

CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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December 19 - 25, 2018

FREE



To be jolly

See page 9

ABOOD

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

A two-party defense

Shame on you for castigating anyone who did not vote Dem in mid-term elections. The 2 party system may be the backbone of this country, giving it the strength to endure. Both parties seem to have exponents of all political beliefs; conservative, liberal and middle of the road. In fact, despite the apparent need for Dems in particular to NEED to be part of a group and to proudly expound on that information ad infinitum, despite being led lemming like in their thinking, I believe the true difference between the parties, when examined closely, is the difference in supporting individual States Rights by Reps vs supporting Federal Government above all by Dems.

At some time in the future, should

states rights be so subsumed to Federal control as to be almost non-existent, that will lead to the end of the US Republic that we know and support today.

In fact I believe you should be glad that people freely choose from both parties in elections as I did in this past election. The strength of our system, the right and freedom without coercion to make those choices, in fact to have competent (hopefully) choices in the first place. So back off with your criticism. Not only are you out of order but dead wrong in our system of government.

**Dick Radway,
Haslett**

**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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New in Town: New apartments in North Lansing



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Old Nation Brewing Co. has something for everyone



**Cover
Art**

Photo by Dennis Burck

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

I READ SOME REALLY DISTURBING CONSPIRACY THEORIES LATELY.

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THEY ALSO CLAIM THAT TRUMP'S TAX CUT WAS NOT THE BIGGEST TAX CUT EVER--AND THAT OUR ECONOMY IS NOT THE BEST ECONOMY IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD!



AND IT GETS STRANGER! SOME PEOPLE ARE CLAIMING THERE WAS COLLUSION WITH RUSSIA, EVEN THOUGH TRUMP HAS MADE IT VERY CLEAR ON TWITTER THAT THERE WAS NOT!



THERE ARE EVEN LUNATICS WHO BELIEVE THAT TRUMP WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN PAYING HUSH MONEY TO HIS SO-CALLED MISTRESSES, DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE TOTALLY DENIED IT! OR AT LEAST, BLAMED IT ON HIS LAWYER!



MAN, SOME PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE ANY CRAZY THING THEY READ ON THE INTERNET!



MEANWHILE, HILLARY CLINTON IS RUNNING A DEEP STATE GLOBAL PEDOPHILIA RING AND NOBODY RAISES AN EYEBROW!



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TOM TOMORROW © 2018

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Plans advance for new city hall

Southside residents push for renovating McLaren

Plans to replace Lansing's aging City Hall are gaining steam after being stalled almost a year.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor declared a moratorium in February on plans that the Bernero administration had approved because they did not include space for courts or a police lockup.

"We're getting to the point right now where because court consolidation is still up in the air, we may just have to plan for a new city hall with the courts," Schor said last week.

Schor has kept his options open as regional efforts to consolidate district-level courtrooms gain momentum. Before plans could ever be hatched for a new city hall, officials needed to first decide where to house the 54A District Court and the Police Department lockup that share space in the building, he said.

But as lame duck legislation to unify the courts moves along in the Senate, Schor has grown increasingly willing to consider construction plans long before officials ever decide what to do with the justice system. Besides, a developer wants to lock down plans of his own for the aging building — and that also plays a role in the urgency.

Schor inherited a plan from his predecessor, Virg Bernero, to allow Chicago developer Beitler Real Estate to renovate the old Lansing State Journal into a new city hall and turn the current City Hall into a first-class hotel.

In October, Schor allowed that Lansing could build itself a new city hall on the long-undeveloped Seven Block Property along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard behind the Capitol Complex.

Property owner Sam Eyde said Tuesday he remains eager to sell the city the property. He said, though, that there have been no discussions.

Meanwhile, efforts continue to consolidate the Lansing, East Lansing and Mason district court into a countywide system in a new location. The House has passed a consolidation measure sponsored by state Rep. Sam Singh of East Lansing. The Senate has yet to act.

Under the bill, regional officials would have nearly a year to come up with a plan for courtroom consolidation. The potential merger wouldn't take effect until 2020. Plans have also surfaced for a courtroom complex that could eventually handle caseloads for both cities of Lansing and East Lansing.

Schor said if the consolidation occurs, con-

struction plans could be altered before shovels hit the dirt to cut out space for a courtroom or add more space for the police department. Undecided proposals to shift the county's jail north from Mason could also alleviate the city's need to run its own lockup from inside its city hall, he said.

"If something changed during the construction plans, we could just amend them as we go," Schor added.

Meanwhile, Chicago-based developer J. Paul Beitler is still eyeing Lansing's existing City Hall for a luxury hotel. He previously said he wants to lock down plans by January or else he'll likely take his development to another city. And Schor said that developmental pressure is a "factor" in his increased willingness to move on City Hall.

"It's a factor, but we're not going to go anywhere with a gun to our heads," Schor said. "We'll make the best decisions going forward based on what's best financially and what's right for our city and our citizens."

Beitler has stressed that time was running out to step back on the gas because of concerns about rising interest rates that could make the plan cost prohibitive.

Reached for comment this week, Beitler said, "Until I hear something from the city, it's hard to say that I'm interested," Beitler added. "This new administration has been seated for a year since we were told we'd be able to move ahead with this project. We still haven't heard anything. It's hard for us to make any plans around plans that don't really exist."

In a related development, residents on Lansing's south side — after hearing about the potential for the city to construct a new building — have since drawn a blueprint of their own. And at least a few think they've landed on the perfect location for a new city hall facility: McLaren Greater Lansing's soon-to-be vacant hospital along Greenlawn Avenue.

McLaren officials earlier this year announced plans to cease operations at that campus and another hospital building on Pennsylvania Avenue as it merges into a larger complex near Michigan State University, for which ground was just broken. And no formal announcements have been made regarding any redevelopment at the massive, 700,000 square-foot site.

"It's in great shape," said Kerby Rials, who lives near the McLaren hospital. "It's ADA-compliant. It has a helipad. It has radar towers for the police. It has wide corridors. It has plenty of space; too much space really. There's a parking ramp and a lot out front. It's really everything that the current City Hall is not."



The Schor administration has resumed planning for a new city hall. Pictured above is a drawing of Chicago developer Beitler Real Estate's proposed hotel to replace the current City Hall.

Rials and his neighbors have since banded together as the "McLaren Revitalization Committee" to help catch the city's attention. The last thing Lansing's south side needs is another vacant building, Rials said. And he doesn't want the city to miss an economic opportunity.

"It's a better opportunity. It's a better location for parking," Rials added. "There is plenty of room for expansion. It would be a center for local government. Why not do it? If they bulldoze the building, it could cost millions of dollars. The building is in great condition. Why not work together to save money on both ends?"

Schor said officials at McLaren have promised to either repurpose both buildings or tear them down and convert them to green space. He, too, is concerned about leaving empty buildings in local neighborhoods but doesn't expect Rials' idea to ever come to fruition. After all, "there are a lot of people with a lot of ideas," Schor said.

"McLaren owns those buildings and they're going to try to repurpose them," Schor said, noting that he still prefers a downtown location. "There would be challenges to putting city hall in that location. We have no idea what the costs would be to develop there. There are several benefits to having city hall in a commercial area."

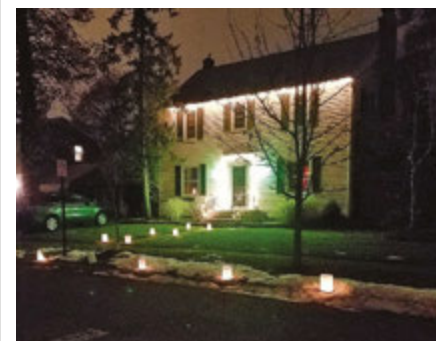
Officials at McLaren Greater Lansing couldn't be reached for comment on the neighborhood suggestion.

"We must have an affordable option first and foremost," Schor said. "We have redevelopment options as well as options that do not involve redevelopment. Many of the redevelopment ideas are tremendously expensive." He also noted the need to "navigate the impact to taxpayer dollars that could be involved in such a redevelopment."

"I am hoping not to have to spend much (or any) in taxpayer dollars to make this happen," Schor emphasized.

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

CANDY OF THE WEEK



Bailey Neighborhood luminaries East Lansing

As the longest night of the year approaches, residents of East Lansing's Bailey Neighborhood prepare to greet the evening with lights and fellowship. Each year, the neighbors organize a communitywide effort to line their curbsides with luminaries — white paper bags illuminated by candles within. With sand or bird seed acting as ballast, the bags stay upright as the candles burn, often throughout the entire night.

Like many seasonal activities that were eventually reformulated by Christians, the winter solstice once marked the first day of the traditional festival of Yule, which begins at sunset and continues until the new year. For contemporary neighbors, the activity provides the opportunity to gather outdoors and connect during this cold season. Some walk the streets. Some sing carols and possibly share a cup of cheer.

The luminaries are sold in an annual undertaking used to raise money for the Orchard Street Pump House neighborhood center. Despite our best attempt, photos cannot accurately capture the spectacle, which is particularly captivating when the lights are placed on fresh snow. While flurries are not in this year's forecast, the event is scheduled for this Friday, Dec. 21st. The lighting typically begins at 6 PM.

Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

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

Waterfront Bar & Grill eyes REO Town

Fight goes on with city over City Market site

Waterfront Bar & Grill still clings to life inside the Lansing City Market while it wages a legal battle against the city of Lansing. But the owner has already locked down another location as he prepares to vacate the building.

An 11th-hour order from state Appeals Court Judge Amy Ronayne Krause allows the riverside restaurant to remain inside the struggling marketplace while it dodges immediate eviction, locks down another liquor license and continues to push back against the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority, which manages the City Market.

But some city officials contended the bar's eviction is all but inevitable. And it's a looming reality that even owner Scott Simmons has been forced to accept as he prepares to move the restaurant south from the banks of the Grand River to a more secluded location along the Red Cedar River in REO Town at 419 Spring St.

"We're trying to get assistance from the city to move to a different location. The main thing is we need some time in order to be

able to do that," said Liisa Speaker, an attorney representing Waterfront Bar & Grill. She said the owner, Scott Simmons, "doesn't want to lay people off and he doesn't want to have to shut down the business."

Circuit Judge Joyce Draganchuk tossed out a previous lawsuit last month that Simmons had leveled against LEPFA over the terms of his City Market lease. The ruling halted the case against the city and cleared the way for his riverside restaurant to be evicted by Dec. 5. But the bar is still pouring drinks more than a week later.

Krause's recent order, despite pushback from LEPFA, now allows the Waterfront to continue its business operations while Simmons appeals the decision. Attorneys representing LEPFA, however, labeled the maneuver as nothing more than a "thinly veiled attempt" to extend the expired lease well beyond its terms.

"Instead of letting the trial court decide this matter, Simmons took an ambush approach by waiting until the afternoon before the date of eviction to file a motion," according to a response from LEPFA. "Simmons' requested stay should be viewed for what it is — another attempt to delay the enforcement of the lease."

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor announced plans this year to close the City Market by the end of the summer after the City Council slashed its annual subsidy in half to \$40,000. Officials subsequently solicited proposals that could eventually allow a developer to help breathe new life into the struggling market along the Grand River.

Simmons, the last City Market tenant, posed an obstacle to the city's plans. LEPFA moved to terminate its lease with Waterfront in May, but Simmons believed a clause in the lease ultimately allowed him to extend the agreement for the next three years. He sued LEPFA when officials refused to honor that extension.

Both sides bickered about the lease language before Draganchuk dismissed Simmons' case. LEPFA attorney David Russell argued the choice for renewal was written into the lease but it didn't give Simmons the right to personally extend the contract through 2021 unless both parties agreed. And those terms were never settled.

Those same arguments resurfaced in Waterfront's recent appeal. The business' forced closure would obviously cause financial concerns and push dozens of employees out of a job, according to court records. But Speaker said the continued litigation — at least at this juncture — is simply about buying more time on the way out the door.

The parcel on Spring Street is a 39-year-old vacant warehouse, according to Ingham County property records. Simmons bought the site for \$250,000 back in 2016. Speaker said it also includes 300 feet of river frontage — meaning the bar will likely retain its

namesake when it eventually moves about five minutes to the south.

"The primary goal is to be able to move the business, and we're looking for the city to help with that transition," Speaker added. "As soon as the doors can open" on Spring Street, "my client plans to leave the market but you can't magically snap your fingers and get a liquor license at another location. We're working on our options."

Speaker said the bar's existing liquor license can only be used within a redevelopment district, like the City Market. Simmons' new location might not fit that criterion and therefore can't be directly transferred to Spring Street, Speaker added. And she said Simmons simply needs more time before he'll be able to receive a new one.

"I'm hoping to resume conversations with the city very soon," Speaker added. "I look forward to reaching out in response but that has not been physically possible for me. I've had to put aside a lot of work to handle this case."

LEPFA President and CEO Scott Keith has been more than willing to help Simmons through the process for months, he said. Before the appeal was filed, LEPFA offered to extend Simmons' lease on a month-to-month basis through March. Simmons, however, chose to dismiss that opportunity in favor of another lawsuit.

And there's no guarantee that same offer will ever return to the table, especially given Simmons' recent appeal.

"It's not really LEPFA's responsibility to help find them a new location," Keith added. "With the fact that they filed this lawsuit and then appealed, I think the city may be a little less willing to work with them at this point."

See Waterfront, Page 7

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **January 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Andrea Shea for the property located at 404 University Drive, in the R-2, Medium Density Single Family Residential, zoning district for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

Section 50-147(1)a. – Within any yard bordering a street, fences or walls, other than retaining walls, shall not exceed the following maximum heights:

- i When less than 40 percent open and unobstructed.
 1. Three feet at the property line.
 2. Six feet, when set back at least 20 feet from the property line.

The applicant is proposing a privacy fence at six feet tall around the existing patio and between the existing house and garage less than the required setback.

2. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Ghulam Sumbal for the property located at 1820 Coolidge Road in the R-3, Single and Two-Family Residential, zoning district for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

Section 50-301. – Minimum lot width. Minimum lot width in the R-3 zoning district for uses other than single-family is 100 feet.

The applicant is proposing to demolish the existing duplex structure and rebuild a new duplex structure with a lot width of 82 feet.

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

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

Dated: December 13, 2018
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#18-318

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Brian Wiley, for the property located at 426 Park Lane, to replace all windows with high-grade vinyl windows.

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Brian Wiley, for the property located at 430 Park Lane, to replace all windows with high-grade vinyl windows.

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Daniel Bollman, for the property located at 368 Orchard Street, to re-roof the sloped portions of the roof and repair the fascia and soffit, and to eliminate the integral eavestroughs and replace with external eavestroughs and downspouts.

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.

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Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

Dated: December 13, 2018
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#18-317

Nomads no more

McLaren donates new space to mental health volunteers

Last month, some people worried about political wrangling over Thanksgiving turkey, but there are worse things. Just before the holiday, Kevin Keeler girded himself for a call from a nephew, who had serious mental health issues, on and off, for years. If the nephew asked to come to the big family Thanksgiving dinner, Keeler knew he would have to say “no.”

“He’s unsafe to us and the other family members,” Keeler said.

Thankfully, Keeler has the tools to deal with tough situations like that. He’s the president of the Lansing chapter of NAMI, or the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Keeler, NAMI Lansing chapter Vice President Katreva Bisbee and about 35 volunteers have all been there themselves — they are all either in recovery or have a loved one with a mental illness. They leverage that experience to try to fill a widening gap in medical care.

This winter, NAMI Lansing is operating from a new set of offices, donated by McLaren Greater Lansing earlier this year. The new digs, graced with office-y cubicles, plenty of sunlight and fresh brochures from the national NAMI advocacy group, will be a game changer for the local chapter, just when the need for mental health support is spiking upward.

“We were nomads,” Keeler said. Volunteers worked out of basements, garages or the trunk of their cars. Board meetings were held at Panera Bread or, if space was available, the Ingham County Health Dept.

John Patterson, a facilities administrator for McLaren Greater Lansing, was glad to help.

“They had stuff in my garage, your garage, all over,” Patterson said. “This gives them a stable space to build their programs.”

Patterson said there’s a significant shortage of mental health resources in the tri-county area, and that makes NAMI a welcome presence at the McLaren Greater Lansing campus on Pennsylvania Avenue.

“We have patients who come to the E.R. needing mental health treatment and we struggle to find a psychiatric hospital for

If you have been diagnosed with a mental illness, or have a loved one who has been diagnosed, and needs support, go to NAMILansing.org or call (517) 484-3404.

them,” Patterson said. Sometimes they have to be held at the hospital for two or three days.

“For the families standing around, wondering what to do — NAMI knows exactly what they need and how they can get help,” Patterson said.

NAMI, a national advocacy organization, has dozens of state and local affiliates. The volunteers don’t make diagnoses or treat people, but they help in many other ways.

Most of all, Keeler and his cohort fight the persistent prejudice that people with mental illness can, and should, somehow bootstrap their way out of trouble.

“We understand that mental illness is a brain disorder,” Keeler said. “We totally understand the medical concept.”

Classes and support groups surround people in need of help with others who are going through the same thing.

“The problem with this illness is that everybody thinks they’re unique, alone,” Keeler said.

“People see on TV or in the movies, they’re going to end up in a straitjacket in a white room,” Beebe said. “We have volunteers who have gotten married, had kids and have a productive life. We help to give them that hope.”

It’s not just about people who are in recovery. Family members and friends are also in dire need of support.

“How people deal with it can vary,” Beebe said. “We need to let them know, if you’re a faith-based person, we can’t just pray everything away. You may need some prayer in combination with medication, therapy and support groups.”

For family members grappling with the diagnosis of a loved one, the stages are as predictable as the stages of grief.

“First, they freak out,” Keeler said. “It’s a catastrophe and they go into blaming each other, the family and Community Mental Health — if only they gave the right medication and so on,” he said.

That’s when many people contact NAMI by phone or through the web site.

When Keeler was a teenager, one of his brothers took his own life after a series of substance abuse and depression problems.

refused to offer assistance, she said.

“We understand they need time to find a location and identify a liquor license,” Keith said. “I’m a little disappointed they didn’t begin that process in June when they were first notified about all of this. It was a little disappointing there, but we understood they needed more time and were willing to work with them on that.”

Court filings from LEPFA also indicate the city also has an entirely separate basis to boot Simmons from the City Market. Repeated liquor license and health code



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Katreva Bisbee (left) and Kevin Keeler (right), vice-president and president of the Lansing chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, check out the latest information in the group’s new digs, donated by McLaren.

“Back then, I wasn’t really interested in helping him, because I didn’t know how, it was scary and I ran the other way,” he said.

Keeler’s younger brother still suffers from schizophrenia. It took Keeler years to come to grips with that reality and realize there are ways he can help.

“To me, he was just annoying and he wasn’t trying hard enough, until I began to understand that he had a brain disorder and he wasn’t doing this stuff on purpose,” Keeler said.

Dealing with the nephew who wanted to horn in on Thanksgiving gave Keeler more experience he could share in peer-to-peer groups.

“We have family members come in and tell us they are literally being held hostage by a family member with mental health issues,” Keeler said.

But it’s OK to set boundaries and “disengage” from a mentally ill family member, when it’s necessary, without breaking ties completely, Keeler said.

For patients and families, crippling guilt is often a barrier to healing.

“People go, ‘if your family had just sent you to a Catholic school, or given you more discipline, you would have turned out better,’” Keeler said. “We have mothers who come in here, wracked with guilt, because they think something they did created that mental illness. It’s a big issue because society bought into that.”

Beebe became interested in joining up with NAMI while supporting her mother, who

was diagnosed with a mental illness and went through several traumatic phases of denial, anger, and blame.

“At some point you have to come to terms with the fact that this is happening,” Beebe said. “With her it took time. She had a lot of questions. Why is this happening? How did it happen?”

The new offices will help the NAMI board and volunteers organize a wide range of programs, from weekly classes and support group meetings to yearly events such as an annual fundraising walk, open houses and a “Healing Through Art” show spotlighting the work of people in recovery and their supporters.

All programs, support groups and classes are certified at the national level. Brochures and other resources reflect the latest information on suicide, depression, or other topics.

NAMI’s philosophy that we are all in this together is the antithesis to historic methods of treating mental illness.

“Back in the day, they’d throw everybody into institutions and leave them there,” Keeler said.

The most telling indicator of NAMI’s mission and approach is that in classes and support groups, people in recovery are pretty much indistinguishable from the volunteers. That, in itself, is a lesson for anyone who is freaking out over a mental illness diagnosis.

“If you’re involved in NAMI for any length of time, you eventually need a scorecard to tell who is on what side,” Keeler said.

—LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Waterfront

from page 6

Speaker said LEPFA’s willingness to extend Waterfront’s lease through the spring doesn’t help the bar anyway. The process to apply for a new liquor license can take three to six months. Simmons also asked the city to help shift his new property into a redevelopment district, but officials have so far

violations constitute a breach of the lease regardless, according to court records. And LEPFA argued it shouldn’t be forced to help subsidize problematic tenants.

“Waterfront is still operating at the market,” Speaker said. “How long they’ll be there? That’s a question mark.”

No hearings are scheduled as the litigation rests motionless in the Court of Appeals this week. But Krause’s order aims to expedite the proceedings. Additional filings are due from both parties over the next few weeks. Waterfront, in the meantime, will continue

to pay more than \$5,500 in monthly rent payments to the city.

“We expected them to stay through March under the previous negotiations regardless,” Keith added. “This is really what the decision from the appellate court gave them anyway. We were trying to negotiate with them.”

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for previous and continued coverage at the Lansing City Market.

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

Yes, Virginia, this is busiest lame duck ever

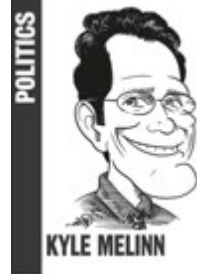
If the bills churning out of the state Capitol this season were Christmas gifts, Santa would need a few more reindeer to get his sleigh off the ground.

The Michigan Legislature is entering new territory with its fourth week of lame duck. Research conducted by MIRS, Gongwer and The Ballenger Report can find no lame duck — that period of legislative session between the General Election and the new year — that has had as much activity.

National media outlets like The New York Times and The Washington Post have roped Michigan into the same universe as Wisconsin in terms of a Republican-dominated state government passing legislation that arguably dilutes the powers of the incoming Democratic governor, secretary of state and attorney general.

Putting aside whether any of these types of bills get passed, consider this: 38 percent of the bills getting first passage in the Michigan House and Senate in lame duck were introduced after Election Day.

MIRS' review of lawmaker productivity over the past six weeks found that of the 150 bills seeing first passage in the House, 31 were



POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

introduced after ballots were cast Nov. 6. That's 21 percent.

More than half of the Senate's output, 57.5 percent, were introduced in lame duck. Some 134 bills got first passage, 77 of which weren't

introduced until after Nov. 6. Given the current House and Senate calendar, last Thursday was the last day a "first-house" bill could be passed without it running into the Constitution's mandatory five-day waiting period.

What this means is that instead of lawmakers using lame duck to take care of some last-minute odds and ends, lame duck is becoming the primary part of the year to address contentious legislation. The point, clearly, is to avoid contentious issues before an election.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, explained this year's particularly active lame duck by noting that many of those bills have been in the works for months. It can sometimes take months to get a bill out of the Legislative Service Bureau. He called the bill drafters "geniuses" but

said it takes a lot of work to prepare a proposal for unveiling. And the bureau has a lot of turnover.

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, D-Flint, is unconvinced. What counts is when the bill is introduced and the public can see it for the first time. Rather than delays for drafting, he contended Republicans waited because they wanted to see if they would win the election.

Ananich said lame duck is also an opportunity "for term-limited senators to pass bills they didn't want the public to see ahead of the election." That, he said, makes a very strong case for tightening the rules for a lame duck session. He suggested lame duck should require a two-thirds or three-fourths vote, or require the governor to call an emergency session.

Getting rid of lame duck altogether has been proposed. Rep. Gary Howell, R-North Branch, introduced HJR I last year which would add an amendment to the state constitution forcing adjournment of the legislature on the Monday before the general election every two years. It hasn't gotten a hearing.

When given the percentages of post-election bills passing in lame duck,

Howell called it "outrageous." He said, historically, bills often get passed "too hastily" in lame duck and then lawmakers in the next session have to come back to the issue and make corrections.

"Clearly, whatever party is in power, it serves their purpose to get things done in this interim period. So, I'm not surprised," Howell said. "We sat there until 3:30 in the morning yesterday morning passing bill after bill after bill. The best legislator in the world can't possibly know all the ramifications of every one of those bills on that kind of short notice," he said.

Howell promised to reintroduce his joint resolution to end lame duck in the coming term.

"Wouldn't hurt my feelings," said Kowall.

He said the calls to his office from lawmakers and interest groups pushing for the consideration of their particular bill or issue goes up substantially in lame duck because time is short for wrapping up issues.

Moving up adjournment to the Monday before Election Day would, to some degree, just move up the crush of last-minute consideration.

Kowall said he prefers a "slower, more thoughtful" process for considering legislation.

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The deep, dark solstice provides plenty of sensory deprivation already. Let the pupils dilate!



(Right) Santa's sleigh pulled by illuminated reindeer on the Gorsline-Runciman float during the 2018 Silver Bells in the City Electric Light Parade.
(Bottom) "Winterberry," by Julie Turner of JT Photography, brought a flock of colorful origami cranes to the Turner-Dodge Mansion's Festival of Trees.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse



It will always be a white Christmas at Hawk Island County Park's sledding hill.

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Trees waiting to be sold at the YMCA Christmas Tree Lot on Marshall Street.



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

A cheeky snowman at Cooley Law School Stadium.



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

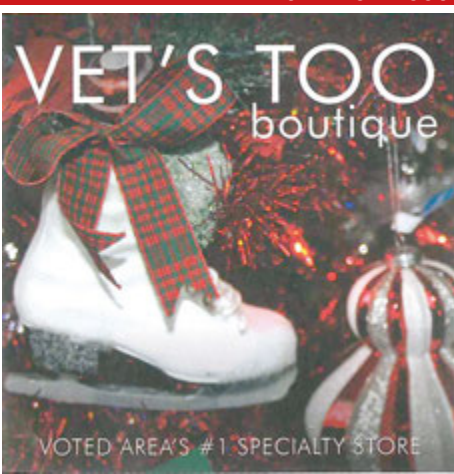
A display at REO Town Marketplace features unique Christmas baubles and homegoods.



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

A nativity scene on the Michigan Capitol lawn.

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Abby Sumbler/City Pulse

On a foggy night, people take photos and walk around the Christmas tree at Michigan's Capitol.



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

A bit of rain and snow could not keep people away from Grand Ledge's Night Lights Christmas Parade.



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

The "Man in Red" and his wife are always on the last float of the Silver Bells in the City Electric Light Parade.



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

A light display above the entrance of MSU's Owen Hall.



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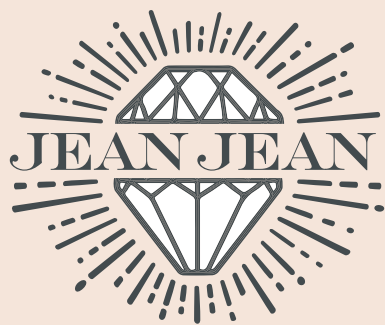
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All photos Dennis Burek/City Pulse



(Above) Members of Congregation Shaarey Zedek during Hanukkah service.



(Top right) Lansing City Hall's menorah illuminates the lobby.

(Bottom right) An assortment of lit menorahs at Congregation Shaarey Zedek.



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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

'Santa Roger' is the jolliest man alive

By DENNIS BURCK

Calling the head elf to replace an unwell Santa sounds like the makings of a classic Christmas movie, but it really happened to Roger "Santa Roger" Minton.

Working as Twinkle Toes the elf for the past twelve years at his family's annual Christmas party, Minton's Santa called off the gig three days in advance, so the then 24-year-old donned the suit for the first time.

It was the start of a lifestyle Minton would dedicate himself to for the next eight years.

"The first few years, I was starting out with a cheap Party City beard and wig set. Then I invested some money into a yak hair beard for a few hundred dollars," Minton said. "I wanted to know how to take care of it, so I found the online Santa communities. From there, I found the Michigan Association of Professional Santas, or MAPS."

All the local online communities pointed to one place to become the best Santa Claus, Minton said.

The Charles H. Howard Santa school was founded in 1937 in Midland, Michigan, to teach the art of portraying Santa Claus. Named "The Harvard of Santa Schools" by CBS, the school admits around 200 students a year for a three day intensive class with 45 instructing hours.

It holds the title of the longest running Santa school in the world and has been under the stewardship of dean Tom Valent since 1987. It also graduates Mrs. Clauses through the program.

"It was the best three days I've ever had learning," Minton said. "We went through everything from social media and marketing, makeup, beard styling to what kind of questions children ask and how to answer them. Also, we learned all the history back to St. Nicholas."

The program also offers sessions on sleigh riding, reindeer and toymaking.

Minton graduated in 2017 at 31 years old, one of the youngest in the class. One of the



Minton



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Beard bleached and belly buckled, Roger Minton waves to onlookers in downtown Fowlerville.

toughest lessons was how to answer the myriad questions children might come up with, Minton said.

"One thing that really stuck out with me is when a kid asks you 'what is my address?' My first response is 'well, it is 896.363.' The kid will say 'that's not my address.' But then I say, 'oh, you must mean your street address. I don't go by street addresses, I go by rooftop address.'"

The trick is to make up something that is believable and kids will assume Santa is telling the truth, Minton said.

Parents also need to learn the do and don'ts of Santa Claus, he added.

"Don't force your kids to sit on Santa's lap," Minton said. "In can be traumatizing to a lot of kids. If you give kids enough time, there is a chance the kid will get on

your lap or stand next to Santa, so it will be a nice picture instead of a traumatic experience."

As the father of two kids, Minton has to be mindful about how he represents his job. His nine-year-old and eleven-year-old still believe in Santa.

"When I decided to grow my beard out, one of the things I did was give them a letter from Santa addressed to me as their dad asking to be a helper Santa," Minton said. "For the past few years, they've assumed I'm a helper Santa and dressing like this is nothing extraordinary in our house anymore."

Keeping the beard and his hair as wintry white is the most demanding part of portraying St. Nicholas.

"Because I'm a younger Santa, it is not

natural for my hair to be white. I had to go through a bleaching process that started last July bleaching my head and my beard," Minton said. "It was seven bleaching sessions to get it to white, then we use blue and purple toners and shampoo to get the Christmas white look."

On average, it takes an hour and a half for Minton to transition into Santa. "It is work I love putting in."

It doesn't take a graduate of the Charles W. Howard Santa school to be a good Santa, Minton said.

"What makes you a good Santa is if you have the spirit and love in your heart to do it," he added.

For more information on Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School, visit www.santaclausschool.com

Science and art have a heady tryst at MSU's Broad Museum

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A haunting collection of smells, a real ant colony that moonlights as a DJ, an edible blob, a car that emits feathers and many other provocative wonders are packed into the latest big exhibit at MSU's Broad Art Museum.

The ants, the blob and their ilk have taken over the second floor through March, the culmination of a three-year program that has brought international, cutting-edge artists to work with faculty and students.

Matter(s) Matter(s): Bridging Research in the Arts

and Sciences

Broad Art Museum
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Most mash-ups of art and science have a predictable arc, but this tryst is a bit kinkier than usual. Yes, ice crystals are beautiful, the human body is a wondrous machine and the night sky is transcendent, but wouldn't you rather watch videos of surgeons attaching an ear to an arm?

Wait, come back! "Matter(s) Matter(s)" is a mind-bending dive into the origins of knowledge and the way we process information. Broad Museum associate curator Stephen Bridges called it a "complicated cross pollination" of disciplines.

"It's harder and much more complicated, on both sides, to go deeper," Bridges said. Bridges is the co-curator of "Matter(s) Matter(s)," along with guest curator Jens Hauser of the University of Copenhagen.

Those who turn their backs to the arm surgery video, as many will want to do, are rewarded by a mind-expanding encounter with the exhibit's unassum-

ing-looking show-stopper.

Berlin-based artist Sissel Tolaas has opened up a new way of perceiving reality by creating a "smell map" of the east side of Detroit.

Sissel is an olfactory artist. Her studio is an archive of 6,000 scents she has identified, captured and synthesized.

At the Broad exhibit, she lined a long wall with 3D printed polygons, each coated with a "nanotechnology slurry" — an artificially synthesized smell.

When the perceiver (no longer just the viewer) picks up the object, hand warmth activates the coating to bring a particular place in Detroit to life. A map indicates where each smell was "harvested."

The specific yet elusive smells summon swarms of images and associations better described in novels and poetry than a newspaper article. Each of them switches on a powerful part of the brain that is seldom served so seriously.

The stunning piece will spark a lot of conversations on a range of topics, from the politics, culture and geography of Detroit to the way the brain gathers facts and memories.

"Fair warning — it's not all about pretty smells," Bridges said. "Some might be off-putting to some people."

Tolaas boldly messes with the wiring that links the nose to the brain's memory center. "Her mission is to reconnect us with these animal faculties we rarely use or recognize to understand the world around us," Bridges said.

One big thing scientists and artists have in common is that they both make the invisible visible.

A video in the Broad exhibit features a peppy toy car weaving through crowded Manhattan streets, emitting cheerful



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Science meets art at the Broad Museum's "Matter(s) Matter(s)" exhibit, and a functioning leafcutter ant colony is in the house.

green and purple exhaust. In a nearby glass case, a plume of fluffy pink feathers streams from the tailpipe of a model car.

The video, by a French-based duo called HeHe, short-circuits your brain in a delicious, good-bad way. Wouldn't it be great if auto exhaust was that much fun? Of course, it's not — it's deadly poison.

"They present this very serious subject matter in a very disarming way," Bridges said.

No account of "Matter(s) Matter(s)" would be complete without acknowledging the ant in the room.

Bridges called the symmetrical lucite city in the center of the gallery a "proper" ant colony, meaning it's not a few ants sprinkled into a tube for the delectation of art lovers and left to die.

"We had to get USDA permitting to get an ant colony in the museum, living organisms that are non-native species," Bridges said.

Leafcutter ants are farmers. They cut and gather bits of plant matter to feed their fungus gardens.

Live feeds track the ants' foraging activity.

See Matter(s), Page 15

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Punk Christmas compilation 'Bermuda Snowhawk' marches on

By SKYLER ASHLEY

While most of Lansing is scrambling for 11th-hour Christmas gifts, some local musicians are hustling to write last-minute Christmas songs.

"Musicians don't need much encouragement to do something at the last possible second," laughed Bermuda Mohawk founder Cale Sauter.

Bermuda Snowhawk

2018 Release Party

Free (Bring Donations for Food Drive)
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www.bermudamohawk.
bandcamp.com

Yes, it's a grand tradition for Sauter's DIY Lansing record label Bermuda Mohawk, with help from GTG Records, to put out a Christmas music compilation

entitled "Bermuda Snowhawk" (or "Snohawk," depending on which year's disc you're looking at). And it's accompanied by a live show. This year's gig, featuring performances from several Snowhawk alumni, goes down Friday at the Avenue.

Sauter first opened the floor for submissions in 2006. He was joined two years later by GTG's Tommy McCord, who would stand by with a rudimentary recording setup to get as many tracks on tape, in quick and only somewhat dirty fashion.

Sauter's initial idea was to create a compilation dedicated to President's Day, due to the vast overabundance of pre-existing Christmas-related compilations.

"Everyone had to write a song about an



Cover art designed by Craig Horky

old president, or something," Sauter said.

Unsurprisingly, Sauter's vision failed to take off, due to President's Day's comparative unpopularity when stacked against the seasonal top dog, Christmas.

"We got four submissions," Sauter said.

Sauter had no choice but to dump another bucket into the already large pool of Christmas song collections. Sure enough, as soon as the call went out, submissions started flooding in.

"A bunch of people submitted tracks and, before I knew it, I had 22 songs for the first one," Sauter said.

After McCord climbed into the sled in 2008, the compilation turned into a spirited collaboration between GTG and Bermuda Mohawk records.

"A year into being in Lansing, we crossed paths with Cale and learned about Bermuda. I saw from his post on

Myspace that he was doing a Christmas comp and went from there," McCord said.

Both labels consisted of similar fare: local punk bands cutting records with a distinct DIY aesthetic. But around 2010, Sauter and Bermuda Mohawk began focusing on releases from bands outside of Michigan, including far-reaching music scenes such as Japan. Meanwhile, GTG picked up the local slack.

"It's hard and you lose your focus on a lot of the local stuff," Sauter said. "GTG really revved up the local stuff around that time."

Sauter jokes that despite his best efforts to call it quits with releasing "Bermuda Snowhawk" discs, the partnership with GTG kept the compilation rolling out year after year.

"Cale has tried to stop a couple times," joked McCord. "Not necessarily 'tried,' but he was ready to say, 'Well that was fun.'"

One year, when Sauter made no preparations for the upcoming "Bermuda

Snowhawk" release, McCord brought him a CD that was essentially ready to go. Sauter couldn't refuse.

"What that really says, though, is that this thing completely took out a life of its own," McCord said.

These days, putting together "Bermuda Snowhawk" is simple. The infamy of the compilation draws several dozen submissions to McCord and Sauter's inboxes. If necessary, McCord still records bands, but the increased availability of home recording equipment has lessened his role.

This year's disc, which you can pick up at the Avenue release party or listen to on www.bermudamohawk.bandcamp.com, features Cavalcade, CrookedSound, Blaine and His Keyboard, the Hunky Newcomers, the Plurals, Scary Women, Sleeping Timmy, Erotic Novels and several others.

As Sauter explained the process, "Just give us a track by mid-December and you're on."

Matter(s)

from page 14

ities. Best of all, the scratching noises, or stridulations, of the ants, are amplified and fed to a pair of turntables with vinyl at the ready.

"The record players scratch back," Bridges said. "It's an interspecies dialogue."

It's a good thing the ants are vegetarians, because their bottle city at the exhibit is not far from "Spatium Gelatium: Form 171018," a blob of edible Argentinian beef gelatin by artist, architect and researcher Zbigniew Oksiuta.

The blob does a great job of just being a blob, but it's also a prototype for a futuristic, temporary shelter. Oksiuta's shapes, made from biological polymers like gelatin and agar, are organic and edible and infinitely changeable in shape.

Pieces like Oksiuta's and a neighboring display of Lake Erie's deadly algae blooms, also by HeHe — with real, living algae — twist aesthetics, ethics and epistemology (how we know what we know) into a rubbery Möbius strip of input.

In addition to bringing art and science together, Bridges said the exhibit fulfills another core Broad Museum goal: to weave itself deeper into the expansive tapestry of MSU's colleges and laboratories.

"When you have internationally renowned



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Don't touch Zbigniew Oksiuta's edible blob, however appetizing Argentinian beef gelatin may sound.

artists coming from all over the world, just to work with MSU faculty researchers — it's nice to capitalize on an opportunity like that," he said.

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Classic Christmas books for your household

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Shortly after Thanksgiving, a holiday tradition in our household is to bring out a small collection of Christmas books. Over the years, staples like “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” have been added alongside contemporary favorites like “The Nightmare Before Christmas.”

One of the highlights is the thin, but beautifully decorated book “Is There a Santa Claus?” The book is a wonderful reprint of the Sept. 27, 1897, New York Sun editorial answering a letter from Virginia



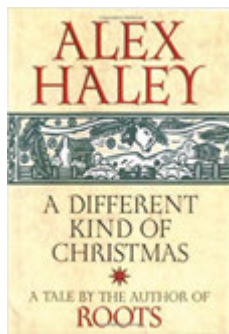
O’Hanlon who asks: “Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?”

A somewhat similar tale is told in Valentine Davies novella “Miracle on 34th Street,” which later became a classic film.

One of the newer books is “Blue Dog Christmas,” by the Cajun illustrator and artist George Rodrigue, which uses the wonderful Blue Dog to tell us about the meaning of Christmas.

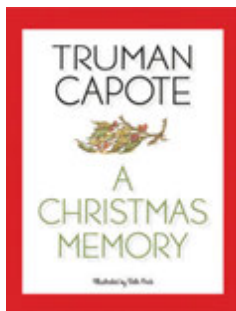


Alex Haley, author of “Roots” and co-author of the “Autobiography of Malcolm X,” penned “A Different Kind of Christmas” — the inspirational story of a slave and white southerner seeking “spiritual regeneration.”



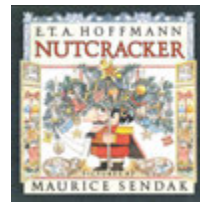
Truman Capote, best known for “In Cold Blood,” wrote two Christmas-themed short stories: “One Christmas” and “A Christmas Memory.” These endearing tales tell heart-warming Christmas stories of Capote growing up in his extended family.

Also not to be missed, is the modern version of E.T.A. Hoffmann’s “Nutmacker,” originally written in 1816. Illustrator Maurice Sendak incorporated his designs for a ballet into this charming book about a young



girl, an animated Nutcracker and the evil Mouse King in the Land of Toys.

Virginia Hamilton’s “The Bells of Christmas” transports us into the year 1890 and shows, from the viewpoint of a 12-year-old, how the true meaning of Christmas doesn’t change in those intervening years.



Before reading O. Henry’s “The Gift of the Magi,” I saw a stage production at a small historic opera house in Manchester, Michigan. Seeing the stage production has forever seared the central theme of putting love before treasured possessions.



“The Polar Express,” adapted to film in 2004, will take you on a ride inspired by the legendary locomotive Pere Marquette 1225 and the imagination of Grand Rapids author Chris Van Allsburg.



Another delightful picture book for young children is “A Wish to be a Christmas Tree,” by the Brighton husband-and-wife duo of Colleen and Michael Glenn Monroe. It tells the tale of an overlooked Christmas tree, which eventually becomes a sparkling beauty thanks to the creatures of the forest.

The real meaning of Christmas and simplicity lives in Charles Schultz’s loveable cartoon inspired Christmas book, “A Charlie Brown Christmas Tree,” which also

has become an annual television special.

Other throwback Christmas books: “Frosty the Snowman,” by Diane Muldrow and “Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer,” by Robert L. May, written for a department store give-away in 1939, also spawned holiday television specials and musical tunes still heard today. Gene Autry’s 1949 version of “Rudolph” still has special meaning for me today.

And how could we forget Dr. Seuss’ “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”? A slightly different version of the tale has been released as this season’s Christmas movie.

Christmas has always been fertile ground for humorists, and two that stand out are “A Christmas Story,” by Jean Shepherd, who I first heard read from the book in 1966 at MSU, and, of course, the comic genius David Sedaris’ “Holidays on Ice.” I wonder how a children’s book with the central imagery of a gun would play out today?



Another favorite — albeit darkly comical — is “The Nightmare Before Christmas,” a picture book by Tim Burton, whose creatures make for great retro-tree ornaments.

Christmas literature wouldn’t quite be the same without Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol,” written in 1843, “Louisa May Alcott’s “Little Women” and an often forgotten tome by L. Frank Baum, “The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus.”



Although technically not a Christmas book, the 1962 winter-themed book “The Snowy Day,” by Ezra Jack Keats, is a must-read and might be the first book to integrate the children’s book market.

And what would Christmas-time be without Phillip Van Doren Stern’s short story “The Greatest Gift,” later turned into the television classic “It’s a Wonderful Life”?

One of my favorite children’s books is the inspired pop-up book “The 12 Days of Christmas,” by Robert Sabuda. But you must be careful with little hands, which can easily damage the intricate pop-ups.

Sabuda also did another seasonal favorite called “Chanukah Lights,” which takes you through the Festival of Lights.



SchulerBooks

Christmas Eve Storytime

Monday, December 24 @ 11a

Join us for a reading of *The Night Before Christmas*, craft time and hot chocolate bar. It’s sure to capture the magic of the season.

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get 10% off*
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plus free coffee & dessert coupon

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the chimney with care
knowing a book would
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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, December 19

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

MUSIC

VIVA JAZZ!! From 7 to 10 p.m. FREE!! Urban Beat Events Center, 1213 Turner Street Lansing.

EVENTS

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.

LANSING MENS SUPPORT GROUP. From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. NO FEES OR DUES. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Thursday, December 20

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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.

EVENTS

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.

Friday, December 21

EVENTS

Howl at the Moon: Guided Night Walk. From 7 to 8 p.m. \$3/person. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Saturday, December 22

HOLIDAYS

Breakfast with Santa Fundraiser. From 9 to 11 a.m. Kids: \$5 Adults: \$10 Pre-registration STRONGLY encouraged! Downeaster Theatre, 1120 N Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing.



Wonderland of Lights at Potter Park Zoo

Witness the Potter Park Zoo become a walkable light show, as part of its annual holiday season celebration **Wonderland of Lights**.

Wonderland of Lights

Through Dec. 31
Open Thursday through Sunday
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Additional Dates: Dec. 19, 20, 26 and 27
\$7 adults, \$5 for children 3-12
Free for children under 3.
Potter Park Zoo
1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing
www.potterparkzoo.org
(517) 483-4222

Spirit of Solstice Concert. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$15 - \$20 (based on ability to pay) at the door. Accessible.Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St. Lansing.

Sunday, December 23

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

Monday, December 24

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.

Tuesday, December 25

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

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

Thousands of individual lights are used to create unique, animal-inspired sculptures, as well as classic Christmas-themed imagery: snowflakes, pine trees, ornaments — you name it. For the kids, Potter Park will have cookies, crafts and encounters with cold weather-acclimated animals. The Potter Park restaurant will be open

Fridays and Saturdays, and the gift shop will be open Thursday through Sunday. Santa Claus will also be at the zoo for visits with children on Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 23. Just make sure you're dressed warm enough to properly enjoy this winter wonderland.

WEDNESDAY DEC. 19 >> [BE]LOVED EXHIBITION OPENING

Greater Lansing middle school and senior citizens showcase a patchwork exhibit of their collaborative photography and writing projects at the East Lansing Public Library.

5:30 to 6:30 p.m., East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing
(517) 351-2420, www.elpl.org



THURSDAY DEC. 20 >> THE APPLESEED COLLECTIVE AT ROBIN THEATRE



Playing swing jazz and folk, the Appleseed Collective's snarky acoustic riffage will give the Robin Theatre a zing of Gatsby-era song and dance. The Ann Arbor natives are stopping by Lansing as part of an international tour.

7 to 9 p.m., \$15, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI
(989) 878-1810, www.therobintheatre.com

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

SMALL PARKS AT

Sun. Dec. 21

MAC'S BAR



Lansing emo band returns from hiatus

Friday, Dec. 21 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
All ages, \$10, \$8 adv., 7PM

Since Small Parks formed in 2012, the feisty four-piece has performed its self-described brand of “house-show ready emo” at rock clubs and basements from Lansing to Chicago. In September, after nearly a year on hiatus, the melodic post-punk band returned to the stage at The Avenue Café, only this time condensed into a trio. The group, which comprises Danny Petrilli (bass/vocals), James Radick (vocals/guitar) and drummer Dave Shilakes, is back in action again Friday at Mac’s Bar. The all-ages event, dubbed “Townie Days,” also features fellow locals DJ Etta, MikeyyAustin, Sister/Sibling and a solo performance from Rent Strike. For those needing to catch up on Small Parks’ catalog, in the summer of 2016, the

group dropped its first full-length LP, “Honest Light,” via GTG Records. The label described the disc as “catchy without being overly formulaic, and progressive without a hint of pretension.” According to the group, the album’s lyrical content centers on the band’s life and how they’re “navigating through their late 20s, while struggling with identity, actions and their consequences.” The website 36vultures.net praised the album, calling it a “collection of earnest, roaring songs that will instantly grip any fans of earlier Hotelier or later Saves the Day material.” That debut LP was a follow up to the group’s first release, 2013’s “Meet Me In Cognito” EP. Both recordings are streamed at www.smallparksband.bandcamp.com.

THE APPLESEED COLLECTIVE AT THE

Thurs. Dec. 20

ROBIN THEATRE



Dixie-Gypsy outfit returns to REO Town

Thursday Dec. 20 @ The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.
\$15, \$10 students, 6:30 pm.

Led by guitarist and frontman Andrew Brown, The Appleseed Collective, an Ann Arbor-based quartet, dishes out a dynamic blend of Dixie-Gypsy and roots music and tops it off with a contemporary world-music flair — what the rustic band calls “progressive string swing.” From throwback jazz to moody ballads and blues numbers, admirers of genuine, yet innovative acoustic music will likely be pleased. The Columbia Daily Tribune commended the band, stating: “The Appleseed Collective sweeps out the various corners of American music, taking a long look at both the sublime and the strange. The group explores both dark and light in a way that other string-band

revivalists haven’t touched.” Thursday, the four piece, which formed in 2010, brings that distinct harmony-driven sound to The Robin Theatre in REO Town. The group’s latest release was issued back in 2016 — the five-song “Tour Tapes” EP — but the band hasn’t gone stagnant. A new single is in the works and the collective continues to rigorously tour the map from coast to coast, promoting its stack of releases, including 2012’s “Baby to Beast” and two 2014 LPs: “Young Love” and “Live at the Ark.” To sample each of the records, and for a complete list of tour dates, visit www.theappleseedcollective.bandcamp.com.

LIVE AND LOCAL

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT
PAUL@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.		Open Mic 9PM	Snohawk Release Party 8PM	Culture Clash
Buddies, 1937 W Grand River Ave		Karaoke, 9PM		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.		Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke, 9PM
Gladdagh, 2900 Towne Center Blvd.		Trivia, 7:30		
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia			Blue Hair Bettys doing it up!
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies Band	Jeff Shoup & Friends	The Hot Mess	The Hot Mess
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night	Karaoke	Smooth Daddy	Roux
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia			Shelby & Jake 8PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Oneupduo 7PM		Garret Collier 8PM	Cold Faction 6PM
Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Mr. Godbey 7PM	Small Parks 7PM	Banned & Burned 6PM
Nuthouse, 420 E Michigan Ave.		Music Bingo 7PM		
Unicorn Lounge, 327 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave.	Comedy Open Mic	Game Night		
Urban Beat, 1213 Turner St.	Viva Jazz Jam 7PM		Tell Yo Mama/Biomassive/East Harvest 8PM	

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny

December 19 - 25, 2018

Half-Human--a short list of hybrids. Matt Jones

Across

1 ___ Xtra (Dr Pepper rival)

5 Group of eight

10 Do really badly

14 Out on the open water

15 Done for one, for one

16 Skate park fixture

17 Bremner of "Trainspotting" and "Wonder Woman"

18 Gives the ax

19 Competently

20 Political position that's half-human, half-horse?

23 Easy basketball shot

24 "Agnus ___"

25 Swiss peak

28 Gallery works

29 Standard pinball feature

33 "8 Seconds" venue

35 Bar activity with request slips

38 Stick with a spring

39 Carnival attraction that's half-human, half-goat?

43 Former Montreal ballplayer

44 Of food regimens (like 36-Down)

45 One-named supporting actress on "Parks and Recreation"

47 Salsa ___ (red condiment)

48 Bar brew, briefly

51 Rain-___ (gumball brand)

52 Roasting receptacle

55 World Cup 2022's host country

57 Seasonal greeting that's half-human, half-bird?

62 Mariska Hargitay's longtime costar

64 Triple Seven, for one

65 "That's ___!"

66 Purplish ingredient of bubble tea and milk tea

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67 Poet Federico Garcla ___

68 Neighbor of Wisc.

69 Part of a goblet

70 Type in

Down

1 Rice dish made with saffron

2 "Honestly!"

3 Short-sleeved Hanes product

4 African linguistic group

5 "Carmina Burana" composer Carl

6 In fashion

7 Car part, in Britain

8 Improve on

9 Villa ___ (estate near Rome)

10 Bavarian title

11 Common breed for guide dogs

12 It may be essential (but isn't actually essential)

13 Paper layer

21 Winfrey in "A Wrinkle in Time"

22 Bubble wrap component

26 "The ___ Movie 2" (February 2019 release)

27 Low-grade

30 Former Yankee nickname

31 Haleakala locale

32 Tough puzzle

34 Grand Ole ___

35 Shoelace issue

36 Regimen with a high-fat focus

37 Key with four sharps, for short

39 "Phineas and ___"

40 Ice skating jump

41 Where you may have had it?

42 From Basra, perhaps

46 May preceder (abbr.)

48 Napoli's nation

49 Like most customers

50 Former Arsenal manager Wenger whose nickname is "Le Professeur"

53 Gwyneth Paltrow's daughter

54 1930s DuPont fabric invention

56 First presidential surname to appear twice

58 Molecular unit

59 Playwright Moss or lyricist Lorenz

60 Not again?

61 "All in the Family" producer Norman

62 Opening word of "Monty Python's Flying Circus" episodes

63 Grumpy ___ (Internet celebrity with the real name Tardar Sauce)

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Answers Page 24

SUDOKU

Intermediate

							3	6
	5			7		1		
2		8						5
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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

Aries (March 21-April 19):

Libra (September 23-October 22):

Taurus(April 20-May 20):

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

Leo (July 23-August 22):

Virgo (August 23-September 22):

Pisces (February 19-March 20):

Aries (March 21-April 19): "Consumer Reports" says that between 1975 and 2008, the average number of products for sale in a supermarket rose from about 9,000 to nearly 47,000. The glut is holding steady. Years ago you selected from among three or four brands of soup and shampoo. Nowadays you may be faced with twenty varieties of each. I suspect that 2019 will bring a comparable expansion in some of your life choices, Aries—especially when you're deciding what to do with your future and who your allies should be. This could be both a problem and a blessing. For best results, opt for choices that have all three of these qualities: fun, usefulness, and meaningfulness.

Taurus(April 20-May 20): People have been trying to convert ordinary metals into gold since at least 300 AD. At that time, an Egyptian alchemist named Zosimos of Panopolis unsuccessfully mixed sulfur and mercury in the hope of performing such magic. Fourteen centuries later, seminal scientist Isaac Newton also failed in his efforts to produce gold from cheap metal. But now let's fast forward to twentieth-century chemist Glenn T. Seaborg, a distinguished researcher who won a share of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1951. He and his team did an experiment with bismuth, an element that's immediately adjacent to lead on the periodical table. By using a particle accelerator, they literally transmuted a small quantity of bismuth into gold. I propose that we make this your teaching story for 2019. May it inspire you to seek transformations that have never before been possible.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): United States President Donald Trump wants to build a concrete and fenced wall between Mexico and America, hoping to slow down the flow of immigrants across the border. Meanwhile, twelve Northern African countries are collaborating to build a 4,750-mile-long wall of drought-resistant trees at the border of the Sahara, hoping to stop the desert from swallowing up farmland. During the coming year, I'll be rooting for you to draw inspiration from the latter, not the former. Erecting new boundaries will be healthy for you—if it's done out of love and for the sake of your health, not out of fear and divisiveness.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Cancerian poet and filmmaker Jean Cocteau advised artists to notice the aspects of their work that critics didn't like—and then cultivate those precise aspects. He regarded the disparaged or misconstrued elements as being key to an artist's uniqueness and originality, even if they were as-yet immature. I'm expanding his suggestion and applying it to all of you Crabs during the next ten months, even if you're not strictly an artist. Watch carefully what your community seems to misunderstand about the new trends you're pursuing, and work hard to ripen them.

Leo (July 23-August 22): In 1891, a 29-year-old British mother named Constance Garnett decided she would study the Russian language and become a translator. She learned fast. During the next forty years, she produced English translations of 71 Russian literary books, including works by Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Turgenev, and Chekhov. Many had never before been rendered in English. I see 2019 as a Constance Garnett-type year for you, Leo. Any late-blooming potential you might possess could enter a period of rapid maturation. Awash in enthusiasm and ambition, you'll have the power to launch a new phase of development that could animate and motivate you for a long time.

Virgo (August 23-September 22): I'll be bold and predict that 2019 will be a nurturing chapter in your story; a time when you will feel loved and supported to a greater degree than usual; a phase when you will be more at home in your body and more at peace with your fate than you have in a long time. I have chosen an appropriate blessing to bestow upon you, written by the poet Claire Wahmanholm. Speak her words as if they were your own. "On Earth I am held, honeysuckled not just by honeysuckle but by everything—marigolds, bog after bog of small sundews, the cold smell of spruce.

Libra (September 23-October 22): "Be very, very careful what you put into that head, because you will never, ever get it out." This advice is sometimes attributed to sixteenth-century politician and cardinal Thomas Wolsey. Now I'm offering it to you as one of your important themes in 2019. Here's how you can best take it to heart. First, be extremely discerning about what ideas, theories, and opinions you allow to flow into your imagination. Make sure they're based on objective facts and make sure they're good for you. Second, be aggressive about purging old ideas, theories, and opinions from your head, especially if they're outmoded, unfounded, or toxic.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21): Memorize this quote by author Peter Newton and keep it close to your awareness during the coming months: "No remorse. No if-onlys. Just the alertness of being." Here's another useful maxim, this one from author Mignon McLaughlin: "Every day of our lives we are on the verge of making those slight changes that would make all the difference." Shall we make it a lucky three mottoes to live by in 2019? This one's by author A. A. Milne: "You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): Until 1920, most American women didn't have the right to vote. For that matter, few had ever been candidates for public office. There were exceptions. In 1866, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the first to seek a seat in Congress. In 1875, Victoria Woodhull ran for president. Susanna Salter became the first woman mayor in 1887. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, Sagittarius, 2019 will be a Stanton-Woodhull-Salter type of year for you. You're likely to be ahead of your time and primed to innovate. You'll have the courage and resourcefulness necessary to try seemingly unlikely and unprecedented feats, and you'll have a knack for ushering the future into the present.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19): Studies show that the best possible solution to the problem of homelessness is to provide cheap or free living spaces for the homeless. Not only is it the most effective way of helping the people involved; in the long run, it's also the least expensive. Is there a comparable problem in your personal life? A chronic difficulty that you keep putting band-aids on but that never gets much better? I'm happy to inform you that 2019 will be a favorable time to dig down to find deeper, more fundamental solutions; to finally fix a troublesome issue rather than just addressing its symptoms.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18): Many people in Iceland write poems, but only a few publish them. There's even a term for those who put their creations away in a drawer rather than seeking an audience: "skúffuskáld", literally translated as "drawer-poet." Is there a comparable phenomenon in your life, Aquarius? Do you produce some good thing but never share it? Is there a part of you that you're proud of but keep secret? Is there an aspect of your ongoing adventures that's meaningful but mostly private? If so, 2019 will be the year you might want to change your mind about it.

Pisces (February 19-March 20): Scientists at Goldsmiths University in London did a study to determine the catchiest pop song ever recorded. After extensive research in which they evaluated an array of factors, they decided that Queen's "We Are the Champions" is the song that more people love to sing than any other. This triumphant tune happens to be your theme song in 2019. I suggest you learn the lyrics and melody, and sing it once every day. It should help you build on the natural confidence-building influences that will be streaming into your life.

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

FRIDAY DEC. 21, SATURDAY DEC. 22, SUNDAY DEC. 23 >> HOLIDAY CABARET

Directed by Meghan Eldred-Woolsey, "Holiday Cabaret" features Riverwalk Theatre volunteers performing holiday classics accompanied by the John Dale Smith Trio and dancers from Karyn's Dance Place.

Fri. and Sat. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 3 p.m., \$15, Riverwalk Theatre 228 Museum Dr., Lansing (517) 482-5700, www.riverwalktheatre.com



SATURDAY DEC. 22 >> HOLIDAY TEA AT THE STATE ROOM



Fight off Jack Frost with a selection of teas at the State Room. Attendees will taste Tazo teas paired with a specialty three course small plate selection curated by State Room chefs.

2 to 4 p.m., \$25, State Room Restaurant, 219 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing (517) 432-5049, www.kelloggcenter.com/stateroomrestaurant

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

P	I	B	B		O	C	T	A	D		F	L	O	P
A	S	E	A		R	H	Y	M	E		R	A	I	L
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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

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December 1 - 22

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



HE ATE

SHE ATE



Old Nation Brewing Co.

Creative bar food and ambiance at Williamston brewery

By **MARK NIXON**

Hunkered on the western fringe of Williamston, Old Nation Brewing Co. could easily be mistaken for a warehouse. Its massive slate-gray exterior is bleak; made bleaker by a pothole-studded parking lot.

When I was told the building used to be Williamston's police station, I nodded in understanding. Yep, it has all the trappings of soulless institutional architecture.

What a surprise, then, when I walked through the door. The place was alive, festive and full of good cheer. On our first visit, a Friday, we arrived well before 5 p.m. By the time we ordered our meals, a long line snaked across part of the dining room as people waited for open tables.

As its name implies, Old Nation's stock-in-trade is the wide selection of beers and ales brewed on site. If beer is not your go-to adult beverage, your choices are limited. Liquor is not an option, and there is some confusion about the wine. I was told they served no wine, yet I found it on Old Nation's online menu.

For me, beer was just fine. I like beer, to quote U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Come to think of it, wasn't that one of the weirdest things to come out of the mouth of a Supreme Court nominee in a confirmation hearing?

OK, back to the beer. The list of choices is prodigious. If you're not sure, I recommend getting a flight of five different brews — \$7-\$10 for a flight, depending on your choices. I prefer stouts and porters, and so my favorite at Old Nation was Electron Brown. There's a depth and richness to dark beers that I find lacking in the IPAs and many ales.

Kudos to those in charge of naming the brews; Detroit Dwarf, Boss Tweed, Brother Pius and Ten Penny Bit are just a few of the creative names. The most popular beer at Old Nation is M-43, named after the highway — AKA Grand River Avenue — that runs past the brew pub.

With all the attention paid to the beer, you might expect the pub fare would be an afterthought. I was pleasantly surprised at how creative the fare is at Old Nation — and how generous the portions are.

My favorite taste during two visits was the Pig Stacked Burger (\$16) — a beef burger topped with pulled pork, ham, bacon, Swiss and American cheeses, barbecue sauce and “frizzled” onions. Just reciting that makes me want to check in with my cardiologist.

Regardless, the burger was cooked medi-

Burgers and wraps on point, other dishes could use improvement

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

In the paraphrased words of governor-elect Gretchen Whitmer, fix the damn parking lot! I have oodles of thoughts to share about the food at Old Nation Brewing Co., but I would be remiss if I didn't

Our first visit to Old Nation, a weekend brunch date with friends, started with cheese curds and fried green beans. Both were lightly battered — always my preference when dealing with a fried food — and were a welcome, upscale twist on what I lovingly call “carnie food.”

As the gentlemen debated the merits, and tastes, of beermosas and Bloody Marys, I hemmed and hawed over my order. A welcome phenomenon confronts me when I look at the Old Nation menu —there are so many items that I want to try that it is hard to finalize my order.

I eventually decided upon the squash hash, although it breaks one of my restaurant rules in that it is very similar to something that I would make at home. I generally try to order things that I can't or won't make myself, but I was in the mood for a savory, breakfasty item with eggs and this perfectly fit the bill. Chunks of butternut squash were tossed with crumbled pork sausage, spinach, onion and topped with two over-easy eggs and a sprinkle of fresh herbs.

This dish won't win any innovation awards, but it doesn't need to. The seasonings were on point, the egg yolks begged to be pierced with the tines of my fork, and I was a happy eater. The accompanying side-salad was nothing to write home about and was filled with low-rent shredded cheese and limp greens.

Mr. She Ate threw me for a loop and ordered the tender basket, six big chicken tenders served with tater coins. This, unfortunately, was actual carnie food. The breading was overwhelming and the flavors were milquetoast.

One of our companions won the ordering competition of the morning with his avocado steakhouse burger. A thick, juicy burger patty was topped with sautéed onions, peppers and mushrooms blanketed with Swiss cheese.

The other side of the bun was laden with crisp lettuce, red onion, tomato and several perfectly ripe slices of avocado. I snagged a bite after my mouth started watering and stared him down in envy for the remainder



Gabrielle Lawrence/City Pulse

Squash hash from Old Nation Brewing Co.

um, as requested. Our friend, Bruce, dined with us on our second visit and he echoed my thoughts. “It's damn difficult to get a burger cooked the way I like

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He ate

from page 25

them ... medium. The cook at Old Nation nailed it."

The second best food item I tasted at Old Nation was the house-made chili (\$3.50 for a cup). It was a bit spicier than I had hoped for, but the smokiness (smoked paprika?) tamed the spice and added a layer of richness.

Judy informed me that tater tots are the latest pub fad. I gave an eye roll, but she persisted, to quote ol' Pinched-mouth Mitch McConnell, and proceeded to order BBQ Pulled Pork Tots (\$11). OK, I was wrong. They were actually pretty good, dabbed with a smoky sour cream and barbecue sauce. We had the leftovers for breakfast the next morning.

The enormous portion of Mac and Cheese with blackened chicken (\$16) was well above

average. To make it better, I'd recommend using a sharper cheese as part of the blend, and then broil or pan fry it to create a crisp, brown exterior.

One of the great, positive changes to the Lansing area's restaurant scene is the interior artistry. Those of a certain age (like me) remember restaurant interiors that might have been purchased at a dollar store.

These days, ambience is given a co-starring role with the bill of fare. Old Nation certainly gets that. Bar taps adorn a faux wooden beer keg protruding from behind the bar. A wooden clock nearby has Old Nation carved into it. On one wall is a 3-dimensional sign — Old Nation Brewing Co. — made from stainless steel pipes and fittings. The pieces appear to be extra parts from the working brewery apparatus, which can be viewed through a dining room window.

The only thing I would change is to — paraphrasing our new governor-elect — fix the damn potholes.



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She ate

from page 25

of the meal. It got awkward.

On our return visit, Mr. She Ate and I again struggled to narrow down our order. We finally chose a half order of the poutine, a dish that was invented in Montreal and includes French fries traditionally topped with gravy, cheese and an egg or two. This was garden-variety poutine, the gravy needed more seasoning and the fries were too thin to stand up to the thickness of the sauce.

Although I don't generally prefer to order a wrap, I do prefer anything with "spicy feta" in the description. So, accordingly, I chose the spicy feta wrap with a side of fried brussels sprouts with parmesan cheese. The wrap was stuffed with grilled chicken, lettuce, tomato, onion and a non-offensively spicy feta sauce, and I wisely packed up half to take home while I turned my attention to



Gabrielle Lawrence/City Pulse

Poutine from Old Nation Brewing Co.

the brussels sprouts. These were sliced and fried until crisp, then topped with a few shavings of tangy parmesan cheese. Again, something that I make at home regularly, but also something that I can rarely resist.

Mr. She Ate had the black and bleu steak wrap and had to treat himself to two sides, the broccoli with beer cheese sauce and house made salt and vinegar potato chips. The wrap was more than serviceable, he said, with the steak prepared to order. The chips were a unique house special – and my man is a huge fan of unique house special items – and were thick-cut and especially tangy. The broccoli, however, was a miss. The cheese sauce should have had more punch to it, but the fatal flaw was the pool of water gathered in the bottom of the dish. Waterlogged steamed broccoli might be good for babies – and Baby She Ate did indeed gobble down a few pieces, all the better for a newly one-year-old boy – but most of it remained in the dish.

Notably, our service on both visits was refreshingly attentive and, for lack of a better word, normal. We didn't have to get in the car and ask each other "why did she ask



Gabrielle Lawrence/City Pulse

Black and bleu steak wrap with broccoli with beer cheese sauce and house made salt and vinegar potato chips from Old Nation Brewing Co.

you how you want your chicken cooked," or something else that makes no sense. We were promptly given high chairs when we asked for them, and aside from the inclusion of a tomato on Mr. She Ate's wrap when it was requested that the kitchen jet-

tison the offending tomato, everything we ordered was correct. This may not seem like it deserves mention, but fresh from a lunch where the server bowed while she presented me with a glass of water and referred to me as "M'lady," it made me happy.



Gabrielle Lawrence/City Pulse

Spicy feta chicken wrap from Old Nation Brewing Co.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Green Peak Industries, LLC d/b/a Green Peak Innovations for Special Use Permit approval for the property at 3318-3332 West Road. The applicant is requesting approval to construct a new building for a medical marijuana provisioning center. The property is zoned B-4, Restricted Office Business.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from JBC, LLC for Special Use Permit approval for the property at 1415 Michigan Avenue. The applicant is requesting approval to demolish the main building and remodel the existing smaller structure for a medical marijuana provisioning center. The property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from DNVK 1, LLC for Special Use Permit approval for the property at 1054 East Grand River Avenue. The applicant is requesting approval to remodel the existing building for a medical marijuana provisioning center. The property is zoned EV, East Village.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from DNVK 1, LLC for Special Use Permit approval for the property at 1100 East Grand River Avenue. The applicant is requesting approval to remodel the existing building for a medical marijuana provisioning center. The property is zoned EV, East Village.
5. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from RJB Enterprises, LLC for Special Use Permit approval for the property at 1950 Merritt Road. The applicant is requesting approval to transition the existing building for a medical marijuana provisioning center. The property is zoned B-1, General Office Business.
6. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1445, an Ordinance to amend Section 50-38 of Article II – Administration and Enforcement – of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code Of the City of East Lansing and to add Section 50-821 to Article VIII – Off Street Parking Requirements – to Chapter 50 – Zoning – to establish requirements to provide for charging stations for electric vehicles.

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

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

Dated: December 13, 2018
East Lansing, MI 48823

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