

FREE

CityPULSE

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September 5 - 11, 2018

The man behind the makeover

Lansing Community College's
Brent Knight

See page 13



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HOME	3
FOOD & GAS	1
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ARTS NIGHT OUT

SEPT. 7, 2018

OUT



VENUES

- Absolute Gallery
- Arts Council of Greater Lansing
- Capital City Reprographics
- Clark Hill PLC
- Elderly Instruments
- Great Lakes Art & Gifts
- Katalyst Gallery
- Metro Retro
- MICA Gallery
- Mother & Earth Baby Boutique
- Old Town General Store
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Arts Night Out 2018

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For more information, visit www.MyArtsNightOut.com





REAL ESTATE

Making sense of Greater Lansing Real Estate

How is the market? Often times, as a realtor this is the question I get from people. The answer is a nuanced one: It varies based on the location of your home – if you are in East Lansing or Lansing or Mason. These numbers and data from mid-August will give you insight into the current market and help you get a better understanding of what to do with your house.

Currently, there are 1,585 homes for sale across greater Lansing. Of those homes, 926 have offers on them, and over the last twelve months 6,872 homes have been sold. These numbers indicate a 36.8 percent absorption rate – meaning, the market is absorbing one in three homes right now. This number is a fairly balanced one since a 50 percent absorption rate

implies a perfectly balanced market. Once we start to err on the upside of 50 percent, it becomes a strong seller's market, and as we go on the downside it becomes a buyer's market. With that being said, we only have a 2.4-month supply of homes across the market, a relatively low inventory compared to homes in the past. Low inventory will drive sales prices higher, it will also mean the number of days the house is on market will be shorter. With all this information on hand, it is important to note that they are specific to greater Lansing and, as I mentioned earlier, every area is different. I will be happy to help anyone navigate this landscape effectively and make sure they are well informed before making a decision about their homes.



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MEDICAL

A plant-based hormone delivery pellet

Ever been tired of the side effects and daily treatments of traditional pharmaceutical drugs? The BioTe hormone replacement and supplement program believes that the future of primary care rests not only in prevention but in optimizing and enhancing wellness. We know from past experiences that there are significant health and safety concerns related to synthetic hormone replacement therapies (HRT).

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grain-sized pellet is then inserted under the skin, through a minimally painful procedure, which takes all of 5 minutes for women and slightly longer for men. The pellets release hormones based on your cardiac output, which simply translates into: The more active you are, the more the hormone is released. Widely used in Europe and Australia, this procedure has a wealth of published scientific data about it. With patients experiencing increased energy and muscle strength, greater ability to lose weight, increased mental clarity and an overall increased quality of life, this method is truly revolutionizing the way we treat ourselves.

Please contact Dr. Anthony Meier MD and Capital Internal Medicine.



Anthony Meier, M.D.
3955 Patient Care Way
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 374-7600
www.cimamed.com

HEALTH

Back to school with free vitamins!

Starting September, we at Central Pharmacy are introducing the Children's Free Vitamin Club. Children can come into our store and get free vitamins for the entire month with our punch card program. Vitamin A, Vitamin B's, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Calcium, Fiber and Iron are essential for children's growth. First, they help supplement children's diet and fill nutritional gaps. Secondly, antioxidants are included in the program, which help build the immune system. Finally, they are great for building strong bones. The vitamin supplements included in the free pack are a great way to get kids the vitamins and minerals

they need but are not getting. This can be due to a number of reasons: kids not eating a balanced diet; finicky eaters; chronic medical conditions; kids eating a lot of fast food or drinking excessive carbonated drinks.

Start the new school year with this offer, which runs through the end of this year. People can stop at either of our stores to receive a punch card, after which each month a 30-day supply of vitamins will be given at no cost to your children. Please stop by for the free vitamin punch card along with your other pharmaceutical needs.

Contact Central Pharmacy for further information.



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East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 580-4216
www.centralpharmacymi.com

ART & INTERIOR DECORATING

Custom framing in Old Town

Everyone is welcome to come in and play, see what they like, what they don't, and we can work from there. This is the direction I take with my customers when they want their picture framed. Often, they come to my gallery for framing and the first question I get is, "How much does it cost to frame this picture?" At this stage I ask for more information about the picture and the final look that they want to achieve. The importance of the piece in their life and the meaning it holds are things I consider before going on to the next stage of frame suggestions.

Choosing from over 8,000 frames is a Herculean task, but I can certainly help customers make the right decision. After a bit of back and forth, I

can work closely with them and help identify their needs based on their answers. Where are you going to hang the frame? What is the color of the wall? Is there a presence of other colors in the room? Is the frame for the room or the piece? Other than the regular broad styles of traditional or contemporary frames, at this stage of the process I like to bring out the wild cards, based on my expertise. This is when I pull out something unexpected which the customer did not think of, and all of a sudden it becomes this very cool frame which they really love. I encourage people to stop by the gallery for all their framing needs and more.

Please contact Absolute Gallery in Old Town Lansing for more details.



Kathy Holcomb, Owner
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their tattoo completely removed. Key variables for the number of treatments required are the colors used and the age of the tattoo. Costs can vary per treatment depending on the size, but it ranges from \$100 to \$400 per treatment. Discounts are available when multiple treatments are purchased as a package. Treatments take approximately 30 minutes, and we recommend six to eight weeks between appointments.

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Please contact Dr. Rick Smith and his office for further details.



Rick J. Smith, MD, FACS
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Letter to the Editor:

Your August 22 issue highlighted an amusing dichotomy in Lansing City finances: on page 6 you report that residents of various neighborhoods are upset with the City's continuing failure to enforce its overnight street parking ban, and that the Mayor says, "We don't have the resources to have a police officer dedicated specifically for overnight parking."

Yet on page 5 you note that the City budget this year is giving the money-suck-

ing black hole that is Common Ground music festival \$140,000 - easily enough to fund TWO parking enforcement positions.

We recall that in the heyday of the Roman Empire, there was a reliance on bread and circuses to keep the rabble pacified. It's heartwarming to see that over the millennia, a few things have not changed.

**T.E. Klunzinger
Haslett**

CityPULSE

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Citizens demand improvements at Ormond Park



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Taqueria El Chaparrito settles into a brick and mortar store



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Breslin Center hosts Capital City Comic Con



**Cover
Art**

By Vince Joy

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Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?
Now you have two ways to sound off:

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.**
 - E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
 - Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
 - Fax: (517) 371-5800
 - At lansingcitypulse.com
- 2.) Write a guest column:**
Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061
(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)



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WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?

THE GOP STOLE A SUPREME COURT SEAT, THE PREZ IS UNDER INVESTIGATION, AND SCOTUS NOMINEE KAVANAUGH WANTS TO EXPAND EXECUTIVE POWER. YET HALF OF SENATE DEMS ARE UNDECIDED ABOUT HIM.

WE DON'T WANT TO RUSH TO JUDGMENT ABOUT AN ILLEGITIMATE AUTHORITARIAN SYMPATHIZER.

YES, EVERYTHING THE PARTY HAS FOUGHT FOR SINCE FDR WILL BE RUINED.

BUT THE BELTWAY MEDIA WILL RESPECT US!

LOOK, DIGGING OURSELVES INTO VERY DEEP HOLES IS WHAT WE DO.

BY SHOWING HOW BIPARTISAN WE ARE, WE MAY NOT BE THROWN IN PRISON WHEN DEMOCRACY DIES!

I'M TIRED. LET'S JUST GET THIS WORLD-ENDING THING OVER WITH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

SORENSEN

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THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

COMING UP NEXT: IS HILLARY CLINTON RUNNING A GLOBAL PEDOPHILE RING IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALIEN LIZARD PEOPLE, FROM THE SECRET BASEMENT OF A FROZEN YOGURT SHOP IN POUGHKEEPSIE?

WOW, DID YOU HEAR THAT, GROVELLIN' MIKE?

YES, SIR! VERY ALARMING, SIR! PERHAPS YOU SHOULD UTILIZE THE VAST INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND LAW ENFORCEMENT POWERS AT YOUR DISPOSAL TO DETERMINE THE VERACITY OF THE REPORT!

I AM JUST ASKING THE QUESTION!

SUPREME LEADER TRUMP IS GOOD AND WISE

WOW! Crooked Hillary in cahoots with pedo alien lizard people under Froyo store in Pookeepsie! Why aren't Mueller and 25 Angry Dems investigating THAT? Also there was NO COLLUSION except between Dems and Lizard People!

OR NOT, SIR.

MUST... KEEP... SMILING...

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Neighbors demand action at Ormond Park

Stanford: Restitution talks 'stalled' amid lawsuit

The local residents behind a lawsuit levied against the city of Lansing still want officials to improve conditions at Ormond Park, but they're willing to hash out their concerns outside of a courtroom if the city wants to settle.

Merry Stanford, president of Friends of Ormond Park, said her group is urging action for the "negative impacts" caused when the city last year paved a two-lane roadway through the middle of the narrow parkway, replacing dozens of trees and playground equipment with a driveway to Groesbeck Golf Course.

A list of "suggestions" accompanied the release, outlining requests for various improvements as well as \$60,000 to cover legal expenses incurred from the ongoing lawsuit. Stanford said the city met with her nonprofit organization to discuss a settlement but she hasn't heard back since July. They've reached a stalemate, she said.

The roadway, in the meantime, has been built. And Stanford thinks Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is in a "difficult position" in terms of how to handle the lawsuit and alleviate the growing concerns from local neighbors.

"The former mayor (Virg Bernero) had a number of follies that unfortunately Schor has inherited the consequences of," Stanford added. "We think Ormond Park should be the exception. We'd like to see the mayor support our neighborhoods so our neighborhoods can support the mayor."

Friends of Ormond Park filed suit against the city last November to prevent the roadway construction. The city didn't first survey for an endangered Indiana bats and the removal of trees and the jungle gym would "detrimentally alter" the space and pose safety concerns for children who play in the park, the complaint stated.

At the time, city officials thought the roadway would reduce traffic for neighborhood residents and make it easier for golfers to meet their tee times. Scott Keith, President and CEO of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority, suggested the renovation actually reduced risks for those strolling on neighborhood streets.

"Those cars are no longer zipping in and out of those streets," he added. "It made the area a safer place."

Stanford disagrees. She counted 57 mature trees that were removed from the park and can now only spot nine living replacements. Animals have lost their habitat, children have

lost their playspace and neighborhood residents have emptied their pocketbooks to push back against the city in a courtroom, she contended.

But Schor said he's working on some damage control regardless of the lawsuit. He committed to replacing playground equipment and a basketball court during his campaign for office. He, too, wants to reactivate the space for local residents, but he has stopped short of offering to pay for their attorney fees.

"It's going to cost probably about \$100,000 to put in that playground equipment, but I made a commitment and I'm going to do that," Schor said, noting another \$60,000



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

President of Friends of Ormond Park Merry Stanford and her husband, Peter Wood, stand near the park entrance off Cesar E. Chavez Avenue. Wood said a playscape once existed where the roadway now stands.

could buy a jungle gym for another city park. "They're suing us, essentially, for something we're already going to do. We've already ordered the equipment."

Stanford claimed the city agreed to replace the trees one-for-one when they were initially uprooted. A drive through the park is evidence of that unkept promise. Schor this week suggested "most of those trees needed to come out" anyway, and the playspace — for now — takes priority over any environmental remediation.

"We'll do whatever we need to keep kids safe," Schor said. "If that means speed limit signs or whatever, we'll take care of that. The bigger issue for us is the playground equipment and the basketball court, and we're already working on that. Our interest is also to keep kids safe. We're going to do what we need to do in order to do that."

Stanford — in an open letter to Schor — emphasized the list of suggestions do not represent demands. The group no longer looks to uproot the street; neighbors just want to reach a compromise with the city, she said.

"Let's work together to ensure that the playground and road can share the space safely," Stanford said. "We hope to hear back in a subsequent discussion what the city feels it can

reasonably offer in response to our requests."

In addition to more prominent signage and speed calming along the roadway, the Friends of Ormond Park have requested a raised pedestrian crosswalk and natural fencing around any new playscapes. The release also suggested the roadway be kept, in perpetuity, as a public roadway and never sold into to private development.

Schor said an additional line that requested a "public disclosure" of all costs associated with building the roadway was unnecessary. Those documents have been publically available for months, he said. A spokesperson for his office said the roadway tallied just over \$445,053.



Martin Luther Chapel 444 Abbot Road East Lansing

The site of this church had been owned by another local church, which chose instead to build on another site along Abbot Road. After acquiring this site and demolishing the building that stood there, building began on Martin Luther Chapel in 1963 and completed it the next year. Chicago-based architect Charles Stade was particularly suited for this commission, having attended a Lutheran seminary, in addition to his architectural education.

Like many buildings of the Mid-Century era, this building was not only set back from its neighbors but is sited as an object to be appreciated from all sides. The lower cedar shingle roof dominates the building, culminating in a spire that pierces the sky, while the splayed base walls and attached masonry planters anchor the building to the earth.

It has been suggested that Stade drew inspiration from Scandinavian stave architecture. Indeed, the strong regionalism exhibited by the traditional churches address their northern European climate, employing pitched roofs to shed snow. Both church forms feature a stack of steep roofs, which are raised to permit natural light within. Here, the lower roof sits on a band of windows at the lower eave, while the spire allows light through the upper oculus.

Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"Eye candy of the Week" is our weekly 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.

The city sought last year to dismiss the lawsuit on the basis of governmental immunity, but the request was ultimately denied. That city's appeal has since sat motionless for months at the Michigan Court of Appeals. No oral arguments are scheduled. A clerk there said it'll likely remain just as stagnant through the end of the year.

Stanford said attorneys from both sides have had "limited" conversations in recent weeks, but she's interested in reaching a settlement sooner than later. Schor said he would entertain a settlement discussion and could consider a smaller payment for legal costs, but he has no plans to reel back the city's defense of the lawsuit.

"By settling, the city also avoids having to respond to our very broad discovery requests and deposition notices," Stanford wrote in the letter. "It has been over a month, without meaningful response. This leads us to wonder if the city has ever intended to negotiate a settlement. This is why we took the conversation public."

Visit lansingcitypulse.com to for continued coverage or to view Stanford's open letter to Schor.

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

Let voters decide on Fair Wage proposal

Guest Column



PETE VARGAS

On Aug. 27, the One Fair Wage Michigan ballot committee filed proposed ballot language after the Michigan Court of Appeals ordered that One Fair Wage be on Michigan's November 2018 ballot.

The proposed ballot measure language calls for raising the minimum wage to \$12 an hour for all workers, including tipped workers. Over 1 million workers and their families, including not only service industry workers but also healthcare workers and educators, would benefit from this proposal, with higher incomes and greater ability to contribute to the Michigan economy. This minimum wage increase for Michigan workers would be a \$3.1 billion boom to our local economies. When people have more expendable income they buy more things and create more jobs.

This is simple economics 101.

Corporate trade lobbies who do not want to give their workers a raise and their friends in the state Legislature continue to try to keep this issue off the ballot, because they know the public overwhelmingly supports raising the minimum wage and because they know that the issue would encourage working people, people of color, young people, and women to the polls to vote in this important November election.

We now hear that a subset of state legislators are attempting an underhanded maneuver in which they would pass the measure to keep it off the ballot and then gut it after the election in a lame duck session. They are particularly talking about cutting tipped workers out of the legislation after the election. This is a shameful attempt to suppress our state's least advantaged voters.

This maneuver would also leave the state's lowest-wage workers behind.

Tipped workers in the nation's capital are currently paid \$3.52 as a base wage, with "tips on top" intended to bring them up to the current minimum wage of \$9.50. This assumes, of course, that all employers are fully compliant in ensuring that this minimum is, in fact, met.

This two-tiered wage system is fundamentally flawed, and it is particularly harmful to the professional, hard-working women who are 70 percent of restaurant workers nationwide. Raising the tipped wage to the full minimum wage is not just a matter of economic justice, but also gender and racial equity.

Restaurant workers who rely on tips to feed their own families are forced to endure whatever their customers, coworkers, and managers choose to dish out — which is why incidences of sexual

harassment occur with twice the regularity in states with a two-tiered wage system for tipped versus non-tipped workers.

The solution lies in shifting the power imbalance. If servers are less dependent on tips, they no longer have to tolerate abusive behavior simply to make ends meet. If they are paid a fair wage by their employer — rather than having the customer assume the responsibility for the bulk of their wages — they are assured the security of a reliable, livable paycheck.

The seven states that have already eliminated the antiquated two-tiered wage system and instead have adopted "One Fair Wage" for all workers have proven that better wages lead to better tips. They have proven that the restaurant industry can continue to thrive despite raising wages. And they have proven that we can cut sexual harassment in half through the implementation of this simple, fair policy.

More than 400,000 Michigan voters have signed petitions to put One Fair Wage on the ballot. They did so because they know how important it is to allow all workers — including tipped workers — the right to a stable wage that allows them to make ends meet.

Unless they can guarantee that the measure as written will remain intact, the Michigan State legislature should follow the will of the voters — their own constituents — and allow One Fair Wage to be placed on the November ballot.

(Pete Vargas is campaign manager of One Fair Wage.)

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of East Lansing in the Counties of Clinton and Ingham

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AMENDED BROWNFIELD PLAN #11 FOR THE CITY OF EAST LANSING, APPROVING TAX INCREMENT FINANCING FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE PARK DISTRICT PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 100-140 W. GRAND RIVER AVENUE AND 303 ABBOT ROAD IN THE CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381, 1996, AS AMENDED, OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

Please take notice that a Public Hearing shall be held before the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing, MI 48823, regarding the adoption of a resolution to amend Brownfield Plan #11, Park District Project. Within the Public Hearing the City Council shall exercise its powers, all pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended.

The eligible property included in Brownfield Plan #11 is:

100-140 W. Grand River Avenue and 303 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

The project includes a complete demolition and redevelopment of underutilized and contaminated, functionally obsolete structures and adjacent thoroughfares. The proposed mixed-use development includes a hotel, commercial and residential uses, and parking.

The description of the property and a copy of Brownfield Plan #11, are available for public inspection in the Department of Planning, Building and Development, City of East Lansing, 517-319-6930 and at www.cityofeastlansing.com/539/projects.

Please note that all aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing, at which all interested persons will be provided an opportunity to be heard, and written communication will be received and considered. **The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, 517-319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.**

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

TO: Citizens of the City of Lansing

PURPOSE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

The City of Lansing is preparing its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 pursuant to Federal Community Development Program rules and regulations. Before submitting its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval, the City must, after appropriate public notice, make the report available to the public for examination and comment for a period of 15 days. The comment period is September 6, 2018– September 20, 2018.

A summary of public comments received as a result of the public participation process will be submitted to HUD as part of the CAPER.

Notice is hereby given that the CAPER for the time period noted above for the City of Lansing is on file and available for review at the Department of Economic Development and Planning (EDP), 316 N. Capitol, Lansing, MI 48933, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Information regarding the CAPER may be obtained by contacting Doris M. Witherspoon at (517) 483-4063 or at doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov

The EDP Office must receive any comments regarding the CAPER for this time period in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 20, 2018.

CP#18-215

CP#18-216

Suit attempts to ease on-campus voting

POLITICS



KYLE MELINN

Back in 1999, then-Brighton state Sen. Mike Rogers pushed a measure dubbed “Rogers’ Law,” which required voters to vote based on their driver’s license address.

At the time, the Livingston County Republican was eyeing the 8th congressional seat, home of Michigan State University. The swing seat was being vacated by Democrat Debbie Stabenow to run for the Senate, and the Republican-controlled Legislature thought Rogers could win it, as Dick Chrysler did a few years earlier.

Likely looking for any edge possible, Rogers used his position as Senate majority floor leader to push through P.A. 118, which had the practical impact of forcing hundreds of college students to vote at their parents’ address unless they went to the Secretary of State’s Office to change their driver’s license address.

Since most MSU students weren’t going to go through the hassle of putting “Wells Hall,” or wherever they were staying for a year, on their license, an estimated hundreds if not thousands of likely liberal-leaning college students didn’t cast a ballot in East Lansing, if they did at all.

Rogers beat Democrat Dianne Byrum by 123 votes in 2000. If Rogers’ law had not passed, it’s widely presumed Byrum would have been the Lansing region’s member of Congress.

Fast forward to 2018. A group of Democratic students at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University filed suit late last week alleging that this law discriminates against younger voters. They’re asking a federal judge to declare it unconstitutional.

“Young voters in Michigan have historically and to this day, been the target and victims of voting rules and requirements that are both intended to and have had the effect of making it substantially, and unjustifiably, more difficult for them to understand and navigate the process,” the lawsuit reads.

The whole matter has taken the Secretary of State’s Office “by surprise.” Spokesman Fred Woodhams said the office successfully litigated this issue 20 years ago.

Besides that, they feel students can eas-

ily change their address on their driver’s licenses and register to vote at their college campuses by visiting a branch office. For MSU students, that means trekking down Michigan Avenue to the SuperCenter! in Frandor and getting that done.

While MSU and UofM students are listed on the suit, the attorney of record is Washington, D.C.’s, Marc Elias, who is also working behind the scenes with the national progressive Priorities USA Foundation. This is the outfit that’s asking for 5 million voted ballots and 1.2 million absentee ballot envelopes from the 2016 to see look for any “undervoting” in communities of color.

Elias’ latest attempt with Rogers’ Law isn’t starting off well for him. Federal Judge Robert Cleland, of Port Huron, a George H.W. Bush appointee and Federalist Society member known for once comparing illegal immigrants to insects and Japanese Beetles, was assigned the case.

This certainly isn’t like getting a more progressive judge, such as federal Judge Victoria Roberts, of Detroit, who last week who ruled the state’s 30,000-signature requirement for independent statewide office-seekers unconstitutional burdensome. Or federal Judge Gershwin Drain, who blocked the 2015-16 law banning the “straight ticket” voting option from taking effect.

Those pushing this latest lawsuit, including 2014 Democratic attorney general candidate Mark Totten, are seeking quick action so possibly a more sympathetic appeals court can look at this by Oct. 9, the last day voters can register before the November general election.

All the while, the \$30 million being spent by NextGen America, fueled by billionaire activist Tom Steyer, to register young voters across the country is continuing in competitive states like Michigan. But for now, college students will need to register where their parents live ... unless they change their driver’s license.

Tebay, Scott Calling Out DeVos

In other news, Democratic MSU board nominees Kelly Tebay and Brianna Scott are calling on Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette to publicly oppose the new proposals from U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos that they fear will reduce liability for universities and colleges.

According to The New York Times, the proposal narrows the definition of sexual harassment, hold schools accountable only for formal complaints filed through proper

authorities and for conduct said to have occurred on their campuses.

Apparently, the higher education administrators felt the rules the Obama administration laid down were overly burdensome and had little to do with assault with harassment.

“As Michigan’s top law enforcement offi-

cial, it’s absolutely vital that Bill Schuette speaks out against these dangerous new proposals and pledges to make sure they never get enacted in our state,” Tebay said.

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

NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF APPORTIONMENTS Ingham County Drain Commissioner Patrick E. Lindemann

Notice is Hereby Given that a Public Hearing of Revision of Drain District boundaries, and of Apportionment for special assessment of costs incurred by the drainage districts listed below will be held at the office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl Avenue, in the City of Mason, Michigan, 48854, on **Tuesday, September 18, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

At the meeting to review the apportionment of benefits, I will have the tentative apportionments against parcels and municipalities within the drainage district available to review.

DRAIN NAME	MUNICIPALITY	SECTION NUMBERS
A02-00 ALAIEDON NO. 2 DRAIN	ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP	21, 28
A03-00 ALAIEDON #3 DRAIN	ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP	20
A04-00 ALAIEDON NO. 4 DRAIN	ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP	12
A21-00 ADDISON DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	21
B02-00 BARNES AND CARPENTER DRAIN	ONONDAGA TOWNSHIP	22, 23, 26-28, 34, 35
B04-00 BATEMAN DRAIN	AURELIUS TOWNSHIP	14, 15
B15-00 BOTSFORD DRAIN	LOCKE TOWNSHIP	7-9, 17, 18
B28-02 BUTTON, PONDEROSA BRANCH DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	35
B32-00 BELL DRAIN	AURELIUS TOWNSHIP	1, 12
B69-00 BOBOLINK DRAIN	VEVAY TOWNSHIP	11
E03-00 EBERLY DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	8-10, 15-17, 20
G03-08 GILBERT, CARDINAL BRANCH DRAIN	DELHI TOWNSHIP	18
G07-00 GOODNOE DRAIN	ONONDAGA TOWNSHIP	4, 9
G21-00 GRETENBERGER DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	21
G22-00 GRANDY DRAIN	STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	8, 17, 18
G24-00 GOULD DRAIN	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	13, 24
H03-00 HANNAH FARM DRAIN	LEROY TOWNSHIP	18, 19
H04-00 HANCOCK DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	20
H06-00 HARMON DRAIN	AURELIUS TOWNSHIP	1, 2
H52-00 HUMMELL DRAIN	DELHI TOWNSHIP	25, 26, 35, 36
H56-00 HEENEY DRAIN	LESLIE TOWNSHIP	2, 3, 9-11, 14-16
H64-00 HUBBARD DRAIN	LEROY TOWNSHIP	15, 16, 21, 22
I02-00 INDIAN HILLS DRAIN	BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP	2, 3, 11
I06-02 INDIAN LAKES NO.2 DRAIN	VEVAY TOWNSHIP	26, 35
K04-00 KENT DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	21
M02-00 MARKLEY DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	20
M05-00 MARSHALL & WILCOX DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	21
M06-00 MEAD DRAIN	AURELIUS TOWNSHIP	29-31
M14-00 MERIDIAN HILLS DRAIN	LEROY TOWNSHIP	32
M18-04 MUD LAKE OUTLET, TIHART BRANCH DRAIN	INGHAM TOWNSHIP	1, 12
M19-00 MULLEN DRAIN	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	5-8
M20-00 MUTUAL DRAIN	LEROY TOWNSHIP	28, 29, 32, 33
M06-00 MEAD DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	10, 15
M14-00 MERIDIAN HILLS DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	15
M18-04 MUD LAKE OUTLET, TIHART BRANCH DRAIN	INGHAM TOWNSHIP	1, 2, 11, 12, 14
M19-00 MULLEN DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	36
M20-00 MUTUAL DRAIN	ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP	1
M06-00 MEAD DRAIN	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	5, 6
M14-00 MERIDIAN HILLS DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	32
M18-04 MUD LAKE OUTLET, TIHART BRANCH DRAIN	CITY OF LANSING	32
M19-00 MULLEN DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	3
M20-00 MUTUAL DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	3
M06-00 MEAD DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	10
M14-00 MERIDIAN HILLS DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	11
M18-04 MUD LAKE OUTLET, TIHART BRANCH DRAIN	DELHI TOWNSHIP	11, 12
M19-00 MULLEN DRAIN	ONONDAGA TOWNSHIP	30, 31
M20-00 MUTUAL DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	6
M06-00 MEAD DRAIN	CITY OF EAST LANSING	6
M14-00 MERIDIAN HILLS DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	23, 24
M18-04 MUD LAKE OUTLET, TIHART BRANCH DRAIN	MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	23, 24

Any drain assessments against land will be collected in the same manner as property taxes.

For assessments to be collected in installments, the Drain Code (Act 40 of 1956, Sec. 154 [e]) provides that the assessment may be paid in full with any interest to date at any time and thereby avoid further interest charges.

Proceedings conducted at the day of review are subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at (517) 676-8395 or the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. **You are Further Notified** that persons aggrieved by the apportionment may appeal to the Ingham County Probate Court within ten (10) days of the Day of Review. Persons aggrieved by the revision of district boundaries may appeal to the Ingham County Circuit Court within ten (10) days of the Day of Review.

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

CP#18-211

The proposed budget of the Ingham Conservation District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2018 will be presented to the District Board for final approval at the regular monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on 9-19-18. The Public is invited to comment on the proposed budget at this time. Copies of the proposed budget are available at the District office located at 1031 W. Dexter Trail, Mason, MI 48854.

CP#18-217

B/19/023 SCOTT CARBON CYLINDER as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the City of Lansing, c/o LBWL Purchasing Office, 1110 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing, Michigan 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **Sept. 13, 2018** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197 or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#18-214

Grant cash could boost Riverfront Park

City Council supports renovation project

Lansing could soon be on the lookout for some extra cash. City Council this week gave the go-ahead to seek a \$1.7 million federal grant that aims to jumpstart a long-sought plan to help “transform” Adado Riverfront Park.

An Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant could fund just shy of half the cost to begin the first phase of renovations, easing the financial weight of the city’s first steps into the multi-million dollar undertaking. The only snag: If the National Park Service likes the idea, the city needs to pay nearly \$1 million to make it work.

Parks and Recreation Director Brett Kaschinske said the matched grant cash would be a small step in what could eventually tally to be a \$20 million overhaul at the park. He suggested the city would need to find “creative” ways to fund the entire vision, but he hopes to create “a real destination, a real



crown jewel” for downtown Lansing.

“It’s a great resource that we have in this city,” Kaschinske added. “It can be used on a daily basis for our residents and bring in people from all over the region. This, again, is going to be a whole group effort. Whether it’s administration or City Council, it’s a conversation we’re all going to have to better this space.”

City Council members OK’d an application this month for the grant application, which offers a six-digit infusion to get help the ball rolling. The state Department of Natural Resources will select up to three of those applications from across Michigan to submit next month. But some were cautious to take a financial leap.

The process required a city-stamped resolu-

tion to “diligently pursue” additional funding from both public and private sector partners. Council President Carol Wood checked in with City Attorney Jim Smiertka to confirm there was no real cash commitment before supporting a plan to fund 57 percent of the costs.

“No offense, Brett, but we’ve been down this road where we thought we were doing one thing but it came out that we were doing something different,” she added, before the unanimous vote to pursue the federal grant cash.

Kaschinske said the west side of the park routinely retains water, which requires some excavation before plans can begin. A large hill inside will need to be taken out before the existing paved areas and field spaces can be converted into a broad “West Plaza” pavilion and surrounding event lawn, like listed in the grant application.

“Right now it’s kind of this big, flat, open space,” said Lansing Mayor Andy Schor. “If you go to any big city where they’ve got a park, it’s an active space. You want people to be able to go there and have lunch or swing by after

work. It’d be nice to have people there on the weekends with some extra concerts or comedians.”

Kaschinske suggested local nonprofits could help front some of the costs in a project that could eventually lead to a permanent stage for events like the Common Music Festival, expanding the space to draw in larger crowds. The project, eventually, is also geared to include a variety of utility improvements to handle the growth.

“Power, water, drainage, all the things that make a park more usable and cost effective,” said Scott Keith, president and CEO of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority. “If we can get some pieces moving to move the park into a position where it’s used more frequently, it will continue to grow from there.”

The nationally competitive grant application — billed to “help the public to access or re-connect with the outdoors, particularly in city neighborhoods that lack parks and recreational opportunities” — is due Sept. 14. The city doesn’t need to come up with the cash immediately; that can be worked out as selection continues.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

‘Pissed Off MSU’ still angry

‘Disorientation Guide’ focuses on student protest

A recently formed activist group at Michigan State University refuses to accept the status quo again this year.

A group of students and alumni — billing themselves as “Pissed Off MSU” — last week printed more than 600 pamphlets they’re calling the “Disorientation Guide.” The booklets outline a history of rebellion and student resistance, and organizers want to ensure the largest freshman class in university history keeps

up the fight.

“We wanted to underline the fact that as long as MSU has existed, there has been a history of a culture of activism,” said co-author and recent graduate Erin Paskus. “Basically, we’re saying that we’re not done. This school has a long way to go until it can be seen as welcoming and accepting to all students.”

The printed and online materials begin with the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw and the 1862 Morrill Land-Grant Act that helped lay the groundwork for what would later become MSU. “This act could only be passed as a result of the U.S. government violating numerous

treaties,” according to the guidebook.

The university didn’t admit women until 1870, and black people weren’t able to enroll until 1885, according to the guide. It also outlines a 1965 sit-in on Abbot Road to demand an open occupancy law, and a protest against the U.S. invasion of Cambodia in 1970. But the later chapters take a turn against the university and its officials.

“I guess we just wanted to contextualize some of the activism that we’ve seen over the years,” Paskus added, noting she wants to continue the trend. “Especially for incoming freshman who might not even know what happened with Larry Nassar or when Richard Spencer was coming to speak.” Spencer is a nationally known white supremacist whose appearance this year at MSU set off clashes between Spencer supporters and opponents.

Paskus, who graduated last year, said the 12-person organization formed last spring because they felt administrators ignored pro-

tests and the needs of students and staff. They hope to grow the group this year.

Environmentalists in 2000 attacked a professor’s research because it was involved with Monsanto, according to the later pages. And the guide doesn’t fail to mention serial child molester and former MSU sports doctor Larry Nassar. But the university recognizes the right of free speech; Paskus said her group hasn’t faced any pushback.

This group was one of many distributing information during the recent Sparticulation event at Cherry Lane Field. “MSU does not censor or stop any of these groups,” a spokesperson emphasized in an email. Paskus billed her group’s presence at the event a success, save for one hiccup with a handcrafted, balloon banner.

Paskus said officials stepped in when they tried to float a “BORED OF THE TRUSTEES” banner over the field.

It never made it off the ground.

“From the very beginning, Michigan State University has been a site of harassment, discrimination, and violence: from appropriating the land it sits on, to systemic cover ups of sexual violence, to the perpetual tuition hikes that turn the school into a playground for the elites,” according to the disorientation guide.

“For now, MSU is a place of corruption and lies financed by the debt of students where only the few have access,” it continues. “But confrontation breeds change. When we fight for what we want, we get it. We can imagine a new university. Can you?”

Visit pissedoffmsu.wordpress.com to view the materials for yourself.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

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, September 26, 2018 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 Leo Brown Group, LLC for site plan and special use permit approval to construct a single-story, 15,275 square foot inpatient geriatric psychiatric facility on a 2.9 acre vacant parcel of land on the east side of Coolidge Road south of the southeast corner of Coolidge and Coleman Roads. The subject property is located in the A, Agricultural, 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

CP#18-213

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Combination tickets must be purchased by September 12, 2018, at www.lansinghistory.org or 517-282-0671.

Tour Only tickets are available online, or at the Country Club on the day of the event. All funds raised will benefit the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.



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ARTS & CULTURE

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Comic book artists and fans take over Breslin Center

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The Breslin Center is being dolled up to host comic book writers, illustrators and slingers alike as Capital City Comic Con returns for its fourth consecutive issue. As movies like “Black Panther” and “Avengers: Infinity War” blast their way into the larger culture, all the attention gravitating toward the Marvel Cinematic Universe is reverberating at comic conventions and, organizers hope, boosting the smaller, niche comic market.

The Marvel films are what pulled Christina DeJong, one of the convention’s co-owners and an associate professor of criminal justice at MSU, into the Capital City Comic Con.

“The movies got me into reading the comics and the graphic novels they were based on,” she said. “I had been to a couple of comic cons before; I thought they were fun and it seemed like something Lansing really needed.”

Each year, the convention tries to find a

middle ground between the elite comic connoisseur and the casual fan who is patiently waiting for the “Avengers: Infinity War” sequel.

“That’s a tricky thing; it’s another lesson we’ve learned over the past few years,” said DeJong. “For the hardcore comic fans, our special guests are always people who are involved in the comic industry in some way.”

This year’s biggest name is Ryan Stegman, a resident of Troy, Michigan, who is best known for his work on “Superior Spider-Man,” “Amazing Spider-Man” and “Renew Your Vows.” Stegman has since been enlisted by Marvel to work on the latest “Venom” series — a pulp reboot for the infamous Spider-Man villain, as the Tom Hardy film vehicle of the same name approaches theaters.

What’s new for the convention? Over the past few years, DeJong said it’s shaken off a lot of the growing pains and her team has found new ways to engage attendees.

“The first couple of years, we were really



Courtesy photo

Two cosplayers at the Capital City Comic Con dressed as Harley Quinn and the Joker.

focused on comics and getting a lot of vendors in the door,” she said. This time around, the team has given more thought to families who come and stay all day. “One thing we don’t want to do is charge people on the way in and keep charging them for every little activity,” DeJong said.

The biggest change is the date. Previously, the convention was held before Michigan State University students returned. Now it can finally lure in wandering Spartans who are exploring their new campus and looking for something to do before they’re demolished by the semester’s workload.

Alongside the top talent that illustrates and writes some of the biggest superheroes and supervillains, Comic Con will also host independent artists like Adam Lopez, who runs his own independent comics imprint, Merritt Road Comics.

Artists like Lopez partially rely on events like Capital City Comic Con as an opportunity to become better known and connect with fans. Last year’s convention was the first comic con Lopez ever attended. “I heard about it through my studies at MSU,” he said. Capital City Comic Con runs a scholarship through MSU for comic students. Before the convention, all of the scholarship finalists are invited for a meet and greet with the bigger guests.

“It’s really cool for independent artists to meet the people who’ve been in the business,” Lopez said.

Lopez writes noir-inspired short stories accentuated with his bold black-and-white illustrations, which keep the action moving.

He said that not every convention out there gives small artists the opportunity to set up shop.

“You’ll see a lot of comic conventions that are mostly about cosplay, or actors from movies, but not necessarily geared toward independent comics,” he said. “That’s one thing Capital City Comic does really well — it makes a point to focus on independent comics.”

DeJong added that the convention focuses on smaller publishers, as it’s “how most people get started in this industry.” According to DeJong, there is a slight runoff from the Marvel hype that gets back to the smaller comic houses.

“What we’re trying to do with our events is make people aware of all the different kinds of comics there are,” she said.

DeJong mentioned MSU’s own underreported stake in comic book lore. The university library is home to world’s largest collection of comic books and has a minor dedicated toward comic art and graphic novels.

“Honestly, a lot of these things I didn’t know even as a faculty member, until I started working on the convention,” she said.

There’s also alumni like Geoff Johns — a comic book industry superstar, known for penning long running series for some of DC Comics’ largest properties. DeJong hopes Johns can one day return to campus for a future Capital City Comic Con event.

“This comic art program at MSU has a lot of really young talent,” she said. “There are future superstars and we are really excited they have this path.”

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New MSU STEM facility breaks ground

By DENNIS BURCK

The first new classroom building constructed on MSU's campus in nearly 50 years, the STEM Teaching and Learning Facility will be a 117,000-square-foot giant of academia, building from — and renovating — the old 40,000 square foot Shaw Lane Power Plant.

According to MSU's website, one-third of teaching laboratories are housed in facilities over 40 years old. Over the past 10 years, enrolled credit hours in STEM and STEM-related courses increased by 38 percent.

"What they experience here will have students poised to be in high demand," John Engler, interim president of MSU, said.

In 2017, Engler said the university sat down at a roundtable with major employers from across the United States to discuss the future of MSU's STEM program. "U.S. employers will need a million more people with substantial STEM literacy," he said.

The total budget is \$97.5 million for the project: \$72.5 million for the new STEM facility construction and \$40 million to renovate the Shaw Lane Power Plant.

"Quite often, I hear people say that the role of higher education is to train peo-



Courtesy photo

An artist's rendering of the new STEM building on MSU's campus.

ple for jobs or careers," Melanie Cooper, Lappan-Phillips Professor of Science Education, said. "While it is certainly true we are preparing future engineers, scientists, doctors and, most importantly, educators, I would argue that our role is not to train but to educate."

The days of someone holding one job, or one career are over, Cooper said.

"Knowledge is growing at such a high rate — it doesn't make sense to look upon the university as a training ground for jobs."

Students will need to learn how to adapt to new knowledge, she said. "While facts and calculations are important building

blocks, they mean nothing without understanding."

The new facility will be designed for students to learn for the future.

"The new STEM building will play a crucial role in supporting students, as they engage in evidence based active ways of learning. They will work in flexible working environments rather than sitting in a lecture hall," Cooper said. "Students will ask and answer their own questions. They will

solve and pose problems and develop solutions for meaningful issues."

Upon completion, the new addition will house undergraduate teaching laboratories and project laboratories, as well as space that will support gateway courses for biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, physics and engineering.

The former Shaw Lane Power Plant will take a different direction. It's slated to house a student common room, gallery, studio space and idea accelerator for faculty and students. The Biological Sciences Program offices and Undergraduate Research office will take up residency in its halls as well.



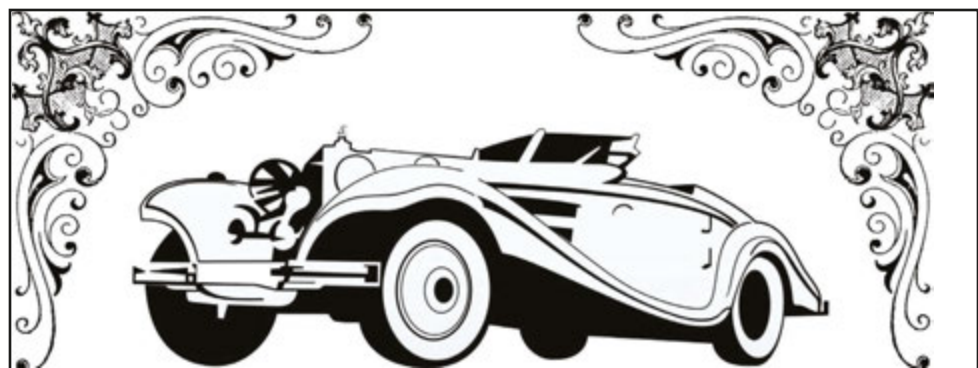
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MSU students welcomed back by lauded authors, public figures

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Since 2002, incoming Michigan State University freshmen have been reading the same book each year as part of the One Book, One Community reading program. And each year, with Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" as the notable exception, the book's author visits campus for a couple of days to further discuss their book's themes.

This past year, MSU and East Lansing landed a big fish when Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor's book "My Beloved World"



was selected and the justice participated in several book-related events.

In the 1960s, all freshman and sophomores — with a few exceptions — read a lot of the same books as part of the "Basic College Curriculum," where students were required to take six classes each in American thought and language, humanities and natural science.

The reading lists, along with the multiple choice finals, were exactly the same for each section.

So all students in ATL 111 would read Arthur Miller, Cotton Mather, James Fenimore Cooper and Thomas Paine. In later classes, all students would read books by authors such as Mark Twain, Willa Cather and A.B. Guthrie. Somewhere in there would be "Bartleby: The Scrivener" by Herman Melville, and selections from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Edgar Allen.

Today's students read many of the same books that their counterparts did in the '60s. While this includes books by the holy trinity of Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck and William Faulkner, contemporary books like Chuck Palahniuk's "Fight Club" are also required reading.

According to Curious Book Shop and Archive Book Shop owner Ray Walsh, who's been selling used books to students for nearly 50 years, today's undergraduates are still reading books by authors like Kurt Vonnegut and Ray Bradbury for class.

What's changed, however, is how students access books and if the professor even requires books.

John Aerni Flessner, an assistant professor at MSU's Residential College of Arts and Humanities, said classes lacking a book requirement is the biggest change he's seen in classroom instruction. He is teaching the class Disease and Public Health in Africa this fall, which has no books, but lots of reading assignments.

Also, instead of a hard copy of a book, students today might use a digital down-



Courtesy photo

Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor spoke to MSU students Aug. 27.

load. They typically can only be accessed by a code, which requires a fee ranging anywhere from \$30 to \$100.

The lower demand for books has affected bookstores. At one time there were five bookstores in East Lansing. Now there are three.

Aerni-Flessner said customizing readings helps provide alternative viewpoints. He offered the example of students reading about Christopher Columbus.

"Today, the reading might be supplemented by journal articles considering Columbus' impact on the environment, social norms and Native Americans," he said. "The readings are not ignoring the canon, but help students understand,

"Why I am reading this?"

Reading lists from the '60s, provided by the MSU Archives, show students were reading books that stressed diversity, such as Baldwin's "Native Son," but contemporary reading lists show much broader diversity.

"50 years ago you might find one book on Native-American culture: Dee Brown's 'Bury My Heart at Wounded, Knee,'" Aerni-Flessner said.

Tom Muth, co-owner of Collegeville Textbook Company, said in the 10 years the Grand River Avenue store has been in business he's seen dramatic changes in how books are bought and sold.

"The biggest thing I notice is professors are not requiring as many books, but are relying on lectures and materials that can only be accessed online with a special code. Codes are somewhat less expensive than buying a textbook, but create an atmosphere where they can't be resold," he said.

Muth also said there are far more contemporary authors and authors from diverse populations along with books in more unusual formats. Many classes now use graphic novels.

He also says brick and mortar bookstores still have an advantage over online sales.

"We actively curate our books using professor's lists. If you go online you may find 15 versions of the book you are looking for and, of course, we make it easy during buy back," Muth said.

The second major change noted by Muth is students are waiting longer to buy their books.

"Students are waiting to see which books on the list are really required, and which ones they will be tested on," Muth said. Students of the '60s remember coming away with an armful of books for a class and many would only be recommended additional readings.

For the most startling image of how the relationship of book and college education has changed in the last 50 years, you need only walk in the MSU Library just south from Beaumont Tower.

Fifty years ago, the library was brimming with books and research materials used in class or writing papers. Universities boasted about the number of books in their library. Today, the MSU Library seems to have more computers than books, and is home to the MSU Special Collections. Special Collections houses real books, which are sometimes displayed under glass like artifacts from a lost era.

What does the future hold for books? Muth likes to quote his deceased father, a distinguished MSU Communications professor. "No form of communication has ever become extinct."

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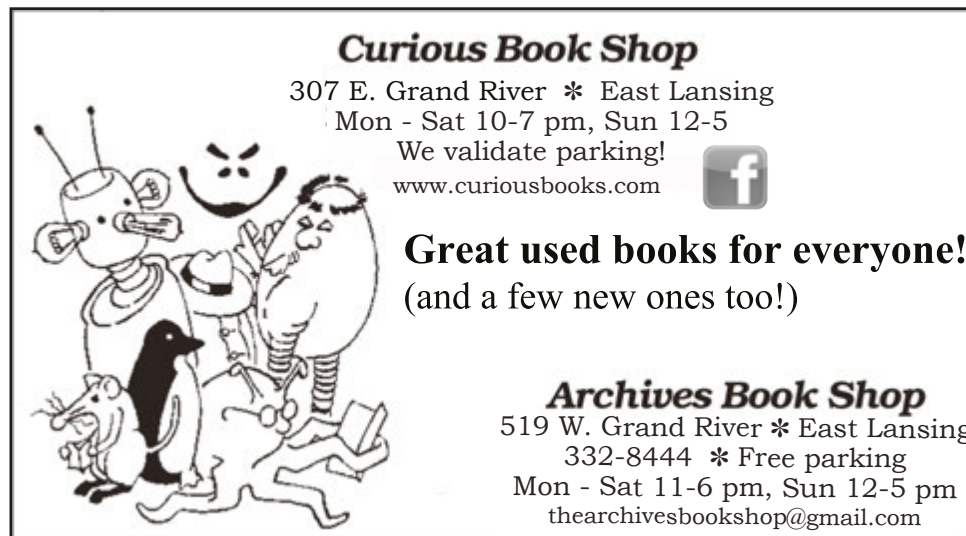
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Knight and day

Brent Knight's vision takes shape at LCC

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

You don't have to enroll at Lansing Community College to learn stuff. If you wander into the place by mistake —fooled by the drab architecture into thinking this is where you check in with your parole officer — you are bombarded by knowledge for free.

Under the “ambient learning” philosophy of President Brent Knight, no inch is left unexploited. The second floor of the Arts and Sciences Building, a typical classroom cluster, crackles with educational and artistic stimuli, from satellite photos of Syria to a giant image of the eyes of a fly to a set of photos of African-American life collected by W.E.B. DuBois.

Only one 5-foot patch of wall leaves the bare, dirty concrete and brown brick of LCC's original Brutalist architecture untouched. But that's a history lesson, too. It makes you curious: was this a prison back in the day?

Not exactly, but in 10 years as LCC president, Brent Knight has thoroughly fairy-dusted the entire campus with colorful sculpture,

glassy atriums, trees and shrubs and plantings, a new clock tower, and on and on. Even the surface parking lots to the west, surrounded by art and greenery, don't look like parking lots.

In April of this year, LCC's Board of Trustees unanimously voted to extend his contract, which would have expired at the end of this year, through June 2021. His national profile has only grown since he popped up in *People Magazine* in 1976 as an up-and-coming, 20-something community college president to watch. In August, he was appointed to the board of directors of the American Association of Community Colleges.

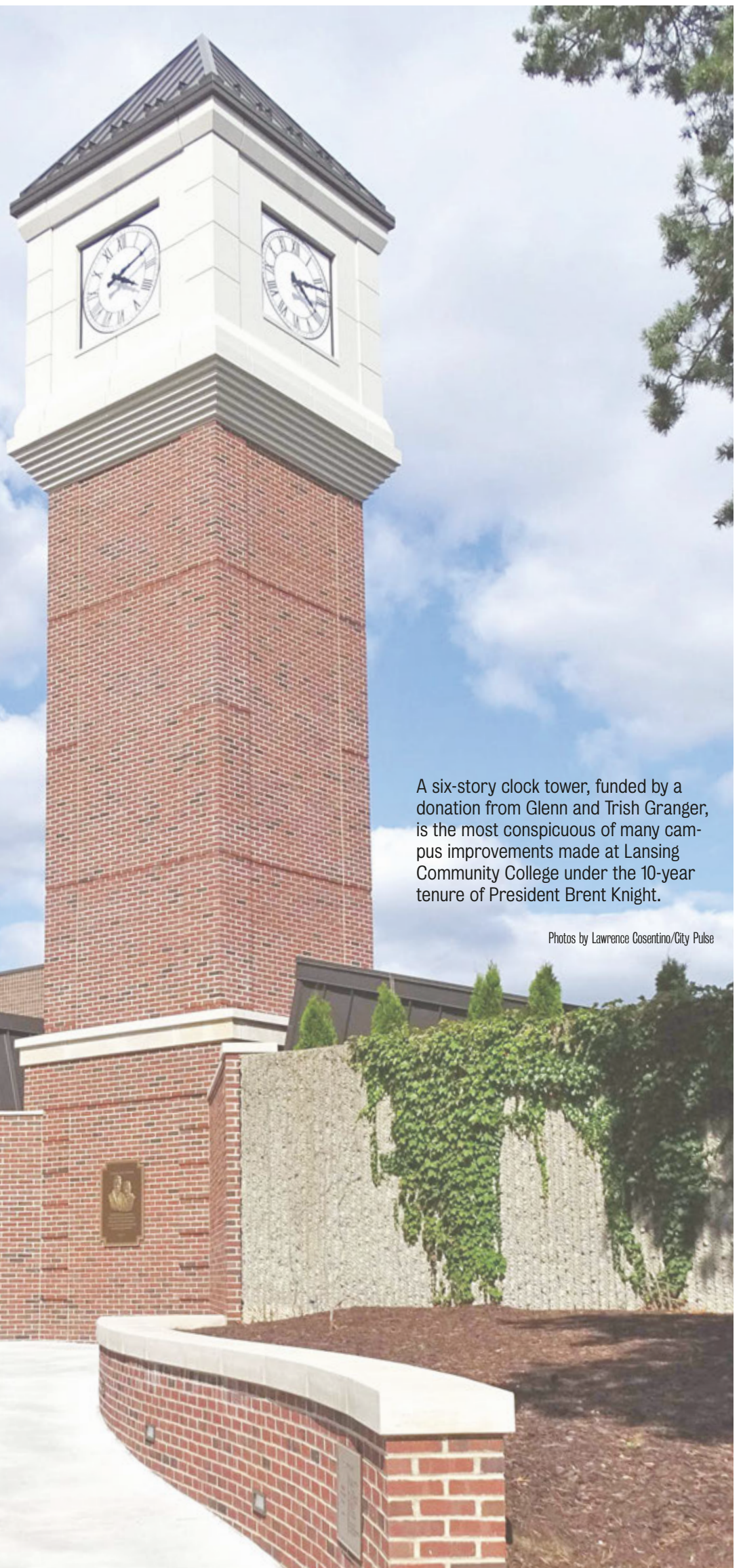
LCC Trustee Andrew Abood called Knight a “miracle worker.”

“LCC has always been an important part of Lansing, but it really hasn't functioned in the past at its full capability,” Abood said. “He has brought LCC into the 21st century, not only with its physical structures, but he deserves a lot of credit for the culture.”

Trustee Larry Meyer called him a “visionary.”

Meyer said the board re-punched

See Knight, Page 14



A six-story clock tower, funded by a donation from Glenn and Trish Granger, is the most conspicuous of many campus improvements made at Lansing Community College under the 10-year tenure of President Brent Knight.

Photos by Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Knight

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Knight's card for many reasons — but mainly for his “focus on student success.”

Meyer cited two significant programs the college has launched under Knight: the Center for Manufacturing Excellence on the west campus, where students learn robotics, precision machining and other 21st century skills, and an aviation partnership with Delta Airlines he called “unique in the nation.”

“Those are new approaches to teaching and learning,” Meyer said.

The same goes for the aggressive “ambient learning” in the halls. “We’ve got a lot of walls,” Meyer said. “Why shouldn’t it be an atmosphere for learning?”

No dye in his tie

Brent Knight is a restless man with a restless mind. He’s notorious for tooling around LCC in his golf cart to check on the never-ending campus improvements. If you peeked at his computer history for the hour and a half I spent with him last week, you’d see images of the schools where he’s been president in the past, the Egyptian frescoes at Luxor, pictures of pickles and GM’s 1958 Futurliner bus. He can’t go five minutes without popping out of his chair, Elton John-ing his keyboard and showing you what he’s talking about.

Although Knight, 71, came of age in the stoned-out, crunchy, feelgood 1970s, the dye never got into his tie. It’s not hard to account for his getting a doctorate at 24, with no detours to find himself.

He grew up in Bay City among German Lutherans who value work above all and sold roadside produce from the abundant family farm in his youth. When he was 5 years old, he and his 8-year-old brother picked pickles in Bay County, loaded them into hundred-pound bags and took them to a pickle station to be sorted.

It sounds like exploitation, but Knight lights up at the memory. His father paid him for the work by check — usually about \$3.50.

Knight jumped out of his chair to demonstrate how he lifted the check to the teller window, way above his head.

“My father wanted us to understand that if you work, you get paid,” he said.

A key boost to Knight’s education, and a big influence on his choice to work at community colleges, was getting an \$8,000 Mott Foundation fellowship in

1970.

Knight interned with the president of Mott Community College in Flint and wrote his doctoral dissertation on community colleges in Michigan.

The stigma of community colleges as “Last Chance Colleges” didn’t occur to Knight, not only because of his experience with the Mott fellowship, but also because his mother went to Bay City Junior College before becoming a teacher in 1934.

“My mother did that and it worked
j u s t

in People Magazine’s as a young college administrator to watch. The story mentioned that Knight owned some interesting vintage vehicles, including two GM Futurliner buses. Only 12 of the custom behemoths, the size and shape of streamlined Art Deco locomotives, were made.

Knight Googled “Futurliner” and brought up 1950s images of bulbous bus caravans deploying rooftop lights at county fairs as they displayed the products of tomorrow.

“We opened ours

president of Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington, for four years. (He fondly recalls an office that looked onto Mount Rainier.) Under Knight, Pierce bought a second campus and expanded its student base.

After four years at Pierce, Knight made a sharp career turn. He was recruited by Meijer Inc. as vice president in charge of design, construction and maintenance for all Meijer stores.

“I knew a lot on Friday and knew very little on Monday,” he said. He supervised over 400 employees, building new stores across the Midwest in one of Meijer’s biggest expansion phases.

At Meijer, Knight learned the value, in dollars and cents, of keeping an institution’s look current and inviting.

“If you remodel a store, you’ll get a double-digit increase in sales,” Knight said.

Garden interlude

After Knight spent seven years at Meijer, CEO and founder

Fred Meijer took note of his skill at competing stores on time and on budget.

Meijer asked Knight to be the first board chairman of a new project,

Frederic Meijer Gardens.

“He called me at home,” Knight recalled. “It was the only time he did that.”

Knight enjoyed the challenge of moving Meijer’s massive sculpture collection from the CEO’s “very nice barn” to the garden.

He remembers hustling to help first lady Betty Ford, in heels, walk down a muddy plank at the planting of a palm tree where she and her husband, President Gerald Ford, were guests of honor.

The garden went on to become the second biggest tourist draw in Michigan, next to the Henry Ford Museum. But seven years at Meijer was “plenty,” Knight said.

Another rare chance opened up when Walter Bumphus, CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges, was headed to Louisiana to start a community college campus from scratch at Baton Rouge and asked Knight to help design it.

“We started from nothing, made plans, got the money, designed and planned where to put the buildings,” Knight said.

In 2003, Knight became president of Morton College in Cicero, a troubled

See Knight, Page 15

Colorful sculpture, landscaping and signs have softened the campus’s Brutalist concrete architecture.

fine,” Knight said. “I loved the idea that everyone could go and it was affordable.”

Esther Knight, now in her 90s, gave an exuberant speech at Knight’s inaugural as LCC president in 2008. “My priority list as a parent was weaning, toilet training and reading, and sometimes the last two were combined,” she told the crowd.

Out of the box

Knight got a doctorate in business at Western Michigan University at 24. He immediately went to Triton College in Illinois to head the school’s research and grant-writing team. He was president of Triton in 1976, at 29.

That earned him an amusing blurb

up and had volleyball parties at night,” Knight said.

But the white elephants wouldn’t fit in Knight’s garage, so he got rid of them back in the 1970s. One of them recently sold for \$4 million.

“Had I just kept them,” he sighed. After serving as president at Triton from 1976 to 1983, he was forced out in a struggle with the board over contracts and hiring, according to the Chicago Tribune.

But Knight had his fans. Sunil Chand, a former administrator at Triton and now a professor and administrator at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois, called Knight “the most out-of-the-box creative thinker I have ever known.”

After his tenure at Triton, Knight was



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Knight

from page 14

institution that had burned through four presidents in the previous year. At Morton, Knight made it a priority to reach out to the Latino community, about 70 percent of the student body there. In a preview of his projects at LCC, he oversaw expansions of the 1970s-era campus, including landscaping projects and even redrew the campus mascot.

At Morton, Knight began to apply the ambient learning ideas he deployed on a broad scale at LCC, designing a Civil War themed classroom, a display on the origin of local street names and a room featuring World War II aircraft.

'Good things will follow'

When Knight started in 2008 at LCC, a complete makeover was never feasible. But despite all the Brutalist angles and materials, the campus's organic, fluid and compact layout made it amenable to Knight's new touches.

Judicious use of glassy additions, colorful signs and art and plantings have made a dramatic difference.

"I want the community to be proud of the college," Knight said. "If that is the case, good things will follow."

However, some of LCC's faculty and staff have mixed feelings when they look at the work going on around them.

"Like any institution, I think we're underpaid," writing tutor Cruz Villareal said. "You'd like to see some of the money go to teachers instead of a pile of boulders."

Villareal is a former union president of part-time LCC employees. He has three associate degrees at LCC, and makes \$13 an hour as a tutor.

"Aesthetically, the college is definitely



Knight revels in the art and "ambient learning" displays that fill the school's halls.

more pleasing," Villareal said. "You can't miss that. But what saddens is that we lose good instructors, usually as a result of compensation."

Villareal said that because of low pay, about 40 percent of LCC part-timers stay for a year and a half or less, but that's in line with national trends. Nationwide, the average tenure of an adjunct instructor at a community college is one to three years, according to the job hunting website Insight.

Instructor Gary Affholter has taught at LCC for 18 years. He teaches reading and writing classes. Affholter said that what Knight is doing is "uniform" with what's happening in other community colleges.

"To get students into four-year colleges or trained for jobs, that's the goal, and he's doing that," he said. The makeover doesn't sway him much, one way or the other.

"It's very pretty. It makes it a nice place to visit, although I think students are

going to go to school regardless," he said. "I'd like to steal some of these plants and take them home, though."

Skills gap to Luxor

Knight knows there are skeptics who think he's gone overboard with the makeover.

"People say, 'What's the point?'" he said. "You can have great programs and faculty, but in order for it to work, students do need to enroll, and they have choices. You want it to be an inviting choice."

However, unlike remodeling a Meijer store, it's hard to quantify the effect of a campus makeover. LCC enrollment dropped from a high of 22,126 in 2010, as the Great Recession crested, to 12,882

in 2017, but the drop is roughly in line with state and national trends.

Community college enrollments invariably spike upward during recessions and go down as the economy improves.

LCC also does extensive training under contract with area companies — 12,000 trainees in the coming year, Knight said. The contract training doesn't show up in the enrollment numbers. In the past 10 years, LCC has done \$4 million worth of contract training for 8,000 General Motors employees alone. Apprenticeships with local businesses have doubled.

The training work is a big part of the college's next challenge — keeping up with what Knight calls "the skills gap."

"Our aviation maintenance grads get \$50,000 after two years and as many job offers as they want," he said. "Our line worker program — line workers make even more. Twenty-five percent of all Consumers Power retirees are eligible for retirement. Companies are highly motivated to fill the skills gap."

Knight's vision is still shaped by his bottom-line, pickle-picking business sense, but he's never lost his artistic side. He has enjoyed doing abstract paintings for many years, and stone and plaster sculpture is another intermittent diversion.

He smiles at the memory of a frenzied day spent making a replica of Egyptian relief carvings at Luxor, working at full speed, before the plaster dried, then staining the plaster to resemble stone.

"Let me show you the fresco," he said. He jumped from his chair and Googled "Luxor."

"That was quite a day."

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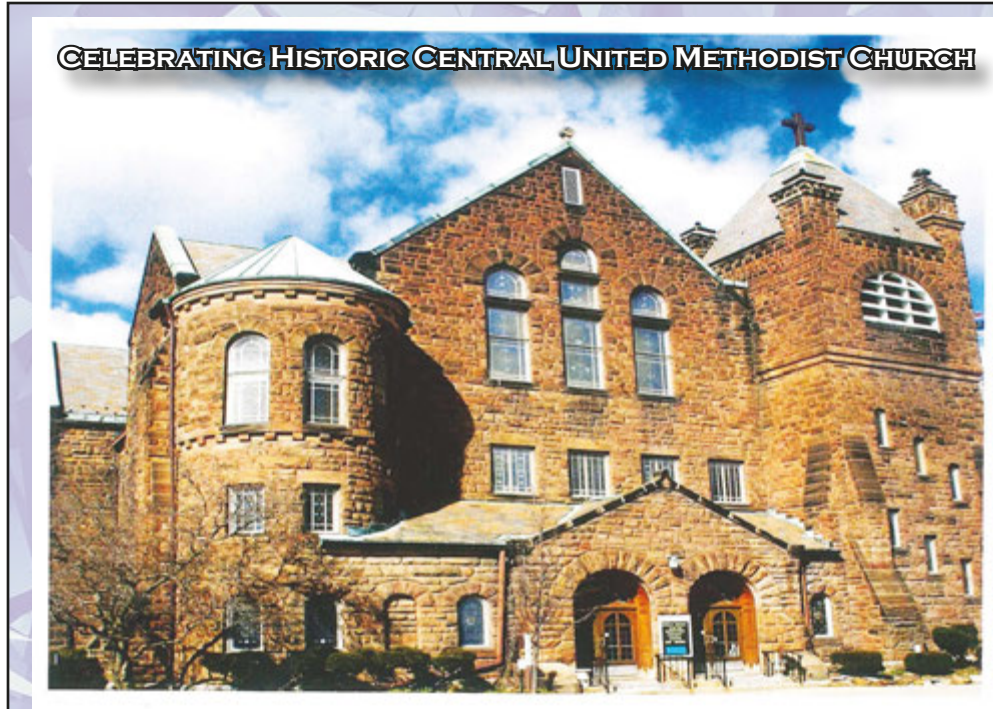
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WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Back to school? School your back on posture

By SKYLER ASHLEY

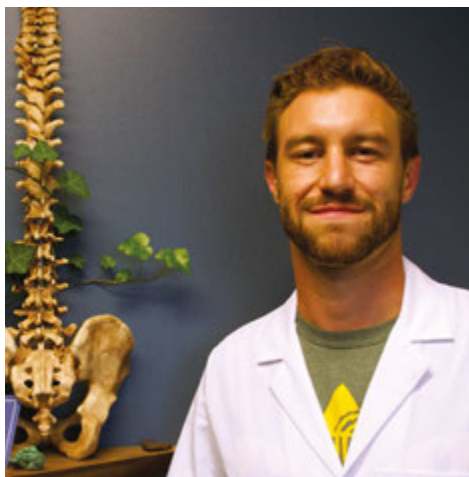
Before dropping your children off for class, consider how their daily school responsibilities might be affecting their posture. According to Lansing chiropractic Ryan Walt Moore, carrying backpacks improperly and constantly craning the neck to view cellphones can have easily avoidable negative effects.

“Backpacks are commonly too heavily loaded with school supplies, or too loaded with textbooks,” Moore said. He emphasized an equally common, though less noticeable, problem: improper backpack dimensions.

If the measurements of the bag aren’t a proper fit for a child’s torso, it can cause painful stress on the shoulders and neck, Moore said. He finds that an optimal backpack stays thinner than the child’s torso, and sags no further than 4 inches below their waist.

Should a backpack fail both of these qualifications, the child’s body becomes victim to what chiropractors call “biomechanical torque.”

“One quick way to explain biomechanical torque in regard to backpacks is they tend to cause the head to come forward, and have the shoulders slouch forward,” Moore said. “These things all tend to put us in a



Moore

self-defeated posture.”

But let’s say your child has no choice and the school isn’t savvy to tablets or laptops — which can weigh a lot less compared to a mountain of textbooks. The key, according to Moore, is keeping the weight “close to the core.”

“If the weight is non-negotiable for whatever reason, make sure their backpack is really tight against their core. Turn it into a workout, rather than something that’s causing postural distortion,” Moore said.

He posits that making gravity work for

you, instead of against you, is ideal when dealing with an overstuffed backpack.

“If they hug it and tighten it with the straps against their core; they’re standing up straight and they’re actually beating gravity. Allow it to work to their advantage.”

Children’s cellphone usage can also hurt posture. “Text neck,” as Moore calls it, is the postural position of the neck that is perpetually craned forward — something avid phone gazers, or even bookworms, are surely familiar with. While not an immediately alarming health risk, Moore says it negatively impacts a child’s self esteem.

When attempting to correct the problem, he finds it foolish to expect children to kick cell phones. Instead, he prefers to teach them how to get some relief from daily neck aches.

“It’s a physical thing. Maybe your neck will get a little bit sore, but it’s actually changing your mindset and changing your self-esteem as well, which is important for parents thinking about their kids.”

Moore believes in a connection between good posture and confidence. With good posture it becomes easier for children to connect with their classmates.

“It’s very hard — if the shoulders are slouched down in the head forward — for kids to feel confident about themselves,”

Moore said. “If they can be aware of their posture and just hold themselves up a little more upright, it usually gives them the confidence and self-esteem to interact and connect with more kids.”

According to Moore, there’s a lot of posture improvement to be had in a school setting by adjusting how a child, or anyone for that matter, sits in their chair. Even the stiffest, painfully anti-ergonomic chairs can be combated by sitting position techniques, in order to provide more comfort throughout the school day.

“You should sit all the way back in the chair and have a little bit of a backward angle, around 110-degree angle,” Moore said. “The chair will work more for you. Because there’s a little bit of an angle, gravity can take over and you don’t have to fight it so badly.”

Though Moore is filled with advice, and his chiropractic practice can offer relief from back pain, it’s not quite the right office for extreme postural distortion or medical issues. Moore still suggests the emergency room for more extreme medical situations.

“It’s not exactly like you got in a car accident with blunt force trauma. That’s not really exactly what we’re dealing with here. That’s not the scope of our practice.”

MSU’s Conquer Accelerator: 10 weeks and \$20k for student businesses

By DENNIS BURCK

This Spartan Innovations program brings Michigan State University’s entrepreneurs up to business at light speed, doing what could normally take years in a mere 10 weeks every summer.

“They are usually beyond excited and thankful knowing that they are going to be concentrating on their idea in one space,” Paul Jaques, director of student and community engagement for Spartan Innovations, said.

Mentors from companies worldwide, including many MSU business alumni, donate their time and effort to give back to these entrepreneurial students during the 10 week course.

Using MSU’s vacant Hatch business incubator during the summer, students have access to computers, 3D printers and a developed workspace complete with gaming consoles and more.

“This is important, because managing a business as a full time student during standard semesters often relegates it to a part time gig,” Jaques said. “You’d be competing with everything from school to life. Here, they can concentrate on their business, while we are overseeing it and helping it grow.”

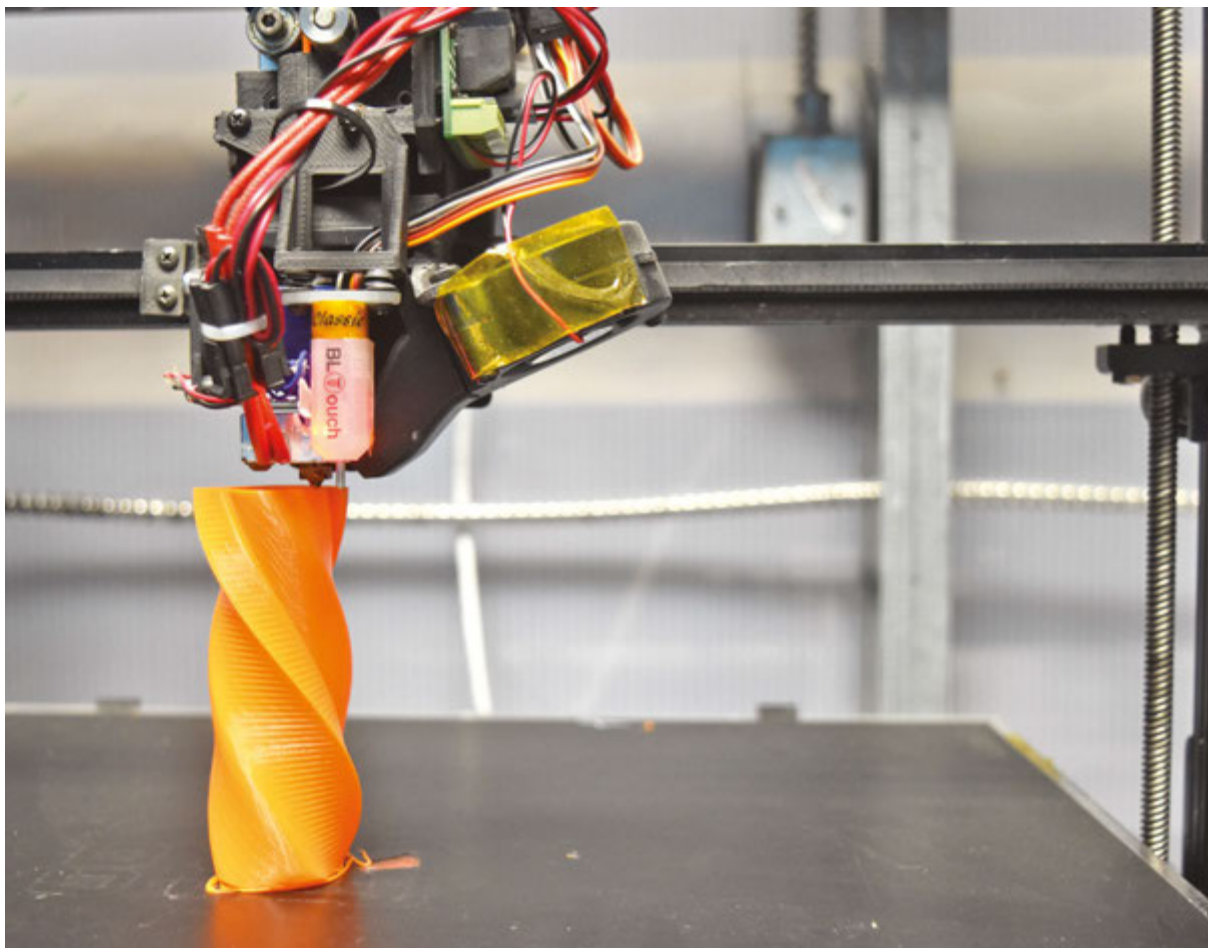
Vlogger, an application for video bloggers, graduated the program in June.

“We’ve been keeping up with our social media presence, and tweaking up with marketing strategies. Once it comes out, we will implement right away,” Christian Marougi, chief operating officer of Vloggle said.

Vloggle will enable video bloggers to concentrate previously tangible tools into an all-inclusive app, Marougi said. “Right now video bloggers have a camera, editor and tangible equipment, and to use this equipment and edit their content takes very long. Our app is an all-in-one platform that can record, share and watch vlogs.”

As part of the MSU Hatch program, when Vloggle made it into the Conquer Accelerator the team “literally jumped for joy.”

“We needed to be a lot further down the line before we could dream of anything like



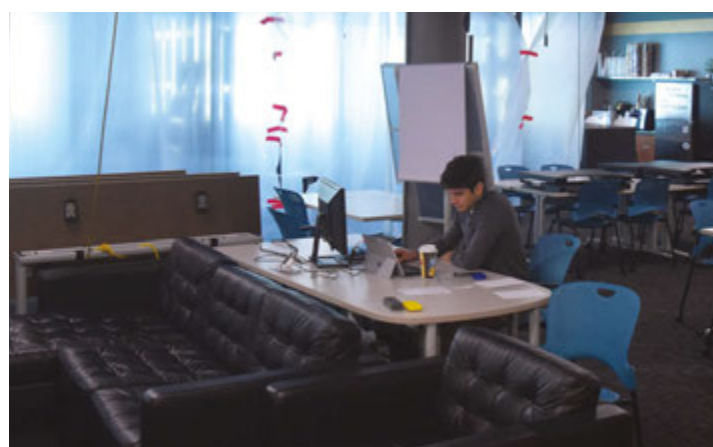
The Conquer Accelerator’s 3D printer runs a test print of a helix-like object.

that. We were excited to start and dedicate our summer to it,” Marougi said.

There is more to Conquer Accelerator’s business development than having a great idea and going with it, Jaques said. “There are team dynamics, legality, development, app versus physical product, market fit and competition to consider,” he said.

“We deal with all of those all at once. Some of the best ideas are not thinking of something revolutionary, but making something better.”

One of these ideas was Golfler, an app allowing golfers to order food and drinks from



Michigan State student entrepreneurs work inside the Hatch and Conquer Accelerator workspace in East Lansing.

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Photos by Dennis Burck/City Pulse

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Nicole Niemiec on her secret life as Sparty the mascot

By DENNIS BURCK

The citizen by daylight and superhero by night dichotomy is a common theme in fiction, but it was Nicole Niemiec's actual life for three years at MSU.

"I was like Bruce Wayne. I would come home and my roommates knew a lot of alumni Spartys and were telling me how cool they were," said Niemiec. "I just said, 'Yep, they're crazy.'"

Spartys take a vow of secrecy and outside of people from athletics, none of her classmates knew the double life Niemiec led in the spotlight.

Niemiec is the second woman Sparty. Erin Bormes was the first, donning the larger-than-life personality during the 1997 to 1998 season.

"I am just a busy person naturally. So I'd always say I had another thing to do and they'd just believe me," Niemiec said.

Before becoming Sparty, Niemiec only wore a mascot costume once in high school, she said.

However, she got involved in the Sparty Security Program that follows Sparty around, helps him get ready and drives the golf cart. Once she saw what being Sparty looked like,

she tried out.

"I didn't think I would be the body type or right fit for Sparty, but I made it my own and absolutely loved it."

Participating in high school theater helped form Niemiec's backbone for becoming Sparty.

"It was fun and challenging to audition for the male parts," Niemiec said. "I'm comfortable being masculine, but when I started it was so funny when girls start flirting with you as Sparty. There are so many instances when I was just laughing on the inside."

A common challenge was to pick up women for photos, she added. "I really had to make sure I was strong enough to hold people up."

Mascotting is demanding work, Niemiec said. There are physical challenges like the heat and weight of the suit, but for every hour of performing, there was usually three hours of extra work, she said.

Also, it isn't all only suit work.

"I did a lot of social media, analytics and concept creation. A lot of work goes into that and making props and costumes."



Courtesy photo

Niemiec and her alter ego, MSU's mascot Sparty.

See Sparty, Page 18



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WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Sparty

from page 17

Her weekends were almost always booked. “There are some crazy day trips you have to make and crazy people you meet that put you in uncomfortable situations. But the hard parts were the weekend, then classes: A lot of time is spent traveling around Michigan

then it’s back to the grind in East Lansing.” Still, Niemiec said she wouldn’t trade those years for the world.

“I am so nostalgic. Once I got the gig, I was always thinking of the last event and thought I would be crying in a ball,” Niemiec said.

The last day before graduation, Niemiec donned the Sparty costume one last time.

“I had my family come all the way up to see it, and I started telling people close to me who didn’t know.”

It was a Spartan versus Lugnuts game, and



Courtesy photo

Niemiec had the honor of wearing Sparty boots across the stage at her commencement.

Niemiec’s Sparty didn’t retire without a fight. “Sometimes when people get to the end, they want to take a break and that wasn’t me at all. I was tired of doing events, but I knew I was never going to be able to be tired of doing events again,” she said.

“It took them two and a half hours to get me out, they had to drag me. I took every-

thing for what it was and then it was time to leave.”

Leaving the double life behind, Sparty’s legacy followed her to her position as a district manager in training at GM in Detroit.

“They interviewed me and said they have a Sparty in the office. At the time, I thought it was just an associative word for someone from MSU,” she said.

“Come to find out, the regional director was a Sparty too, and now we share funny stories about sweating.”



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Conquer

from page 16

the golf clubhouse while on the field, from the Conquer Accelerator’s 2016 class.

“They did a lot with the PGA and worked all around the country,” he said.

Supreme Golf, a course management technology company from Dallas, acquired Golfer in May. Before the acquisition, Golfer raised \$600,000, according to dbusiness.com.

After completion of the Conquer Accelerator program, businesses become a part of Red Cedar Ventures, under the management of executive director Jeff Wesley, former CEO of international Lansing company Two Men and a Truck.

“People know him locally, and it is great to bring him into the fold. He really cares and works with them to figure out what’s next.”

Though they are in the offseason, the Conquer Accelerator is always keeping an open eye for new student businesses to join its ranks, Jaques said.

“I love seeing the idea evolve from the first day I meet with them, to where it’s part of the Conquer Accelerator — making money and getting investment. I always go back to speak with some of them and say, ‘I remember when you came to me and pitched the idea.’”



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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, September 05

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

AARP SENIOR LEARNING SERIES: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS. From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

OPEN STUDIO LIFE DRAWING. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Model fee: \$2 students (LCC, MSU, High School), \$5 all others. Room 208,. Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium East Lansing.

OPEN STUDIO LIFE DRAWING. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Model fee: \$2 students (LCC, MSU, High School), \$5 all others. Room 208,. Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium East Lansing.

PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

SHAMANIC EDUCATION & HEALING. From 6 to 8 p.m. Donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

BOOKWORMS AT THE BROAD. From 10 to 11 a.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus East Lansing.

MSU CREATIVE WRITING CENTER GROUP. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

SAFE BET / KAYAK JONES. At 7 p.m. \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

EVENTS

"RGB" DOCUMENTARY VIEWING: ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY EVENT. At 6:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

GAMES AT THE MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER (SEE DESCRIPTIONS FOR DATES AND TIMES). From 12:30 to 4 p.m. Bingo and Bridge- \$1 - \$2 per person to play. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

ARTS

A PANOPLY OF PUPPET. From 12 to 2 p.m. free. Lookout! Gallery, 362 Bogue St., MSU campus East Lansing.

THEN NOW, MSU UNION ART GALLERY, DEPARTMENT OF ART, ART HISTORY, AND DESIGN. From 12 to 5 p.m. FREE. MSU Union Art Gallery, 230 Abbott Road East Lansing. 5174323961.

Thursday, September 06

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

(TOPS) TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY . At 6 p.m. First meeting FREE.. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St. Haslett.

A COURSE IN MIRACLES. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. Love offering.. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.

GET FOUND ON GOOGLE SEARCH & MAPS. From 10 to 11 a.m. Free - To Register Call: (517) 483-1921. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

KNOW YOUR HOME FROM THE OUTSIDE. From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St. Lansing.

KNOW YOUR HOME INSIDE. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. free. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St. Lansing.
PRE-SCHOOL SCIENCE EXPLORATION: DRAGONFLY DANCE. From 1 to 2:30 p.m. \$4/child. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

EVENTS

CAPITAL AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY. From 7 to 9 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

HEARTFULNESS MEDITATION WITH LANSING MEDITATES. From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

LUNCH AT THE SENIOR CENTER. From 12 to 1 p.m. suggested donations of \$3.00. If you are age 59 and under, there is a charge of \$5.75 (this is not a suggested donation). Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

SOUTH LANSING FARMERS MARKET. From 3 to 7 p.m. St. Casimir Church Parking Lot, 800 W. Barnes Avenue Lansing.

Friday, September 07

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

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

MUSIC

TGIF DECADES OF DANCE PATIO PARTY FRIDAY 9/7/18 WITH THAT BEATLES THING BAND. From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. \$15 includes complimentary dance lesson



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beersbarfoodandbands.com

Attendees get to taste over 150 craft beers from 40 breweries around the state as well as ciders, meads and spirits. The event will feature an exclusive Belgian

and German beer section. Fifteen local bars will stock the food for the event and local bands Darin Lerner Trio, Off the Ledge, Loa and Vandalay will close out the night. Admission grants an exclusive sampling glass and ten sampling tickets worth three ounces of beer each. Designated driver tickets are available at half price.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5 >> MSU PLANT CONSERVATORY OPENS DOORS TO PUBLIC

Curious what a Corpse Flower smells like? Satisfy this curiosity at the MSU plant conservatory with special access to look at its plant specimens from around the world. With arid, tropical, and evolution sections, the facility houses thousands of plants and facilitates testing for undergrads.

9 a.m. to noon,
Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences
Building, 1066 Bogue Street, East Lansing.
(517) 353-0120, www.plantbiology.natsci.msu.edu

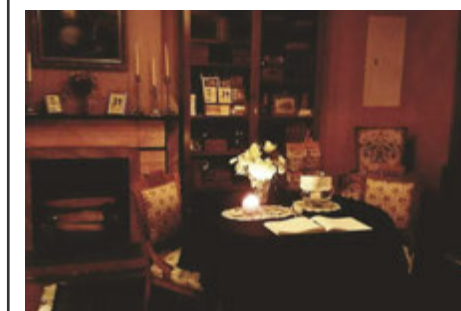


FRIDAY, SEPT. 7 >> SECOND ANNUAL MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

Though most associate these events with Victorian apparel, this murder mystery night will be an '80s themed extravaganza, complete with a dinner and silent auction. All proceeds go toward the nonprofit Gone 2 the Dogs Pet Rescue.

5 to 9 p.m., \$35,
Royal Scot Golf & Bowl, 4722 W. Grand River Ave.,
www.gone2thedogsmi.org

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8 >> HAUNTED LANSING LAUNCH PARTY



Lansing writer and founder of Demented Mitten Tours, Jenn Carpenter, launches her book documenting the paranormal and true crime locations of Greater Lansing. Hosted at the historic Turner Dodge House, eight art vendors and three food vendors will rouse the spirits of the living ... and the dead. Book signing and limited merchandise is available.

6 to 9 p.m.,
Turner Dodge House, 100 E. North St.
(517) 483-4220, www.dementedmittentours.com

Jonesin' Crossword

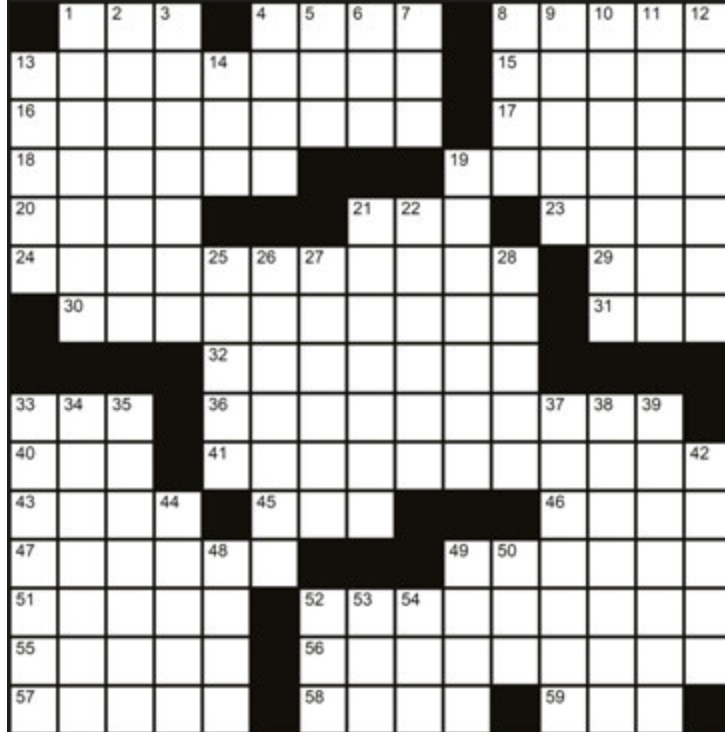
By Matt Jones

"Free Stuff"--a big freestyle for the 900th Jonesin' puzzle.

Matt Jones

Across

- 1 URL component
- 4 Writer Bombeck
- 8 Flat floaters
- 13 Longtime Jets QB who led the NFL in passer rating in 1985
- 15 "Ran" director Kurosawa
- 16 Put into a different envelope
- 17 Uncompromising
- 18 For each
- 19 Slowdowns
- 20 ___-days (heavy practices for football teams)
- 21 Letters on NYC subways
- 23 Woody Guthrie's kid
- 24 2008 puzzle game for the Wii that relied heavily on multiplayer modes
- 29 Velvet finish
- 30 "Jackass" costar who had his own "Viva" spinoff on MTV
- 31 Droop
- 32 "No ___ way!" (self-censor's exclamation)
- 33 Big figure
- 36 Night away from the usual work, maybe
- 40 Hotshot
- 41 "Things will be OK"
- 43 Charity calculation
- 45 Ex-NHL star Tikkanen
- 46 Magazine that sounds like a letter
- 47 Supporting bars
- 49 Congenitally attached, in biology
- 51 Coloraturas' big moments
- 52 "Can't eat another



- bite"
- 55 Norse goddess married to Balder
- 56 Many seniors, near the end?
- 57 Feline "burning bright" in a Blake poem
- 58 "Good for what ___ ya"
- Down**
- 1 Hard-to-search Internet area "just below the surface" in that iceberg infographic
- 2 The slightest bit
- 3 Record player component
- 4 Perry Mason creator ___ Stanley Gardner
- 5 2016 Olympics city
- 6 "Au revoir, ___ amis"
- 7 Suffix after hex- or
- 8 Seldom seen
- 9 AKC working dog
- 10 "Yeah, just my luck ..."
- 11 One step below the Majors
- 12 Elegy, perhaps
- 13 Surname of brothers Chris and Martin, hosts of "Zoboomafoo" and a self-titled "Wild" PBS Kids show
- 14 Discreet way to be included on an email, for short
- 19 Where the military goes
- 21 Harvard's school color before crimson
- 22 Hesitant
- 25 Plant firmly (var.)
- 26 Artillery barrages
- 27 Spruces up
- 28 "Crazy Rich Asians" actor Jimmy O. and comedian Jenny, for two
- 33 "Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot" director
- 34 Cube origin?
- 35 Taking a close look
- 37 Precede, as at a concert
- 38 Pita filler
- 39 Snapchat features
- 42 Saxophonist's supply
- 44 Gregg Allman's brother
- 48 Peter I, e.g.
- 49 "Hole-in-the-wall" establishments?
- 50 Really liked
- 52 Strong pub option
- 53 Test for internal injuries, for short
- 54 Fa follower

©2017 Jonesin' Crosswords • For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. **Answers Page 24**

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

September 5-11, 2018

Aries (March 21-April 19) Now is an excellent time to feel and explore and understand and even appreciate your sadness. To get you in the mood, here's a list of sadnesses from novelist Jonathan Safran Foer: sadness of the could-have-been; sadness of being misunderstood; sadness of having too many options; sadness of being smart; sadness of awkward conversations; sadness of feeling the need to create beautiful things; sadness of going unnoticed; sadness of domesticated birds; sadness of arousal being an unordinary physical state; sadness of wanting sadness.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Do you have any feral qualities lurking deep down inside you? Have you ever felt a mad yearning to communicate using howls and yips instead of words? When you're alone, do you sometimes dispense with your utensils and scoop the food off your plate with your fingers? Have you dreamed of running through a damp meadow under the full moon for the sheer ecstasy of it? Do you on occasion experience such strong erotic urges that you feel like you could weave your body and soul together with the color green or the sound of a rain-soaked river or the moon rising over the hills? I ask these questions, Taurus, because now is an excellent time to draw on the instinctual wisdom of your feral qualities.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) "Close some doors today," writes novelist Paulo Coelho. "Not because of pride, incapacity, or arrogance, but simply because they lead you nowhere." I endorse his advice for your use, Gemini. In my astrological opinion, you'll be wise to practice the rough but fine art of saying NO. It's time for you to make crisp decisions about where you belong and where you don't; about where your future fulfillment is likely to thrive and where it won't; about which relationships deserve your sage intimacy and which tend to push you in the direction of mediocrity.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) To casual observers you may seem to be an amorphous hodgepodge, or a simmering mess of semi-interesting confusion, or an amiable dabbler headed in too many directions at once. But in my opinion, casual observers would be wrong in that assessment. What's closer to the symbolic truth about you is an image described by poet Carolyn Forché: grapes that are ripening in the fog. Here's another image that resonates with your current state: sea turtle eggs gestating beneath the sand on a misty ocean beach. One further metaphor for you: the bright yellow flowers of the evening primrose plant, which only bloom at night.

Leo (July 23-August 22) I want to make sure that the groove you're in doesn't devolve into a rut. So I'll ask you unexpected questions to spur your imagination in unpredictable directions. Ready? 1. How would you describe the untapped riches in the shadowy part of your personality? 2. Is there a rare object you'd like to own because it would foster your feeling that the world has magic and miracles? 3. Imagine the perfect party you'd love to attend and how it might change your life for the better. 4. What bird most reminds you of yourself? 5. What's your most evocative and inspiring taboo daydream? 6. In your past, were there ever experiences that made you cry for joy in ways that felt almost orgasmic? How might you attract or induce a catharsis like that sometime soon?

Virgo (August 23-September 22) By volume, the Amazon is the largest river in the world. But where does it originate? Scientists have squabbled about that issue for over 300 years. Everyone agrees the source is in southwestern Peru. But is it the Apurímac River? The Marañón? The Mantaro? There are good arguments in favor of each. Let's use this question as a poetic subtext as we wonder and meditate about the origin of your life force, Virgo. As is the case for the Amazon, your source has long been mysterious. But I suspect that's going to change during the next 14 months. And the clarification process begins soon.

Libra (September 23-October 22) When Warsan Shire was a child, she immigrated to the UK with

her Somali parents. Now she's a renowned poet who writes vividly about refugees, immigrants, and other marginalized people. To provide support and inspiration for the part of you that feels like an exile or fugitive or displaced person, and in accordance with current astrological omens, I offer you two quotes by Shire. 1. "I belong deeply to myself." 2. "Document the moments you feel most in love with yourself—what you're wearing, who you're around, what you're doing. Recreate and repeat."

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) "Once in a while came a moment when everything seemed to have something to say to you." So says a character in Alice Munro's short story "Jakarta." Now I'm using that message as the key theme of your horoscope. Why? Because you're at the peak of your ability to be reached, to be touched, to be communicated with. You're willing to be keenly receptive. You're strong enough to be deeply influenced. Is it because you're so firmly anchored in your understanding and acceptance of who you are?

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) In 1928, novelist Virginia Woolf wrote a letter to her friend Saxon Sidney Turner. "I am reading six books at once, the only way of reading," she confided, "since one book is only a single unaccompanied note, and to get the full sound, one needs ten others at the same time." My usual inclination is to counsel you Sagittarians to focus on one or two important matters rather than on a multitude of semi-important matters. But in accordance with current astrological omens, I'm departing from tradition to suggest you adopt Woolf's approach to books as your approach to everything. Your life in the coming weeks should be less like an acoustic ballad and more like a symphony for 35 instruments.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) Not many goats can climb trees, but there are daredevils in Morocco that do. They go in quest of the delicious olive-like berries that grow on argan trees. The branches on which they perch may be 30 feet off the ground. I'm naming them as your power creature for the coming weeks. I think you're ready to ascend higher in search of goodies. You have the soulful agility necessary to transcend your previous level of accomplishment.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18) From 49-45 BC, civil war wracked the Roman Republic. Julius Caesar led forces representing the common people against armies fighting for the aristocracy's interests. In 45 BC, Caesar brought a contingent of soldiers to Roman territory in North Africa, intent on launching a campaign against the enemy. As the general disembarked from his ship, he accidentally slipped and fell. Thinking fast, he exclaimed, "Africa, I have tight told of you!" and clasped the ground, thus implying he had lowered himself on purpose in a ritual gesture of conquest. In this way, he converted an apparent bad omen into a positive one. And indeed, he won the ensuing battle, which was the turning point that led to ultimate victory and the war's end. That's good role modeling for you right now.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) Below are sweet words I've borrowed from poets I love. I invite you to use them to communicate with anyone who is primed to become more lyrically intimate with you. The time is right for you to reach out! 1. "You look like a sea of gems." —Qahar Aasi 2. "I love you with what in me is unfinished." —Robert Bly 3. "Yours is the light by which my spirit's born." —E. E. Cummings 4. "Tell me the most exquisite truths you know." —Barry Hannah 5. "It's very rare to know you, very strange and wonderful." —F. Scott Fitzgerald 6. "When you smile like that you are as beautiful as all my secrets." —Anne Carson 7. Everything you say is "like a secret voice speaking straight out of my own bones." —Sylvia Plath

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 24

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

SLIM CESSNA'S AUTO CLUB AT MAC'S
Thur., Sept. 13



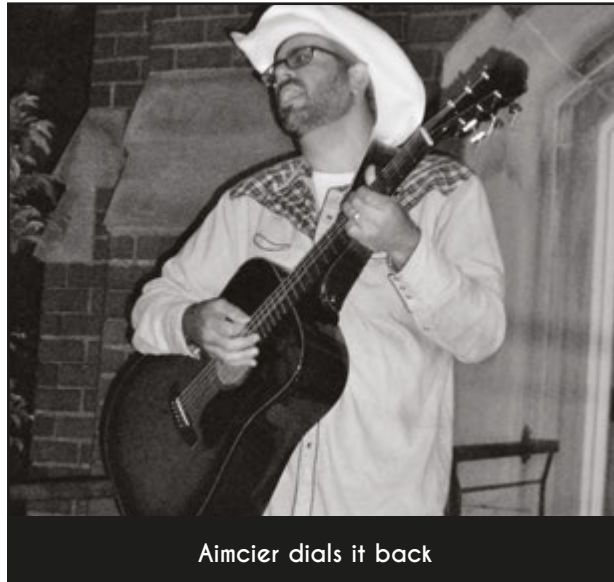
High lonesome to high energy

Thursday, Sept. 13 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15, \$13 adv., 7 p.m

Genuine alt-country and psychobilly fans may want to check out Slim Cessna's Auto Club when the band returns to Mac's Bar Thursday, featuring openers Twin Falls. The Denver-based band has been churning out goth-country-punk-gospel since the early '90s, even releasing six acclaimed LPs on Jello Biafra's Alternative Tentacles imprint. The band's distinct sound goes from high lonesome to high-energy, but always keeps a deranged American-roots edge. Cessna has toured North America repeatedly, sharing stages with the Melvins, Johnny Cash, Violent Femmes, Primus and, most recently, Kid Congo Powers.

The group's latest album, 2016's "The Commandments According To SCAC," is available through the Virtual Label Group on LP, CD, and also as an "Expanded Audio Edition," which features the album re-mixed in 5.1 surround sound, three extra minutes of music and additional instrumentation.

JOHNNY AIMCRIER SOLO SETS AT CRUNCHY'S
Wed. Sept. 5



Aimcrier dials it back

Wednesday, Sept. 5 @ Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 21+ after 9 p.m., FREE, 8 p.m.

Since 2005, Arizona native Johnny Aimcrier has fronted The Aimcriers, his country-tinged rock 'n roll band. In 2014, the Grand Ledge-based band issued its "Solid State World" LP on both CD and vinyl. Starting Sept. 5, Aimcrier will dial back his amped-up sound at a series of solo performances at Crunchy's in East Lansing. Every first and third Wednesday in September, October and November he'll play two-hour sets of eclectic tunes. "I'll be playing a 60/40 mix of covers and originals with each show having a different theme for the covers," Aimcrier explained. "There'll be a night of Arizona bands, like the Gin Blossoms and Sidewinders—then a night of R.E.M. tunes or a night of songs typically sung by women." As for the Aimcriers, the band is "slowly recording another album," according to Aimcrier. For all the Crunchy's dates, visit facebook.com/TheAimcriers.

JENN'S APARTMENT AT MAC'S BAR
Thur. Sept. 6



Locals perform songs from new album

Thursday, Sept. 6 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$10, \$8 adv., 8 p.m.

Back in April, Jenn's Apartment released "We're A Small Band," an eleven-song LP of original tunes inspired by mainstream '90s alt-rock and 2000s pop punk — fans of Eve 6 or the Hold Steady might want to check it out. The LP, along with the band's 2016 "Forever the End" EP, are both streamed in full at jennsapartment.bandcamp.com. For those who want to hear it live, the Lansing-based trio headlines Thursday at The Avenue Café — openers are Dalton Deschain & the Traveling Show, Ricochet the Kid and Paper Bags. Jenn's Apartment — which comprises Roy Kirby (guitar/vocals), Chris Davis (bass/vocals) and drummer Justin Pine — formed in 2004 and promptly issued "Let Them Talk We Will Sing," a release more in the post-hardcore vein. By 2006's "Divide and Conquer" album, Kirby's songwriting had evolved closer to its current, poppy hook-driven sound.

LIVE AND LOCAL

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night	Hip Hop	GTG Fest	GTG Fest
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia		Live Music	DJ
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies Band	Jeff Shoup & Friends	Smooth Daddy	Smooth Daddy
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Blues Night	Karaoke		
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Chris Dave & the Drumheads, 7:30pm		Fool House 90's Dance Party, 9pm	Chavis Chandler, 7:30 pm
Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Safe Bet/Kayak Jones 7 pm	Jenn's Apartment, 8pm	Pretoria, 8pm	
Watershed Tavern and Grill, 5965 Marsh Rd.			Capital City DJ's	Capital City DJ's

Out on the Town

from page 20

&buffet. Hawk Hollow Golf Course, 15101 Chandler Rd. Bath. (517) 641-4295.

EVENTS

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION 84TH OX ROAST FESTIVAL. From 5 to 11 p.m. free. Church of the Resurrection, 1531 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

TRY CURLING. From 10:15 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. \$30 per person buy tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/try-curling-in-east-lansing-tickets-49134434416>. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd. East Lansing.

Saturday, September 08

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

KIDS ART WITH IRINA. From 12 to 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

THEATER

OPENING NIGHT CHALK BY WALT MCGOUGH. From 8 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets \$15 via eventbrite.com. Robin Theater, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing, MI 48910 Lansing. 989-878-1810.

EVENTS

SATURDAY STORYTIME . From 11 to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library , 131 E. Jefferson St Grand Ledge. 5176277014.

SECOND SATURDAY SUPPER. From 5 to 6 p.m. \$9 (children \$5). Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-3139.

SHIBORI DYEING WORKSHOP. From 12 to 2 p.m. Ticket prices include instruction and supplies: \$30 members \$35 non-members Learn more about the benefits of becoming a member here:<http://lansingartgallery.org/membership-2017/>. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N. Washington Sq. Lansing. 5173746400.

Sunday, September 09

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

THEATER

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Call Joan at:
(517) 881-2204

MATINEE CHALK BY WALT MCGOUGH. From 2 to 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at door or via eventbrite.com.. Robin Theater, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing, MI 48910 Lansing. 989-878-1810.

EVENTS

GRANDPARENTS DAY CELEBRATION. From 1 to 4 p.m. Eastern High School, 220 N. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing. (517) 755-1050.

Monday, September 10

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

A COURSE OF LOVE. From 1 to 2 p.m. Love offering. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.

FRENCH CLUB. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

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

BETTER LIVING BOOK CLUB. At 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

EVENTS

MONDAY MOVIE MATINEE. At 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Tuesday, September 11

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

BEGINNING FACEBOOK FOR SMALL BUSINESS. From 12 to 1 p.m. Free - To register call: (517) 483-1921. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

LEAN IN LEAD UP. From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. FREE. Panera Bread (Frاندor), 310 N. Clippert St. Lansing.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

BOOKS ON TAP BOOK CLUB. At 6:30 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's

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

See Out on the Town, Page 24

THURSDAY, SEPT. 6 >> JEKYLL AND HYDE THE MUSICAL



See this classic 1886 macabre tale be transformed into a musical horror drama with a pop-rock score. The retelling earned writer Leslie Bricusse a Tony Award nomination in 1997.

7 to 9:30 p.m., \$24,
Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr.,
(517) 482-5700
www.riverwalktheatre.com

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9 >> PHOTOS BY ROBERT KILLIPS

Lansing State Journal photographer Robert Killips launches his showing of 32 photography pieces in the small REO Town art gallery. It will run until Sept. 30. According to his website, photography became a passion for him when he was in the Navy working as a medic, photographing on black and white slides.

1 to 5 p.m.,
Casa de Rosado, 204 E. Mount Hope Ave.
(517) 402-0282 www.robertkillips.com

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Out on the Town

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Ledge.

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

MUSIC

JAZZ TUESDAYS AT MORIARTY'S. From 7 to 10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

EVENTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL STEAM CLUB. From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

TUESDAY GAMES. From 1 to 4 p.m. Euchre, Free Bridge, \$1 - \$2 per person. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

DOT	ERMA	RAFTS						
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VIP	EVENING	OFF						
ACE	DONTDES	PAIR						
NEED	ESA	ELLE						
STRUTS		ADNATE						
ARIAS	IMSTUFFED							
NANNA	PROMGOERS							
TYGER	AILS	RLS						

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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

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NEW IN TOWN: TAQUERIA EL CHAPARRITO, OLD TOWN



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Taqueria El Chaparrito co-owners Saul Martinez and Lourdes Casillas stand in front of the restaurant's hand-painted mural of an old style Mexican church.

By DENNIS BURCK

This roving Mexican food cart traded in its wheels for a brick and mortar location with handmade pinatas, a hand-painted mural and more delicious Mexican fare.

Specializing in dishes such as tortas, burritos, tacos and quesadillas, Taqueria El Chaparrito is a business with deep family roots.

Taqueria El Chaparrito

9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
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401 Cesar E. Chavez
www.facebook.com/
Taqueria-El-Chaparrito

Lourdes Casillas share a lifetime's worth of cooking knowledge.

Barbacoa, chicken, pork, lengua and tripa are cooked daily, while papoles, a type of cactus, can substitute for meat as a vegetarian option. Traditional Mexican drinks such as horchata, Tamarindo and Hamaica are made in-house as well.

The dream of opening the restaurant goes back to the days of his youth in Mexico, Martinez said. "When I was a baby, my mom helped me cook in my house and I liked to cook. When I saw this, I wanted to open a restaurant."

His first business was the food cart, which opened October 2017, he said. Having no cover from weather, and an inactive period during the winter, quickly showed him a restaurant location was necessary.

"We were thinking, 'What is the best place to be for the whole year in Lansing?'" The Old Town neighborhood was it.

Taking jobs in construction to support his family and dream, Martinez wanted to give his wife a family business instead of having her work for somebody else.

"I never dreamed about this, but he had a dream that he wanted to open this his whole life," Casillas said. "We kept together working as a family."

There were no authentic Mexican restaurants when he arrived in Lansing in 2001, Martinez said. "The meat tacos we sell come with only cilantro, onion, lime, salsa and radishes. This is the traditional Mexican taco."

They will serve tacos the traditional Mexican way as well, he said. There is a full condiment bar with fresh veggies and salsas to dress the food. "Take whatever you want. Make it whatever way you like. It's not a problem."

Taqueria El Chaparrito means "shorty taco restaurant" in English, Casillas said. She got the name from her grandson. "I told him to help me name the restaurant. We were thinking about it and he said, 'Grandma, grandma I have a taco name: Chaparrito!' He kept saying it and we thought OK."

Casillas said the community in Old Town has been supportive. "We try to like everybody if everyone likes us. With the different cultures and everything, we try to be together so we can work together."

Casillas and her daughter painted the old style church on the wall and made their own pinatas for decoration.

The Taqueria El Chaparrito food cart will be active for special occasions, Martinez said.

"It was a lot of steps to do it, but thank god we made it," Casillas said.





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Demented Mitten Tours visits Greater Lansing's true crime and paranormal locations
 Catch a glimpse of Lansing's macabre by moonlight. Stops include the site of the Burning Bed murder, Bath School Massacre and the Turner Dodge House. Ghost hunting equipment will be onsite to get in touch with the otherworldly.



REO Town Art Attack brings music and art together for good cause
 Working with the Capital Area Partnership nonprofit, the REO Town Commercial Association's Art Attack saw the community paint murals on thin sheets of wood to board up the Walter French Academy's windows — beautifying the building while it awaits renovation.

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West coast wine favorites

By JUSTIN KING

Heading west will always have connotations of discovery, whether by choice or survival. Though, it's quite often the latter. And with any large, rapid migration, people forge new paths, ideas and economies.

The wine industry on the West Coast fits very well into this complicated narrative of America. Many pre-Prohibition settlers were Italian. So, go figure, when they wanted to plant vines, they would often gravitate toward native Italian varieties like barbera or dolcetto.

Excitingly, America's wine history goes back much further. The first wine grape from the European "vitis vinifera" species to see plantings was the mission grape, also known as listan prieto. This grape was grown at all California missions around the time of the Revolutionary war, for the purpose of being Sacramental wine.

The Italians may have expanded past these options, but this was just the start of the wine industry "freight train" that would build an unstoppable force through the 20th century.

Eighty-five years after Prohibition, the



See Wine, Page 27



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Wine

from page 26

American wine industry is a healthy pillar of our economy. It's not solely built around cabernet sauvignon, zinfandel, chardonnay, merlot, and the saccharine white zinfandel that flourished in the '70s and '80s. There are other thriving grape vines, but there's an implicit cost.

Land is increasingly expensive. Tourism begets tourism, and it's easy to see why passionate vigneronns seek the unknown, often experimenting with off-the-beaten-path grapes for the American palate.

Santa Barbara is the start of true coastal California excellence, with microclimates ideal for pinot noir, chardonnay, syrah and grenache.

Santa Barbara's Stolpman Vineyards is no slouch when it comes to adventure, and they prove it with their "Love You Bunches" sangiovese. It should run about \$24 retail cost, and it rewards with playful and pretty flavors reminiscent of cranberries, lilies, strawberries and a moderately herbaceous background. Sure it could be the stomach talking, but this wine screams for a pizza margherita. Basil, mozzarella, and sangiovese seem to go hand in hand after all.

A neat thing about this wine is that it goes through a carbonic ferment, where oxygen is void and carbon dioxide is present. The fermentation takes place inside each single grape in this environment, instead of getting crushed together to sit

in a tank.

The result is that the wines will usually have more lifted aromatics, but they will almost certainly be better drunk very young.

Just a half-hour drive northwest from Stolpman, Lieu Dit Winery is working with some unconventional California grape varieties. They're pulling their delicious fruit from Santa Maria Valley for their patio-pounding melon (as in the grape's name is actually melon) wine.

The melon grape is commonly known as melon de Bourgogne (another confusing point of reference, as it hails originally from Burgundy). More noteworthy is its usage in western Loire near the city of Nantes. Melon truly shines in a crisp, bone-dry Muscadet along side your favorite shellfish.

Lieu Dit's melon has some of that salinity that you might expect, though the midpalate is far fruitier, and generally more of a crowd pleaser for anyone looking to drink a lighter to medium-bodied wine with apricot, nectarine and apple flavors. It should cost about \$23 and fits in well with anyone who digs unoaked, dry wines.

Heading north, Sonoma has been a phenomenally diverse wine region, north of San Francisco and Marin County. POE wines is an impressive project by Samantha Sheehan, who was inspired by many French wines, specifically those of Burgundy and Champagne.

Go figure—she would make an excellent red wine from the pinot meunier grape, also known as meunier. Pinot meunier

is known for its use in Champagne. It's a workhorse grape that is often planted in the valley, which can be prone to frost. The grape buds late and ripens early at harvest, so there is less risk to plant it there. But it's commonly used for sparkling.

At \$40, this Sonoma Mountain bottle is a special occasion wine, perhaps, but boy, does it live up to it, with notes of soft, but lush plum, maraschino cherry, orange peel and rose petals. This is not a high-octane wine, nor is it tannic, set to dominate your mouth. More or less, it has beauty.

Wine often feels like a choose-your-own-adventure novel. Some are duds. But when you take a risk, occasionally it pays off with some delicious stories.

Justin King is an Advanced Sommelier and owner of Bridge Street Social, a wine and cocktails focused restaurant in DeWitt. He was named 2017 Wine & Spirits Magazine Best New Sommelier.



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