how resonant "Oklahoma!" still feels in 2019. Two sitcom worthy love triangles drive the plot; one between a charming cowboy Curly (Chase Cain), a stubborn and savvy lass Laurey (Isa Rodriguez) and her brooding hired hand Jud (Ryan Adolph), and the other between the dimwitted Will (Kevin Mazur), the sexually woke

Ado Annie (Anna Birmingham) and the put-upon peddler Ali Hakim (Kevin Craig).

the

After lots of singing and dancing to timeless songs like "Oh What a Beautiful Mornin," "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top," "People Will Say We're in Love," "The Farmer and

MSU Department of Theatre 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday Feb. 20-21;

8 p.m. Friday Feb. 22; 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday Feb. 23; 2 p.m. Sunday Feb. 24 Post-Show Discussion

on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019 (Following the Performance) \$22 general admission/\$20 seniors and faculty/\$10 children 12 and under The Fairchild Theatre 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing (800) WHARTON Whartoncenter.com Cowman" and, of course,

"Oklahoma!" the right girls end up with the right guys and some peace is restored on the prairie.

The entire cast is strong from the star crossed lovers to the supporting cast and ensemble including Sharon Combs as the sassy Aunt Eller and Zaria Aikens as the gender swapped, but still fearsome,



The cast of "Oklahoma!"

Andie Carnes. They make Alisa Hauser's complicated choreography look effortless and blend beautifully with music director Dave Wendelberger's lush pit orchestra.

The nod to modernity and parallels with today's home delivery lifestyle are visible in the stunning set designed by Kirk A. Domer, which frames the stage with giant banners printed with turn of the century Sears & Roebuck catalog pages. Domer's set leaves plenty of room for Rachel Aho's lighting and media design that include hyper-realistic mov-

ing clouds and the isolating glare of Jud's smokehouse.

"Oklahoma!" is not written and paced like a present day musical (Laurey has a 10-minute dream ballet about who she should go to a dance with) but director Brad Willcuts keeps the show moving despite its almost three-hour runtime. Like an Aaron Copland symphony, "Oklahoma!" is golden age Americana at its most pure, and this production does it justice.

Vibrantly omnipresent

Harpist Brandee Younger meets the MSU Professors of Jazz

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The rarity of jazz harp is a draw on its own, but Brandee Younger doesn't lug her harp down the stairs of Manhattan's Zinc bar at 2 a.m. for novelty's sake. Younger is a harp warrior who plays on top of, all around and deep within the music.

Younger's Thursday gig at Demonstration Hall with the MSU Professors of Jazz

MSU Professors of Jazz Brandee Younger,

harp 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21 Demonstration Hall \$10-12 (517) 353-5340 promises a singular and unforgettable experience. Whether she is leading her own quartet or playing with artists

as diverse as sax-

ophonist Ravi Coltrane, rapper Common or "beat scientist" Makaya McCraven, Younger is vibrantly omnipresent — doubling a horn melody, adding a harmony, crafting a crystalline counterpoint that melts and re-hardens in half a second.

The New York-based composer and harpist has chosen a remarkable musical path. She calls it the "department of branching out." Only two musicians have taken the harp this deeply into jazz — post-bebopper Dorothy Ashby ("Hip Harp," "Afro-Harping") in the 1950s and '60s and the spiritually lit Alice Coltrane ("Journey to Satchidananda") in the 1960s and beyond.

In Younger's younger days, she heard a collection of music by Alice Coltrane, who turned the sonic storms produced by her husband, John Coltrane, into a meditative incense all her own.

"After hearing that, I knew I wanted to do something different, but I didn't think I had enough chops to do it," she said.

After a lesson, Younger would hand her first teacher, Karen Strauss, a cassette tape of a pop or jazz she wanted to play on the harp. Strauss copied it out for her and Younger proceeded to rock out in her parents' living room.

It took a second, more profound encounter with Coltrane's music to put the hook in all the way. When Alice Coltrane died in 2007, her son, Ravi Coltrane, called Younger to play at his mother's funeral.

"He didn't know me from a hole in the wall, but the stars aligned," Younger said.

She found herself playing in heady company at the memorial — Ravi Coltrane, pianist Geri Allen, bassist Charlie Haden and drummer Jack DeJohnette. That cinched it.

"I thought, 'I don't know how hard it's going to be, musically and business-wise, but this is what I'm going to do."

The jazz teachers at Connecticut's Hartt School (including saxophonist Jackie McLean) cheered her on, but she still had doubts about her "chops" for jazz.

She showed up for McLean's lessons



Younger

without the harp for a long time, just to listen.

As soon as Younger graduated from Hartt, she did a pop session for Bad Boy Records, home of the Notorious B.I.G.

"All classical and jazz musicians go through this — they get a pop gig and your peers start looking at you like, 'You're not serious," she said.

But the session earned her a down payment and the first few months' rent for her first apartment in New York City.

Working with Ravi Coltrane brought her musical path into sharper focus. Coltrane told Younger he was looking for an amalgam of his mother's spirituality, Dorothy Ashby's bebop-to-funk hipness and the formal, dreamy rigor of French composer Carlos Salzedo, the harpist's harpist of the early 20th century.

That's an impossible ask, unless you're asking Brandee Younger.

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Younger's coruscating live album, "Live at the Breeding Ground," gives you the feeling she can play anything. Her cogent, crisp solos leave you wanting more, but she thrives best in a bubbling group dynamic, and that's just what she'll find Thursday.

The MSU Professors of Jazz will join Younger on her turf — the music of Coltrane and Ashby, as well as Younger's own compositions, including a beautiful tune dedicated to Trayvon Martin, "Awareness (he has a name)."

At MSU, Younger will not only conduct master classes in classical and jazz harp, but also advise students on musical entrepreneurship.

Her approach to the business has evolved since she was fresh out of school. She used to take every gig that came along, but after a brush with burnout, she's in simplifying mode.

"I started to Marie Kondo myself musically," she laughed, referring to the popular life-simplifying guru who asks, 'Does it bring you joy?'

Now she sticks mainly to classical chamber music and jazz gigs; concertos and orchestral gigs are out.

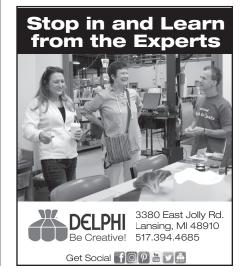
MSU harp professor Chen-Yu Huang is grateful that Younger still gets joy from working with students. Huang has been trying to draw Younger to campus for a couple of years.

"There are not a lot of jazz harpists out there," Huang said. "It's technically more challenging than other instruments to play jazz, so it will be great for us to hear from Brandee about how she conquered those challenges."

Younger said she'll work with classical harp players in "the department of branching out."

"My background is in classical music, so I completely understand the discomfort," Younger said. "It's not the easiest thing in the world to branch out."

"Her style is so chill, very rhythmic," Huang said. "I want to take lessons from her myself."





CURTAIN CALL **Cabin fever cure** cure for desper-

By MARY CUSACK

Review

"The A-Train Plays" would seem to be

an unlikely cure for winter-storm induced cabin fever. The setting is a sin-

gle, confined subway car. The production takes place in the small, stark Black Box space. There is nothing outwardly comforting about the physical aspects of the play, yet ultimately the stories and characters provide emotional warmth and optimism for the world outside.

The production is an assemblage of seven short plays superficially connected by the setting, the A-Train in New York City. The real connection between the pieces, however, is much deeper than the setting.

At turns humorous, biting or melancholic, each piece features an element of desperation, either emotional, social or financial. The common theme is that the

"The A-Train Plays" Feb. 21 – 24 Tickets start at \$12, discounts available for seniors, military and students Thursdays, 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 8

p.m. Sundays 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre 228 Museum Drive, Lansing (517) 482-5700 www.riverwalktheatre.com

Anna Szabo in "Foreign Exchange." As unemployed Susan she begs, bullies and cajoles a more fortunate friend (Anasti Her) for money. Szabo manipulates the audience through a spectrum of feelings toward Susan, from indifference to dislike to empathy.

ing.

The

of desperation

comes from

Long-time actor and first-time director Doak Bloss has assembled an outstanding cast that quickly switches between characters and digs into



The cast of "The A-Train Plays."

the depth of emotions required to tell these tales. Ndegwa McCloud and Jesse Frawley are equally matched as strangers who both suffer from an inability to make small talk. Their awkwardness is equally painful and charming, as they alternate between rejecting and giving trust.

Cassie Little is effervescent as a naïve tourist who grates on a dime-a-dozen New York actor, played by Heath Sartorius. Sartorius later owns the stage as a Jesus who may have jumped off the cross and jumped right onto the A-Train, or may be an escaped mental patient. His Jesus is divinely philosophical with a wry sense of human humor, comfortable in his loincloth and nonchalant about his stigmata. His roles are particularly fitting, as Sartorius closes out his Lansing area theater career to move to New York City.

'Student Body' disturbs

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

'Student Body," by Lansing Community College Performing Arts, is

Review

a 60-minute punch in the gut. The Frank Winters

play is eye-opening, jaw-dropping and thought provoking.

Its adult story about an assault spares us witnessing the crime but doesn't spare us details or anguish. As "Student

"Student Body"

LCC Theatre Program Feb. 22-24 Friday & Saturday, 8 p.m. Sunday, 2 p.m. \$15 Adult, \$10 Seniors (65+), LCC Alumni & Staff \$5 Students (with valid college/high school ID) Dart Auditorium 500 N Capitol Ave, Lansing (517) 483-1957 internal.lcc.edu/cma/theater

Body" unravels, we are drawn in to the many messy facets and repercussions of a rape. A compelling cast of ten captivate attention as they reveal

more and more

about their roles and motivations. Innocence is burned away, evil bubbles forth, friendships dissolve and sanity fights to find a voice.

Edward Heldt stands out as the defensive and volatile Rob. His overbearing speech and scary outbursts seem genuine. Ian Van Camp plays a perfect Pete, his protective and perni-

cious pal.

Maria McCarthy's Natalie is a believable lush who drinks to hide an ugly secret. Emmie Paullin as April, makes her expressions of anguish seem credible. Olivia Hines' tenacious Daisy emerges as the outsider who has the only moral compass that points consistently in the right direction.

The violence on the Dart Auditorium stage is real. Fists smack against unforgiving surfaces. Boards get tossed; fierce scuffles break out. A shop broom bounced off the stage and landsed in this reviewer's front row lap.

The looks-like-an-under-construction set by Bartley Bauer - with properties by Joseph Meier - offers plenty of boxes to stand on and lots of loose ammo for mêlées. Julian Hendrickson's haunting projections on planes of the set are memorable additions.

Dialogue spoken away from the audience and rapid shouting in "Student Body" can be sometimes hard to understand. Recorded music and erratic lighting are distractions.

Deborah Keller's direction keeps the action simmering and the interactions unflinching. She gives each character a



Maria McCarthy (left) and Olivia Hines in "Student Body."

distinct personality.

The performance confronts the issue of rape for those affected by the crime but does little to comfort its victims. An incident is seen through the very different eyes of college-age youth who lack maturity and, too often, compassion. I wondered if "Student Body" would be

Courtesy photo

different if a woman wrote it.

The play is insightful while leaving many questions unanswered. I left impressed by the portrayals yet angry at the characters. I did not want to accept its conclusion. The disturbing messages linger on. That's probably what I am supposed to feel.

Randal Jelks' book analyzes historic black figures

By BILL CASTANIER

Dr. Randal Jelks could have played it safe when selecting the four subjects for his new book partially titled "Faith and Struggle in the Lives of Four African Americans."

Randal Maurice Jelks is an award-winning professor of American and African American studies at the University of Kansas. He graduated from Michigan State University where he received his Ph.D. in comparative black histories. He is a graduate from the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and was a pastor in Grand Rapids for nine years.

Having gone through American public schools, Jelks wanted to share stories of black excellence beyond the likes of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Fredrick Douglass.

Jelks explained in an interview why he chose to highlight the contributions of boxer Muhammad Ali, activist Eldridge Cleaver, and musicians Ethel Waters and Mary Lou Williams.

Heavy weight boxing champion Muhammad Ali came under scrutiny when he publicly announced his allegiance with the Nation of Islam. At the height of the Vietnam War, Ali did the unthinkable and refused induction into the military in 1966. Ali immediately had his defending title stripped in addition to a \$10,000 fine; felony charge and was banned from competing for three years.

As a witness to the some of the iconic careers mentioned in his book, Jelks interjects his own personal thoughts and experiences. For example, he shares a story about meeting Ali as a kid growing up in Chicago during the seventies.

"Some boys were in a scrape on the street in what you would call a fight today, when a big black car pulled up. A big man jumped out of the car and stopped the fight," Jelks said. "When everyone figured out it was Muhammad Ali, we were speechless."

In an effort to show the extent of Ali's influence, Jelks recalls a time when he travelled to the Middle East in 1981. At the border between Jordan and Syria, a guard while checking his American passport asked, "Do you know Muhammed Ali?"

Jelk's book is the result of analyzing autobiographies, interviews and performances by Eldridge Cleaver, Ethel Waters, Mary Lou Williams and Muhammad Ali. All four were African-Americans who used religion as a tool

to understand their personal strife and re-define Blackness in America.

Since he was 12, Eldridge Cleaver had an enigmatic relationship with a num-

Jelks ber of faiths,

including Catholicism, atheism and the Nation of Islam. Cleaver returned to the Catholic church in 1969 in a highly publicized manner by joining forces with televangelist Billy Graham Sr. Cleaver was highly criticized by black activists who claimed his conservativism was driven by his desire to escape prosecution for attempted murder in 1989.

Similar to Ali, Cleaver looked to religion to understand his position as a Black man living in post-Jim Crow America. However, to this day, many African-Americans struggle to carve out an identity of their own absent of the disapproval from their communities.

Ethel Waters was the second African-American woman nominated for an Academy Award. She began her career as a blues singer and later ventured into jazz and pop. During the Harlem Renaissance, Waters' acting career took off with several appearances on Broadway and the silver screen. After making it in the Big Apple as a singer and actor, Waters added evangelist to her string of professions. During the 1960s, Ethel joined hands with televangelist Billy Graham Sr.

Waters, who previously worked in Black Vaudeville and was an openly

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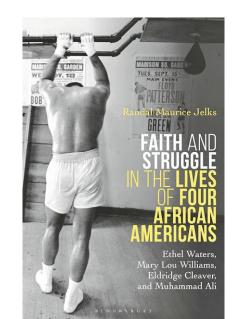
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bisexual woman, lost a large portion of her fan base when she joined the Billy Graham Sr. circuit.

Incorporating the narratives of queer, Black female entertainers shows the depth at which Belk wants his audience to think about the myth of the collective American identity. He does this as a reminder to show just how little we've come in our conversations regarding race and gender, especially in the Western art world.

Mary Lou Williams was a jazz pianist and composer in the 1920s that went on to write for Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman and Dizzy Gillespie. She made her impression on the Catholic Church in the 1960s at St. Patrick's Cathedral when she leaned on the traditional rubric to create a mass inspired by the jazz medium.

Additionally, Williams poured her heart into her community through the Bel Canto Foundation - a rehabilitation center catering to black musicians.



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Jelks continued her passion for service and became a traveling preacher with a little extra soul.

The book is part of what Jelks calls the "cycles of black life" and points to the playwright August Wilson's famous series of plays including, "Fences," "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," "The Piano Lesson," as inspiration.

Jelks said, "I wanted to write a book that engages historians both young and old and the public who have an interest in religion," Jelks said. "With young scholars, the focus now seems to be on writing about the resistance. This book is more about people's inner lives which are opaque to the public."

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March Author Events

More information may be found on our website and Facebook page

Local Author Night Wednesday, March 13 @ 7pm

Discover two local authors one fiction and one non-fiction: Brandon G. Kroupa presents his newest book published by Schuler Books Chapbook Press The Game Jinx'd and Kirsten Fermaglich teacher of history and Jewish Studies at Michigan State, presents hers A Rosenberg by Any Other Name.

Anne-Marie Oomen + Guests Thursday, March 21 @ 7pm

Author and editor Anne-Marie Oomen presents Elemental: a Collection of Michigan Non-fiction featuring twenty three of Michigan's most well-known essayists, some of which will join her. A celebration of the elements, this collection is both the storm and the shelter.

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

Join us for a story-time on the first Saturday of each month designed to instill a love of reading in little ones. This week a local volunteer reads Fancy Nancy Saturday Night Sleepover.

Magic / Key Forge and **Board Game Nights**

Enjoy games and gaming in a casual, friendly environment. All Magic items 20% off for attendees. On Board Game night, bring you own favorite, or play one of ours. Full details on our website.

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

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

Wednesday, February 20

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Make Your Business Legal From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free - To Register Call: (517) 483-1921. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

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

MSU Libraries' "Experience World War I France in Mixed Reality" Closing Event. From 2:30 to 4 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

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

MSU Libraries' Quilting Bee Wednesdays. From 12 to 1 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

EVENTS

Participatory Budget Nights. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. FREE. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St. Lansing.

ARTS

Figure Drawing Sessions at Cedar Street Art Collective. From 7 to 9 p.m. \$10 per artist supports model fees and space.. Cedar Street Art Collective, 1701 S Cedar St Lansing.

Thursday, February 21

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Lansing Mens Support Group. From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Free. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave. Lansing.

THEATER

The Playing Politics Revue by the Academy of Applied Absurdity. From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$10, \$12 at the door. Tickets available online at aaabsurd.com.. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St Lansing.

EVENTS

Crafting for a Cause. From 4 to 5:30 p.m. free. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

MSU Libraries' Therapy Dog Thursdays. From 3 to 4:30 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

Sing, Dance, and Move Storytime. From 6 to 6:45 p.m. free. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

Friday, February 22

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Book Discussion-Not Everyone is Prepared to Remake Themselves: What Name Changing Means in the 21st Century. From 3:30 to 5 p.m. Free to the public. Room 255 MSU Old Horticulture Building, 506 E. Circle Dr East Lansing.

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

MUSIC

Ten Pound Fiddle: The Seamus Egan Project, featuring Moira Smiley. From 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$20 Public; \$18 Fiddle Members; \$5 Students. Available online or at the box office at 6:30 PM. http://www.tenpoundfiddle.org/event/ seamus-egan-project-featuring-moira-smiley/. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

THEATER

Student Body. From 8 to 10 p.m. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing.

ARTS

Sewing Day. From 12 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr. Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

Saturday, February 23

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Angela Wilson – The Transforming Power of the Periodic Table and how it Impacts Our Everyday Lives. At 10:30 a.m. Free. 1300 FRIB Laboratory, 640 South Shaw Lane East Lansing.

MUSIC

Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) Meeting. From 1 to 4 p.m. FREE for members of NSAI; first two meetings are free for non-members. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

EVENTS

Moonlight Ski and Shoe. From 6 to 9 p.m. \$10/person with our equipment or \$3/person with your own equipement. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Sunday, February 24

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS



MSU LATINX FILM FESTIVAL

Two feature-length and two locally produced short documentaries highlighting Latin culture and struggles will air as part

of MSU's annu-

The first fea-

ture film showing

at 4:30 p.m. will

Film

al Latinx

Festival.

Film Festival Friday, Feb. 22, 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. MSU RCAH Theater 362 Bogue St., East Lansing (517) 355-0210 msulatinxfilmfestival.com

be "Through The Repellent Fence," a look inside the art collective Postcommodity and its mission to build a two mile long art installation on the border between Mexico and the United States.

Immediately following the film, light refreshments will be served.

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

Lansing East Law of Attraction. From 11 a.m. to noon free. Grand Traverse Pie, 1403 E. Grand River Ave. East Lansing. Events

2019 Taste of Black History Program. At 3 p.m. Free Event, Bring Your Families! . UAW Local 602, 2510 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

Atheists and Humanists Meeting. From 5 to 8:30 p.m. Asian Buffet, 4920 Marsh Rd. Okemos. (517) 381-8388.

Monday, February 25

EVENTS

Home School Study Group. From 1 to 4 p.m.

FRIDAY FEB. 22 >> ANTI-BULLYING RELENTLESS TOUR

Former MSU basketball player and Big Ten Champion Anthony lanni makes a stop at the Michigan Center Jr/Sr High School to speak on behalf of the Michigan Department of Civil Right's inaugural Relentless Tour anti-bullying initiative. Ianni was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder when he was 4 and was the victim of bullying in his youth. He was the first person with autism to play Division I college basketball **10 a.m. Michigan Center Jr/Sr High School, 400**

10 a.m, Michigan Center Jr/Sr High School, 400 S. State St., Leoni Township (517) 764-1440, relentlesstour.com The other feature is the documentary "The Wall." In conjunction with the Arizona Republic, USA Today produced this documentary as part of a series looking at the real life consequences and people affected by the border wall.

Afterward, these locally produced short documentaries will run: "Dangerous Times, Rebellious Responses" focuses on the 1980s Sanctuary movement in Detroit, while "Walking For Ded" is about the "Pilgrimage to Keep Families Together" march from Detroit to Lansing to protest the deportation of Ded Rranxburgai. A final panel discussion follows. Dining options will be available at The Gallery in Snyder Phillips Hall.

free. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

Tuesday, February 26

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

MSU Libraries' AR/VR Campus Speaker Series. From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

Preschool Storytime. From 11 a.m. to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library , 131 E. Jefferson St Grand Ledge. 517.627.7014.

EVENTS

Biology on Tap – NextGenMed. From 7:30 to 9 p.m. FREE. The Loft, (At Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing .

By Matt Jones

Jonesin' Crossword

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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 26

Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsny

February 20 - 26, 2019

Aries (March 21-April 19): In December 1915, the California city of San Diego was suffering from a draught. City officials hired a professional "moisture accelerator" named Charles Hatfield, who promised to make it rain. Soon Hatfield was shooting explosions of a secret blend of chemicals into the sky from the top of a tower. The results were quick. A deluge began in early January of 1916 and persisted for weeks. Thirty inches of rain fell, causing floods that damaged the local infrastructure. The moral of the story, as far as you're concerned, Aries: when you ask for what you want and need, specify exactly how much you want and need. Don't make an open-ended request that could bring you too much of a good thing.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Actors Beau Bridges and Jeff Bridges are brothers born to parents who were also actors. When they were growing up, they already had aspirations to follow in their mom's and dad's footsteps. From an early age, they summoned a resourceful approach to attracting an audience. Now and then they would start a pretend fight in a store's parking lot. When a big enough crowd had gathered to observe their shenanigans, they would suddenly break off from their faux struggle, grab their guitars from their truck, and begin playing music. In the coming weeks, I hope you'll be equally ingenious as you brainstorm about ways to expand your outreach. Gemini (May 21-June 20)): According to Edward Barnard's book New York City Trees, a quarter of the city is shaded by its 5.2 million trees. In other words, one of the most densely populated, frantically active places on the planet has a rich collection of oxygen-generating greenery. There's even a virgin forest at the upper tip of Manhattan, as well as five botanical gardens and the 843-acre Central Park. Let's use all this bounty-amidst-thebustle as a symbol of what you should strive to foster in the coming weeks: refreshing lushness and grace interspersed throughout your busy, hustling rhythm.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): As a poet myself, I regard good poetry as highly useful. It can nudge us free of our habitual thoughts and provoke us to see the world in ways we've never imagined. On the other hand, it's not useful in the same way that food and water and sleep are. Most people don't get sick if they are deprived of poetry. But I want to bring your attention to a poem that is serving a very practical purpose in addition to its inspirational function. Simon Armitage's poem "In Praise of Air" is on display in an outdoor plaza at Sheffield University. The material it's printed on is designed to literally remove a potent pollutant from the atmosphere. And what does this have to do with you? I suspect that in the coming weeks you will have an extra capacity to generate blessings that are like Armitage's poem: useful in both practical and inspirational ways.

Leo (July 23-August 22): In 1979, psychologist Dorothy Tennov published her book Love and Limerence: The Experience of Being in Love. She defined her newly coined word "limerence" as a state of adoration that may generate intense, euphoric, and obsessive feelings for another person. Of all the signs in the zodiac, you Leos are most likely to be visited by this disposition throughout 2019. And you'll be especially prone to it in the coming weeks. Will that be a good thing or a disruptive thing? It all depends on how determined you are to regard it as a blessing, have fun with it, and enjoy it regardless of whether or not your feelings are reciprocated. I advise you to enjoy the hell out of it!

Virgo (August 23-September 22): Based in Switzerland, Nestle is the largest food company in the world. Yet it pays just \$200 per year to the state of Michigan for the right to suck up 400 million gallons of groundwater, which it bottles and sells at a profit. I nominate this vignette to be your cautionary tale in the coming weeks. How? 1. Make damn sure you are being fairly compensated for

vour offerings. 2. Don't allow huge, impersonal forces to exploit your resources. 3. Be tough and discerning, not lax and naïve, as you negotiate deals.

Libra (September 23-October 22): Sixteenthcentury Italian artist Daniele da Volterra wasn't very famous for his own painting and sculpture. The work for which we remember him today is the alterations he made to Michelangelo's giant fresco The Last Judgment, which spreads across an entire wall in the Sistine Chapel. After Michelangelo died, the Catholic Church hired da Volterra to "fix" the scandalous aspects of the people depicted in the master's work. He painted clothes and leaves over the originals' genitalia and derrieres. In accordance with astrological omens, I propose that we make da Volterra your anti-role model for the coming weeks. Don't be like him. Don't engage in cover-ups, censorship, or camouflage. Instead, specialize in the opposite: revelations, unmaskings, and expositions.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21): What is the quality of your access to life's basic necessities? How well do you fulfill your need for good food and drink, effective exercise, deep sleep, thorough relaxation, mental stimulation, soulful intimacy, a sense of meaningfulness, nourishing beauty, and rich feelings? I bring these questions to your attention, Scorpio, because the rest of 2019 will be an excellent time for you to fine-tune and expand your relationships with these fundamental blessings. And now is an excellent time to intensify vour efforts.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): Michael Jackson's 1982 song "Beat It" climbed to number three on the record-sales charts in Australia. On the other hand, "Weird Al" Yankovic's 1984 parody of Jackson's tune, "Eat It," reached number one on the same charts. Let's use this twist as a metaphor that's a good fit for your life in the coming weeks. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you may find that a stand-in or substitute or imitation will be more successful than the original. And that will be auspicious!

Capricorn (December 22-January 19):The Space Needle in Seattle, Washington is 605 feet high and 138 feet wide: a tall and narrow tower. Near the top is a round restaurant that makes one complete rotation every 47 minutes. Although this part of the structure weighs 125 tons, for many years its motion was propelled by a mere 1.5 horsepower motor. I think you will have a comparable power at your disposal in the coming weeks: an ability to cause major movement with a compact output of energy.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18): In 1941, the Ford automobile company created a "biological car." Among its components were "bioplastics' composed of soybeans, hemp, flax, wood pulp, and cotton. It weighed a thousand pounds less than a comparable car made of metal. This breakthrough possibility never fully matured, however. It was overshadowed by newly abundant plastics made from petrochemicals. I suspect that you Aquarians are at a phase with a resemblance to the biological car. Your good idea is promising but unripe. I hope you'll spend the coming weeks devoting practical energy to developing it. (P.S. There's a difference between you and your personal equivalent of the biological car: little competition.)

Pisces (February 19-March 20): Cartographers of Old Europe sometimes drew pictures of strange beasts in the uncharted regions of their maps. These were warnings to travelers that such areas might harbor unknown risks, like dangerous animals. One famous map of the Indian Ocean shows an image of a sea monster lurking, as if waiting to prey on sailors traveling through its territory. If I were going to create a map of the frontier you're now headed for, Pisces, I would fill it with mythic beasts of a more benevolent variety, like magic unicorns, good fairies, and wise centaurs.

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.

www.lansingcitypulse.com



ROBIN THEATER



'Sweet Jesus' delivers a soulful hip-hop hybrid

Lansing-based rapper James Gardin, formerly known as P.H.I.L.T.H.Y, drops his new eight-track EP, "Sweet Jesus," Saturday at The Robin Theatre in REO Town. Released via Illect Recordings, the new record showcases beats by producer TheyCallMeHeat and, of course, Gardin's signature rhyme-style that seamlessly melds encouraging hip-hop lyricism with bursts of classic R&B, earnest indie rock and soulful gospel music.

The diverse track list, which includes

a guest spot from fellow Michigan emcee Ozay Moore on the single "Funky Funky Fresh," also features the new single, "Chitown Boogie"—a track Gardin wrote with his friends and family in mind.

"The lyrics are inspired by this idea of wanting to make my family and community proud," Gardin said, "and not trying to blow it for us all."

As for the EP's title, Gardin said it's a thoughtful nod to his devout religious beliefs — a common thread in his growing

Saturday, Feb. 23 @ The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12, \$10 adv., 7 p.m.

catalog of spiritually-driven releases.

"The title 'Sweet Jesus' came from an adlib I frequently use in songs," he said. "It's also a phrase that describes my relationship with my faith. I think (faith) should be something you crave and love when done right."

For those looking to sample the record, visit illect.bandcamp.com to hear four tracks. It'll be available on all digital and streaming services, as well.

"It was all recorded in my bedroom," Gardin said. "Sweet Jesus' has a lot of the same elements as my past efforts, but this record is more focused and polished. I definitely did a lot more singing and melody work on this record. I'm super proud of how these songs came out."

The release show at The Robin Theatre doesn't have any openers, per se, but will showcase a set by DJ ETTA and a beat set from TheyCallMeHeat. From there, the audience will be treated to "Sweet Jesus."

"We will perform the full project," Gardin said. "People can expect an experience. I'm working my hardest to make this more than just a person on stage rapping and singing songs at you."

While his new record might be wrapped up, the prolific rapper plans to keep busy this year, in Lansing and beyond.

"The plan for 2019 is to write more songs and work on new projects," he said. "I've been teaching a lot with All of the Above Hip Hop Academy, a local organization 'designed to give youth a hands on experience in hip hop culture.' My goal is to help my students get more



of their music to everyone's ears. I'm also working towards getting some touring in."

Last year, Gardin kept busy playing a handful of concerts, but also landed a couple of his songs on high-profile commercial spots. "In 2018, I was releasing a lot of singles and trying to figure out the licensing game," Gardin told City Pulse in January. "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 ['lconic'] on the runway in Shanghai."

To keep up with Gardin, visit facebook. com/JamesGardinMusic or jamesgardin. bandcamp.com.



DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.		Open Mic 8PM	CCFF Brew & View	Dark Art 9PM
Buddies, 1937 W Grand River Ave		Karaoke, 9PM		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Wednesday Night Live	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke 9PM
Claddagh, 2900 Towne Center Blvd.		Harry Potter Trivia 7:30PM	Kathy Ford Band 7PM	
Classic Pub & Grill, 16219 Old US 27	DJ Trivia 8PM	Karoake 6:30PM	DJ Lee Groove 8PM	Remnants 8PM
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia			The Dead Lennies 9PM
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies Band	Jeff Shoup & Friends	The Hot Mess 9:30PM	The Knock Offs 9:30 PM
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night	Karaoke Kraze	Star Farm	Star Farm
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia Night W/Sporcle 9PM		The Aimcriers 7PM	Shelby & Jake 8PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Between the Buried and Me 6:30 PM		Home-Grown Throw-Down 6:30PM	Pretty Things Peep Show 8PM
Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Forest Green 7PM	Stonecutters 8PM
Nuthouse, 420 E Michigan Ave.		Music Bingo 7PM		
Unicorn Lounge, 320 Cesar Chavez Ave.				Jimmy G & the Capitols-Kid Cincinatti 9PM
UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St.		Absolute Music Chamber Series 7:30PM	Salsa Verde 8PM	

Eastside Barber Shop

By DENNIS BURCK

26

This micro barber shop nestled in The Hive co-working space will be the latest destination for Lansing's grizzled dudes to turn into dapper gentlemen.

Master barber Brook Chamberlain returned to his native Lansing to start his own shop after stints cutting hair in Florida, Las Vegas and Ann Arbor.

The new place sports sleek white tiling, copper piping and antique aftershave decor. The Eastside Barbershop's miniature barber pole spins away not outdoors, but in the lobby of The Hive, Lansing's first co-working space that opened in early-January.

The Eastside Barbershop is one of its 43 tenants. Chamberlain said he made the move to the co-working space after renting a spot on Artist's Avenue.

"I liked their vision here," Chamberlain said. "When they showed me what it was, The Hive was just on the computer. Up here, it was just dry wall and stuff all over. It came a long way – I was super nervous about it,

Eastside Barber Shop Tues. to Fri. 11 a.m. to 5:30 Sat. 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. By appointment only The Hive, Ste. 201, 2722 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing (517) 974-5648 facebook com/eastside barbershoplansing

but now that is here, I'm excited."

Chamberlain started cutting hair for his friends and family in high school. After developing an interest in barbershop culture, he attended school at the Lansing Barber College and received certification once he completed 2,000 hours of coursework.

He then left Michigan and eventually wound up working in Las Vegas, but it wasn't for him.

"It was a bigger shop and we had to serve drinks between cuts and offer refreshments. Honestly, it was kind of weird. I didn't like dry-cleaning my matching outfits twice a week."

The Eastside Barber Shop is Chamberlain's first solo venture. He



Chamberlain

plans to have a better barber chair moved in to offer straight razor shaves in the future.

Aside from the craft of cutting hair, the sacred barber tradition of talking real with his clients makes the job worthwhile, he said.

"You hear about people's different stories and I like that. We talk sports, movies and about their personal life they wouldn't talk to other people about. It's almost like therapy for them."

All hair types and styles are welcome, Chamberlain said. Pending on the success of the Eastside Barbershop, expanding with another barber to work with in the space is an option.

The philosophy of The Hive's coworking space already is panning out, he added. Every other Friday of the month, The Hive hosts a networking event and Chamberlain picked up five prospective client in one meeting.

"I want to be known as a good all around barber offering a nice environment and friendly place. I want to be known as a place you can come, relax and have fun - a stress free zone."

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Target Your

Beauty Goals Be confident in

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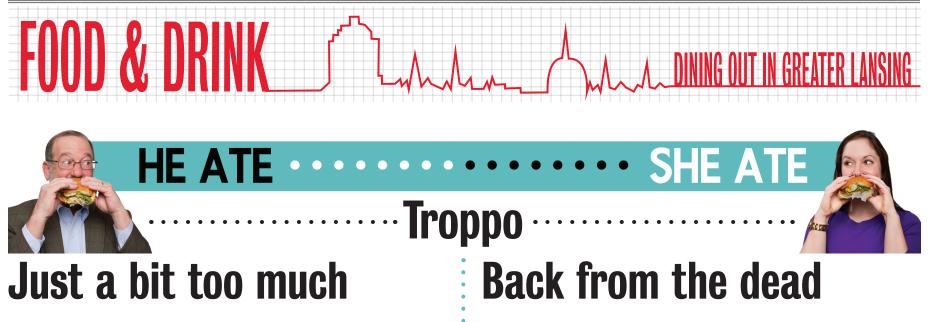
latest surgical

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treatments for your entire

body!





Troppo

111 E. Michigan Avenue

Lansing, MI 48933

(517) 371-4000

Monday to Friday

11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday

4 p.m. to Midnight

By MARK NIXON

Troppo is one of those if-the-wallscould-talk places. A cocktail oniontoss from the state Capitol, Troppo practically screams "Important People Hang Here!"

To be sure, during our recent visits we spied several important-looking men in suits huddled at a wraparound bar, probably hatching plans to ensure gerrymandering be a constitutional right.

What surprised me were the number of folks who looked like they had just auditioned for Redneck Roadshow. Like me, for instance.

I immediately felt welcomed; me in my tennis shoes, wrinkle-free travel pants and an 11-year-old fleece jacket. I warmed to Troppo when our server handed us menus. Even though Troppo means "too much" in Italian — surely to brace the customer for an outrageous bill — I was impressed to see several appetizers are half-off from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays. On Friday, the same goes for a pizza.

Let's be clear. Some appetizers and entrees are not for the strictly budget-minded. Our lamp chop appetizer was \$15 (and was delicious, by the way). On a subsequent trip, my steak clocked in at \$30.

During that first visit, we shared lamb chops, a cup of butternut squash soup, a small Caesar salad, crispy ravioli and a personal-sized pizza, plus cocktails and a carafe of chardonnay. The bill came to less than \$57. I felt like I had won the Restaurant Powerball.

Troppo may not boast cutting edge cuisine, but it gets many things right. The Formagio pizza was simple, which is what a good pizza should be; A thin crust, a generous smear of tomato sauce, topped with mozzarella and baked quickly in a very hot oven until the crust and cheese begin to bubble. The pizza

was just \$6. Chaching.

Also high marks for the Caesar salad (with anchovies) for only \$5. The parmesan-to-olive oil ratio was spot-on. I would have gladly paid more for this side salad.

The aforementioned center-cut

steak was 12 ounces, blackened

See He Ate, Page 28



By GABRIELLE LAWRENCE

For several years, I had a suspicion that Troppo was getting away with the

perfect crime. They have a location that is ideal for the masses of government workers, legislators and lobbyists who spend most of their time downtown, a beautiful building, a well-stocked bar and ample event space.

The only problem? The food wasn't very good.

After enduring several disappointing meals, I took a long, multi-year hiatus from Troppo. When Mr. She Ate and I returned for lunch recently, it was with a large serving of hesitation.

When we left after our meal, it was with hat in hand. The food at Troppo has improved by leaps and bounds and while they're not going to win any awards for creativity, I won't turn up my nose at properly seasoned, properly prepared classic dishes.

I started with a bowl of minestrone soup, and what struck me the most was the structural integrity of both the vegetables and the pasta. Nothing was mushy, the fatal flaw of so many other well-intentioned minestrones. My cloud of suspicion started to dissipate.

I moved on to a Forager salad, because Brussels sprouts and kale are two of my Kryptonite ingredients and this salad had both. Warm sautéed Brussels sprouts are tossed with lots of shredded kale, chopped roasted sweet potato, orzo, bacon, blue cheese crumbles and a vanilla cider dressing. Again, the vegetables were perfectly tender-crisp and the kale made me feel like I could justify eating a cheeseburger for dinner. I don't do sports, but I call that a home run.

Mr. She Ate sacrificed himself and ordered the margherita pizza. I say "sacrificed himself" in jest, because Mr. She Ate would gladly construct a meal plan that included pizza for every meal and snack in his life if he could. This one came on a steamy, pillowy dough, loaded with lots of cheese, basil ribbons, and just enough of a balsamic glaze to make your mouth water. One of my favorite things about my dude is that he always gives me my favorite bite off of his slices of pizza — the first one, right at the point of the triangle. Who says romance is dead?

We made a return visit for dinner recently and took our time construct-

Troppo's Carbonara.

He Ate

from page 27

with a peppercorn rub and lightly covered with a bourbon cream sauce. Frankly, the sauce didn't do much for me one way or the other. But the steak itself, ordered rare, was perfectly prepared — hot on the inside, warm within. There are so many ways to ruin a steak, and so I give credit to any kitchen that can avoid the pitfalls and deliver a first-rate steak.

Before the entree I ordered tomato bisque (\$3), which came with a wedge of toast and a dab of ricotta. Behold! — a glimpse of summer, redolent with the smell and taste of fresh tomatoes. This is one recipe I'd gladly replicate in the dead of winter.

Judy's pasta carbonara \$18 was very good. The pasta was al dente as preferred. For dessert we shared a lemon cream cake (\$9). We were not disappointed, though I think they could have kicked up the lemony flavor with some lemon zest.

I have mostly good things to say about Troppo. It is airy and spacious, with numerous windows to watch downtown Lansing go about its business. The service is attentive without getting too gushy.

Looking out over the intersection of Michigan and Washington Avenues, I'm reminded of a quote from Mark Twain when he once visited Lansing. Those were in the pre-pavement days when horses, manure and mud were integral to the downtown. A proud city official looked across Washington Avenue and said: "Mr. Twain, have you ever seen a street so wide?"

Twain replied: "No, nor one so deep." Troppo does a fine job of celebrating history. On the north wall is an homage to superstars of our past, including Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Henry Fonda.

Even better is a home-grown homage that is worth a trip to the restroom. The corridor on the way to the loo is a paean to downtown Lan-sing's past. Photos of those glory days are on full display; I believe one is of Ransom E. Olds steering his open-air, curveddashed Oldsmobile.

All such positives aside, I do have one bone to pick with Troppo. I noticed on its website (and later on my bills) that Troppo charges a fee for credit card payments. I appreciate



Troppo's Margherita pizza.

them being up front with potential customers, but ... really? This the age of plastic. Who carries a wad of cash around these days?

A high-end place like this has to they say in Italian ... troppo.

Gabrielle Lawrence/City Pulse

charge extra for me using my debit card? In my case, it was a 2.8 percent surcharge.

That's a bit much in my book. Or as hey say in Italian ... troppo.







She Ate

from page 27

ing our order. I like to work in stages, focusing on one thing that I know that I want to order and then selecting a complementary appetizer or entrée. I knew that I wanted to order salmon for my entrée, and Mr. She Ate eventually settled on linguine carbonara.

So, although the crispy ravioli caught my eye on the appetizer menu, I didn't want my husband to fall into a carb-assisted sleep in the middle of the play we were headed to. We chose the calamari instead, and I was happy to be presented with a plate of long strips of calamari instead of the little





Gabrielle Lawrence/City Pulse

Troppo's Forager salad.

rings. This was given the sweet and sour treatment with a mango salsa and topped with crispy rice noodles. The texture and the flavor was on point.

My salmon came on top of mashed potatoes and asparagus, and was topped with a scoop of herbed butter. I love salmon and eat it frequently but I had never paid much attention to the texture of my fish.

This piece was seared to a perfect crisp and the interior was moist and juicy. I alternated bites of the crisp fish with nibbles of a dinner roll soaked in butter as we watched the restaurant fill with everyone from young couples on dinner dates to multi-generational groups of families who wanted to watch the MSU basketball game on the strategically-placed television.

Mr. She Ate dove head-first into



Troppo's salmon over mashed potatoes.

indulgence with the carbonara. Noodles and bacon tossed with egg, cream, and cheese- there's not much more to carbonara than techniqueand this version had been transformed into something that nearly melted in your mouth.

My challenge to Troppo: take up the mantle of Clara's and start a Sunday brunch buffet. So many of my favorite restaurants are closed on Sunday and

Gabrielle Lawrence/City Pulse

sometimes I need both a savory and a sweet option without having to commit wholeheartedly to one or the other. A plate laden with crispy roasted bacon, stuffed French toast, and a side of oatmeal with fruit and nut butter?

If you gave me a latte, I would curl up in front of the oversized fire place and never leave. Troppo is back from the dead and I'd love to see that brunch as part of Act II.



- Appei	tizers-
Bell's Greek Pizza 1135 E. Grand River Ave.FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1967. Pizza made fresh and ready to bust your hunger! Unique flavors you won't find anywhere else - Spinach Pie Pizza, Shwarma Pizza, Greek Pizza. Grinders, Pita Wraps, salads and pastas, too. We cater. Open until 4AM. Order online at www.TheBellsPizza.com	Cask & Co. 3415 E. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 580-3750 www.caskandcompany.com
Meat Southern BBQ 124 Turner Rd. Lansing, MI 48906 (517) 580-4400 meatbbq.com WE BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES GREAT BBQ. Award winning BBQ. Ribs, French fry bar, chili, sides including BBQ it baked beans, mac n' cheese. 18 rotating taps of craft, Michigan made beers. Craft cocktails. We cater, too!	Acapulco Mexican Grill 300 N. Clippert St. Suite17, Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 203-0096 NOW OPEN WITH A FULL BAR Mondays were made for margaritas. Daily food and drink specials! Beautiful decor and wonderful service. Fresh, from scratch entrees and sides. Takeout is available!
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