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December 5 - 11, 2018

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...1968



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- N-East Services LLC. (Old 27 Wellness), 2905 N. East St.*

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MSU prexy search lacking

I am a proud graduate of Michigan State University (James Madison College, 1972). And, my respect and support for this great university is unwavering in spite of lapses, mistakes, and setbacks, because I know that MSU always strives to improve and to be better, and to be a positive and progressive leader in every respect. The MSU website proudly states "At MSU, we believe our differences are our strength. Diversity is power. Building inclusive communities is at the core of our values." No one can legitimately argue against the value and importance of diversity, and it makes sense that MSU embraces this important guiding principle. So, how is it that the 19 member selection committee for a new president lacks any representation from the Latino community, (i.e. Chicano, Latino, Hispanic...). This contradicts the statements made in forming the committee that it would be "inclusive, diverse and representative of the broader MSU stakeholders". I cannot dispute the qualifications of the individuals currently on this important committee. But,

there are many very well qualified and distinguished Latino faculty members and administrators at MSU, men and women that would be excellent resources to this process. Just as there are many capable Latino business, professional and political leaders, as well as many Latino advocacy organizations, throughout this great state, that can provide meaningful and important input to this process. And, from a credibility standpoint, having Latino representation is even more critical in light of the committee's decision to keep its deliberations closed to the public. Latinos deserve and should expect a seat at this table. If this is just an oversight, it can and should be corrected immediately. Otherwise, it seems to me, it is a mistake that we may all suffer from for a long time. MSU can and must do better. Please do not make this a lost opportunity!

Santiago Rios
(The writer is the founding chairman of the Capitol Area Cesar E. Chavez Commission.)

CityPULSE

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Stober family gifts CADL with Lansing memorabilia

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The man behind the fish

**PAGE
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Come and see "The Wild Party"

**PAGE
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**Cover
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Design by Abby Sumbler

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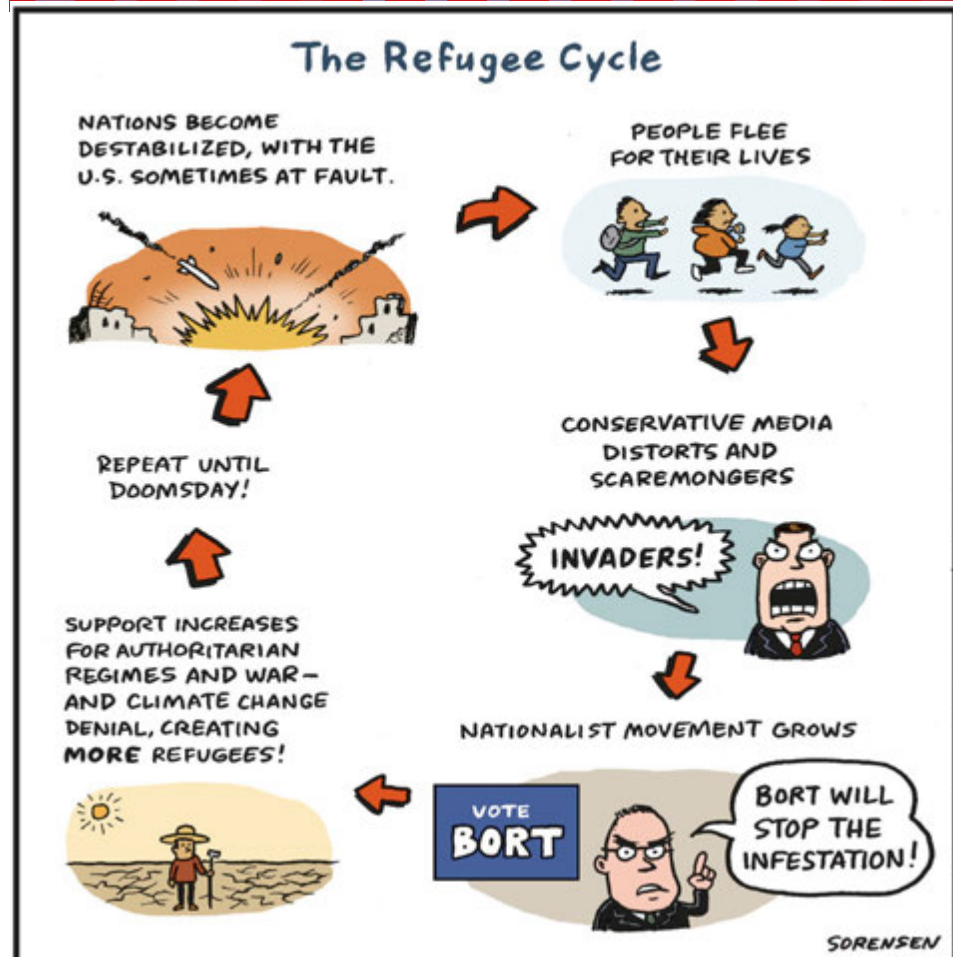
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2.) Write a guest column:

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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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THERE WAS NO COLLUSION! THE WITCH HUNT IS AN INVESTIGATION IN SEARCH OF A CRIME THAT DOES NOT EXIST! IT'S TRUE BECAUSE I SAY IT'S TRUE!

UH, SIR--PSST PSST MUELLER PSST PSST COHEN PSST PSST

OKAY, THERE WAS SOME COLLUSION! WAS I SUPPOSED TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT EVERYTHING, JUST BECAUSE I WAS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT? WHAT KIND OF MORON WOULD DO THAT?

BUT COHEN IS WEAK! HE'S A NO GOOD LYING SNITCH! UNLIKE MANAFORT, A REAL STAND-UP GUY WHO COULD TOTALLY GET A PARDON IF HE KEEPS HIS MOUTH SHUT! THAT IS JUST WHAT I HEARD!

ANYWAY I NEVER SAID THERE WAS NO COLLUSION! WHERE DID ANYONE EVER GET THAT IDEA? THAT'S FAKE NEWS! OF COURSE THERE WAS COLLUSION! I'VE SAID SO ALL ALONG!

AND COLLUSION IS GOOD, ACTUALLY! THE PRESIDENT CAN COLLUDE WITH ANYONE HE WANTS, EVEN BEFORE HE IS PRESIDENT! IT'S IN THE CONSTITUTION, I THINK! OR AT LEAST, IT SHOULD BE!

I THINK THAT WENT VERY WELL.

ER--YES SIR! EVERYONE SEEMS EXTREMELY PERSUADED, SIR!

© 2018 TOM TOMORROW

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

State to consider Lansing pot licenses

City clears way for final approval

Friday could finally be it for up to 10 medical marijuana dispensaries provisionally licensed by the City of Lansing last week.

That's the day that the state Medical Marihuana Commission is expected to consider final licensing for one or more local dispensaries, a source said. Which ones will not be known until the commission publishes its agenda Thursday.

City Clerk Chris Swope said the long-awaited batch of local approvals — coming more than a year after the process started — ultimately allows applicants to pursue state licensing, will enhance patient access to medicinal bud and served as “definitely a relief” for him and his office.

“It just feels good to be able to move forward with the process,” Swope added.

But it's difficult to know with certainty if the licensing system is working as intended until operations get up and running, he emphasized. The ordinance-limited licensing cap on 20 provisioning centers has created a “competitive situation,” he said, that has caused some unexpected delays in the entire process.

“People who might have otherwise been qualified — but maybe not the best qualified — didn't end up with licenses. We're just working with what we've been given,” Swope

said, noting city ordinances largely dictate the regulatory scheme. “It's been an amazing amount of work. Luckily, I have a great staff to help us get through it.”

The 10 recently licensed dispensaries are allowed to operate, but only at the discretion of Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, which is barred from mandating any licensing deadlines under an order from the state Court of Claims.

Included on the list are four dispensaries that have been temporarily operating for months. Five more are vacant storefronts. Another has been “temporarily” closed for weeks for renovations. None have yet been considered for a license by the state, but Swope said his conditional go-ahead opens the door for the upcoming opportunity.

The 10 applicants recently granted local, conditional approval are:

- AEY Holdings LLC. (KIN) at 3425 S Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- Altum LLC. (Altum Provisions) at 5829 Executive Dr. (Suite A)
- Apex Ultra LLC. (Bazonzoes) at 2101 W. Willow St. (Suite A)
- Better Than Nature LLC. at 820 W. Miller St. (Suite A)
- Capital City LLC. (The Lansing Botanical Co.) at 3525 Capital City Blvd.
- CSHM Services LLC. (Cornerstone Wellness) at 3316 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- Edgewood Wellness LLC. at 134 E. Edgewood Blvd.

• HG Lansing LLC. (Homegrown Lansing) at 1116 E. Oakland Ave.

• HQ3 Enterprises (Pure Options) at 5815 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

• N-East Services LLC. (Old 27 Wellness) at 2905 N. East St.

Of those, Edgewood Wellness, Homegrown Lansing, Pure Options and Old 27 Wellness are open for business.

“It's obviously a good thing that Lansing has finally issued some licenses,” added Jeffrey Hank, an attorney and medical marijuana advocate. “It's still not really clear to me how these top businesses were selected. It's kind of odd that a vacant building would be selected over other businesses that have been around here for years.”

Swope maintained the 10 selected entrepreneurs had scored among the highest on a largely confidential, 100-point scoring metric. An emphasis was also placed on those who provided the largest economic benefit in terms of jobs and citywide investment, as well as those who worked to minimize any potential negative impacts.

Those scores have been made legislatively exempt from Michigan's Freedom of Information Act.

Hank also called for the city to raise the cap on the number of dispensaries that will eventually be allowed within the city. The city's Medical Marihuana Commission also urged City Council to do so in October. They haven't taken action. Officials have said no changes will be made until all licenses are awarded.

Twenty will be licensed in the first round. Swope couldn't offer a timeframe for when the remaining 10 licenses will be awarded but suggested a few more shops could possibly receive the city's greenlight before the end of the year.

Five more will receive licenses next year. Applications for the next round will be accepted in February.

“If the goal is uninterrupted patient access, they need to get as many operating storefronts up and running as soon as possible,” Hank suggested, noting as many as 30 dispensaries should eventually set up shop in Lansing.

The ten shops are set to hire 1,444 people and invest \$51.5 million locally, Swope said. He wasn't able to provide documentation to verify those figures, citing privacy laws that protect the release of applicants' proprietary information. He also noted those totals include the entire scope of their business plans — not just dispensaries.

“I believe that selecting these 10 applicants is the best decision for the city,” Swope said, noting applicants still need occupancy certificates before licensure. “It is a balance between the needs of patients to ensure continuity of services within the city, the requirements of the state and the appeals process set by the ordinance.”

A few local marijuana dispensaries that missed the first round of licensing, however, continue to temporarily operate within the city while they await a more permanent ruling from a state judge. And they'll be permitted to do so until at least the end of the year

See Licenses, Page 6

Legal battles continue for dispensary licenses

Lansing defends regulations amid multiple lawsuits

For Tom Mayes Lansing's medical marijuana licensing process is a live-action “nightmare.”

Mayes, 37, has owned and operated Greenwave Provisioning Center for more than two years. It occupied one of potdom's most prominent locations in Lansing, at the intersection of Oakland Avenue and Cedar Street. The bustling shop was known for its wide selection, professional service and potent bud. Mayes said his staff did everything by the books. The parking lot was usually crowded.

But as of last month, the dispensary is no longer in business. Mayes' 200 to 300 daily customers have been forced to look elsewhere for their medicine after city officials denied Greenwave's license and ordered it closed.



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Mayes stands outside his temporarily closed storefront.

“It's a nightmare for us and our former employees,” Mayes said. “This whole process is just horrible in terms of the ramifications of being denied.”

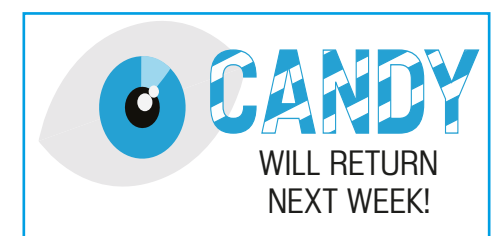
But Mayes has not quit. He filed a lawsuit against Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope last month after city officials ordered Greenwave to close its doors.

The litigation marks at least the fifth in a protracted series of court battles the city has faced since it enacted a controversial regulatory scheme geared to license the creme of the marijuana crop.

As 10 dispensaries in Lansing receive the first batch of conditional licenses from the city, litigation continues over which shops will eventually have a chance to nab the remaining licenses allowed under city ordinances.

The City Council allows for 25 dispensaries within city limits. Ten licenses were issued last week. Ten more this year have yet to be doled out. Five more dispensaries are set to be licensed in another round of applications

See Lawsuits, Page 6



Lawsuits

from page 5

next year. And City Clerk Chris Swope said lawsuits, at this point, are “inevitable.”

Greenwave, until its abrupt closure last month, had sold medical marijuana since 2016. It came as a shock to Mayes when the state’s Medical Marihuana Licensing Board denied his bid for prequalification, a preliminary step to eventually earning a state operating license. And state officials also didn’t offer much of an explanation.

Regulations regarding “personal and business probity” and “financial ability” to operate a medical marijuana facility were referenced by state officials, as was the “total amount of capitalization” needed to run the shop. Mayes denies the charges and has since filed for an investigative hearing that could overturn the decision.

But closer to home, city officials effectively ensured the business will remain closed while that appeal continues.

A notice from the city of Lansing arrived for Mayes the day after the state denied his license. The city was no longer considering Greenwave for local licensure because the state had turned it down for prequalification. Appeal or no appeal, Swope wanted the dispensary to close its doors immediately, court

records indicate.

Mayes quickly filed for court-ordered relief. His attorneys — who couldn’t be reached — argued Greenwave still had an “ample opportunity” to receive a license from the state on appeal. Forcing the shop to close would cause irreparable harm for the business and require Mayes to liquidate more than \$100,000 in products, records state.

“Besides losing money, we were serving at least 200 patients a day and I had 20 people employed,” Mayes said. “That’s what really hurts the most. Obviously, we’ll lose that customer loyalty and the retention will go way down. It’s impacting our business right now but it could hurt any potential for future business as well.”

Swope said failure to obtain a state license serves as grounds for denial but declined to elaborate further, citing the pending litigation. Deputy City Attorney Heather Sumner said she plans to ask a judge to dismiss Mayes’ case and contended city ordinances specifically allow for Swope to deny licenses on the basis of state decisions.

The portion of the ordinance she referenced, however, is only applicable to license revocation. Greenwave had yet to receive a license. Mayes contends the city prematurely denied his licensing bid and stood nothing to gain from forcing his shop to close. Both Swope and Sumner declined to elaborate further in response.

A hearing is scheduled for next month as the case continues in 30th Circuit Court.

“We took over a location that had been vacant for years. I’ve lived here my entire life,” Mayes added. “I don’t want to fight with anyone right now and push the wrong buttons, but once these appeals are exhausted, and if they do wind up having us close our doors, the gloves are coming off. This whole process has been horrible.”

Meanwhile, two other lawsuits filed against the city of Lansing also aim to ensure that would-be dispensaries have an adequate chance to earn one of the 10 remaining first-round licenses. Huron Wellness Solutions and Superior Wellness Solutions both filed a relatively similar pair of lawsuits against the city earlier this year.

Court records indicate their applications were filed in February and denied in March for an “inadequate” waste disposal plan. The businesses filed revised plans days later but was again denied in May after appealing the decision to the city’s Medical Marihuana Commission. And their attorneys think the city made a mistake.

The decision not to overturn the denial was “not supported by competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record,” according to the complaint. Sumner said the case will continue once the city has a chance to file a response to the lawsuit later this month. Calls to attorneys involved in that

case were not returned.

Seman Consulting Services also filed suit against the city earlier this year, but the case was dismissed in October. Attorney Jim Kelly argued Swope relied on a “whimsical” scoring methodology to deny a license to Green Crush, a would-be provisioning center along Pennsylvania Avenue that is currently pursuing a licensing appeal.

A judge had ruled the complaint as premature until Green Crush’s appeal had been exhausted.

Let Lansing Vote, a local marijuana advocacy group, also waged a legal battle for nearly a year against the city to challenge its medical marijuana ordinance before it abruptly withdrew its lawsuit in July without explanation. Sumner couldn’t think of any other lawsuits filed against the city over marijuana regulation.

Kelly maintained the city is putting itself and its taxpayers in a “terrible position” through its process to regulate medical marijuana and suggested his lawsuit could again return once Green Crush’s appeal had run its course. A request for legal costs incurred by the city during these cases was not made available by Tuesday afternoon.

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for previous and continued coverage on medical marijuana regulation.

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

Licenses

from page 5

following a recent deal between state officials and the city of Lansing.

Officials at the Department of Licensing

and Regulatory Affairs are court-ordered from imposing another shutdown deadline on temporary operating dispensaries. A spokesperson for the department confirmed that LARA will not take any enforcement action before Dec. 31, regardless of whether that order remains intact.

Only two local dispensaries — Greenwave Provisioning Center and Cannaisseur — have

been considered by the state for licensing. Greenwave was denied prequalification for its inadequate “personal and business probity,” according to the Medical Marihuana Licensing Board. The city also denied them for a license the next day.

Owner Tom Mayes rebutted the reasoning behind the denial and is actively working to appeal the decision. (See related story, P. 5.)

Cannaisseur, on the other hand, received pre-qualification status on Oct. 18. It was

not selected among the city’s top applicants and still remains on Swope’s “pending” list for licensing applications. Without a license, it could eventually be asked to close should officials at LARA decide to impose another shutdown deadline.

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for more detailed coverage on the state of the medical marijuana industry.

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Thursday, December 20, 2018** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider a variance request for the property located at 846 Touraine Avenue, in the R-1, Low Density Residential District from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

Section 50-301. – Minimum lot area. Minimum lot area in the R-1 zoning district is 8,000 square feet. The applicant is proposing to split the property into two parcels where one of the lots (“lot 94”) is proposed to have a lot area of less than the minimum required at 7,880 square 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: November 30, 2018
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#18-309

CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1438

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 50-593(B) OF DIVISION 4 – CITY CENTER COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, B-3 – OF ARTICLE VI – BUSINESS, OFFICE AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS – OF CHAPTER 50 – ZONING – OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING, TO ELIMINATE THE SETBACK REQUIREMENT IN THE B-3 ZONING DISTRICT FOR STRUCTURES ON GRAND RIVER AVENUE WEST OF M.A.C. AVENUE.

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1438 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at the regular meeting of the Council held on November 20, 2018, and will become effective upon the expiration of seven (7) days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1438

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Ordinance 1438 amends Section 50-593(b) of the Zoning Ordinance by changing the B-3, Center City Commercial, zoning district setback along Grand River from 22 feet to 20 feet.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1438 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

Dated: November 29, 2018
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#18-307

Belly up to the library

Gift from Stober family keeps local history alive

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

In 1941, a scared 15-year-old boy from East Prussia was shipped off to the icy horrors of World War II’s Russian front. To keep his spirits up, young Rudolph Stober sang as he marched.

Decades later, Rudy Stober put his singing talents to happier use, regaling the regulars at Stober’s Bar on East Michigan Avenue in downtown Lansing.

“He had the most beautiful voice,” Stober’s daughter, Linda, said. “He told me that when you’re a soldier, and you can’t hardly walk, singing really keeps you going.”

Stories about Rudy Stober and his wife, Heidi (short for Anheidl), are legion, and they will stay alive, thanks to a recent gift

in their name of \$35,000 to the Capital Area District Library’s Local History.

Linda Stober worked at her father’s bar for 33 years.

“After high school, I went there and just never left, and I don’t regret a single bit of it,” she said. “The people I knew, everything about it was wonderful.”

She took over the bar when her father died in 1996. (Her mother is still living at home at 93.) She sold Stober’s and retired about 15 years ago. Her husband, Greg Humbert, is responsible for many of the bar’s most striking features, including its restored stained glass frontage and a spectacular image of Merlin the magician over the bar.

“We did everything we could to inspire magic in there,” Stober said.

One afternoon a few years ago, she walked into the bar and asked after the

See Stober Page 8



Rudy Stober, second from right, was a mainstay of Lansing’s thriving softball leagues from the 1960s to the 1980s.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers
Trustees: Broughton, Harris, McKenzie, DeLay

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Agenda approved.
Approved the special assessment agreement in its substantial form and authorized the Supervisor and Clerk to sign on behalf of the Township.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#18-306

CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1440

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING USE DISTRICT MAP OF CHAPTER 50 – ZONING – OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1440 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at the regular meeting of the Council held on November 20, 2018, and will become effective upon the expiration of seven (7) days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1440

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Ordinance 1440 amends the Zoning Use District Map by rezoning 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 from A, Agricultural, to B-1, General Office Business.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1440 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

Dated: November 29, 2018
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#18-308

CRAIG MITCHELL SMITH

WWW.CRAIGMITCHELLSMITH.COM

“Thank you, Lansing for your seven years of support. I’ll be moving my studio to Charlevoix, Michigan soon. This will be my last Christmas in Lansing. Please join me for a one day holiday open house and sale on December 15th, from Noon-9PM at my studio.”

Refreshments will be provided. Also open by appointment from now through Christmas.

CRAIG MITCHELL SMITH GLASS STUDIO

1220 N. WASHINGTON AVE. LANSING MI 48906

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Stober

from page 7

whereabouts of some memorabilia she left behind, including the original “Rustic Village” sign (Stober’s first name) and some scrapbooks she had put together.

Nobody knew where they were.

Distraught, she went straight from the bar to the downtown library — perhaps the first time that route has been taken — where she had already entrusted some scrapbooks to local history librarian Heidi Butler.

Over the years, Linda Stober collected

all kinds of photos, documents and memorabilia, much of it from earlier owners. (A preserved log from the 1930s notes daily deliveries blocks of ice at 67 cents a pop.)

She was happy to see the scrapbooks were safe and sound at the library.

“I told Heidi that nobody cares about my stories,” Stober recalled. “She said, ‘I care.’ It made me want to do something to contribute to keeping it all safe.”

The \$35,000 gift will help Butler and library staff build up, organize and display materials relating not just to Stober, but to immigrants, small businesses and builders like him.

Butler said the Stober donation will help the library build a collection on communi-

ty sports, an area she has been hoping to move into for years.

In 1963, Stober bought the Rustic Village bar, which stayed in family hands for almost 50 years.

The clientele was mainly working class — milkmen, bakers and employees from nearby Oldsmobile, John Deere and the Adams Potato Chip Co.

“They greeted everyone and treated them as friends. They really cared, and I guess that’s why it lasted so long,” Stober said.

Heidi Stober opened the bar in the morning and was a mainstay in the business.

“She would come into the bar with pot loads of meatballs, homemade chili,” Stober said. “She had her own pickled egg recipe. His thing was building; she loved to feed people. They were a unit, and they left their mark in Lansing.”

As a highly skilled stonemason, Rudy Stober helped build many Lansing-area buildings, from parts of the Eckert Power Station to Dwight Rich Junior High School, for which he was project foreman.

Much of the Stober memorabilia recalls the heyday of softball leagues, a big part of Lansing life from the 1950s through the 1970s. Stober was a coach and sponsor of many teams and loved the camaraderie of the sport.

“He built buildings, but he built people, too,” Stober said. “He always tried to get people to be their very best self.” In the 1970s, manufacturing jobs dried up and

Michigan Avenue evolved into a seedy sin strip, but Stober hung on and welcomed everyone into the bar. He hung a disco ball and turned the piano bar into a disco to make ends meet.

“During the time when it was a sin strip, he befriended everybody who came in,” Stober said. “It was a neighborhood bar, and you can’t separate yourself from your neighbors. I learned from him to love everybody.”

Stober said the CADL donation was made in the same spirit of generosity.

CADL’s director, Scott Duimstra, said donations this generous are “very rare.”

“We were very glad to work with her,” Duimstra said.

“Our local history department is meant not just to tell the story of city departments, like the police, but also the life of the Lansing area.”

CADL’s local history collection is built overwhelmingly on donated materials. Butler said it’s “pretty rare” for the library to get funds to purchase archival collections.

“This gives us the opportunity to look for an estate where the material would fit,” she said.

The donation will also help Butler and her staff put materials into proper archival boxes and folders, scan them and make them accessible to researchers on the Internet. A new display case in local history room the will be devoted to Stober and the bar at first, and evolve into exhibits on small businesses, sports and other Stober-related topics.

“We’re not trying to be a museum down here, but we can highlight some of the artifacts that go with some of these research areas,” Butler said. The display won’t be limited to photos and documents. Watch for one of Rudy Stober’s loudest bowling shirts to materialize in an otherwise quiet room.

Linda Stober speaks almost as reverently about the library as she does when reminiscing about the bar.

“Libraries are invaluable,” she said. “They’re sacred. They tell us who we are and where we’ve been, for better or for worse.”



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CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1240

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to Amend Chapter 404, Section 404.01 to provide for the impoundment of vehicles or other transportation devices that are improperly parked or abandoned.

Effective date: Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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

CP#18-304

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, December 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance amending the City of Lansing, Michigan Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 872, Sections 872.01 through 872.07 to create licensing and regulation for dockless electric scooter companies to park on and utilize the public rights-of-way; to set licensing fees for such companies that wish to use the public rights-of-way; to provide for regulation of how such electric scooters may be parked and operated consistent with public health, safety, and welfare, including speed, manner, and location.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC
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CP#18-302



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CITY OF EAST LANSING 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular Meetings
City Hall, Courtroom #2, 7:00 p.m.

Discussion Only Meetings
City Hall Courtroom #2, 6:30 p.m.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. January 8 | 12. April 16 | 23. September 17 |
| 2. January 15 | 13. May 7 | 24. October 8 |
| 3. January 22 | 14. May 14 | 25. October 15 |
| 4. February 12 | 15. May 21 | 26. October 22 |
| 5. February 19 | 16. June 4 | 27. November 6 |
| 6. February 26 | 17. June 11 | 28. November 12 |
| 7. March 5 | 18. June 18 | 29. November 19 |
| 8. March 12 | 19. July 16 | 30. December 3 |
| 9. March 26 | 20. August 13 | 31. December 10 |
| 10. April 2 | 21. September 3 | 32. December 17 |
| 11. April 9 | 22. September 10 | |

CP#18-305

CityPULSE



LOCAL EXPERTS

JEWELRY

An Art Gallery with a Century of Rich History

When it was first constructed in 1897, an art nouveau structure reflecting the design aesthetic of the period was commissioned to be the Wreck Brothers’ Grocers in Old Town. This included a unique tin ceiling with intricate floral pattern work, which still stands today. It continued to be that way till 1929 when it became two different buildings after the archway dividing the space into two was sealed off. It was then George’s barbershop on one side through the mid-1990s, with the Red Liner Diner on the other side. Part of the structure along with the building next to it was a lingerie and t-shirt factory after that. Circa 2003, when we came into the space, it was primarily a framing shop but it has truly grown into its own since then. From hosting a grand piano along with 100 people and world-class chamber music to fundraising for various organizations and hosting all different kinds of artists including, kiln artists, wildlife photographers and art exhibits by people with disabilities, our gallery space has evolved to include everyone in our diverse artist community, along with their unique stories and their own little quirks! With a rich history and old school charm, our gallery, which is standing strong after 121 years, is here to stay and so are we.



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REAL ESTATE

Is the Market Cooling Off? Should I be Worried?

Yes, in fact the market is cooling off, or as I would rather suggest, “balancing out.” This re-balancing means we are entering a market that doesn’t necessarily favor a seller or buyer. We have experienced such a strong sellers’ market that a reduced demand from buyers is creating both more inventory and longer days on the market. It’s important to remember that investing in real estate needs to be approached with a long-term outlook. Market appreciation moving forward can be expected to be more even. It is likely that we have seen the increased/rapid appreciation from the market crash in 2008 now begin to stabilize. In looking at the overall North American market data, single-family luxury home prices have fallen as much as 5% from one month to the next. The buyers and sellers who are represented by agents who understand these variables and remain agile, innovative and adaptable to the local market influences. They will continue to make solid investments and sell their home at fair market value prices. Rather than say cooling off or getting worried, let’s focus on a change from Great to Good. As always, please feel free to contact me for further information on selling your house in this season.



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MEDICAL

Protect Your Family from Carbon Monoxide this Winter

It might sound intimidating at first but in reality, winter months can bring in more cases of carbon monoxide poisoning due to people using fireplaces, generators and furnaces. The colorless, odorless gas can build up in your house due to lack of ventilation. When there is excessive carbon monoxide present in the air, your body will replace the oxygen present in your red blood cells with carbon monoxide, this prevents oxygen from getting to your tissues and organs. Every year more than 4,000 people are hospitalized due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Symptoms include headaches, dizziness, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. Severe cases of poisoning can lead to loss of consciousness and can also be fatal. These symptoms overlap and intersect with many other common health problems, so you should contact your healthcare provider immediately for the next course of action. Everyone can be at risk from this but the most vulnerable group include people who have chronic heart diseases, breathing problems, asthma patients, the very young and very old. But prevention and monitoring will reduce rates of carbon monoxide complications. This can be done through carbon monoxide detectors which should be located in every bedroom and living space of your house. We at CIMA hope you folks are safe from carbon monoxide poisoning this winter and please contact us for any further information about all your healthcare needs.



CIMA
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MEDICAL

Precautions for a Chilly Winter

Winter in Michigan, specifically the chilly winds that accompany it, can be very harsh on your lungs. Cold air is often dry air, and this can wreak havoc for patients with chronic lung diseases, breathing-related illnesses and bronchial issues. The sudden change to very cold temperature experienced by most of the Midwest during late fall and early winter might impact your immune system adversely. Momentary exposure to extremely cold temperatures can also leave its mark, even when folks don’t think too much about it. Getting a chill can predispose a person to various respiratory infections including pneumonia. Prevention can be done effectively with something as simple as washing hands for 30 seconds or just long enough to sing “Happy Birthday” twice in your head! Home remedies like drinking hot water with ginger and honey can also be very effective this season. Herbal remedies like echinacea are now available over the counter for cold and flu. Hydration is also another simple measure folks should keep in mind along with increasing their intake of Vitamin C. Sufficient water intake can ensure that your mucus, which protects your lungs by trapping foreign particles in it remains thin. Using a humidifier at your home can also help ease your congestion and allow you to breathe better. Over the counter medication can also help when things get out of hand. As always, we at Central Pharmacy welcome folks to our business for all their healthcare needs.



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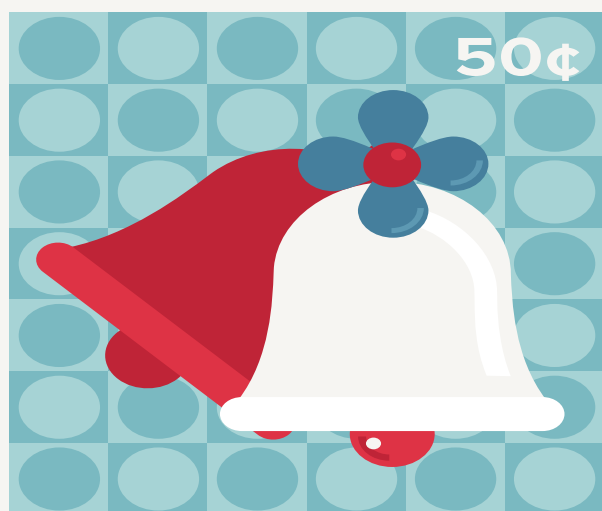
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County Court consolidation bill moving through Legislature

The districts courts in East Lansing, Lansing and Mason could consolidate into a single Ingham County-based 55th District Court under legislation that's swiftly moving through the Legislature in lame duck's closing days.

The latest version of Senate Minority Leader Sam Singh's HB 6344 moved through the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday afternoon and is slated to move to the floor this week.

Singh's bill doesn't mandate that courts be combined, but it does give the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, the city of East Lansing and city of Lansing the power to hammer out a deal before Nov. 1, 2019.

If the three governing bodies agree, the bill makes the consolidation official starting March 1, 2020. A new, eight-judge district court would be created with the hope of a new supercourt complex, according to Lansing Mayor Andy Schor and County Commissioner Todd Tennis.

If the move is made, all district judges would be elected countywide. Today, Lansing voters pick their 54A district judges, but have no say in those serving in 54B and the 55th courts. Under this law, all eight judges would run at large in Ingham County after eight years.

54A Judge Hugh Clarke is concerned getting rid of what is essentially community courts will create courtrooms that don't reflect the city's demographics.

Singh's new bill reads that any crime committed in Lansing and Lansing Township must be heard in front of a jury made up of Lansing and Lansing Township jurors. It's the same for East Lansing. Any crime committed in East Lansing must be heard in front of a jury made up of East Lansing jurors.

The 54A and 54B district courts operate out of the city halls in Lansing and East Lansing, respectively. The 55th District Court is run out of Mason.

The move is not unlike what other counties have done in the past. Tight budgets have fueled seven similar court consolidations in years past. For his part, Singh said he has been suggesting this move since 1999 when he sat on the East Lansing City Council.

City leaders have resisted until recently, when even East Lansing began feeling some fiscal strain. Lansing is all for it. They've wanted a new home for



the 54A District Court for years. Both Lansing and Ingham County have been digging under sofa cushions to balance their budgets since the Great Recession.

The existing court staff would be 55th District Court employees under the bill. The various governments would hammer out specific staffing details, but the general idea is that once some of the older staff retire, there's \$1 million in savings in combining courts.

While legislators are onboard with pushing through the framework, there are concerns.

Lansing City Councilmember Peter Spadafore said he favors the court consolidation discussion, but he's concerned the bill is "putting the cart before the horse."

He'd prefer the local governments work out an agreement on their own and then come to the Legislature to codify it into law. Spadafore is concerned that having the Legislature craft the bill first with certain perimeters could be too restrictive in the negotiating process.

Rep. Rosemary Robinson, D-Detroit, is concerned the bill will still create situations where certain demographics in Ingham County won't be represented in the judicial process.

Aaron Martinez from the Nichols Law Firm said after Tuesday's House Judiciary Committee that his firm had some concerns about the speed at which the bills seem to be moving. Singh said his bill has been in the hopper for six months, but Martinez said his team didn't know about this change until recently.

Bruce Timmons, a judicial policy watchdog who advised House Republicans on judicial matters for 40 years, said the bill should stagger the judicial terms so everyone is not up at the same time. Kalamazoo did this with its court consolidations in the late '90s, he said.

Timmons also said something needs to be done about making sure Lansing Township residents in Eaton County are able to both vote for the judges and be involved in the jury pool selection process. That's not made clear in the bill.

Whether these wrinkles are ironed out, the thrust behind the bill is that the Lansing area has a politically powerful legislator who won't be serving after the end of the month. Singh is in a position to push the consolidation discussions right now and all signs are that he's accomplishing that charge.

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

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The road not taken

'Paving the Way' looks at the impact of I496 on Lansing's black community

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It's not unusual to hear someone reminisce about the old neighborhood.

But there's something more than wistfulness in Kenneth Turner's voice when he talks about the blocks where he played as a kid.

Turner grew up on Lenawee Street, between Logan Street (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard) and Rulison Street, just southwest of downtown Lansing.

"I miss it so much. So much," he said, looking over old photos last week. "I miss the camaraderie. You knew everybody all up and down the street. Saturday mornings, you'd come out and people would be barbecuing."

Quick trips to the corner store, meals at neighbors' homes, the rush to get home when the streetlights came on — such memories are common to folks who grew up in the close-knit urban neighborhoods before malls and freeways.

But Turner's old neighborhood is different. It's been a ditch for 50 years.

Between 1963 and 1970, about 800 houses and businesses between Main Street (now Malcolm X) Street and St. Joseph Highway, a few blocks south of downtown, were wiped out at a stroke by the I496 freeway.

The freeway cut through the heart of Lansing's black community, from Friendship Church to the Tropicana Lounge, from Bob's Shoe Repair to Dr. William Harrison's office, from Kalush's Grocery to Clinton Canady's dental clinic.

There's nothing left even to mourn. These once-vibrant city blocks had no chance to gentrify or decay over time. You can't go back to the old house and marvel at how small it looks now, or lament that your favorite restaurant is a cell phone store.

Last week, Turner's friend, Adolph Burton,



(Above) Adolph Burton's family was one of about 30 who managed to move into their home (pictured here) before I496 went through. (Below) An undated, pre-freeway view of Logan Street, now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, as it threads north across Main Street and St. Joseph Highway, now service roads for I496.

started going through a cache of photos left behind by Burton's father, Frederick Richardson, a photographer for General Motors who died last year. Burton grew up in the neighborhood too.

The photos brought familiar faces and places to life.

"Dr. Harrison delivered most of the black people in Lansing," Burton said. "Dr. Canady pulled most of the teeth in the black community."

"Wright's Store had a Polish sausage sandwich that was incredible," Turner said. "Fred and Bill's had the chicken wing place. Stone's Pharmacy on St. Joe was five minutes from my house."

Why go through the old photos now? Because this story has not been fully told.

"Paving the Way," a major research project announced Friday by Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, will use a \$39,400 grant from the National Parks Service to gather and preserve the history of a lost neighborhood.

Turner and Burton had been researching the subject for years before joining forces with



If you have photos, documents or stories to tell about life in the neighborhood displaced by I496, contact the Historical Society of Greater Lansing at info@lansinghistory.org, call (517) 282-0671 or send a facebook message.

I-496

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“Paving the Way.” They are filming interviews with eyewitnesses to the area’s life and its demise.

Now the Historical Society of Greater Lansing is putting its full weight behind the project and the city is pitching in. A digital, interactive database of the lost neighborhood, house by house, is in the works. In a year or so, there will be an exhibit at the Michigan History Museum and traveling version that will go to schools and other places. A film documentary and other projects are also planned.

The call is out for anyone with memories to share, photos to scan or anything else to contribute.

“This is an effort to admit that they plowed right through an African-American community, forced them to move and it had real consequences,” Schor said after last week’s launch of the project at City Hall. “If we don’t talk about the history, we won’t learn from it.”

Temptations

If you didn’t know the name of a record you wanted, you went to Johnnie’s Record Shop, at 812 S. Logan, hummed the song to Johnnie and he’d come back with the wax.

“That’s where everybody went to go buy records,” Kenneth Turner mused. “Any music you wanted, Johnnie had it.” Turner was a die-hard Temptations fan. Period ads show that Johnnie’s carried everything from swing and big band to rock, soul and R&B, and it didn’t stop there.

“You could buy socks there, women’s hosiery, hair care products — Afro-sheen, combs, picks — all at the record store,” Turner said. “Johnnie’s was the iconic neighborhood business.”

Other record stores lasted long enough to die of old age (or the Internet). Johnnie’s died

young — T-boned by an Oldsmobile. In the 1960s, Johnnie’s became the field office for the state highway commission. The building still stands next to the freeway, alone in a sea of concrete, now home to a paint company. From this unlikely command center, engineers tore a neighborhood in half to build I-496, first known as the Oldsmobile Expressway.

The freeway girdles Lansing from west to

east, from Delta Township to MSU. From end to end, I-496 is 11.9 miles long, including the 3.4-mile “Pine Tree Connector” from Kalamazoo Street near East Lansing to I-96.

The project’s impact didn’t stop at raz-ing homes and displacing families. Some 35 streets were bisected and dead-ended. The results are still dramatic — streets that once wove the city together end abruptly in berms

See I-496, Page 15



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I-496

from page 13

and guardrails.

Despite the momentum of the interstate system in the 1960s, not building the expressway was an option. A proposed stretch of I-496, starting at Trowbridge Road, would have sliced through the heart of MSU, but then-President John Hannah had connections in high places. (President Dwight Eisenhower appointed Hannah as the first chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in 1957.)

Knowing the disruptive potential of the expressway, Hannah got on the phone to Washington, D.C., and stopped it. Ann Arbor avoided the fate of Lansing, Detroit and Grand Rapids by opting for a ring of bypasses.

But such restraint was the exception, not the rule, during the 1960s highway boom. For Lansing and most other American cities, the prospect of quick travel across town, not to mention dozens of construction jobs, on the federal dime, was too good to resist. The federal government paid for 90 percent of the \$42.6 million cost of I-496.

Self-sufficient

Jeffrey Horner, a senior lecturer in urban studies and planning at Wayne State University, has studied the effects of freeways that cut through Detroit's largely residential Black Bottom neighborhood and Paradise Valley, a mostly commercial district, east of the city's central business hub downtown.

"The I-496 expressway, much like I-375 in Detroit, went where it did because it was the most politically defenseless area, by far the most African-American district in the city," Horner said.

The pattern repeated itself around the country as the interstate highway system spread. In Tennessee, I-40 was routed through the flourishing Jefferson Street corridor, home to about 80 percent of Nashville's black-owned businesses. In Miami, I-95 and I-395 displaced about half the Overtown neighborhood, a thriving center of black life. In New Orleans, elevated Interstate 10 turned Claiborne Avenue, a bustling black district and center of Mardi Gras celebrations, into a deafening tunnel of automobile exhaust. Businesses and residents fled, leaving the street to decay and crime.

These problems don't stop when the freeway is finished. Freeways lower property values and keep marginal neighborhoods marginal, as anyone who ventures into the dead ends created by I-496 in Lansing can attest. Noise, pollution and the permanent problem of getting around town when you live next to a freeway all have a disproportionate impact on poorer residents.

Mixed legacy

There is still vigorous debate about the freeway's longer-term impact. Before I-496 sliced through Lansing, redlining and other forms of discrimination kept many African-Americans concentrated in defined neighborhoods like the one in the path of the highway.

As the freeway cut through the city, the black population dispersed into surrounding neighborhoods, especially the south and west



A house is torn down to make way for I-496.

sides, despite persistent discrimination. With the passage of the federal Fair Housing Act in 1968 and piecemeal local civil rights victories, the city's racial mix gradually changed.

In the 20 years after I-496 was completed,

See I-496, Page 16

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I-496

from page 15

the west side evolved into one of the city's most diverse and thriving neighborhoods. Starting with meetings in her living room, Lansing resident Ann Kron formed the city's first neighborhood association with a primary goal of fighting white flight, redlining and racism.

"We have one of the most diverse cities anywhere and we're proud of that," Schor said after Friday's project launch.

But Horner thinks the breakup of a black community and resulting diaspora was a mixed blessing at best.

"I'm not questioning that it's a good thing for Lansing to be integrated, but the loss of black districts and dispersal of the African-American community was also a loss," Horner said. "In Detroit, we not only lost people's homes, but a lot of the black-owned businesses. I'm not sure that this was necessarily a good thing."

Burton is among those who mourn the loss of the neighborhood carved up by I-496, and not just because he lived there.

"We were self-sufficient," he said. "Everything you needed was in walking distance — grocery stores, convenience stores, sporting goods, hardware, Laundromats, pharmacies."

One person's ghetto is, to another observer, a base for building economic self-sufficiency in an otherwise beleaguered community.

"Whether it's a black, Jewish or Hispanic community, when you disperse, you don't have any wealth or power base," Horner said.

"Cities are complicated as hell. That's what



A committee of local clergy helped residents find new homes.

I tell my students."

"Paving the Way" will also look at the connection between the juggernaut of I-496 and civil disturbances that tore through Lansing in 1966, centering on the near west side area affected by the freeway.

"The freeway led to a lot of issues and ill will," Schor said. "It was happening at the height of the Civil Rights movement and inspired the emergence of a new generation of leadership and activism that changed Lansing for the better."

Lately, Schor has been reading about the titanic struggle between New York's über-planner Robert Moses and activist giant-killer Jane Jacobs, author of "The Life and Death of American Cities." Jacobs tirelessly fought the projects and superhighways

that wiped out whole neighborhoods, and won some major battles.

"Moses provided the infrastructure to move people, to get to a city of 7 or 8 million people, but he also created massive concrete jungles, took out parks and houses," Schor said.

Black removal

The damage done by grand social engineering projects of the 1960s and 1970s, particularly the loss of black neighborhoods to urban renewal projects and freeways, has yet to be fully assessed.

Horner said today's urban planners have taken these hard lessons to heart.

"Everyone is getting the importance of community now," Horner said. "That whole thread is coming from the slowdown of sub-

urban growth."

Many of Horner's students loathe the isolation of the suburbs and want to live where they don't need a car. They long for walkable, close-knit neighborhoods like Lansing's lost I-496 enclave.

"It's really changing fast, at least in Detroit," Horner said. "Local community building is something that's been lost, starting with the building of all these freeways."

As "Paving the Way" assembles a mosaic of a lost Lansing neighborhood, the result will be a cautionary case study as well as a proud reclamation of black history.

Burton and Turner are only starting the interview project, but it's already bearing fruit. Last week, they caught up with another former Lansing resident, Robert Joe Williams, who was director of the Capital City Anti-Poverty Program and lived on the 1600 block of West St. Joseph Highway in the 1960s.

If the Williams interview is any indication, "Paving the Way" will bring out a lot of untold stories from the civil rights era and beyond. In the 1970s, Williams recalled, he and two business partners went to a bank for a loan to start a radio station, using a tower in Dimondale. The bank manager told them they looked like solid candidates for a loan. (All three owned their own homes and worked for the state of Michigan.)

"Just don't play any of that jungle music," the bank manager told the men.

"We went to another bank," Williams said.

To jog Williams' memory about 496, Burton and Turner started talking about their old haunts. Williams beamed at the names — Matthew's Restaurant, Johnnie's Records, Friendship Church.

"I remember all of those," Williams said. "And vintage homes, beautiful homes."

Many of the houses lost to the freeway were very well built, in the style of the older existing west side houses, Burton said.

"They had hardwood floors, spiral staircases — just beautiful," Burton said.

"It was almost like kicking us out," Williams said. "This was a common practice in a number of black communities."

Williams came to Lansing from Tulsa, Oklahoma, where "Black Wall Street," a thriving African-American community, was similarly scarred by urban renewal projects, including an expressway loop, in the 1970s.

"This wasn't by accident," Williams said. "Black removal is what it's called."

Turner grew thoughtful. Sharing memories with Burton and Williams was sweet, but for all three of them, the walk down memory lane came to an uncomfortable dead end.

"I asked my mom last week if the highway hadn't come through, would she still be living on Lenawee Street," Turner said. "She said, 'No question, yes.'"

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ARTS & CULTURE

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Meet Antonio Comas, the genius fish breeder of Preuss Pets

By SKYLER ASHLEY

It's almost as if Preuss Pets is a zoo instead of a pet store. A few steps in and you're drawn into a swirl of aquariums, terrariums and pens. But what's particularly fascinating is what's occupying those aquariums. Your eyes are treated to a visual feast of beautiful aquatic creatures, which very few shops can rival.

Newcomers to Preuss Pets and longtime customers alike share the same question: How do they do it? Enter Antonio Comas, the 64-year-old Cuban biologist, fish breeder and the veritable aquatic mastermind of Preuss Pets. He's rarely seen in the storefront, instead occupying his own laboratory behind closed doors in the back.

Comas' passion for fish breeding is difficult to overstate. He didn't even pause for an interview — he intently tinkered with his tanks as the conversation with City Pulse went on.

"I've been breeding fish my whole life, but during the last five years before I came to the United States, I stopped breeding as a hobby and started only producing fish for the Cuban government," Comas said.

Comas' Cuban home doubled as his personal breeding center, where he was able to produce the fish per his contracts with Cuban research institutes.

"At my house in Cuba I had a big back yard and a small laboratory. I produced maybe 20 different species in big amounts and intensive weight to send to the government. For example, I was paid 12 cents per angel fish," he said.

The cheap prices he received for wholesale aside, Comas was tired of the restrictions he faced under the Cuban government.

"I hated the Communists. They keep me working there because I was the only person able to do that job," Comas said. "I had many problems with the people in my institute, because you could not speak freely. You had to be careful with everything."

But the soft-spoken and respectful Comas never met any problems over a disagreement.

When Comas made the move to the United States, he decided the Midwest was better for his children. He was concerned about becoming isolated in Miami's large Cuban immigrant communities.

"I came from Cuba to Miami, then they proposed nine different states to me. We chose Michigan because my children were 13 and 15. I wanted them to learn English. If we remained in Florida, for example, their English would have stayed the same," Comas said. "It was hard for us — no English and no family."

Comas first came to Preuss Pets in 1998. Rick Preuss was in the midst of a routine day of business at his pet store. He



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

One of Comas' angel fishes floats by in a tank situated in the back of Preuss Pets as part of his in-house laboratory.

received a phone call from a local immigration services officer about a possible candidate for employment.

"They called ahead and said, 'Hey we've got someone you should take a look at,'" Preuss said.

When Comas arrived with the service worker, Preuss was floored. Comas emigrated with a veterinary degree from Havana University and had years of field work experience for Cuban research institutes, but he wasn't interested in touting his credentials. He just wanted Preuss to know how much he loved breeding fish.

"It wasn't, 'I'm boasting because I'm a veterinarian.' It was, 'I really love fish. I really love breeding fish. I would love to have a job here. This is my passion,'" Preuss said.

Comas brought with him to that first meeting a stack of photographs of the fish breeding operation that he was running out of his house. Preuss was more than impressed and, naturally, Comas earned the job.

His intense background in veterinary science and fish breeding proved invaluable as he found solutions to issues that had long been troublesome to Preuss Pets' fish. Preuss had nominal experience with a microscope and was able to identify parasites on a fish's gills, but as far as eliminating the parasite and securing a healthy fish tank, he discovered more questions than answers — meanwhile he had entire tanks dying on him.

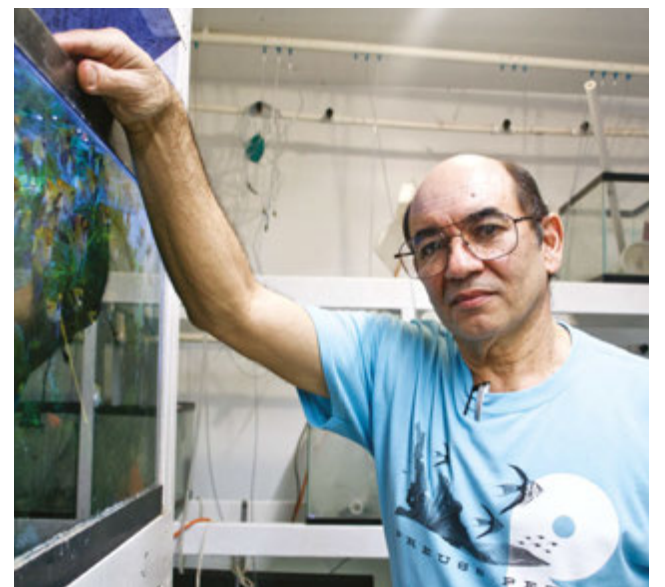
"I tried all the remedies," Preuss said. "And this was affecting 20 percent of our inventory."

That particular parasite was quickly identified by Comas, who informed Preuss it was untreatable in the stage it had reached. He also pointed out that it was a parasite that lived between multiple animals — it could live between a bird, a snail and, finally, the unfortunate fish, where it reaches an insistent incurable state.

With that knowledge Preuss was able to make the necessary adjustments in his purchases, saving his fish, as well as his customer's aquariums. Such parasites had a nasty habit of spreading to a home tank by way of an infected purchased fish.

Comas insists his pinpoint accuracy in identifying the parasite and quickness in solving an issue that had been nagging Preuss for years was no big deal.

"For me nothing is special. It's my job to find these parasites," Comas said.



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Comas pauses his breeding duties for a quick photograph.

After making a habit of blowing everybody's expectations away, Comas was given his own space to build a new breeding laboratory.

Visiting Comas' in-house lab — the nerve center of Preuss Pets' brilliant fish output — is almost as overwhelming as perusing the storefront aquariums. Comas' fish exist in several different stages of life, from near microscopic babies, young guppy-sized schools and finally full grown adults.

And none of them are plain or average. Part of Comas' extensive breeding process leads to the creation of unique spawns of fish adorned with color palettes you'll never see at a PetSmart.

"Your goal for the color will not always work. You need to know the background of the fish. How is it ancestors? You take note of the mother, father and cross reference that with his siblings," Comas said.

Read our review of "Fiddler on the Roof," now playing at the Wharton Center, online at: www.lansingcitypulse.com



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

A betta fish bred by Comas with a magenta glow shimmering through its scales.

Wild and free

Guitarist Mark Whitfield livens up MSU for week-long residency

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Mark Whitfield puts jazz guitar in its rightful place —total, cosmic ubiquity.

At a late afternoon gig Monday with the Michigan State University Professors of Jazz, Whitfield teleported in any direction he pleased, joyfully kicking off a week-long residency that will culminate in a concert Friday with the MSU jazz orchestras.

"He's wild and free when he plays, in the best sense of the words," MSU guitar Professor Randy Napoleon marveled.

Triple-thick, bendy chords made Whitfield's introduction to the standard "Without a Song" sound like he was rising from the ocean in a diving bell. Whitfield's solo feature, "Midnight Sun," began and ended with satiny curtains of light, like aurora borealis.

MSU Jazz Orchestras
Mark Whitfield, guitar

8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7
Fairchild Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
\$7-17
(517) 353-5340
music.msu.edu

In between, he laid down some tart blues, acoustic fog and sudden, slashing chords that almost wiped the beatific smile from Napoleon's face as they played together.

Nah — the spanking only made Napoleon smile more.

"Sometimes people think a good accompanist is really dainty, stays behind the soloist, but the best accompanists light a fire behind you," Napoleon said after the gig.

Whitfield has played with a lot of jazz greats, including Dizzy Gillespie, Art Blakey, Ray Charles and Herbie Hancock, but he credits the fringe-ier gigs with helping to nurture his adventurous spirit.

"I just never say no," Whitfield said. "When people ask me to play, I don't limit myself to things I think I know how to do."

In 1987, at 19, he dove happily over his head, playing for several weeks with no less a guru than avant-garde baritone saxophonist Hamiett Bluiett and his Telepathic Arkestra.

"I knew they were playing way beyond anything I knew how to play," Whitfield said. After a disastrous audition — or so Whitfield thought — Bluiett hired him anyway. "He knew I wasn't ready, but he was a generous spirit," Whitfield said. "He knew that I what I needed, you couldn't find in the practice room."

At Monday's gig, Whitfield held on to that avant-garde energy, usually for a breath at a time, like a wild stripe in a rainbow of moods. His zig-zagging solo on the exotic standard "Invitation" shifted from fine mist



Courtesy photo

MSU jazz artist-in-residence Mark Whitfield eggs on his fan and host, guitar Professor Randy Napoleon, at Monday's kickoff concert.

to cast iron chugging, with sudden stabs into the stratosphere.

MSU student Lowell Wolf, a senior in jazz guitar, was rapt as he listened in the wings of a packed conference room at the MSU Federal Credit Union headquarters.

"He's one of my favorites because of the energy he has," Wolf said. "I wouldn't say he's a rock 'n' roll guitar player, but the influence of rock 'n' roll is there, and he's one of the most grooving, and rhythmic, and loud of anybody."

Whitfield has also worked with Sting, Steven Tyler, Mary J. Blige and the Dave Matthews Band.

A gig with bluesy B-3 organist Jack McDuff, while Whitfield was still in his 20s, was a formative experience. After a year and a half with McDuff, he absorbed the blues into his bones and never let it leak out. Then followed a stint with the greatest jazz organist of them all, Jimmy Smith. That's Whitfield backing Smith on one of the master's late, great albums, "Damn!"

"He had a certain aggression, a conviction that if you didn't play, you just got swallowed up," Whitfield said. But that's just what he needed to squeeze the last bit of "meekness" out of him.

After that, Whitfield "graduated" to a gig with supreme vocalist Carmen McCrae.

Unnervingly, they started each night in

duet format. "I was the entire band, accompanying one of the world's greatest singers," Whitfield said. "The first few nights, she'd look at me and smile as I fumbled through my introduction: 'Don't worry, baby, I'll wait, you just get it together.'"

It was horrible and exhilarating at once.

"I could never improve on her, just try to keep up," he said. "But when I got there, she'd give me just a little half smile, and that was the greatest compliment."

By the time Whitfield was in his mid-20s, he had apprenticed with a major figure in nearly every style of jazz and felt ready to make his own music.

Napoleon has been a fan of Whitfield since he was 19 and wanted to bring Whitfield to MSU for years.

"Just exposing the students to a person like Mark is important," Napoleon said. "Riding on the bus the other day, we were talking about some pretty profound things — what it means to be original, where being a student ends and being a creator begins."

Whitfield will go far beyond teaching guitar technique as he tours the state and visits high schools with jazz studies students in the run-up to Friday's concert at MSU.

"There are guys who are better communicators of theory, the nuts and bolts," Whitfield said. "But music is a very individual thing with me."



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Music doc 'Rumble: Indians Who Changed the World' screens at WKAR

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Link Wray only needed two chords to be banned from the radio and change the world of rock 'n' roll. Never heard that name? A new documentary, "Rumble: Indians Who Rocked the World," is here to educate you about Wray and a plethora of other revolutionary

"Rumble..." at WKAR

7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6
Free, reserve seats online
WKAR at MSU
404 Wilson Road Room 212,
East Lansing
www.wkar.org
(517) 884-4700

Native-Americans — Jimi Hendrix and Jesse Edwin Davis also make the cut — who made an indelible mark on music.

The film is screening Thursday at the Communication Arts & Sciences Building as one of WKAR's Indie Pop-Up Lens features. The series focuses on topics often left behind — in this case, the influence of indigenous sounds on modern music.

"You don't necessarily hear about that influence," said Julie Sochay, content and community engagement manager for WKAR.

Wray, whose slick yet striking image graces much of the documentary's marketing, is a Shawnee descendent from North Carolina born in 1929. He electrified rock guitar with his 1958 instrumental "Rumble." The track had a sound so powerfully evocative it was

banned from radio, despite having no lyrical content. The violence the song was said to incite came solely from Wray's ragged, raw guitar playing and, well, the title of the song — after all, greaser culture, think "The Outsiders," was at its height.

"Rumble" was a creative ground zero for by many rock 'n' roll legends. Sonic titans like the Who's Pete Townshend, who supposedly claimed he wouldn't have picked up a guitar without hearing "Rumble," and Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page both wear their love for Wray on their sleeve.

Wray experienced a revival in interest, thanks to his songs being heard during the diner scene in "Pulp Fiction," before his death at 76 in 2005.

Another musician of note in the documentary is Taj Mahal and Redbone guitarist Jesse Edwin Davis. Redbone is best known for its 1974 single "Come and Get Your Love," which recently experienced a resurgence in popularity thanks to being featured on the "Guardians of the Galaxy" soundtrack and as the theme song for Netflix's "F Is for Family."

Redbone didn't shy away from a Native American image, famously performing in tasseled leather jackets and feathered headbands. Davis died at age 43 in 1988.

After the film's screening, ethnomusicology



Courtesy photo

Link Wray was too rough for radio.

professors Chris Scales and Michael Largey will lead a discussion.

"The audience can ask questions and the panelists will talk about what they know

about the film and the culture," Sochay said. "We keep it open for our community to get together and discuss the content."

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CURTAIN CALL

Stand-in rocks 'The Wild Party'

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

The opening performance of Peppermint Creek Theatre's "The Wild Party" almost didn't happen. Thanks to the talent and bravery of Sally Hecksel, the show went on.

Review

"The Wild Party"

\$20 general,
\$15 student/senior
8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6
8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7
8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8
8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9
Miller Performing Arts Center
6025 Curry Lane, Lansing
www.peppermintcreek.org
(517) 927-3016

Hecksel was originally cast as a no-name ensemble player.

After Bronsyn Lee Sacker was struck with viral laryngitis the day "The Wild Party" was to open, Hecksel became a principal character.

"I had an eight-hour rehearsal in the early afternoon until we opened the house to patrons," Hecksel said. "As soon as the news was given to the cast, I was met with this insane amount of support that I've only experienced a couple of times in my life."

Despite little preparation, Hecksel commanded the character. Thanks to



The cast of "The Wild Party."

some clever placements of line sheets in various "albums," hidden pages around the set and in a bathtub.

Fourteen other strong players on the stage inside the Miller Auditorium help make "The Wild Party" a crazy extravaganza.

The musical with lyrics and music by Andrew Lipa is set in Manhattan in the summer of 1929. "The Wild Party" combines debauchery, merriment, disturbing bits, comedy, violence and delightful decadence.

Steamy, scene-stealing solos by Laura Croff as Madeleine True and Carly Jacobs as the not-so-sober floozy, Kate, are spotlight moments of the two-hour show.

Brennan Hattaway as Black is another example of his chameleon-like ability to occupy a different character.

CLARIFICATION: Because of a reporting error, a character in last week's "A Hunting Shack Christmas" review was inaccurately described as a "quasi-white nationalist."

Kameron Going, who played Dr. Jekyll in Riverwalk's "Jekyll and Hyde," portrays a similarly tormented man, Burrs, who shifts from tenderness to cruelty.

A swinging six-piece band — complete with muffled horns, rolling drums and jazzy keyboards by John Dale Smith — keeps the joint jumping throughout most of the show.

Mostly appropriate and elegant costumes designed by Katy Kettles and a massive, two-level set by Ben Cassidy take us back to a time when style and rebellious acts were common. Anna Szabo's gaudy set dressings and props fit the era.

Although some of the men's haircuts are out of step with the period, the women's hairdos are charmingly authentic. Exposed, modern tattoos on both genders are occasional distractions.

Karyn Perry's intricate and tricky, full-cast choreography is an impressive centerpiece of the show. The fancy footwork is a treat to see. Cassidy's direction also manages to disperse and connect the numerous characters in clever ways.

No matter where the actors are, they always give movements and actions worth looking at.

Riverwalk rotates set in 'Noises Off'

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Review

In 1970, English playwright Michael Frayn watched one of his productions from the wings.

"Noises Off"

Tickets start at \$12
7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6
8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7
8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8
2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Dr. Lansing
www.riverwalktheatre.com
(517) 482-5700

"It was funnier from behind than in front," he said. "I thought that, one day, I must write a farce from behind." In 1982, Frayn's

wish was fulfilled when "Noises Off" premiered in London.

In 1996 and 2005, Bob Gras directed the award-winning British farce for Riverwalk Theatre. Under Michael Hays' direction, "Noises Off" returns to Riverwalk.

"Noises Off" is not easy to pull off. Riverwalk's colossal set was designed by Leroy Cupp and constructed with seven other master builders. It features nine working doors, an upper walkway, a staircase, and detailed trimmings. And, yes, the facade rolls around to reveal an authentic "backstage" view.

It rotates a second time, returning to the front "audience" view. Complicated changes — including switching substantial props and set dressings by Sadonna Croff — require two separate intermissions. With those, the performance runs about three hours.

The beginning of "Noises Off" reveals a farce rehearsal with a struggling cast and a harried director Lloyd Dallas — who curiously has an American accent — played by David Dunckel.

Nita Haberlein hilariously plays the Dotty Oatley character that pretends to be Mrs. Clackett. The newcomer to the stage makes an impressive debut as a befuddled caretaker.

See Noises, Page 21

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Okemos auction features valuable artifacts of Michigan postal history

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Before the Weather Channel was a few clicks away on a television or a computer, city residents could check postmarks on their daily mail for weather forecasts. Two of these rare “Lansing Weather” cancellations

David M. Ellis Collection

Auction

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Dec. 15
Comfort Inn Okemos
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Dr., Okemos
Request catalog by
email or phone:
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cawhiteford@aol.com

are among the items to be sold at an auction of rare postmarks, letters and envelopes conducted by Lansing area postal historian Craig Whitford.

The first weather postmark from 1896 claims it will be “Fair Wednesday,” and the second postmark from 1889 claims the weather to be “Fair warmer tonight. Friday Fair.”

It's not clear whether early settlers were planning their weekend outings from the cancellations, but the two offerings, valued between \$75-\$100 each, are among the 1,300 lots to be sold from the Michigan Postal History Collection of David M. Ellis.

Ellis, one of the notable postal collectors in the nation, began his collection at age 10. He slowly accumulated “cut squares,” which are 2 or 4-inch-square pieces of an envelope showing the city where mail was postmarked. He later gravitated toward collecting entire envelopes.

Whitford said Ellis especially enjoyed documenting Michigan cities, towns and villages.

“He attempted to collect one postmark from each town and the collection illustrates that,” Whitford said.

Whitford said this is his first postal collection auction where the collector is alive.

“Ellis is interested in sharing his collec-



Rare 19th century Michigan postmarks will be auctioned off Saturday.

tion,” Whitford said. Adding the collection is worth between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

There are numerous examples of postmarks from Michigan ghost towns and from towns and villages that had name changes. Most notable is the postmark “Michigan, Michigan,” which is highly sought by collectors since it was the first name for what is now Lansing, Michigan.

Whitford said he has documented only 40 surviving examples of the elusive postmark, which only existed from July 1847 through April 1848 before the Legislature renamed the capital city. He values the postmark between \$750 and \$1,000.

“They thought it was too confusing and decided to rename it,” he said.

One rare Monroe postcard from 1836, Michigan's territorial era, is addressed to Toledo when that area was still part of Ohio.

Whitford said postmarks are often a ghost town's sole remaining artifact — making these rare pieces of postage highly sought

after by collectors and history organizations.

Marboro (Marlborough), Michigan is one example of such a postmark. The community was located in Lake County and housed a cement plant, but when it shut down in 1906 the city became a ghost town. Other long-gone cities covered are Disco and Cuba, Michigan.

Also included in the sale are decorative envelopes from the Civil War, Spanish American War and Revolutionary War, along with rare postmarks from boats on the inland waterways.

Whitford said he uncovered some unusual and rare letters sent from Michigan still in the envelopes.

“They are especially interesting in light of how we communicate today,” he said.

One notable item is a rare handwritten letter from chief David Shoppenecons, an Indian chief living in Grayling. Chief Shoppenecons arrived there in the 1870s and worked as fishing guide and trapper.

His letter, apparently written to a friend, comments on fishing the Au Sable, collecting fur pelts, personal health issues and how deep the snow is.

However, there is dispute among professional archivists on whether the letter is in the chief's own handwriting. State Archivist Mark Harvey has serious doubts and believes it was dictated. Other sources cite well-known anecdotal and historical evidence that makes his literacy probable.

Whitford said, “I firmly believe it is in his handwriting. Shoppenecons was a pivotal figure in the Grayling area.”

Frank Boles, director of the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University, said, “In looking around, I can't find another example of his writing any-

thing. So whoever doubts the piece has reason to do so. That said, it's an awfully odd thing to fabricate.”

He admits that “It is possible he dictated it to someone who could write.”

“If you challenge me to prove it, I can't. Is the glass half full or half empty? I'm going with full,” Boles said.

Whitford values the 1830 letter between \$400 and \$600.

Boles said Shoppenecons is best known as a legendary fishing guide on the Au Sable.

“Anything about fishing on the Au Sable, the ‘holy water,’ will be of interest historically,” he said.

Other letters cover topics about the state capital being moved to Lansing, a woman asking her suitor when he is going to ask her to marry and a teacher commenting about a “little Indian boy” she has in her classroom.

SchulerBooks

Mitch Albom

**Tuesday, December 11 @ 7p
at the Wharton Center
for Performing Arts**

The MSU College of Arts and Letters present Mitch Albom as he celebrates the release of his latest novel, *The Next Person You Meet in Heaven*, the long-awaited sequel to *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. Following his talk, Albom will sign copies of his new book included with admission. *Tuesdays with Morrie*, one of his six consecutive #1 New York Times bestsellers, is the top-selling memoir of all time. Tickets may be purchased on the Wharton Center for Performing Arts website or at the Box Office. All proceeds support student scholarships for MSU's College of Arts & Letters and the Department of Theatre.

Children's Story Time

Saturday, December 15 @ 11a

Join us for a special story-time event on the third Saturday of each month. A local volunteer will read a picture book to help instill the love of reading in your little ones.

Christmas Eve Storytime

Monday, December 24 @ 11a

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

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

Noises

from page 20

er with a thick, common British accent.

David Bilbey is the posh speaking professional, Garry Lajeune, who plays Roger Tramplemain. Cassie Little is Brooke Ashton, the rookie actress prone to losing contact lenses and outer garments who plays Vicki. John Liskey is the perfect drunken, foul-smelling Selsdon Mowbray who plays the burglar.

Maureen Sawdon is the gossipy Belinda Blair who plays Flavia Brent. She is the pretend wife of Philip Brent played by Frederick Fellowes, who is actually Greg Pratt.

Bilbey and Sawdon perform their complicated dual roles with a seeming ease. Fearlessly, Little often wears not much more than a black teddy while never breaking character. “Noises Off” is the most significant of Pratt's few acting experiences and he shows a competency equal to his peers.

Erin Hoffman is convincing as frazzled

assistant director Poppy Norton-Taylor. Gabe Weeks is believable as the overworked errand boy Tim Allgood. What is not believable, however, is the wavering English accents of most of the cast.

Director Hays does a wonderful job of keeping tricky timing and problematic entrances and exits on their marks.

Conner Kelly also deserves recognition for being the much needed, “Stunt and Scuffle Choreographer.”

By the third act — a performance of the mock play “Noises On” — the energy of the cast and audience fades. The addition of a love triangle and pregnancy help the goofiness wane.

*The stockings were hung by
the chimney with care
knowing a book would
fit perfect in there!*



Curious Book Shop

307 E. Grand River * E. Lansing
332-0112 * We validate parking
Mon - Sat 10 - 8, Sun 12 - 5
www.curiousbooks.com

**20% Off
Gift Certificates**

Archives Book Shop

519 W. Grand River * E. Lansing
332-8444 * Free parking
Mon - Sat 11 - 5, Sun 12 - 5
tearchivesbookshop@gmail.com

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, December 5

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

MSU Libraries' Digital Scholarship Co-Works. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Digital Scholarship Co-Works are opportunities for meeting and working alongside colleagues and fellow practitioners of digital scholarship. Please consider joining us! MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

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.

MUSIC

Lansing Matinee Musicale Holiday Concert. From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. free. Ascension Lutheran Church, 2780 Haslett Road East 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.

Thursday, December 6

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.

MSU Libraries' Qualtrics Workshop. From 2 to 4 p.m. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

Using Data to Drive Growth. 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.

THEATER

The Wild Party. From 8 to 11 p.m. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane Lansing.

EVENTS

Capital Area Audubon Society. From 7 to 9 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224.



Technology and Identity exhibit at the Robin Theatre

Artist Sondra Perry intertwines digital animation, YouTube videos, video game footage and classic movie clips to explore the relationship between black identity and technology.

Technology and Identity exhibit

7 to 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7
The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing, MI
(989) 878-1810
www.therobintheatre.com

For the Broad Underground Film Series, Mikki Kressbach, MSU visiting faculty member in the film studies and English departments, selected four of Perry's films.

"Efficiency Prototype #1," "Graft and Ash for a Three Monitor Workstation," "It's in the Game '17, or Mirror Gag for Vitrine and Projection" and "Black Girl as A Landscape" will be screened.

Originally meant to be paired with a

bicycle work desk, "Graft and Ash for a Three Monitor Workstation" features an avatar of Perry's face speaking in a computer synthesized voice.

Earning a BFA from Alfred University in 2012 and a MFA from Columbia in 2015, Perry exhibits internationally and "Typhoon Coming On," a modern mixed media take on J.M.W. Turner's 1840 "Slave Ship" painting, exhibited in May at the Serpentine Sackler Gallery in London.

FRIDAY, DEC. 7 AND SATURDAY DEC. 8 >> CHRISTMAS POPS CONCERT

Kick off the month with holiday cheer in a classic concert with a Lansing institution. Celebrating its 30th season, LanSINGout Gay Men's Choir will feature an array of traditional and modern takes on holiday music.

7:30 to 9 p.m., \$15, First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing
(517) 482-0668, www.lansingout.org



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 7

MUSIC

Emmy-Award Singer/Songwriter Kitty Donohoe in Concert. From 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door with 50% of the proceeds going into the auditorium renovation lighting project. . Wilson Center Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St. St. Johns.

Saturday, December 8

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Mala/Rosary/Prayer Bead Workshop. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$60. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

HOLIDAYS

3rd Annual HandCrafted Holiday Sale. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free to attend. See website for application and information about vendor costs. . Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing, 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave Lansing. 517-351-4081.

Holiday Sing-along for Kids and Families. From 10 to 11 a.m. Donations collected at the door. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

FRIDAY, DEC. 7 >> SEVENTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES OPENING NIGHT GALA



Tour the Turner Dodge House when all three floors will be decorated with individual artisan trees from local artists and organizations. The opening gala is 7 p.m., Friday and regular visitation hours begin Saturday. You can visit the Festival of Trees through Jan. 1. Hours are Tuesday-Thursday, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, noon to 8 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

7 p.m., \$35, Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing
(517) 483-4220
www.lansingmi.gov/938/Turner-Dodge-House

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

PIERCE FEST VII AT MAC'S BAR

Sun. Dec. 9

DAVID ALLAN COE AT TEQUILA COWBOY

Fri. Dec. 7



Rock show honors the late Pierce Rogers

Sunday, Dec. 9 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$5 recommended donation, 5 p.m.

A charity-tribute event for Pierce William Rogers (June 4, 1997-Oct. 24, 2018) happens Sunday at Mac's Bar in honor of the late Lansing-music scene fixture and skateboarder. Aside from fronting Cosmic Priest, a sludgy doom band, Rogers partook in other local outfits, like Stop Bobby Hatch — a bluesy experimental band. The band's new 10-song LP, "Just Like Ma," is streamed at www.stopbobbyhatch.bandcamp.com and is the last album Rogers performed on. After the unexpected death of Rogers, his friends decided to honor him by re-launching his annual DIY music event, Pierce Fest. Headed by organizers Cattie Jensen and Sam Makula, the evening remembers the 21-year old Grand Ledge native with a roster of bands and other surprises. "The bands were chosen due to having a connection with Pierce himself," Jensen said. "I tried to accommodate as many as possible as the responses were overwhelming, which may result in a two-day festival next year." This year's roster includes: Brillo, Troy Burris, Alan Hernandez, Nonbinary, Taurus Moon,

Tidal, Foxhole, Dasterds, Unknown Growe, Cardboard Bullies, Rent Strike, Jason Alarm and Cavalcade. As for the donations, those benefit the Rex Foundation, a charity chosen in honor of Rogers' admiration of the Grateful Dead — one of his favorite bands. The non profit foundation was created in 1983 by members of the Grateful Dead and Friends to "proactively provide extensive community support to creative endeavors in the arts, sciences, and education." Another nod to the band happens at 11 p.m., when all musicians of all skill levels are invited on stage for a "Grateful Dead open jam" session. Additionally, along with free pizza at 5 p.m., the local record imprint Bermuda Mohawk Productions will release a compilation, "Love Like Pierce" on both CD and Bandcamp.com. Kicking off the album is "Kief Cannon" — Rogers' signature doom tune. For those who cannot attend, they can donate online to The Rex Foundation or the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (Michigan Chapter) in memory of Pierce Rogers.



Country star returns to Lansing

Friday, Dec. 7 @ Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing. 21+, \$25, \$20 adv., 8:30 p.m.

Since the 1960s, David Allan Coe has been one of the most notorious songwriters to surface from the outlaw-country genre. Thursday, the edgy 77-year-old guitarist/vocalist performs at Tequila Cowboy inside the Lansing Mall. After spending years in various correctional facilities and prison, including three years at the Ohio Penitentiary, Coe saw mainstream success by the early '70s. In 1973, Tanya Tucker scored a hit with Coe's "Would You Lay with

Me (In a Field of Stone)." The following year, Columbia Records issued his first two solo discs, "The Mysterious Rhinestone Cowboy" and "Once Upon a Rhyme" LPs. Massive success followed in 1977, when Johnny Paycheck covered Coe's "Take This Job and Shove It." Coe, who continues to tour the country, was in the studio last year performing a guest spot for the Moonshine Bandits on a revamped version of "Take This Job."

LIVE AND LOCAL

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.		Outside In	Millenium Karaoke	Raveyard
Buddies, 1937 W Grand River Ave		Karaoke, 9PM		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Johnny Airmcrier 8PM	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke 8PM
Gladdagh, 2900 Towne Center Blvd.		Trivia, 7:30		
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia		Alskn "Walleye" Ayce	
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	From Big Sur	Grady Hall & the Disciples of Funk
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia			
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Marvel Years, Knight, Trimbee, Highfin 9PM	Fool House- Ultimate 90s dance Party 9PM	Born of Osiris 6:30PM
Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Free Throw, Kayak Jones, Charmmer 7PM0	Shinigami, Familypet, 93feetofsmoke 7PM	Album Release All Ends Black 8PM
Nuthouse, 420 E Michigan Ave.		Music Bingo 7PM		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave.	Comedy Open Mic	Game Night	JPP Band	Frog and the Beeftones

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Ask Me How I'm Doing"---the circles will tell you. Matt Jones

Across

1 Advanced degrees

5 Thesaurus innovator Peter Mark ____

10 Hit all the buttons at once, in arcade games

14 Temptation

15 Saint Teresa's home

16 "The Joy of Cooking" co-author Rombauer

17 Regular "QI" panelist Davies

18 Back-country

19 Phone feature, once

20 Side-to-side movement

21 Judge on two versions of "The X Factor"

23 Any miniature golf shot

25 ____ seat (air passenger's request)

26 Went on sabbatical, perhaps

32 One who keeps their buns moving?

33 Hunk of dirt

34 Cheese with a red rind

38 Preferred pronoun, perhaps

39 Bullwinkle, for one

40 Hoppy drink

41 "99 and 44/100% ____" (old slogan)

43 1980 "Dukes of Hazzard" spin-off

44 Big name in kitchen wrap

46 Newton's first, alternately

49 Pine tree substance

52 Listed thing

53 Historical peak

58 Have debts to pay

61 Shipmate of Picard, Riker,

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16

17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37

38 39 40

41 42 43 44 45

46 47 48

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

61 62 63

64 65 66

67 68 69

Worf, et al.

62 Notre Dame's Fighting ____

63 Diamonds, for one

64 "It slipped!"

65 Animal whose droppings are used for kopi luwak coffee

66 "____ Wonderful Life"

67 Russian refusal

68 Reflex test sites

69 "The Giving Tree" author Silverstein

Down

1 Tony candidate

2 Island dance

3 Texas hold 'em, e.g.

4 JFK, once

5 Once-in-a-blue-moon event

6 Egg, to biologists

7 ____ d'Italia (cycling event)

8 Brio

9 Absorbent powder

10 Delivery assistant

11 First sign of the zodiac

12 Fries size

13 Berry scheduled to be in "John Wick 3"

21 Headliner

22 Bumbler

24 "Aloha Oe" instrument, for short

26 Shortening used in recipes?

27 Island of Hawaii

28 ____ Lodge (motel chain)

29 Cool and distant

30 "Arrested Development" actress Portia de ____

31 It takes dedication to write

35 Only Ivy League school called a college (not a university)

36 Jai ____ (fast-paced game)

37 "American Pie" actress Suvari

39 Kitten's sound

42 Supporter of the 1%, say

44 "Family Guy" creator MacFarlane

45 "Scooby-Doo, Where ____ You?"

47 "32 Flavors" singer DiFranco

48 Work shift for some

49 Sell out, in a way

50 George Jetson's son

51 Ski area

54 Head Stone?

55 "____ Brockovich" (Julia Roberts film)

56 Apiary feature

57 "Oh, OK"

59 Informed

60 "And others," briefly

63 "Pretty sneaky, ____"

©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 25

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny

Dec. 5 - Dec. 11, 2018

Aries (March 21-April 19): In 1930, some British mystery writers formed a club to provide each other with artistic support and conviviality. They swore an oath to write their stories so that solving crimes happened solely through the wits of their fictional detectives, and not through "Divine Revelation, Feminine Intuition, Mumbo Jumbo, Jiggery-Pokery, or Act of God." I understand that principle, but don't endorse it for your use in the coming weeks. On the contrary. I hope you'll be on the alert and receptive to Divine Revelations, Feminine Intuition, Mumbo Jumbo, Jiggery-Pokery, and Acts of God.

Taurus(April 20-May 20): When you're prescribed antibiotic pills to fight off infection, you should finish the entire round. If you stop taking the meds partway through because you're feeling better, you might enable a stronger version of the original infector to get a foothold in your system. This lesson provides an apt metaphor for a process you're now undergoing. As you seek to purge a certain unhelpful presence in your life, you must follow through to the end. Don't get lax halfway through. Keep on cleansing yourself and shedding the unwanted influence beyond the time you're sure you're free of it.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Danish scientist and poet Piet Hein wrote this melancholy meditation: "Losing one glove is painful, but nothing compared to the pain of losing one, throwing away the other, and finding the first one again." Let his words serve as a helpful warning to you, Gemini. If you lose one of your gloves, don't immediately get rid of the second. Rather, be patient and await the eventual reappearance of the first. The same principle applies to other things that might temporarily go missing.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Cancerian author Elizabeth Gilbert is a soulful observer whose prose entertains and illuminates me. She's well aware of her own limitations, however. For example, she writes, "Every few years, I think, 'Maybe now I'm finally smart enough or sophisticated enough to understand *Ulysses*'. So I pick it up and try it again. And by page 10, as always, I'm like, 'What the hell?'" Gilbert is referring to the renowned 20th-century novel, James Joyce's masterwork. She just can't appreciate it. I propose that you make her your inspirational role model in the coming weeks. Now is a favorable time to acknowledge and accept that there are certain good influences and interesting things that you will simply never be able to benefit from. And that's OK!

Leo (July 23-August 22): More than three centuries ago, Dutch immigrants in New York ate a dessert known as the "olykoek", or oily cake: sugar-sweetened dough deep-fried in pig fat. It was the forerunner of the modern doughnut. One problem with the otherwise delectable snack was that the center wasn't always fully cooked. In 1847, a man named Hanson Gregory finally found a solution. Using a pepper shaker, he punched a hole in the middle of the dough, thus launching the shape that has endured until today. I bring this to your attention because I suspect you're at a comparable turning point. If all goes according to cosmic plan, you will discover a key innovation that makes a pretty good thing even better.

Virgo (August 23-September 22): I can't believe I'm going to quote pop star Selena Gomez. But according to my analysis of the current astrological omens, her simple, homespun advice could be especially helpful to you in the coming weeks. "Never look back," she says. "If Cinderella had looked back and picked up the shoe, she would have never found her prince." Just to be clear, Virgo, I'm not saying you'll experience an adventure that has a plot akin to the Cinderella fairy tale. But I do expect you will benefit from a "loss" as long as you're focused on what's ahead of you rather than what's behind you.

Libra (September 23-October 22): Among the pieces of jewelry worn by superstar Elvis Presley were a Christian cross and a Star of David. "I don't want to

miss out on heaven due to a technicality," he testified. In that spirit, and in accordance with astrological omens, I urge you, too, to cover all your bases in the coming weeks. Honor your important influences. Be extra nice to everyone who might have something to offer you in the future. Show your appreciation for those who have helped make you who you are. And be as open-minded and welcoming and multicultural as you can genuinely be. Your motto is "Embrace the rainbow."

Scorpio (October 23-November 21): Are you a gambling addict seeking power over your addiction? If you live in Michigan or Illinois, you can formally blacklist yourself from all casinos. Anytime your resolve wanes and you wander into a casino, you can be arrested and fined for trespassing. I invite you to consider a comparable approach as you work to free yourself from a bad habit or debilitating obsession. Enlist some help in enforcing your desire to refrain. Create an obstruction that will interfere with your ability to act on negative impulses.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): "What is the point of being alive if you don't at least try to do something remarkable?" Author John Green asked that question. I confess that I'm not entirely comfortable with it. It's a bit pushy. I find I'm more likely to do remarkable things if I'm not trying too hard to do remarkable things. Nevertheless, I offer it as one of your key themes for 2019. I suspect you will be so naturally inclined to do remarkable things that you won't feel pressure to do so. Here's my only advice: up the ante on your desire to be fully yourself; dream up new ways to give your most important gifts; explore all the possibilities of how you can express your soul's code with vigor and rigor.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19): In the fairy tale "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," the heroine rejects both the options that are too puny and too excessive. She wisely decides that just enough is exactly right. I think she's a good role model for you. After your time of feeling somewhat deprived, it would be understandable if you were tempted to crave too much and ask for too much and grab too much. It would be understandable, yes, but mistaken. For now, just enough is exactly right.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18): In 1140, two dynasties were at war in Weinsberg, in what's now southern Germany. Conrad III, leader of the Hohenstaufen dynasty, laid siege to the castle at Weinsberg, headquarters of the rival Welfs dynasty. Things went badly for the Welfs, and just before Conrad launched a final attack, they surrendered. With a last-minute touch of mercy, Conrad agreed to allow the women of the castle to flee in safety along with whatever possessions they could carry. The women had an ingenious response. They lifted their husbands onto their backs and hauled them away to freedom. Conrad tolerated the trick, saying he would stand by his promise. I foresee a metaphorically comparable opportunity arising for you, Aquarius. It won't be a life-or-death situation like that of the Welfs, but it will resemble it in that your original thinking can lead you and yours to greater freedom.

Pisces (February 19-March 20): The National Center for Biotechnology Information reported on a 15-year-old boy who had the notion that he could make himself into a superhero. First he arranged to get bitten by many spiders in the hope of acquiring the powers of Spiderman. That didn't work. Next, he injected mercury into his skin, theorizing it might give him talents comparable to the Marvel Comics mutant character named Mercury. As you strategize to build your power and clout in 2019, Pisces, I trust you won't resort to questionable methods like those. You won't need to! Your intuition should steadily guide you, providing precise information on how to proceed. And it all starts now.

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.

Out on the Town

from page 22

Lansing SantaCon. From 3 to 11:59 p.m. Free Event. 21+ Only. The Grid Arcade & Bar, 226 E Grand River Ave Lansing. 517-885-3010.

Nokomis Holiday Craft Sale. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road Okemos. (517) 349-5777.

Stuff the Train for Toys for Tots/Santa Claus. From 1 to 4 p.m. Forty and Eight Veterans Club, 2949 S. Waverly Highway Lansing. 517-882-2692.

to 5 p.m. Free. Red Barn Pottery, 4098 Zimmer Road **Dec. 8, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing**
www.reachstudioart.org, (517) 999-3643

EVENTS

Big Dipper Qigong + Stem Cell Qigong. At 9:30 a.m. \$375 for 3-day weekend course. See <http://www.spiritualtaoworkshops.com> for more details and to sign-up.. Quality Inn University, 3121 East Grand River Avenue Lansing.

ARTS

Red Barn Pottery Holiday Show & Sale. From 10 a.m.

Robert Park Art Reception. From 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Eggleston Gallery and Studios, 14035 Webster Rd Bath. (517) 999-3343.

Sunday, December 9

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

Monday, December 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.

Addiction Recovery Therapy and Yoga. From 6 to 7 p.m. Health Insurance of Sliding Scale Fee. GPS Guide to Personal Solutions, 913 W Holmes Road Suite 141 Lansing. 5176670061.

Tuesday, December 11

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

Lean In Lead Up. From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. FREE. Panera Bread (Frاندor), 310 N. Clippert St. Lansing. Mens Issues Therapy Group. From 6 to 7 p.m. Call office for more information. Health insurance and sliding scale fee...

GPS Guide to Personal Solutions, 913 W Holmes Road Suite 141 Lansing. 5176670061.

Literature-and-PoetryPreschool Storytime. From 11 a.m. to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge. MusicJazz 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.

DEC. 8-9 >> ROMEO AND JULIET YOUTH AT DOWNEASTER THEATRE

As part of its youth performance series, featuring cast and crew between the ages 8 and 19, Downeaster Theatre creative director Kathryn Willis takes on the Shakespeare staple "Romeo and Juliet."

2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Saturday, 2 p.m., Sunday.
Tickets start at \$8. Downeaster Theatre, 1120 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
www.thedowneastertheatre.com, (517) 763-8045



SATURDAY, DEC. 8 >> A NOT SO SILENT NIGHT AT REACH ART STUDIO




Prepare for a night of fellowship, art, food and music for REACH Art Studio's annual fundraising gala. There will also be a "Featured Artists" show in the gallery, more than 100 gift-able, local craft beer and items from local businesses and artists available for purchase in a silent auction. Tickets can be bought through Eventbrite.
Noon to 7 p.m., Prices vary
MSU Surplus Store, 468 Greenway, East Lansing
(517) 355-1723, www.msusurplusstore.com


WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5 TO THURSDAY, DEC. 20 >> OPERATION SNOWMAN ARMY

Donate to the Lansing Jaycees and see a fleet of 10 snowmen arrive in a yard of your choosing. Proceeds will help fund Lansing Jaycees' Easter Egg hunt on the Capitol Lawn and Stuff the Bus events. Deliveries limited to Greater Lansing area.

\$20, Michigan Jaycees, 600 S. Walnut St. Ste. 2209, Lansing
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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Compelling lives of sommeliers dissected in 'Somm 3'

By JUSTIN KING

"It's a big club, and you ain't in it," said the late George Carlin.

Of course, the legendarily sardonic comedian was not talking about wine, but the rather nefarious relationships that build and protect the accumulation of money and power by "the 1 percent."

But the "big club" pejorative often gets hurled at the wine industry, whether it's the big money spenders and droning bottle collectors, or the super fancy New York sommeliers donning \$8,000 watches.

"Somm 3" is the third installment in director Jason Wise's "Somm" movie series, and he continues to weave a compelling narrative. The first chapter, "Somm," was released in 2012, and with noteworthy speed, gained word-of-mouth traction with Netflix streamers for its generally never-seen-before access in the sommelier world.

It follows four Advanced Sommeliers studying for what is widely considered to be one of the toughest tests in the world, the Master Sommelier Exam by the Court of Master Sommeliers. The testing levels from easiest to hardest Introductory, Certified, Advanced and Master.

Some pass. Some don't.

Jason brought unfettered access to the testing and study process and was able to champion the industry as a whole. In the follow up, "Somm: Into the Bottle," Wise uses about a dozen vignettes through the film to do what true hospitality-minded servers

and sommeliers do: tell stories about wine, the people that make it and some nearly magical — and sometimes tragic — situations through history that unlock the power of storytelling.

Wise molds it around the same general "cast" of about 10 different industry veterans, including the four sommeliers from the first movie.

In this brand-new third part, the angles of the stories get very precise into big factors that affect consumers, even if he comes nowhere close to explicitly saying so.

While "Somm" revolves around the path to mostly a wine blind-tasting exam, "Somm 3" uses it as its reference point as to how history has been proven over the last 40 years.

"Blind tasting is useful in only rare circumstances. If you're a scientist trying to study the effect on some variable on a wine, then certainly you want to taste blind," says Carole Meredith a grape geneticist at University of California-Davis.

Rajat Parr, former sommelier turned winemaker, speaks of how blind tasting was a necessity for him as a buyer to correctly build his wine lists.

The storylines, however, focus on three well-regarded industry veterans.

This is where the film peaks.

Some criticism of 2012's "Somm" highlights the fact that the four protagonists are men that try to join what some may call a "club" of some sort, which is also composed of mostly white men.

But "Somm 3" sings when Jancis Robinson is on camera. She's pretty much wine royalty at this point, and has been far more influential as to how people buy than most of us realize.

Robinson meets with Master Sommelier Fred Dame and Judgment of Paris organizer Steven Spurrier to share insight about what got them into wine so deeply and what bottle was their "a-ha!" moment.

Through the film, the movie cuts back to their conversations, along with showcasing each of their pasts and providing glimpses of what their life is like now. Dame deduces a decades-old wine correctly, all the way down to the year it was made. One gets the feeling Dame even knows who specifically made the wine.

Spurrier's recall of that famous 1976 tasting in Paris is exciting, in the sense that we now live in a time where it's a given that Napa is one of the best wine regions in the world, and it was this exact tasting that catapulted Napa to prominence.

A handful of New York sommeliers get together to do a cross-continental tasting of pinot noir to sort of "recreate" the Judgment of Paris concept. The results are fascinating if you tend to geek out on wine.

If you're just getting into wine, it tells a slightly ambiguous message. There is so much delicious wine to discover, and trends, wines, and regions are evolving constantly.

If it's ambiguous, Wise clearly, and correctly, displays that it's better to plant seeds

SOMM 3



by giving access to the experience, rather than by dictating exactly what we're supposed to like.

Is this as flashy as "Somm," or as all-encompassing as "Into the Bottle?" No. But it connects the dots sufficiently in a way that highlights why people fall in love with wine in the first place.

And it's a club everyone is welcome in.

Justin King is an Advanced Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers, and was named 2017 Best New Sommelier by Wine & Spirits Magazine. He is owner of Bridge Street Social, a wine and cocktails-focused restaurant in DeWitt. Somm 3 is now available on iTunes.

Ding Tea, East Lansing

By DENNIS BURCK

Fresh tea leaves imported straight from the mountains of Taiwan are the base for dozens of traditional, fruit and flavored tea offerings at East Lansing's new Ding Tea — the first foray for the international tea shop chain in the Midwest.

Popular in Japan, Taiwan and China, Ding Tea already established itself on the west coast of the United States.

On the menu is a variety of 14 flavored teas and 19 milk teas from kumquat to lychee, passion fruit to matcha. It also offers fruit juice, yogurt and coffee. Most drinks are below \$4.

Owner Jimmy Duong decided to make the jump into small business ownership after trying out Ding Tea in California.

"I'm a tea guy, so I went about trying out different places and eventually found Ding Tea, which is really big out there,"

Ding Tea

Monday-Saturday,
10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Sunday, noon to 8 p.m.
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www.facebook.com/
DingTeaEL



Duong said. "I loved it, contacted them and brought the franchise over here to the Midwest."

Born and raised in Lansing, Duong went to Lansing Community College to be a radiology technologist, but he found the field hard to enter. After his trip to California, Duong talked to corporate headquarters in Taiwan, where the company sent him for training.

"It was a long interview process. Luckily, we qualified for the position," he said.

He went with his brother Robert



Duong

Duong, now co-owner of the business.

"It was a roller coaster because we didn't know the language, but we beared with it and made it," Duong said.

It's more than bringing a business over, but the environment as well, he added.

"I try to bring the atmosphere of Taiwan back; the feeling and vibes."

Inside the store is a lush-looking wall of faux plants, emblematic of tea houses

in Taiwan.

The store also has a mural by local artist Tea Brown of Tea Time Art entitled "Ding Wings."

"I already had customers come in who have never seen or experienced anything like this," Duong said. "They are happy something over there is here and I love to hear that. It's something new that Lansing people haven't seen already."

For those new to Taiwanese and Boba tea, Duong recommends Ding's signature milk tea as a starting point. Taro milk tea is also vastly becoming popular, he said.

The business also has a handy top 10 drinks menu for those looking for community consensus.

Ding Tea is set apart from other tea shops because its tea is brewed freshly in back each day, Duong said. Most drinks come from a base of assam black tea, jasmine green tea or oolong tea.

See Tea, Page 27

Tea

from page 26

The company's slogan "Shake for Life!" is a testament to the process of the flavored teas being made with a tumbler.

Even after they are made, Duong encourages customers to give their drinks a shake and not to worry — the tops can

withstand it.

The tea shop market is not saturated in the Midwest yet, Duong said. "Now is the time to get in on it."

The new store brought 15 jobs to East Lansing.

"I want to see my customers happy and satisfied. Having our doors stay open is all I can ask for."

For more information on Ding Tea, visit www.dingtea.com



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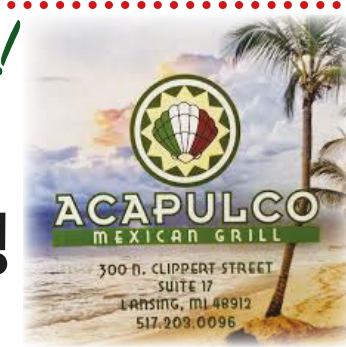
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