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CityPULSE

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www.lansingcitypulse.com

July 17 - 23, 2019



City Pulse's Summer of Art: "Fuck ICE," by Alba Isabel Lamar. See page 19 for story.



The fallacy of the cliché “no man is above the law” is that our country has had laws that discriminate based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and ethnicity. The law is not perfect. It is created by men and women who are imperfect. Don’t hire a lawyer that cites clichés. Great lawyers help clients rise above the law and stand on principle.

– Andrew Abood

ABOOD

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Honoring Local Theater
5:30 p.m., Monday, July 22, at



1217 Turner Street

\$20 per person,
\$10 for 12 and under
Includes dinner and live
entertainment by Kelly Stuitable-Clark
Tickets must be purchased by
Noon Thursday, July 18

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for tickets

Favorite Things

Arts Council of Greater Lansing interim director Meghan Martin and her deck



My deck is connected with nature and community. It offers a cool, nice place for me to reflect on everything and watch life go by. It's amazing how these spaces become such a part of us.

The wood itself is part of the item I cherish because I have to take care of it every day. Even when it is winter I go out there and shovel off the snow. My deck feels like more of a living space I can take care of and make sure it is loved.

It is where I sit back and reflect on everything I do in my daily life. I have a favorite chair I sit in that is perfectly comfortable and points right toward the park where my kids are playing. The trees and my favorite lilac bush are like a canopy and my kids' swing are framed in this beautiful square space I can look right through and see all the activity in the park. We have a huge green space ahead and a cornfield out there where I can occasionally see the farmer tending his field.

Another thing is it is a side deck, and we have a path that connects people to the park so we get to see all the neighbors. We get a lot of strollers, bikes, scooters and kids going by. I've lived in spaces where I didn't have this opportunity and I really craved it because I do have a long history in my childhood of getting out and meeting neighbors.

One thing we talk about at the Arts Council is this movement where people started getting back decks and stopped meeting their neighbors. They just kind of took themselves off the front deck where everyone was passing by and moved it to the back where no one is engaging with each other.

Some of the best times on the deck are when all of my family comes over and we are all buzzing around the grill. The kids will be leaping out into the field. We've been known to start a kickball game that turns into a whole neighborhood affair.

We also set up the old movie screen, project movies and annoy the neighbors.

There are other things I engage with daily that other people might attach sentimental value to. For me, those aren't things that connected to anything. They don't offer me a cherished item feeling like my deck.

Without my deck, I wouldn't have a place to unwind or decompress. I wouldn't have that time to just sit without speaking and just sit and watch the world go by.

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

SURVIVAL IN JULY SALE



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2019 Art Sale & Silent Auction



JULY 25 2019 | 6-9 PM

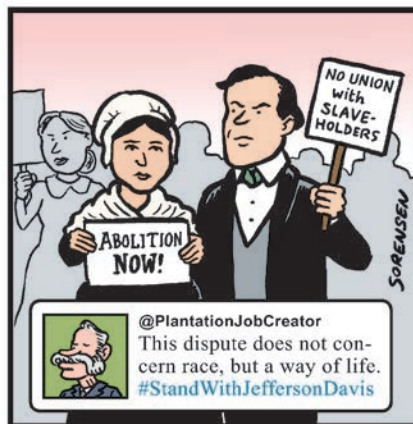
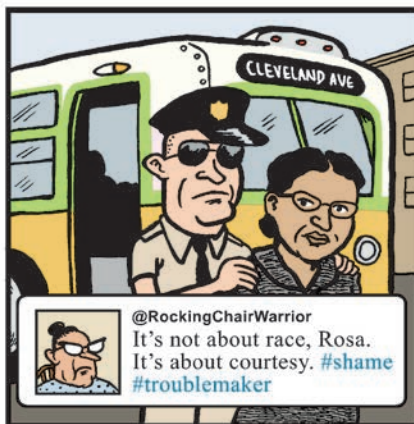
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Join us for an unforgettable evening of fine art and amazing food! Michigan-based and nationwide artists sell their work in tandem with a silent auction in support of environmental education and clean water.

FEATURED ART NATURE'S WATER FILTER by MATTHEW ANDERSON

ARTINTHEWILD.ORG

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New food truck Bangos enters the local culinary fray



**Cover
Art**

"Fuck ICE," by Alba Isabel Lamar

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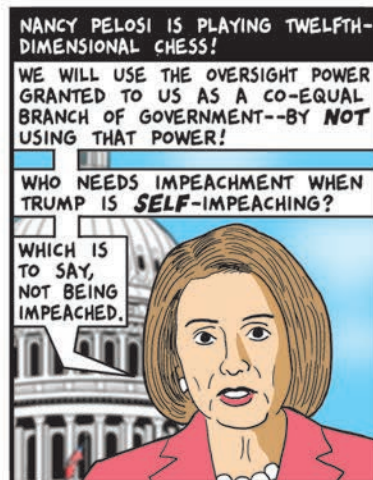
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THIS MODERN WORLD



by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Damage control

As climate urgency rises, can BWL's new gas plant be scaled down?



Courtesy Image

Lansing Board of Water and Light has broken ground on its new \$500 million gas-fired plant in Delta Township, but opponents of the project are still hoping to scale it back, citing advances in battery storage technology.

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of stories examining sustainability and energy issues affecting greater Lansing.)

The Lansing Board of Water & Light broke ground June 3 on a new, \$500 million dollar gas-fired plant, but unsuccessful opponents of the plant are hoping the BWL will at least consider scaling it down.

The BWL touts its new 250 MW plant, now going up near the Erickson Power Plant in Delta Township, as the bridge to a carbon-free, all-renewable future and the only way to reliably replace the aging Eckert and Erickson plants, set to retire in 2020 and 2025, respectively.

The large scale of the project stoked widespread concerns about locking Lansing into burning more fossil fuels for decades to come.

Gas-fired plants emit about half as much carbon pollution as coal, but new plants like the BWL's are likely to turn the ignition key on a 30- to 40-year fossil-fuel-driven ride into the future, just when scientists say emissions have to be cut drastically by 2050 to

avoid a cascade of catastrophes.

A June 28 story in The New York Times described natural gas as “the new climate battleground.” As hundreds of aging coal plants are retired, energy companies and utilities are planning at least 150 new gas plants and thousands of miles of pipelines, according to The Times.

However, as the cost of renewable energy plummets and battery storage technology develops quickly, other utilities, like Consumers Energy in Michigan, have declared they will build no more gas plants.

Last year, CMS Energy, parent company of Consumers Energy, rolled out an energy portfolio that calls for no new gas plants. When a reporter for the website MiBiz asked Consumers CEO Patti Poppe about the utility's “big bet” on solar, she had a ready reply.

“A big bet is a 1,000 megawatt natural gas power plant,” Poppe replied. “What I like about renewables is you don't have to make that big bet. You can gradually add. You only build to demand, as opposed to building a 70-

year asset that you hope you're going to need.”

With ground already broken on the new plant, which the BWL has dubbed Delta Energy Park, that battle seems settled in Lansing.

But unsuccessful opponents of the plant are still pushing the utility to jettison one component of the plant: a simple cycle combustion turbine generator, also known as a peaker, used “to support intermittent renewable generation” in periods of peak demand, according to the BWL.

In an email to City Pulse, BWL spokeswoman Breina Pugh wrote that the peaker will serve as backup for the two main generators and “provide a small percentage of power to the plant.”

“Renewable energy is an intermittent source of power that needs a reliable back-up and storage technology that does not exist today Pugh wrote. “Storage capability has not evolved to the scale needed for a utility of our size but we continue to investigate storage

See Plant, Page 6



**Former Greenwave dispensary
500 E. Oakland Ave., Lansing
Owner: Jennerin Inc., East Lansing**

The faded Arby's franchise turned Greenwave medical marijuana dispensary now sits vacant and forlorn at the otherwise bustling corner of Oakland Avenue and Cedar Street, north of downtown Lansing.

Horseweed pokes its leafy towers out of the asphalt on the 1.8 acre site. Large thistles and giant ragweed — which looks like cannabis — have taken over the landscaping, adding to the blight Lansing has tried to erase. The city shut down the popular medical marijuana dispensary in October after Greenwave was denied a license by the state. Greenwave has remained locked in an ongoing battle with city and state licensing authorities ever since.

Calls to business owners and property owners of the prime location were not returned for an update. It's unclear whether Greenwave has a viable plan to reopen or if another business might come to the intersection to compete with Rally's across the street. Greenwave proprietor Tom Mayes told City Pulse earlier this year that he still had plans to reopen the shop.

— CHRIS GRAY

“Eyesore of the Week” is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call it in at 517-999-6715.

Plant

from page 5

options as they arise.” But the energy picture is changing fast. Trade sites are buzzing over the implications of recent advances in energy storage for the automotive and utility sectors. A March 2018 report from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, part of the U.S. Energy Department,

found that “the cost of energy storage has declined dramatically in recent years, presenting an opportunity for energy storage to perform functions currently met by conventional generators that serve peak demand.” S&P Global Market Intelligence, a much-relied-upon source for investors, declared this spring that “by most measures, 2018 was a long-anticipated breakout year for batteries,” with record investment going into research, product development and manufacturing “as prices plummet.” Global

annual energy storage additions more than doubled, and are on pace to surge another 78% in 2019, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance. In an interview with S&P Global, Tom Buttgenbach, president and CEO of developer 8minutenergy Renewables LLC, said “I can beat a gas peaker anywhere in the country today with a solar-plus-storage power plant. Who in their right mind today would build a new gas peaker? We are a factor of two cheaper.” Even factoring for hyperbole, it’s clear the market is evolving faster than the BWL can pour cement, lay bricks and fit pipes at the new Delta Energy Park. Marshall Clabeaux of the Michigan Climate Action Network is among those trying to persuade the BWL to drop the “peaker.” “Across the country, these products are being mothballed,” Clabeaux said. “I know we broke ground now, but in L.A., there are plants that were 50 or 60% done and they’ve turned the project off because of the costs and the risks.” Clabeaux referred to General Electric’s decision in June is to shut down its 750 megawatt gas-fired Inland Empire Energy Center plant in California, even though the plant had 20 years left in its useful life. (The plant will now be used as a battery storage site.)

Douglas Jester, an advisory, nonvoting member of the BWL Board, said the new Delta Energy Park could well share the fate of California’s Inland Empire and never live out its natural life. “Because of concerns for climate change and the advancing technology, natural gas plants are going to have to be retired earlier than when they wear out,” Jester said. However, in a twist, Jester said the “peaker” might come in handy. “Even with storage coming along rapidly, we still have good days and bad days in renewable generation,” Jester said. “Current storage technology can work really well for day vs. evening, but we don’t yet have the technology ready to handle multi-day storage.” The peaker, Jester said, might be useful to fill in renewable gaps — more useful, in the long run, than the two big combined cycle units that make up the bulk of the BWL’s new plant. “The plant’s going to be built,” Jester said. “It’s contracted. But its use will be displaced within a couple of decades by wind and solar that are cheaper to build and operate than it will be to operate the gas plants. We’ll just displace them and they’ll sit there, lightly used.” — LAWRENCE COSENTINO

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING RECREATIONAL MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS ORDINANCE NO. 2019-11
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE FINAL ADOPTION**

Please take notice that on July 9, 2019, the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian approved for final adoption Ordinance No. 2019-11, which prohibits marihuana establishments within the Township. Copies of the Ordinance may be obtained from Brett Dreyfus, Charter Township of Meridian Clerk, at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 and on the Township’s website: www.meridian.mi.us. The Ordinance provides, in summary, for a prohibition on all recreational marihuana establishments within the Township. The Ordinance has the following sections and catch lines: Section 1: Title; Section 2: Intent and Purpose; Section 3: Definitions; Section 4: No Recreational Marihuana Establishments; Section 5: Violations and Penalties; Section 6: Severability; Section 7: Repeal; and Section 8: Effective Date, which is immediately after the Township’s notice of final adoption. Published by Order of the Township Board
Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan
Brett Dreyfus, Charter Township of Meridian Clerk
517-853-4000

CP#19-196

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given of the following public meeting to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

This is a courtesy notice to inform interested parties that a public meeting will be held to consider a modification to the application from Royal Apartments, USA and Vlahakis Development for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the properties at 314, 328, 334, and 340 Evergreen Avenue. The applicant is requesting approval to demolish all of the existing structures on the described parcels and construct the following development in a mixed-use building:

Park Place West – a 9-story, 110-foot-tall mixed-use building containing two levels of underground parking, commercial space “market” on the first floor, and market rate and income qualified rental apartments on the upper floors. The building has 23,008 square feet of commercial space “market” with 112 parking spaces, 184 rental units with 46 low-to moderate-income qualified and 138 market rate units.

The development also includes improvements to public property through the realignment of Albert Avenue, utility improvements beyond the scope of the project and a public plaza along the former Evergreen Avenue. The subject properties are located in the RM-32, City Center Business zoning district. These properties are being rezoned to B3, City Center zoning district by the City.

The project no longer includes Park Place East which proposed to redevelop Dublin Square, 404 Evergreen Avenue and the City Parking lots #4 and #15.

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

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

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk
CP#19-200

**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 **Wednesday, August 7, 2019 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 an application from D.J.H Realty Inc. and John Hudgins for the property located at 343 Division, in the R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential, zoning district and the R-O-1 Residential Rental Restriction Overlay District for a variance from the following requirement of Chapter 50 – Zoning of the Code of the City of East Lansing:

Section 50-262(3)d. – The keeping of not more than one roomer by an owner residing in a single-family dwelling, except that a person owning a single-family dwelling on the effective date of Ordinance No. 900 shall be permitted to keep two roomers while continuing to own and reside in the dwelling. The maximum occupancy shall not exceed three unrelated persons, including the owner, for an owner-occupied dwelling or two unrelated persons for a non-owner-occupied dwelling. For the purposes of this subsection, persons comprising a “domestic unit” as defined under “Family” in section 50-6 shall be deemed related persons.

The applicant is proposing to convert the existing single-family dwelling from a Class II rental license, which permits the occupancy for up four unrelated persons, where one of the four must be the owner, to a Class IV rental license, which would permit the occupancy for up to four unrelated persons without the requirement for an owner to reside in the dwelling.

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
CP#19-201

The anti-Trump?

How Michigan’s Justin Amash could cost Trump the White House

As of today, now-independent Congressman Justin Amash says he’s running for reelection in his Grand Rapids-based 3rd District.

Chased out of the Republican Party by President Donald Trump’s antics, the strict constitution-
alist from Cascade Township is profess-
ing his reelection plans
to the national media. If successful,
he’d be the first Michigander in at least
modern history to win a congressional
seat as an independent.

We’ve had candidates win as
third-party candidates before. Teddy
Roosevelt’s Bull Moose party and the
Union party during the Civil War be-
fore that. No independents.

Whether Amash is serious about
defying history is questionable. For
starters, the odds Amash will collect a
government check in 2021 are long.

In Kent County alone, 51% used the
straight-ticket voting option in 2016.
Among Democrats, 39% voted straight
Democratic and 15% straight Repub-
lican. Presuming the numbers are
similar in 2020, Amash starts with less
than half of the voting pool to play with
in the district’s largest county.

If he collects the 3,000 signatures
needed to get on the ballot. Amash
needs to campaign with comparative-
ly few resources in a hyper-partisan
election.

With no DeVos money to fuel
his campaign, Amash is sitting on
\$200,000. That’s less than a third of
what Elissa Slotkin raised in one quar-
ter. That’s less than what Republican
challenger James Lower collected in 40
days.

Amash’s West Michigan funding
streams have dried up. If, miraculously,
polling shows Amash gaining traction
or the Republican nominee doesn’t
have a clear lead, the national GOP or
the Trump campaign, itself, will swoop
in with huge ad buys to put out the fire.

At best, Amash can only hope to pull
enough votes from the Republican
nominee to give the seat to the Dem-
ocrats. In the last four elections with
these congressional lines, the Demo-
cratic nominee has averaged 41% of
the vote. Let’s say the Dem gets 38% in
2020. A few Democrats like Amash’s

call for Trump’s impeachment enough
to vote for him.

Let’s say Amash gets a quarter of the
vote. He is the incumbent, after all.
Presuming there’s no Libertarian or
other third-party options, that leaves
the Republican with 37%. That’s a loss,
the GOP’s first in the 3rd District in the
post-Watergate era.

If Amash is going to play spoiler, the
better play may be to go big before go-
ing home. Run for president and muck
up the reelection chances of someone
he really can’t stand. The person who
called him a “total loser.” Trump, him-
self.

Seeking and winning the Libertari-
an Party’s presidential nomination in
2020 may be his best, and it’s not out
of the realm of possibility.

For one, the Libertarians don’t have
a big name right now. The 2012 and
2016 nominee, Gary Johnson isn’t run-
ning. Johnson, in fact, gave an Amash
candidacy “two thumbs up” when I
asked him about it.

Second, Amash already has a
national stage. The Washington Post
carried, exclusively, his Independence
Day column in which he announced his
departure from the Republican Party.
CNN had the exclusive interview with
Amash after the fact. His national pro-
file is high. A presidential run will push
it higher. That helps his job-searching
prospects in 2021 considerably.

Third, while Amash’s philosophy
doesn’t fit with the party exactly, he’s
close enough on personal liberty,
international affairs and fiscal issues to
make it work.

Fourth, the Libertarian Party is the
country’s only third party to have ballot
access in all 50 states, which saves a
potential presidential hopeful at least
\$3 million.

Fifth, running as a Libertarian
expands his network of contributions
to a national audience. Johnson ran in
2016 with \$12 million. Amash is much
more embroiled in the news of the
day. His relevance is much higher than
Johnson’s. Raising money and earned
media time from a national audience
shouldn’t be a problem.

Sixth, Amash could really kill
Trump’s reelection chances. Johnson
received 3.5% of the Michigan vote in
2016. There’s no reason to think Amash
couldn’t get at least 5% or 300,000
votes from his home state. Trump

only won Michigan by 10,704 votes,
remember.
In a tight election — where the Mid-
west could decide the results — having
a Michigander running a Midwest-cen-
tered campaign that draws more votes
from Republicans than Democrats is
bad news for Trump.

The choice is clearly his, but the
question he must answer is this: Does
he want to watch Trump spoil his
political career with late ad buys in
a long-shot reelection? Or would he
rather spoil Trump’s?
(Kyle Melinn of the Capitol newsletter
MIRS is at melinnky@gmail.com.)



PUBLIC NOTICE OF CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY’S PROPOSED FISCAL 2020 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS & PUBLIC HEARING ON ITS PROPOSED FISCAL 2020 BUDGET

Capital Area Transportation Authority hereby provides notice to the public and to private providers of its proposed fiscal 2020 program of projects and public hearing on its fiscal 2020 budget. The proposed fiscal 2020 program of projects follows:

| PROGRAM OF PROJECTS CAPITAL | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Section 5307 Formula Funding | | |
| Item | Federal Share | Total Grant Budget |
| Large Buses | \$ 3,437,548 | \$ 4,296,935 |
| Small Buses | \$ 503,871 | \$ 629,839 |
| Paratransit Vehicles | \$ 381,287 | \$ 476,609 |
| Support Vehicles | \$ 80,000 | \$ 100,000 |
| Maintenance Equipment | \$ 128,000 | \$ 160,000 |
| Facility Improvements | \$ 600,000 | \$ 750,000 |
| Preventive Maintenance | \$ 800,000 | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Spare Parts | \$ 120,000 | \$ 150,000 |
| Customer Enhancements | \$ 217,903 | \$ 272,379 |
| Safety & Security | \$ 70,400 | \$ 88,000 |
| ITS | \$ 252,000 | \$ 315,000 |
| Fareboxes | \$ 520,000 | \$ 650,000 |
| Bike Share Infrastructure | \$ 40,000 | \$ 50,000 |
| Planning | \$ 104,534 | \$ 130,667 |
| Total | \$ 7,255,543 | \$ 9,069,429 |

| Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Funding | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------|
| Item | Federal Share | Total Grant Budget |
| Large Buses | \$ 614,722 | \$ 768,402 |
| Small Buses | \$ 199,315 | \$ 249,144 |
| Total | \$ 814,039 | \$ 1,017,546 |

| Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funding | | |
|--|---------------|--------------------|
| Item | Federal Share | Total Grant Budget |
| Commute Options | \$ 114,047 | \$ 114,047 |
| Total | \$ 114,047 | \$ 114,047 |

| Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Funding | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------|
| Item | Federal Share | Total Grant Budget |
| Operating Service | \$ 128,147 | \$ 256,295 |
| Replacement/Expansion Buses | \$ 154,653 | \$ 193,317 |
| Total | \$ 282,801 | \$ 449,611 |

| OPERATIONS | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Federal Share Section 5307 and Other* | \$ 1,756,888 |
| State Share* | \$ 17,870,000 |
| Local Share | \$ 22,456,000 |
| Farebox and Other | \$ 8,388,500 |
| Total | \$ 50,471,388 |
| Total Capital/Operations | \$ 61,122,020 |

The proposed program of projects will constitute the final program of projects if there are no changes. Additional details on the proposed fiscal 2020 program of projects and a copy of the proposed fiscal 2020 budget are available for public inspection at CATA’s Administration Building, 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, MI 48910 and online at www.cata.org/FY20Budget.

CATA will hold a public hearing on its proposed fiscal 2020 budget Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2019, at 4 p.m. in the CATA Boardroom located at 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, Mich.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This will be a levy under the current authorized millage. There is **NO** proposal for a new millage.

Written comments on the program of projects or the budget should be addressed to CATA, Attn: Program/Budget Comments, 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, MI 48910 or publiccomment@cata.org and must be received by 4 p.m., Aug. 21, 2019. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and should be requested by Aug. 19, 2019.

Capital Area Transportation Authority
Bradley T. Funkhouser, AICP, Chief Executive Officer

*Includes federal and state preventive maintenance funds

CP#19-194

Williamston Gay-Straight Alliance wins backing of ACLU

A federal magistrate judge granted the ACLU of Michigan the authority to intervene on behalf of the Williamston High School Gay-Straight Alliance in their lawsuit with a fundamentalist Christian group, in a key legal victory for LGBTQ youth.

Jay Kaplan at the ACLU said his organization plans to ask the judge to dismiss the suit from David Kallman, the senior legal counsel for the Great Lakes Justice Center, a right-wing legal group based in Delta Township that's opposed to LGBTQ rights.

Kallman had sued the Williamston School District to overturn its anti-bullying and non-discrimination policy, which gives trans students the ability to use the bathroom that matches their gender identity. But Kaplan says the lawsuit lacks merit and its proponents have not been harmed by the school's policy nor had their privacy or their freedom of religion infringed.

"Members of the district are entitled to their religious beliefs, but it doesn't give them a blanket veto

on school policy," Kaplan said. "We don't believe there's a stated claim on which relief may be granted."

Kaplan said resolution in the case had been glacial. The lawsuit was first filed in early 2018, and they still had not gone into discovery or other legal fact-finding phases that set the evidence on which Federal District Judge Paul L. Maloney, a Bush appointee, would weigh.

The Great Lakes Justice Center is nominally backing a small group of parents opposed to the district's policy toward trans students, but the group regularly intervenes to push a right-wing agenda on social issues.

In addition to fighting to block progress on LGBTQ rights in Michigan, the Great Lakes Justice Center filed an amicus brief in support of President Trump's ban on entry from several Muslim countries. The center also opposes abortion rights and roots its positions on carefully selected Bible verses.

The lawsuit states that plaintiffs "do not oppose or demean any person



Courtesy Photo

Greg Talberg, who was recalled from his seat on the Williamston schools board over the district's pro-trans rights policy, applauded the ACLU of Michigan for intervening on behalf of LGBT students.

for who they truly are as a person" but "sincerely believe the Bible teaches that human beings were created male and female and that gender is neither fluid nor a social construct. Plaintiffs sincerely believe that a person's sex is established by the Creator with its own nature, essential properties, and purpose." The lawsuit accuses the school district of wanting to "indoctrinate students into believing that alternative sexual lifestyles are approved by all and to shame and blame those who believe it is wrong and immoral."

Williamston's sweeping protections for trans kids caused an uproar in the small community in eastern Ingham County. Opponents forced recall elections of several school board members, but toppled board President Greg Talberg.

Talberg, a civics teacher at Howell Public Schools with two daughters in Williamston schools, said the idea for the policy came not from the board members but from Williamston Community Schools students, who were surveyed and reported that stronger, more specific policies protecting LGBTQ students from harassment and discrimination were needed.

"The statistics are really, really clear that the numbers of LGBTQ youth at risk are much higher than other students. Everyone knows that

they are more at risk of terrible things that happen to kids," such as suicide, drug abuse and running away from home, said Talberg. "Any support that our kids can get, I appreciate it as a parent in the district."

Talberg said he had also taught trans students at Howell High School, increasing his awareness of their concerns. Howell has anti-discrimination policies but no specific policies on gender identity, putting students at the discretion of the teacher and school officials.

Talberg was recalled by just 58 votes and replaced on the board by Karen Potter, but just a one-vote difference on the board has not been enough to make it change its policy. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recognized Talberg's pioneering spirit in education by naming him to the Governor's Educator Advisory Council in May.

The schools had been nudged toward more progressive policies for LGBTQ youth by President Obama — a federal position that the current education secretary, Betsy DeVos, reversed, and court battles over legal protections for gay and transgender people are ongoing. How all of those legal battles will shake out is still unknown. "I didn't think it's fair for these kids to tell them they should just wait," said Talberg.

— CHRIS GRAY

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Tuesday, July 30

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Watching democracy die, part 3

Can a post-Trump America pull itself back from the brink?

In “How Democracies Die,” political scientists Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt argue that there are three strategies would-be authoritarians – from Juan Peron in Argentina, to Hugo Chavez in Venezuela, to Silvia Berlusconi in Italy, to Vladimir Putin in Russia – have employed in their efforts to consolidate power: capturing the referees, sidelining key players and changing the rules.

In his first year as president, Donald Trump attempted all three.

Trump tried to capture the referees – purging independent agencies and officials of the disloyal – by firing James Comey, attacking judges who ruled against him, shaming Jeff Sessions over his Russia recusal and so on. He sought to sideline key players in the democratic process through attacks on the press, against media owners, and an attempt – overturned by federal courts – to deny sanctuary cities federal funds. And he tried to change the rules by urging the Senate to eliminate the filibuster (it did so for Supreme Court confirmations) and creating a Commission on Electoral Integrity, a transparent attempt to crack down on the phantom problem on “fraud” through voter ID laws and other methods that suppress

minority turnout.

Trump talked more than he acted, Levitsky and Ziblatt write. But his instincts were clear; his ambitions, however, were checked by his unpopularity, ineptitude and the unwillingness of key party elders to play along.

Democracy’s fate, they continue, rests on three factors: the behavior of Republican leaders, public opinion and the potential for crisis.

In other words, if Republican leaders continued acting as a restraint, if Trump’s polling remained weak, and if no incident occurred that facilitated a power grab, our democracy might emerge from Trump’s presidency with its norms somewhat intact.

The book was published in January 2018. What’s happened since has been anything but reassuring.

Trump’s sugar-high economy hasn’t quite made him popular, but a Washington Post poll last week had him at 47 percent among registered voters, his highest yet. And if you’re counting on the GOP to keep him in check, sorry. John McCain is dead. Those who once, even meekly, dared stand up to Trump and his mob – Lindsay Graham, Marco Rubio, Thom Tillis – have been reduced to spineless sycophants or forced into exile, like Justin Amash.

Even Trump’s brazenly racist attack on four members of Congress this weekend was met with nary a word of resistance from the thoroughly cowed Republican Party.



JEFFERY C. BILLMAN

INFORMED DISSENT

The GOP is Trump’s party now: white, nativist, theocratic, revanchist, grievance-oriented, authoritarian, shamelessly hypocritical, proudly unserious. And because Trump knows his base would indeed not desert him should he shoot a man on Fifth Avenue, he’s increasingly blatant in his contempt for democratic norms: Jeff Sessions is gone, replaced by yes-man William Barr. The White House has defied multiple congressional subpoenas and ordered Trump’s underlings to refuse to cooperate with investigations. Trump circumvented Congress to try to build a southern border wall, ripped migrant families apart and threw asylum seekers into hellacious detention camps. He even openly toyed with straight-up flouting a Supreme Court ruling to place a citizenship question on the Census.

In a healthier democracy, there would be a bipartisan consensus that Donald Trump needed to be impeached and removed from office. But this isn’t a healthy democracy. One American party is broken. The other doesn’t know how to handle it.

“How Democracies Die” posits three outcomes to our present dilemma. The first two the authors deem unlikely: Trump (and Trumpism) is totally defeated and Republicans learn from the error of their ways, or Trump and his white nationalist allies form a viable coalition and the future looks like a mashup of “The Handmaid’s Tale” and “Man in the High Castle.” The third and most probable scenario, Levitsky and Ziblatt write, is what’s taken place in North Carolina (where I live) over the last decade: all-out, polarized, zero-sum warfare, where anything and everything is fair game – Republicans vs. Democrats, white vs. nonwhite, urban vs. rural.

I could write a lot on North Carolina politics, but it suffices to say this is not an optimal outcome. A quick version of the story goes like this: Funded by wealthy extremists, Republicans won in 2010 and quickly gerrymandered the state to give themselves an overwhelming majority. They used this majority not just to pass far-right social and economic legislation but also to block cities’ progressive

measures and try to impede minority voting. When voters elected a Democrat governor, Republicans rushed into a lame-duck session to strip him of powers. They then overrode nearly two-dozen of his vetoes using a supermajority they won through a racial gerrymander that had already been declared unconstitutional.

That’s just the beginning of politics without guardrails. The problem is how to arrest it.

Here, having diagnosed the disease, Levitsky and Ziblatt struggle with the cure. What they arrive at is something like a Joe Biden theory of politics: Republicans may have lost their moorings, but Democrats shouldn’t follow suit. They should play by the rules, adhering to norms. They should try to defeat Trump, of course – that’s imperative – but they shouldn’t impeach him without a bipartisan consensus. They shouldn’t try to change the rules to overcome obstruction. They should seek compromise, but without compromising their commitment to civil rights – which was, you’ll recall, the issue that ripped asunder the 20th century’s partisan truce in the first place.

But, to my mind, this prescription presumes that at least some Republicans would act in good faith when evidence of Trump’s criminality and malfeasance emerged. It did; they didn’t. It presumes that the system allows a fair fight, when the makeup of the Electoral College and the U.S. Senate – combined with the coming free-for-all of partisan gerrymandering, now blessed by the U.S. Supreme Court – gives white conservatives an entrenched (and growing) advantage. And it presumes that by extending olive branches, you can make peace with those who’ve declared total war on you.

If anything, this strikes me as a prescription for getting your ass kicked.

So what does a real solution look like – if one even exists? I’ll tackle that in the fourth (and final – honest) part of this goddamn interminable series, next week.

(Jeffrey Billman is the editor of INDY Week, in Durham, North Carolina.)

B/20/004 DRYING BED BID as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **AUGUST 13, 2019** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling **Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info**. The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#19-198

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On July 10, 2019 the approved minutes of the following proceedings of the Meridian Township Board:

June 18, 2019 Regular Meeting

were sent to the following locations for public posting:

Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road
and the Township Website www.meridian.mi.us.

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#19-197

B/20/007 TRAFFIC SIGNAL CABLE as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **AUGUST 13, 2019** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling **Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info**. The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#19-203

A small cup of coffee, a big environmental impact

John Roos, the owner of Ann Arbor-based RoosRoast Coffee shop, thinks hard about what he can do to make his business stand out. Roos takes the quality of his coffee seriously. However, as an environmentally conscious person, he understands the impact coffee-making has on the planet and tries to find ways around that.

“One of the things we do right off the bat is we purchase a lot of products locally, which kind of lowers our carbon footprint,” Roos said.

Running a coffee shop uses a lot of milk. Roos prefers to buy it from Calder dairy, a small business in the area. Not only does it help the local economy, but the bottles are glass.

“We use a lot of milk,” he said. “So that means we have no plastic waste. The glass bottles get returned every week, washed and reused again. So that’s a huge impact right there.”

Like many coffee shops, RoosRoast prepares specialty beans on site and donates the leftover grounds to community gardens. It also offers customers a small discount if they bring in a cup rather than using a disposable one.

Many in the coffee industry hope to

brew Michigan a rich blend of environmental, community and sustainability.

In Ypsilanti, Cultivate Coffee & Tap-house uses part of its space to house a 12-bed garden and donates the produce to a local food pantry. Cultivate operates as a nonprofit with proceeds going to more than 170 local programs and agencies.

However, staying environmentally conscious isn’t always as simple as buying local and contributing to the community. How beans are grown is a significant factor for people in the coffee industry.

Phillip Jewell is the chief operating officer of Blue Hat Coffee in Coldwater. One of the biggest things he looks at when buying beans is how and where they’re grown. One of its primary goals is to sell coffees grown without pesticides.

Jewell looks at high-quality flavors, which typically means shying away from beans grown in lower altitudes where pesticides often have to be used and where beans are harvested with machines.

“There’s several reasons for that – one is that when you grow at high levels in

the mountains, you tend to have less problems with defects because you have less problems with bugs and other problems you would have at lower levels,” Jewell said.

According to David Ortega, an agricultural economics professor at Michigan State University, consumers are interested in knowing more about the origins of their food. In a recent study conducted through MSU, he found that when consumers are willing to pay more when they know more about how their coffee is grown.

“In terms of the coffee shop owners, I think really focusing on conveying the story behind the coffee and who produced the coffee and where it was produced, I think that’s that information consumers are really keen on and oftentimes can fetch a premium,” Ortega said.

While issues like banning plastic straws receive lots of attention from consumers, many in the industry are looking to innovate new ideas.

The owners of Ann Arbor-based Mockingbird Coffee are looking to the future. In the backroom of their shop, amid boxes and crates and dozens of burlap bags of beans, sits a large industrial-sized coffee roaster.

However, their goal is to stay carbon-neutral or carbon-negative, which means offsetting their carbon dioxide emissions, also known as CO2, or removing it altogether.

According to co-owner Peter Woolf,

one of the major problems with coffee production is the amount of CO2 released into the atmosphere.

“In Michigan, in the middle of winter, when it’s minus 20 outside, most coffee roasters here are roasting coffee,” Woolf said. “And then they have a smokestack that comes out, which is about 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit – it’s enough to melt aluminum.”

However, that heat can be recaptured.

Rather than seeing the emissions as unusable waste of the coffee roasting business, Mockingbird has created a piping system to redirect that heat. The owners can use it to heat their store and water, and are working on using it to heat the entire building, which houses about a half-dozen other businesses.

They also plan to use the open lots around their building for a garden and use the plants they grow in the beverages and food they sell. Another goal is to sell to other businesses, so they can further reduce the CO2 emissions used to import fruits and vegetables.

They want to share their ideas and push their work as a new standard within the coffee industry and other industries.

— RAY GARCIA
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
This story was produced by a partnership of Michigan State University’s Knight Center for Environmental Journalism and WKAR Radio.

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED STATE AND FEDERAL APPLICATIONS FOR OPERATING AND CAPITAL ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

All citizens are advised that CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (“CATA”) has prepared an application for State of Michigan (“State”) financial assistance for Fiscal Year 2020 as required under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended, and for federal assistance as required under the federal transit laws, as amended, as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| State Operating Assistance | \$17,800,000 |
| FTA/State (20%) Urban Capital Program (Section 5307) | \$ 9,069,429 |
| State Specialized Services | \$ 40,000 |
| FTA Rural Operating Assistance (Section 5311) | \$ 350,000 |
| FTA/State (20%) Bus and Bus Facilities (Section 5339) | \$ 1,017,545 |
| FTA (100%) Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality | \$ 114,047 |
| FTA/State (20% capital) Enhanced Mobility (Section 5310) | \$ 449,611 |
| TOTAL | \$28,840,632 |

Operating and capital funds listed above include both urban and rural funds. Capital projects to be funded include: Purchase large and small buses; purchase paratransit vehicles for transporting customers; support vehicles; preventive maintenance; technology systems and fareboxes; planning; maintenance equipment; bus replacement parts; safety and security system; customer enhancements; and facility improvements.

CATA ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided without regard to race, color, or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding our Title VI obligations or to file a complaint, please contact our Deputy CEO at the address given below.

The proposed application is on file at CATA, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, and may be reviewed during a 30-day period (July 14, 2019 – August 13, 2019), Monday - Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Written comments regarding the application and/or written requests for a public hearing to review the application must be received by 5 p.m. on August 13, 2019. If a hearing is requested, notice of the scheduled date, time, and location will be provided at least 10 days in advance.

Submittals should be sent to: CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, FY 2020 Grant Application, Attn: Grants Department, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910.

CP#19-199

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, August 8, 2019** at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from CRMC, for the property located at 513 Park Lane, to install new windows due to fire damage.
2. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Gretchen and Tom Endres, for the property located at 503 Division Street, to replace windows on the structure with new Quaker Historic Fit windows.
3. A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from David Mielnicki, for the property located at 1016 Michigan Avenue, to replace the existing garage door with a new automatic garage door.

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
CP#19-202

2019 PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE

City Council candidates set priorities for Lansing

Several challengers emerge as primary election approaches

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Eight challengers — including a late arriving write-in candidate — will face off against four incumbents for seats on Lansing's City Council in the Aug. 6 primary election. And each of them has voiced some big ideas.

President Carol Wood and Patricia Spitzley will appear on next month's primary ballot alongside three challengers for two at-large spots. The four top finishers will run for the two at-large seats in the nonpartisan Nov. 6 General Election runoff.

Councilwoman Jody Washington will face four challengers in the city's 1st Ward. The two candidates getting the most votes in the primary will run against each other Nov. 6.

Councilman Adam Hussain will slide unopposed into another four-year term in Lansing's 3rd Ward.

Questions sent to each of the candidates revealed key details about their priorities if elected to the City Council. City Pulse aggregated those responses over the last week with the goal of creating a more informed electorate.



At-Large Council Member: Carol Wood
Age: 68, Neighborhood: Genesee
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Wood was raised in Lansing and was reelected to her fifth term on the City Council in 2015 following an unsuccessful run for mayor in 2009. She has also served on and chaired every Council committee and owns and operates her own neighborhood-oriented consulting firm. Wood also serves as executive director for RSVP of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties, a volunteer-based program that assists retirees.

She's running on more than 30 years of community service and feels it's important to provide wisdom, stability and a "voice of reason" to the City Council. She wants to continue to build on nearly two decades of

progress and said the city's economic future — and its swelling unfunded pension liabilities — are her largest priorities.

"I am an independent voice for residents and businesses with over 19 years of elected service and 30 years of neighborhood involvement," Wood added. "I believe in a comprehensive approach to moving Lansing forward."



Patricia Spitzley
Age: 54, Neighborhood: Lewton-Rich
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Spitzley was elected to the City Council in 2015. She has degrees from Lansing Community College and Central Michigan University, as well as a law degree from Michigan State University. Spitzley works as a manager at Racer Trust with a background in environmental regulation, policy, legal affairs and community outreach.

She said she's running to "continue to move this city forward" by protecting retiree pensions and addressing unfunded liabilities while simultaneously rerouting more revenues toward enhancements to neighborhoods, sidewalks and public safety. Her biggest issue: Addressing unfunded liabilities while protecting retiree pensions.

"I deserve your vote because I have proven that I come to City Council meetings prepared to address the issues of the meeting," Spitzley added. "I am a tireless advocate for the residents of the City of Lansing, making sure their tax dollars are spent responsibly."



Terry Eagle, Age: 62, Neighborhood: Colonial Village, Political Affiliation: Democrat-leaning independent

Eagle is retired and serves as a dis-

ability services advocate and ombudsman for small businesses and those with disabilities. He has a bachelor's degree and has worked for Lansing Hospital-ity Services and the Community Mental Health Authority, among other jobs since moving to Lansing in 1981. Eagle also serves on the Downtown Business District Advisory Board and the board of the Waverly Schools Education Foundation.

He's running "to make a difference in the quality of life for residents and businesses to reside, work, play, and have and raise a family safely in Lansing." One major issue he plans to address? Affordable housing — largely through beefed up housing code inspections and the demolition and replacement of unsafe buildings in the city.

"I possess the vision and ideas needed to attract and retain residents for present and future generations of families and single professionals," Eagle said, adding he can "fully devote the time required to address and advance to progressive resolution of the issues that are of concern and important to all Lansing residents and businesses."



Yanice Jackson-Long, Age: 41
Neighborhood: Northeast Lansing
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Jackson-Long attended Lansing Public Schools and works as a clerk for the Ingham County Treasurer's Office. She has college degrees in broadcast journalism and business administration and serves in leadership roles for the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council, the Lansing branch of the NAACP, the Potter Park Zoo and the county's Cultural Diversity Board. She previously worked for the county drain commissioner, Lansing's Human Resources Department, the Michigan Coordinated Campaign and The Chronicle News, among others.

She's running for the City Council to "be a voice for all people" no matter their race, gender or socioeconomic sta-

tus. Jackson-Long also said she wants to bridge "gaps" in the community to ensure everyone has a seat at the table. Her biggest priority: Push economic development to curb growing rates of poverty within the capital city.

"I deserve your vote because I'm here as a public servant, not a politician," she said. "I'm someone who will still connect with the community after election day because serving others is my joy."



Julee Rodocker, Age: 49
Neighborhood: Old Everett
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Rodocker, 49, is a lifelong Lansing resident and an electric materials buyer at Consumers Energy. Rodocker has a bachelor's degree in agricultural and natural resource communications from Michigan State University and retired after 22 years at Meijer. She's a commissioner for the Lansing Police Department and previously held positions on city's Human Relations & Community Services Board and the Lansing Board of Water & Light.

She's running for City Council to "create a safe community" through the promotion of equality, diversity, inclusion and policies that support "everyday Americans." She also favors flexible approaches to development and as a Democrat, supports public education, healthcare for all, workers rights and consumer protections.

Rodocker did not identify an issue to address in Lansing if elected, instead generally advocating for improvements to city policies through oversight and collaboration alongside her fellow City Council members.

"I have extensive corporate management and grassroots community leadership experience," Rodocker said. "I have developed effective partnerships and programs that have helped businesses and communities grow."

Candidates

from page 12



Dan Ross, Age: 41
Neighborhood: Pleasant Grove
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Dan Ross, who missed the deadline to file for the election, is running a write-in campaign for an at-large seat. A lifelong Lansing resident, Ross runs a concierge service and provides a range of services on the Uber platform. He's also a vocal participant in the Black Lives Matter movement in Lansing.

He's running for City Council to give a genuine voice to the community and engage with local residents. Lansing, he said, needs "unity" and a "fresh mindset" to carry the momentum forming downtown into other neighborhoods around the edges of the city. One big issue? Bridging the divide between police and residents.

He said he wants police to "look at people as part of the family. We live in a time where we don't even know our own neighbors. That's not healthy at all, and we need to change that. I'm all for getting back to the days when it took a village to raise a child. Nowadays, the village is lost. Unity is the key to carry us through."

Ross thinks "the system" runs Lansing. His write-in campaign is about giving it back to the people, he said.



First Ward Council Member
Jody Washington, Age: 62
Neighborhood: East Village
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Washington was elected to the Council in 2011 and 2015. She's a full-time grievance and litigation specialist at the state Department of Corrections. She has also served in various leadership positions including appointments to the East Side Neighborhood Association, the East Village Condo Association, Lansing for Cesar E. Chavez and the city's Fire Board of Commissioners. She has also chaired several Council committees.

She's running for the Council because she loves Lansing and has the "relationships, knowledge and work ethic to continue to move the 1st Ward and Lansing forward." Her biggest priority upon re-election: Addressing the more than \$700 million in unfunded pension and post-employment benefits liabilities lingering over the city budget.

"Lansing is headed for some tough times and tough decisions will need to be made. Experience matters more than ever," Washington said. "I have the experience and the proven record to continue to move us forward."

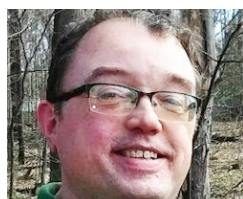


Brandon Betz, Age: 28
Neighborhood: Armory Alliance
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Betz is a senior analyst with Anderson Economic Group with a focus on public policy and economics. He has multiple degrees in economics and a background in experimental economics, tax policy, research on statewide workforce programs and workforce development. He volunteers on the board for the Young Professional Alzheimer's Advocates of Lansing and on the sponsorship committee for Grand River Connection.

He's running in solidarity with the "working class and the poor" as part of a "movement for real change," he said. That change includes making the Lansing City Council more accountable to local residents — not necessarily developers and corporate interests. His biggest issue: Giving citizens a real voice in economic policy.

"I'm the only candidate who is standing up to corporate developers, big money interests and the political establishment," Betz added. "I am fighting for the real people of Lansing."



Scott Hughes, Age: 49
Neighborhood: Eastside
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Hughes is the juvenile justice and community outreach coordinator for the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Michigan State University and an expansive background in

political consulting. Hughes previously worked to garner votes that ultimately passed East Lansing's recent income tax proposal and has served as vice chairman of the Ingham County Democratic Party.

He's running for the City Council with a desire to "ensure opportunities for all" and to combat the "real world impact of inequality" in the criminal justice system. He also wants to ease student loan debts by expanding the Lansing Promise scholarship and allowing all children to attend two years of community college for free.

"I'm a progressive Democrat," Hughes added. "If elected, I will work to protect basic services (including road repair) and expand opportunities, so the people of Lansing have universal access to the American dream."



James Pyle, Age: 41
Neighborhood: Groesbeck
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Pyle attended Lansing Public Schools and has worked as a real estate agent — currently for Century 21 — for 15 years. He bills himself as a neighborhood advocate and has been involved with efforts to improve the local community for years, including an appointment to Mayor Andy Schor's transition team on the Neighborhoods and Public Safety Committee, as well as volunteer work at the Allen Neighborhood Center.

He's running because of his concern for ongoing development plans in Lansing and because he is "saddened by the fact that so many neighborhoods throughout this city have been forgotten about." If elected, he wants to enhance code enforcement to bring more local buildings up to higher standards while keeping families in their homes.

"My goal will be to improve the quality of living for everyone, not just the businesses on Michigan Avenue," Pyle said. "I am willing and able to work with the communities to achieve this goal, as I have done in the past."



Farhan Sheikh-Omar, Age: 24
Neighborhood: Creston
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Sheikh-Omar, a Kenyan refugee, ran a failed primary campaign for Michigan's 68th House District against Rep. Sarah Anthony last year. He also studies political science at Lansing Community College, plans to transfer to Michigan State University and works as an assistant teacher for Ingham Intermediate School District.

He's running for the City Council to "give voice to the voiceless." He wants to listen to all sides of an issue, communicate with supporters, opponents and colleagues and focus on retention, expansion, attraction and leadership. His biggest priority: Enhancing infrastructure — including road repairs and other improvements.

"I will always be a public servant and never a politician," Sheikh-Omar said. "Your voice will be heard."



Third Ward Council Member
Adam Hussain, Age: 37
Neighborhood: Colonial Cooperative
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Hussain was first elected to the City Council in 2015. He has a bachelor's degree in secondary education, a master's degree in educational administration and works as a social studies teacher at Waverly Community Schools. He's a voting member of the Southwest Action Group and serves on the Colonial Cooperative Board of Directors. He has also held positions with the Lansing Park Board and the Colonial Neighborhood Watch.

He's running for the City Council because there is "much work left to do" in the 3rd Ward to help address infrastructure, corridors and commercial districts, neighborhood connections and improvements to public services and safety. His biggest priority, like his fellow incumbents, is addressing unfunded liabilities.

"I have worked tirelessly during my time on Council and have advocated fiercely for the things that matter most to those I represent," Hussain said. "I am still learning and certainly have made mistakes along the way, but if given another four years, I will continue to grow my understanding of the issues that are important to those I represent and endeavor to move said issues forward."

2019 PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE

Write-in Ross uses criminal history to highlight reform

Lansing City Council hopeful Dan Ross said he knew his criminal background as a teenager would come out if he ran for public office. He said that was a reason he launched his long-shot write-in bid for an at-large position.

"I come from an area where we didn't have a lot of hope," said Ross, 41, who hustles work driving for Uber and Lyft. "I think people are never really given a second chance at life."

He has been active in police protests in Lansing, including recent ones over the cops' handling of a black teenage girl who resisted arrest. He wants better community policing and a more progressive approach to youth who violate the law.

Ross is one of six candidates for two at-large positions on City Council currently held by Carol Wood and Patri-

cia Spitzley. The top four finishers in the Aug. 6 primary election will enter the General Election runoff.

Ross was convicted of a series of credit card charges and passing bad checks in his late teen years. The worst was when he was 17, for felony fraudulent use of a J.C. Penney store credit card. He said he never fully understood the charges and was given an incompetent public defender. Tried as an adult, he spent a year in the men's quarters at the Eaton County Jail, where he earned his GED.

Criminal justice reform has been a hot topic nationally, bringing together a strange coalition of old-guard liberals, African-American leaders and the libertarian billionaire Koch Brothers, who are more known for crushing labor unions and other right-wing causes.

The Kochs see mass incarceration and the "Tough on Crime" laws of the late 20th Century as a gross waste of taxpayer money and government overreach, just as others see the system as infringing on civil liberties or disproportionately harming black and brown families.

One area of focus has been juvenile justice reform, and rolling back laws that send teenagers like Ross into the adult system and back into juvenile courts, where advocates believe they have a better chance of reform. States such as Connecticut have seen a sharp drop in juvenile crime rates and incarceration costs after they barred adult trials for juveniles charged with all but the most serious crimes. Connecticut and Illinois are considering extending juvenile prosecution to people under 21.

The adult felony charges Ross earned as a juvenile have followed him all his life, making supporting himself difficult. He earned an associate degree in medical office administration from the for-profit Career Quest Learning Center in Lansing but has never found anyone who would hire him to work around patients with his felony record. Instead, he has made his money driving long-haul trucks and more recently, scrambling for Uber.

Ross hasn't fully paid up his debt to society. Court records show he still owes \$14,053.78 in court fees and restitution for two of his cases and has only paid \$100. He said he was unaware he still owed. He also admitted to City Pulse he owes child support. Ross has three children with different women.

— CHRIS GRAY

Meridian Township, Potterville voters face ballot measures

Meridian Township has two ballot measures before the voters this Aug. 6, including one that could boost service for its convenient Redi-Ride

public transit service and a large bond measure to raise money for new streets and improved infrastructure.

The street bond would allow the

township to borrow up to \$35.25 million for street construction and improvement projects, paid for with a 10-year levy of 1.9428 mills, or just under \$300 a year for a property with a value of \$150,000.

Redi-Ride provides curb-to-curb service for Meridian Township residents, connecting them either to local places or fixed bus routes for rides into the city. The Capital Area Transportation Authority operates fixed routes that roam the township, but for this door-to-door service, the township has a separate funding stream its asking voters to renew of 0.2 mills, or \$30 for a house valued at \$150,000.

Deputy Township Manager Derek Perry said the renewal could allow the township to increase its fleet from four to five minibuses to provide the service. Riders schedule their pickups in advance and share the minibus with other riders.

The service is in addition to CATA's paratransit pickups for people with

disabilities. Redi-Ride helps disabled people get around, too, but is not restricted to those riders.

Potterville schools want funding renewed

In Eaton County, just one jurisdiction votes on Aug. 6 — the Potterville School District, which is asking voters to renew an 18-mill levy for 10 years to provide operational funding for public education, from 2020 through 2029.

The measure will affect property owners in Potterville, Benton Township and Windsor Township in the southwest corner of the Lansing metro area.

The renewal levy is expected to generate about \$700,000 a year. The tax collected from this renewal would be \$2,700 for a home with a taxable value of \$150,000.

— CHRIS GRAY

Scott HUGHES

FOR CITY COUNCIL, WARD #1

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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Two theremins, two guitars and zero rehearsals

Wolf and Slow of noise rock outfit They're Dead trace the origins of Lansing's DIY basement show culture

By **AUDREY MATUSZ**

Before they were called legends in Lansing's DIY scene, Wolf and Slow were the youngsters on the east side going door-to-door asking for mattresses. Wolf rented a house on the corner of Francis and Fernwood Avenues as a rehearsal space where local musicians could come and make noise. The mattresses were for sound-proofing.

In the depths of Wolf's basement, he and Slow began fusing their minds through jam sessions — a connection that would last for over 30 years.

"We grew up in basements playing rock 'n' roll," said Slow.

With a mutual love for silent films, theater and improvisation, Wolf, 70, and Slow, 60, started a friendship that has survived the test of time. Wolf is John McIntyre and Slow is Monte Boutwell, but they prefer to go by their stage names. They have played in several bands under various names, either as a united force or split solo acts, since the late '70s. They're Dead played Saturday at the Robin Theatre — their first time gracing that stage — where they played an original live soundtrack to silent films by American experimental filmmaker Maya Deren.

"We kind of came out of retirement and started doing these basement shows again and I was kind of surprised, like 'why are all these kids liking what we do? Maybe we should keep doing this,'" Slow said.

Dressed as pathologists about to perform an autopsy, Wolf and Slow were joined on the Robin Theatre's stage by operatic soprano Caroline Volt, Brad Trouper on drums and Joe Hart from The Jackpine Snag on the didgeridoo — a wind instrument developed by indigenous people from what is today considered northern Australia.

Washes of red, green and blue light illuminated the stage while the black and white films were projected on the backdrop.

The 45-minute set included an original song where the audience was

asked to project a film on their minds — set to the eerie ruckus banged out on harmoniums, drums, electric guitars and of course, theremins and several effect pedals.

The band formed on Halloween in 2001 at the Sun Theatre in Grand Ledge. Slow was a projectionist and convinced his manager to screen "Night of the Living Dead" for the holiday.

To provide spooky sounds as guests arrived, Slow enlisted Wolf, who had a regular gig at the Odeon Theatre in Frandor Shopping Center performing live scores to silent films.

"People ask if we're a Grateful Dead tribute band. We're more of a George Romero tribute band," Wolf said referring to the film director's influence.

Wolf, who was raised in the Washington, D.C., area, came to East Lansing in 1967 and studied physical science and English at MSU. He received two degrees by 1972 and remained on campus as a technologist while taking courses in telecommunications.

"Never quite finished the degree, but my transcript is now five pages," Wolf said.

Wolf has been tinkering with ARP synthesizers and theremins since 1997, when he played in a local electronic band called Idle Hands.

He said it's possible he was the first to bring the new age instruments to the local music scene.

The band joked that Wolf also beat Pink Floyd in integrating "the wall" into stage theatrics, referring to a structure Wolf built for a performance in the summer of '77 at one of the early Fun Fests — a defunct north Lansing block party in Old Town.

That same summer, Wolf and Slow met through a mutual friend's progressive rock band called Eclipse. The group hosted a series of small shows in basements around town, even after Slow left Lansing to explore San Francisco and its experimental performance art scene.

When he returned, Slow had Wolf



Courtesy/Sabrina Hayhoe

Wolf (right) utilizing his theremin sorcery to accompany Caroline Volt (center) and Slow (bottom left) during a They're Dead performance.

score his silent Super 8mm films and the two got right back to collaborating.

Over the past 18 years, the band has performed alongside films like "Fantastic Planet," "Witchcraft Through the Ages" and "Hell's Hinges."

The bandmates explained that they do practice and screen the films beforehand, but rehearsing together would go against the nature of the band.

While the band's rule is born out of creative influences of punk rock and the free jazz movement, according to Wolf, it's more practical to play live instead of recording soundtracks.

He said this is mainly due to silent films "existing in different prints" or cuts.

"So there is no guarantee that the print I was watching to study the film was going to be the one that was actually shown," Wolf said. "Plus, silent films were played back at 22

frames per second, sound was played at 24fps. So, there were times when theaters would screen the films at 24fps. It's subliminal, but it's faster."

Wolf and Slow lamented house venues that have come and gone in Lansing, including The Ghetto Diaper, Zeppelin House, Panopticon and Brighter Days Bookshop, among others. The duo said that they have ventured past city limits for gigs in the past, but consider Lansing their home.

"During my punk days, the people at the venues weren't that friendly," Slow remarked. "So it was really nice when I was exposed to the house scene in Lansing when I was older with all these young people. Everyone was so nice."

The band has no shows booked for now, but regardless of the setting for their next set, their credo will remain: Two theremins, two guitars and zero rehearsals.

Director and actress Janet Colson embraces winds of change

The local playwright shares her journey to having multiple degrees, three kids and endless possibilities

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Besides playing nude volleyball, it's hard to find something Janet Colson hasn't done.

In June, Colson graduated with an MFA in writing from Goddard College in Vermont. In addition to boasting famous alumni such as David Mamet, Trey Anastasio and William H. Macy, the school was once known for its naked volleyball games.

Colson has directed and acted in several local productions including "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "The Buried Child." Recently, she was in Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s "Indecent," where she auditioned to be a violinist but won a spot playing Halina instead.

Colson holds multiple degrees in addition to being an actor, director, playwright, budding children's author, yoga instructor at the Oak Park YMCA, violin and viola player, teacher of multiple subjects and a waitress who can play spoons. She is

a pole dancer, too.

"Not professionally, but that could change," Colson said. "I do need the income."

The multi-hyphenate said she has a "personality that craves lots of options." Which made attending Goddard College a "big deal" because she had to focus on one subject.

After high school, Colson attended the New York University Tisch School of the Arts, then a theater program at the University of Wisconsin, the Boston Conservatory and then returned to NYU with a year in Paris.

Chicago-born and Madison, Wisconsin-raised, Colson spent 17 years in Los Angeles. She earned teaching credentials through the University of California, Los Angeles and taught at an inner-city school. She also met her husband, Mark, of 23 years while performing in "Matthew and the Pope's Hat." Her performance netted Colson a glowing review in Variety magazine. The rest



David Winkelstern/City Pulse

Janet Colson is a regular director and actress in local theater and recently graduated from Goddard College in Vermont.

of the play was labeled "bedlam and dreck."

Colson's husband is a TV and equity theatre actor and in a yet-to-be-released Netflix show. The couple has lived in the Lansing area for eight years with their three children.

"We are Family Colson," Colson said, "We all act and we're all really interesting."

The Colsons came to Lansing in pursuit of teaching positions at Michigan State University, where Janet teaches today.

"I've taught five different departments at MSU," she said. "Not many people can say that."

She mainly teaches English as a second language. In the past, she's taught finance to Korean students, led role-playing for the Office of Inclusion and co-directed Disney musicals for elementary students in Lansing schools through the Wharton Center for Performing Arts.

Other local work includes acting in "The Women of Lockerbie," directing "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "Buried Child" at Riverwalk Theatre and acting in "Gideon's Knot" at Ixion Theatre Ensemble. For a past Lansing Renegade Festival, Colson performed a one-woman show called "The Yellow Wallpaper."

"She was such a caring director," said Sally Hecksel, who played Anne Frank under Colson's guidance. "She's

someone who is really easy to open up to and trust."

Michael Boxleitner played Peter in the same play. He said it was Colson's attention to detail and amount of energy that set her apart from other directors.

"She's a director that fights to achieve her vision," Boxleitner said.

Connor Kelly shared the observation about Colson's energy and commented on her optimism as the director in "Buried Child."

"I think she does an incredible job of making everyone see their self-worth," Kelly added. "I hope to carry the same amount of energy and optimism into my future."

For her thesis at Goddard, Janet had to submit a full-length play. It is called, "EA (Eaters Anonymous)."

"It touches all of us," she said. "We're all addicted to eating."

The director-student-mother said she battled with a "raging" eating disorder and kicked the habit when she started raising her children. She said above all, parenting is her favorite role.

The family's next move will likely be to Detroit, where her and her husband regularly commute for work and commercial shoots.

"It's a weird time. It's the in-between," she said. "I'm at a precipice, but I know everything is going to turn out cool."



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Nonprofit shows positive male role models for Lansing youth

Nonprofit challenging men to give back throws community barbecue

By DENNIS BURCK

Lansing dads and dudes unite for this old school barbecue celebrating positive male role models giving back to the Lansing community. The event will feature barbecued food on a donation basis, live music and nonprofit vendors.

Started in 2007, Men Making a Difference or MMAD, helps underserved Lansing youth understand what positive masculinity looks like. The group can be found tutoring youth, doing community service, giving one on one basketball lessons and teaching children how to play chess.

“Preaching we didn’t feel was very useful to them,” Andrew Brewer, president of MMAD said. “We thought action speaks louder than words. I wanted to find a way to give back and thought that young people need to see men give back to their community.”

What started as a community barbecue at Hawk Island Park for 20 or so people turned into a gathering of 1,500.

The group specifically targeted young black men to mentor. Brewer said along the way, the group found that they weren’t only helping young people, but they were helping themselves.

“What we’ve seen is that there are not a lot of fathers in a lot of homes,” Brewer said. “What we wanted to do



Courtesy Photo

MMAD president Andrew Brewer Jr. (center) and MMAD members at a breakfast fundraiser for the organization.

is have the young men see that men care about them. Even though they might not have a father, if you work together you can do things and make things happen for them to see it as a way of life.”

The group focuses on things fathers

teach their sons as a rite of passage. They work to show young men how to tie a tie, table etiquette and prepare for job interviews.

Outside of the celebration, the group hosts an entrepreneur camp, bookbag drive and mentoring at the Boys and Girls Club.

Community service started early for Brewer. He spent his weekends in his early teens volunteering as a candy stripper at local hospitals.

“I didn’t tell anyone because it wasn’t cool,” he said. “I was going to the hospital helping people every weekend. Along the way, I got in trouble and did get locked up. But I had the roots to come back.”

Instilling those roots even when someone goes astray is vital, he added.

“Once a young man gets in trouble with the law, the first thing they make them do is community service,” he said. “We want to introduce him to

community service positively before that happens. If they start looking at it as something to do once you get in trouble, it is a punishment. We want it to be a way of life in the community.”

People think what MMAD is doing is revolutionary, but for Brewer who grew up in the African American community, it was like this almost every weekend.

“The families started to stop doing this when the crack epidemic started,” he remarked. “Since then, the family unit has been a struggle. We are trying to bring that back and bring everybody to it. That one spark can change a whole generation.”

Hip-hop, rhythm and blues acts will be featured performers. On the menu is pulled pork, hot dogs and coleslaw. The event is sponsored by the City of Lansing, Southside Community Coalition and AC&E Rentals.

MMAD Barbecue

Saturday July 20
From 1 to 6 p.m.
Benjamin Davis Park
5500 Pleasant Grove,
Lansing
(517) 930-1041
www.mmada.us

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BY JAMES HINDMAN

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Elementary art teacher takes notes from students

Eric Staib talks about the art of scribbling, dyslexia and leveling up in the local art scene

By **AUDREY MATUSZ**

Eric Staib, 50, is an art teacher at Okemos Public Schools, where he works with elementary students to view the world more creatively. He said the biggest challenge his students encounter is using their imagination to see past what their subject “should” look like.

“For some of my students, when they see a cardboard box, they just see a cardboard box,” Staib said. “I try to push the surrealism.”

While Staib guides his students to think unconventionally, a lot of their work inspired

Eric Staib: R3claim

On display until
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pieces in his latest series, “R3claim” at the MICA gallery. While borrowing from children’s doo-

dles has been practiced by greats such as Pablo Picasso and Wassily Kandinsky, he said it’s difficult for adults to mimic the “purity” of a child’s scribbles.

“Even the color combinations are just crazy cool,” Staib said. “They can’t even answer why they did it. It’s just how they feel about the colors at the time.”

“R3claim” was built on either repurposed canvas he found while dumpster diving behind Kresge Art Center, cardboard boxes or even the back of a 99-cent painting from a thrift store.

Influenced by the work of Jasper Johns, many of Staib’s paintings include a series of numbers detailing the color, texture or methods in the order of when they were used.

Because the artist works strictly with rejected materials, his studio is mobile. Staib plays drums for the Luke Cyrus Band, a rising rock ‘n’ roll infused outfit. While on tour in 2016, Staib finished a series of cardboard paintings. He still gets a kick from the time when the cleaning attendants in the hotel left notes in his room complimenting his work.

“I truly think I have my niche and it all ties in with my dyslexia,” Staib said.

This practice of flipping discarded objects is hardly a trick, but rather a refined skill he’s mastered over the years as a dyslexic man navigating the education system — something he discusses openly in his artist statement.

At the exhibit’s reception Friday, a family from Coldwater drove an hour just to talk to Staib about their dyslexic son. Staib said we talked with the family for about 45 minutes about his childhood struggles and study tips he’s learned along the way.

“One of the big things I talked to their son about was when I was growing up, I dealt with very low self-esteem because I always felt like a failure at everything,” Staib said.

Staib attended the MSU School of Music on a scholarship and found a support system in the school marching band. He said the biggest lesson he learned while at college was learning “how to advocate” for himself.

What’s next for Staib? According to him, a lot more traveling with his band and daughter — who is looking at prospective out of state colleges. He said he’s also talking with Michigan State University and Saginaw Valley State University about doing solo exhibits.

“I want to conquer Michigan first.”



Courtesy Photos

(Above) Eric Staib, 50, is a dyslexic local arts educator who encourages students to see past reality. (Below) The wheel-looking shape on the right was inspired by the work of one of Staib’s students. The canvas is a repurposed paper bag and is on display at the MICA Gallery.

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Meet this week's cover artist: Alba Isabel Lamar

By **AUDREY MATUSZ**

Alba Isabel Lamar is fed up. Hailing from Brooklyn, New York, Lamar can trace her family's migration across America, starting in Ecuador. She said she grew up learning "afro-indigenous culture" and at a young age was already resistant to "the culture of the white man."

Lamar, 34, came to Michigan four years ago to get her Ph.D. in curriculum instruction and teacher education at MSU. She's traveled in practically every region of the U.S., integrating art with history lessons. She said Michigan was probably the most difficult transition noting that "91.6% of teachers in Michigan are white women."

I caught up with the youth educator while she was at a conference in Minneapolis participating in a workshop and assembly called "Black Lives Matter at School."

What is your favorite mode of self-expression?

Writing is my main form of self-expression. I also do photography, make jewelry, sew and play piano and guitar. Collage is a common artform for me since developing carpal tunnel and ulnar palsy in the last five years. It's easier on my hands to do collage sometimes than other art forms. Doing art is part of my personality – it's who I am and have always been. Also, I have forms of auditory-tactile, mirror-touch and lexical-gustatory synesthesia – which makes my senses overlap and increases my desire to map out how my senses intersect.

You say you are indigenous to America, but isn't Ecuador technically in South America?

Do you know why the Olympics has five rings? It's because most of the



Lamar

world sees five continents. That's just an American thing. Australia is not split. We call it Oceania, because New Zealand is in there, Tahiti is in there.

The funny thing too is those are all colonial words – North, Central and South America. We actually call this land Abya Yala, which best translates to "land of vital blood." It's from the Guna language. Every tribe basically had different words for this land, but in the last 20 years there was a really big movement – among native people in Latin America and Canada – to establish what we call this land.

To us, no offense to people who call it Turtle Island, it's ugly. Why put those words on us that don't come from the land? Even our names were put on us. Our original last name is not Lamar. The colonizers put that on us because we were from the sea.

Can you walk me through your piece?

It has been 50 years of the first moon landing and every photograph I've seen that marks the occasion centers the U.S.

flag. There was outrage about the 2018 "First Man" film which did not depict the U.S. flag during the moon landing and many folks blew up over social media about its absence.

The cloth cut outs of stars, flowers and the moon were chosen to half taunt at the superficiality and or elitist perspectives that the U.S. should be central to any and every great accomplishment.

The lively artificiality of the colors were meant to be sharply contrasting to the serious occasion of claiming property. The four-leaf clover is often viewed as symbols of good luck in some cultures. The symbol for luck has become a regular icon on SpaceX's – a launch pad for rockets located at the north end of Cape Canaveral, Florida – flight patches ever since the company's first successful Falcon 1 launch in 2008. I just thought it appropriate to consider luck as contradictory to the millions of dollars actually invested in the completion of successful missions – never mind the costs and deterioration of Pachamama – Kichwa for Mother Earth.

Do you think we should celebrate the Fourth of July?

I'm a little bit left in that I don't believe we should be celebrating the Fourth. It should be more of a Juneteenth activity where we are being mindful of what that means. Like who is this freedom for? What is it about?

For instance, I was just at the airport in Orlando. At the entrance of the airport they have that famous painting with the founding fathers and the flag.

So, if you literally didn't know what that was, say you are new to the country, all you are going to see are older white dudes – literally zero people of color.

So, it's like, "Oh, that's what this land is?"

It just really discounts the fact that there are people who have been here forever like me – my family has been on this land forever. And it discounts the people that were brought here to work this land and built it. So, all of that is missing in the Fourth of July dialogue. It's all about freedom from the Imperialist nation of England, but there are layers of colonization that have not been discussed enough.

Describe an act of patriotism.

The truest act of patriotism requires the relinquishing of power and dismantling hierarchical systems that consolidate wealth and oppresses any citizen. To be a true patriot, love, above all else. Fighting for social justice is actual patriotism.

Call for cover art submissions:

The cover of City Pulse can't get pretty on its own. This summer, City Pulse, as it has done for the last three years, will feature work from local artists on the cover for the next eight issues. Anyone who lives in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties may submit to the "Summer of Art" contest. Individuals will be notified if their work has been selected. Additionally, the cover artist must donate their original artwork to the Arts Council's Young Creatives Program. Artists will be compensated 30% of the auction price.

Pieces submitted must be scalable to 9.5 inches by 6.5 inches. Artwork will be accepted on a rolling basis up to Aug. 15. Original artwork can be submitted to lansingarts.slideroom.com. For more information, please call (517) 372-4636.

Allison Dickson finds her voice with domestic thrillers

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Genres and sub genres are the meat and potatoes of the literary world. There's the old reliable fiction and non-fiction, but publishers will tell you it's in the sub-genres where the action is. There's mysteries, cozies, true crime, horror, sci-fi, young adult fiction, vampire, erotic vampire, and the list goes

Allison Dickson at Schuler Books

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517.349.8840

on like the choices at a sub shop.

And publishers are always looking for the hot new

genre and then cultivating authors who write in that genre. One of the hottest genres at this time is domestic thriller. I discovered this after I came across the phrase in a publicity release for a book by author Allison Dickson, who will be making a mid-Michigan stop at Schuler Books in Okemos next week.

I caught up with the author by phone as she was attending the annual ThrillerFest Conference in New York City. She filled me in on what a domestic thriller is and why her new book "The Other Mrs. Miller" fits into that genre.

The concept for domestic thriller, also called domestic noir, is quite simple. The plot takes place in the home or work place of a woman and most often delves into the human experience of the day-to-day life of a woman. If you put it that way, it can sound boring. However, I can attest that "The Other Mrs. Miller" is not boring, but rather a race-for-your-life thriller with twists and turns, speed bumps and shocking reveals around every corner.

To put the genre in context, the biblical story of "Deborah" may qualify as a domestic thriller right up there with the '90s movie "Basic Instinct." In the recent literary world, the most notable entries in that genre are "Gone Girl," by Gillian Flynn and "The Girl on the Train," by Paula Hawkins. Delia Owens' "Where the Crawdads Sing" might be shoe-horned into the genre if you consider the swamp as a woman's home and place of work.

In our phone conversation, Dickson described how she toiled at short stories, sci-fi and horror for a decade with some fame, but little success.

"I'd been wanting to write fiction since I was a teenager, but college



Courtesy Photo

Allison Dickson wrote an indie-horror novel in 2013 called "Strings." Her new book marks her debut in domestic thrillers.

kind of killed my desire to write and I became disillusioned," she said.

Dickson became a stay-at-home mom and started writing short stories in 2008. She described them as "creepy short stories" in the Stephen King vein. "I was addicted to Stephen King as a teenager," she said.

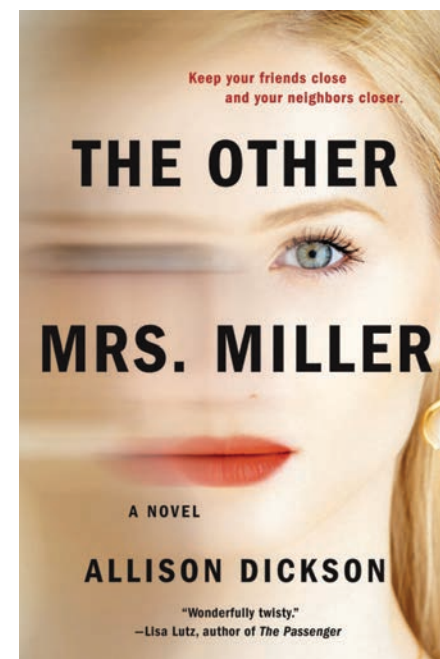
She took a leap when she queried Gillian Flynn's agent and was accepted into her fold. Dickson said Flynn is a huge inspiration behind her work and that she "owes everything to her."

She said she's never met Flynn, but hopes to soon.

Dickson said she was ready to give up writing if "Mrs. Miller" didn't sell. The lack of book sales would've simply been a sign that "It was time to go on."

"The Other Mrs. Miller" is considered a debut for Dickson since she switched genres.

"Debut authors are hot things, and I just hope my second book does as well,"



Allison Dickson's debut "domestic thriller" book dropped yesterday.

she said.

It's hard to write about the book in detail without giving away any of the incredible plot. The story is set in the Midwest in a neighborhood of Lake Forest, Illinois. The protagonist, Phoebe Miller, is not happy in her marriage to a psychologist. She inherited a huge estate from her father, who was generally loathed, and she is being stalked by a mysterious person. Phoebe has become a near agoraphobic and a big fan of "cab sav."

The book has all the makings of a "Peyton Place" beach read. But about 100 pages in, the reader is confronted with a stunning plot twist. Readers will think to themselves, "I didn't see that coming."

"Readers will either really love it or be very angry," Dickson said referring to the unexpected turning point.

The second half of the book continues with buried secrets, varying points of view and several clever Hitchcockian twists and turns.

Dickson likes to call the experience "a twisty ride."

"The second half of the book was the hardest to write from a technical level. It's a kooky concept and all the plot elements had to be weaved together," she said.

Readers will agree Dickson has not only found her genre, but also her voice with "The Other Mrs. Miller."

SCHULER BOOKS

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOARD GAME NIGHT

July 18 • 6pm

Join us once a month in the cafe for board games. Bring some of your favorites or choose one of ours. Beginners welcome!

CORE 2020 DRAFT

July 19 • 6pm

Draft 3 packs of the newest set Core 2020. Lands and prizes are provided. All Magic products are 20% for those who attend the event.

OUT OF THIS WORLD KID'S STORYTIME

July 20 • 11am

Blast on over to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing with a space-themed story, craft, snacks and a video of the 1969 moon landing!

LADIES NIGHT OUT

July 24 • 7pm

Join us for an evening with author Allison Dickson as she discusses her novel *The Other Mrs. Miller*. We will serve mocktails and give away prizes!

FIND MORE INFO ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE

SchulerBooks.com/Event
Meridian Mall, Okemos

Curious Book Shop

307 E. Grand River * East Lansing

Mon - Sat 10-7 pm, Sun 12-5

We validate parking!

www.curiousbooks.com



Great used books for everyone!
(and a few new ones too!)



Archives Book Shop

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332-8444 * Free parking

Mon - Sat 11-6 pm, Sun 12-5 pm

thearchivesbookshop@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 Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

Wednesday, July 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

ALIVE Mini Camp: Hands-on cooking camp for littles. 1-3 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Charlotte Area Sports Performance Training - Learn the fundamentals. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

East Lansing Roller Derby Summer Boot Camp - 8:30-10 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing.

Group Guitar: Beginner. 5:45-6:45 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Jr. Chemist - 9:15 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Plant-Based Cookout - Learn how to prepare a plant-based cookout. 6:30-7:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

S.T.E.A.M tinkrCAMP - Do you have a kid that loves to make, invent, explore and be creative? 9 a.m.-5 p.m. tinkrLAB, Meridian Mall, 1982 W. River River, Suite 321, Okemos.

What's So Funny - Learn about humor. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Animal Space Tales - Hear fun stories about animals. 10:30-11:30 a.m. CADL Williamston, 3845 Vanneter Rd. 517-655-1191.

Lion King Hakuna Matata Party - Watch the animated Disney classic with popcorn and

a craft. 3-5 p.m. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. 517-589-9400.

Make a Space "Craft" - Starry Sky Light Catchers! 2-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014 to register.

Zeemo - Watch Zeemo play with toys that have travelled on a real space shuttle. 2-3 p.m. CADL Dansville, 1379 Mason St., Dansville. 517-623-6511.

EVENTS

Allen Farmers Market - 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1629 E.Kalamazoo, Lansing. 517-999-3911.

Canoe Adventure, Part 2 - Kayaks and canoes available. 517-337-1113 to register and pay. 12:30-2 p.m. Rivertown Adventures, 325 City Market Dr, Lansing, MI, Lansing.

Death Cafe - Gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death. 1-2:30 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing. 517-337-1113.

Garden Project Annual Community Garden Tour - 5:30-8 p.m. Garden Project Resource Center in Foster Park, 2401 Marcus St., Lansing.

GL Recycle & Compost Hours: 3-7 p.m. Grand Ledge. oneidatownship.org.

Great Lakes Track & Field Community Fun Run - Mon., Tues., Thurs. 6-8 p.m. Waverly High School, 160 Snow Rd., Lansing. 517-388-3862. gltrackandfield.wordpress.com.

I See France - Liven up your summer with a time-traveling trip to England, France, and Italy. 7:30-9:30 p.m. The Village Chapel at Meridian Historical Village, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos.

Lansing Area Mindfulness Community - 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S MLK Blvd., Lansing. 517-420-5820. lamc.info.

Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days and Michigan Dairy Expo - MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Ln, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

ARTS

Answers In The Dark - Jordyn Fishman & Curt LaCross Exhibition 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

Beach Terrariums - Make your own beach themed terrarium while enjoying a drink! 6:30-8 p.m. Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing, Haslett.

Clay on the Pottery Wheel - 4:30-6 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Colorful Tulips - 6:30-9 p.m. Painting with a Twist, 580 Frandor Ave, Lansing. 517-483-2450. paintingwithatwist.com.

Couples and Families - Hand-carved stone sculptures from Zimbabwe 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-0815. sapergalleries.com.

Midnight Glow - 7-9 p.m. Painting with a Twist, 580 Frandor Ave, Lansing. 517-483-2450. paintingwithatwist.com.



Stand Up! In Durant Park

They say laughter is the best medicine. This outdoor, stand-up comedy show is designed to utilize the art form as a tool to empower marginalized identities. The social justice-oriented comedy show will feature local acts Gayle Murray and Jonas Higbee. Murray is the gay character that should've been casted in Judd

Apatow's cult TV show "Freaks and Geeks." With a soft spot for nerdiness, Murray's set is sprinkled with punchy one-liners and references to her prolific cat — whom she consults on political matters. Higbee uses his experiences at MSU and beyond to poke fun at tough guys with guns. This will be Higbee's second stand-up performance. No experience is required to perform. Those interested in performing can sign up at the event or by calling the listed number.

Stand Up! In Durant Park

Saturday, July 20
2-4 p.m.
Durant Park
700 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing
To sign up, call or text
(810) 355-4824

Painting Outside the Lines - Art Exhibit through July 18. 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

REACH Camp Week 5: July 29-Aug 2. Performing Arts. 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-4 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Teen Open Studio: 4:30-6 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

MUSIC

23rd Annual Muelder Carillon Series: Concert 3 - 6 p.m. MSU Beaumont Tower, 375 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Concert in the Park - Free tours and swing dance lessons 6-7 pm. 6-9 p.m. Turner Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. 517-483-4220. lansingmi.gov.

Concert in the Park - William E. Tennant Performance Shell, St. Johns City Park. 7-9:30 p.m. cityofstjohnsmi.com.

Jazz Lunch Cruise - 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Michigan Princess, Grand River Park, Lansing.

Mori and Mama Music - 5-6 p.m. Allen Farmers Market, 1611 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing.

Tom Mason and the Blue Buccaneers - 7 p.m. Pump House Concerts, 368 Orchard St, East Lansing.

Thursday, July 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

ALIVE Mini Camp: Hands-on cooking camp for littles. 1-3 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Easy Instant Pot Cooking - Learn to prepare tasty dishes in the Instant Pot. 6-7:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Group Guitar: Beginner. 5:45-6:45 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Jr. Chemist - 9:15 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

S.T.E.A.M tinkrCAMP - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. tinkrLAB, Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River #321, Okemos.

EVENTS

Autism Support Group - Connect monthly with individuals caring for children with Autism. 6:30-7:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Bath Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13751 Main St., Bath. shopbfm.org.

See Out on the town, Page 24

THURSDAY JULY 18 >> 13TH ANNUAL POETRY IN THE CITY



Meia Monique and Brandon Navin host a spoken word poetry event on the Capitol steps. Call ahead or sign up on site if interested in performing. Attendees are advised to bring a blanket or lawn chair.

7-9 p.m.
Michigan State Capitol
110 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing
(517) 372-8466
www.tncp.net

WEDNESDAY JULY 17 >> TOM MASON AND THE BLUE BUCCANEERS AT THE PUMP HOUSE



Witness an authentic pirate band peg leg and scurvy-free at the Pump House in East Lansing. Tom Mason and the Blue Buccaneers make a stop at the concert space ahead of jumping aboard and headlining Bay City's Tall Ships Festival. The group plays sea shanties, Irish jigs and Afro-cuban ballads.

7 p.m., \$20 suggested donation
Pump House Concerts
368 Orchard St., East Lansing
(517) 927-2100
facebook.com/PumpHouseConcerts

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

RENT STRIKE BIDS FAREWELL TO LANSING IN Q&A



Rent Strike



Album art for Rent Strike's 2018 "IX" LP

Americana-punk rides off into the sunset

Fresh off another lengthy tour spanning the United States, Rent Strike just returned to its home base of Lansing — for now, that is.

John Warmb, 26, the folk-infused punk band's frontman, will soon say goodbye to Lansing as he relocates to his new home in Pittsburgh. The prolific songwriter, red-hot banjoist and guitarist confirmed: Rent Strike, as it is now, is going on an indefinite hiatus.

For those looking to say goodbye to the quartet in person, there is a going-away show in the works, visit facebook.com/rentstrikemusic for show details. In the meantime, Warmb chatted with City Pulse. Here's what he had to say.

With the big move nearing, what's next for Rent Strike?

My partner got into a really great PhD program at the University of Pittsburgh. Since then, I've started thinking about the future of the band. Obviously there will be some changes. I'm going from living in the same house as two-thirds of the members, to six hours from all of them. But I have another album that's about a third of the way finished. I'm looking forward to holing up and working on that. Beyond that, I guess nobody can see the future.

Mixing traditional folk and gritty punk seems to be your forte. What inspired that sound?

It isn't unprecedented. There are a bunch of bands — Mischief Brew and Against Me! — that really laid the groundwork. It comes pretty naturally, too. The two genres, in their best forms,

share a lot of commonality in simple and approachable songs, strong messaging, the thread of struggle and resistance.

You've been keeping busy writing and performing songs since 2012. What do you recall of those early days?

I did a couple solo EPs that were very poorly written and recorded and I "toured" solo. Really, I was just hitchhiking and busking on street corners for a couple years. A couple friends toured with me in 2014, and then we recorded the first (self-titled) LP right after that. After some more bouncing around, I moved back here in 2015, and started working on arranging and recording "IX." We've added members and gotten louder and louder since.

How did 2018's "IX" LP come to be?

"IX" was recorded in two parts. One half was cut in a DIY studio where we did some workshopping and arrangements,

and the bulk of it was recorded at Elm Street Studios in REO Town. It was a long process. It took about six months, all told.

Lyrically, what's been your biggest stimulus — both in the past and today?

In the past, my struggle with addiction served as the base for most of my lyrics. Such suffering endured and it was so concrete. It's not like this diffuse suffering that's replaced it since I quit using — the kind that permeates all modern life under capitalism. It's a lot harder to put your finger on it, but that's what I've been trying to channel recently. Maybe it speaks to my Christian upbringing that I'm so fixated on suffering. Of course, the appeal of the suffering is the eventual emergence into redemption and justice, too. That's a big theme in "IX" — redemption. For all the endless suffering we endure, I remain an optimist in the better nature of people and society.

LIVE
AND
LOCAL

Upcoming show? Contact
Suzi@lansingcitypulse.com

| DESTINATION | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. | Trivia Night: 30 Rock 10PM | Open Mike 8PM | Karaoke 9PM | Free DJ Show 9PM |
| Classic Pub & Grill, 16219 Old US 27 | DJ Trivia 8PM | | Be Kind Rewind 8PM | Vent 8PM |
| Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave. | | Karaoke, 9PM | Karaoke, 9PM | Karaoke 9PM |
| The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave. | | Old School Thursdays w/Jalese 8:30 PM | Cloud Hoppers 9:30PM | Dan MacLachlan |
| Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave. | | Karaoke Kraze | From Big Sur | The Hot Mess |
| Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee | Trivia with Sporcle 9 PM | | Shelby & Jake 8PM | The New Cats 8PM |
| The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave. | | The Plot In You 7PM | Eminence Ensemble 9PM | |
| Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave. | Juice 7PM | | Michigan Rattlers 7PM | Dead Lennies 8PM |
| Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave | | The Go Rounds 8PM | Harlem Nights Fundraiser 7PM | |
| Reno's East, 1310 Abbot, East Lansing | | | Tony Thompson 6PM | |
| Unicorn, 327 Cesar E. Chavez, Lansing | | | Dan MacLachlan 9PM | Devil Elvis 9PM |
| Urban Beat, 1213 Turner Rd. | | Lisa Smith & Something Wicked 7PM | Grady Hall and Disciples of Funk 8PM | |

From Page 21

Country Line Dancing & Lessons at VFW Post #7309 - 7-9 p.m. 1243 Hull Rd., Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

East Lansing Kiwanis Club Annual Chicken BBQ - 4:30-7:30 p.m. Patriarche Park, 1100 Alton St., East Lansing. 313-636-0976. elkiwanis.org.

Evening Reiki Share - 6:30-8:30 p.m. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Ste D, Lansing. 517-402-6727.

Hula Hooping Fun - Get moving with hoop tricks, dance and games. 2-3 p.m. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324.

Local Dance Artist Nic Gareiss Performs (Adults) - 7-8 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-367-6363.

Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days and Michigan Dairy Expo - MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Ln, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

Moonlight Film Festival - 9:30 p.m.-12 a.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

TDL July 2019 - 2-4 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee, Lansing.

Thursday Night Dance Exchange - Calling all Detroit Ballroomers, Chicago Steppers, Hustlers, and Two Steppers! 7-10 p.m. Lucky’s, 400 Baker, Lansing.

ARTS

Comics & Zines - Summer - 4:30-6 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Crafting for a Cause - 4-5:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Kids Clay: Beginners - 4:30-5:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

MUSIC

Music in the Garden - 7-9 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 N Aurelius Road, Holt. delhitownship.com.

Pops Concert - East Lansing Kiwanis Community Band. 6-7 p.m. Patriarche Park, 960 Alton Rd., East Lansing. 517-641-4264.

Thursday Night Live Courthouse Concert - 6-7:30 p.m. Mason Area Chamber of Commerce, 148 E Ash St, Mason.

Friday, July 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Group Guitar: Beginner. 5:45-6:45 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Jr. Chemist - 9:15 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Ladies Night Make and Take Workshop - 6-8 p.m. ALT Printing Co, 1139 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-388-3558. altprintingco.com.

Science Vlogging - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

S.T.E.A.M tinkrCAMP - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. tinkrLAB, Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ste# 321, Okemos.

Video Game Designer -4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

When I Grow Up! - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

EVENTS

4-H Healthy U at MSU Camp - East Lansing. canr.msu.edu.

Bring Back the 80’s! Retro Cruise - 6:30-11 p.m. Michigan Princess, Grand River Park, Lansing.

Holt Farmers Market Mini-Market - 2-6 p.m. Holt Farmers Market, 2150 Cedar St, Holt. delhitownship.com.

Howl at the Moon: Guided Night Walk - 9-10 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days and Michigan Dairy Expo - MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Ln, Lansing. 517-432-5566. canr.msu.edu.

MSU MoonFest Summer of Space - 6:30-9 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

Pirate Adventure - 12 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

TGIF Dance Party - 7pm. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler, Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com.

Where is Carmen Sandiego? - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

ARTS

Light at the Lake fave - 7:30-9:30 p.m. Painting with a Twist, 580 Frandor Ave, Lansing. 517-483-2450. paintingwithatwist.com.

Polymer Buttons - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing.

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MUSIC

Summer Concert Series - 7-9 p.m. Ann Street Plaza, corner Albert & MAC, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Summer Concert Series - 6:30 p.m. Courthouse Square, 100 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte.

Saturday, July 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Beer and Coasters Print and Take Workshop - 6-8 p.m. ALT Printing Co, 1139 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-388-3558. altprintingco.com.

Dino and Robots and Sharks! Oh my! Print and Take workshop - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. ALT Printing Co, 1139 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-388-3558. altprintingco.com.

Everything You Need to Know About Parenting - 2:30-5 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd, East Lansing. 517-351-2420. bestbabykit.com.

Group Guitar: Beginner. 5:45-6:45 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Taste of Blacksmithing - 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2400 W. St. Joe, Street, Lansing.

Taste of Woodworking - Long Grain Cutting Board - 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2400 W. St. Joe, Lansing.

Urban Foraging - Learn how to identify and harvest wild edible plants. 12-2 p.m. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 E.Kalamazoo, Lansing.


Waxed Canvas Bag Workshop - 1-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

EVENTS

Animal Enrichment Event - How do our

See Out on the town, Page 25

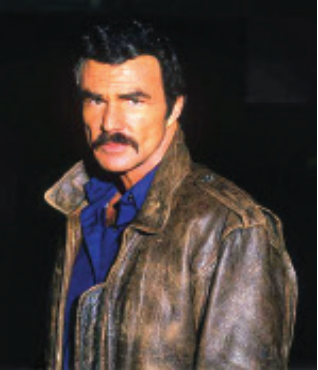
FRIDAY JULY 19 — SUNDAY JULY 21 >> MSU MOON FEST



As part of its Summer of Space series, Abrams Planetarium in association with WKAR public radio present Moon Fest, a celebration of all things lunar to commemorate the moon landing’s 50th anniversary. The festival will see moon-themed WKAR Pop Up Stories and “Imagine the Moon” screened at Abrams Planetarium. The MSU Dairy Store will hand out free blue moon ice cream for the event.

Friday July 19 6:30–9 p.m.
Saturday July 20 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday July 21 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Abrams Planetarium
755 Science Rd., East Lansing
(517) 355-4676
abramsplanetarium.org


SATURDAY JULY 20 >> LUGNUTS TRIBUTE TO BURT REYNOLDS



Often donning a cowboy hat, Lansing native Burt Reynolds defined ‘70s masculinity and style with his gaudy mustache and action hero moves. For the game, the Lansing Lugnuts will put on Burt Reynolds-inspired jerseys and give out Burt Reynolds bobble heads to the first 1,000 fans through the door.

7–10 p.m., \$8
Lansing Lugnuts
505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
517) 485-4500
lansinglugnuts.com

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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From Page 24
Zoo animals keep their cool during the heat of summer? 1-3 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania, Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Annual Nordic Fire Festival - 8:30 a.m. Courthouse Square Museum, 100 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. csamuseum.net.

Death Cafe - Drink tea, eat cake and discuss death. 10-11:30 a.m. Hospice of Lansing Administrative Building, 3186 Pine Tree Rd., Lansing. 810-938-2410. deathcafe.com.

GL Recycle & Compost Hours - 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Grand Ledge. oneidatownship.org.

Lansing Lugnuts: Tribute to Burt Reynolds - 7 p.m. 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Mason “Sunshine” Farmers Market - The outdoor market is back for our 15th year! 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

MSU MoonFest Summer of Space - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

Stewardship Mornings - 9-11 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Taste of Downtown - Sample various cuisines and food specialties from downtown restaurants. 3:30-9 p.m. 100 S. block of Washington Square, Lansing. lansingmi.gov.

ARTS

Midnight Blues - 7:30-9:30 p.m. Painting with a Twist, 580 Frandor Ave, Lansing. 517-483-2450. paintingwithatwist.com.

MUSIC

Lutheran Band Fest - 11 a.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 W Saginaw, Lansing. 517-372-1631.

Music in Nature - 5-8 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Strummin’ In Summer - Time to strum our ukuleles and sing songs of summer fun! 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Okemos Branch Library, 2404 Emerald Lake Dr, East Lansing. 517-993-5012.

Sunday, July 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Group Guitar: Beginner. 5:45-6:45 p.m. ALIVE,

800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Juggling - Learn how to juggle! 2-4 p.m. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing.

EVENTS

Antarctic Adventures VBS - 6:30-8 p.m. Mason Assembly of God, 425 E South St, Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Habibi Dancers - 2-3 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

Summer Beach Market Series: Bootcamp & PiYo - 4-5 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Tipsy Terrariums Make your own dish garden or terrarium! 4:30-6 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee., Lansing.

ARTS

Personalized Paradise Wood Door Art - 12-2 p.m. Painting with a Twist, 580 Frandor Ave, Lansing. 517-483-2450. paintingwithatwist.com.

Turquoise Owl - 3-5 p.m. Painting with a Twist, 580 Frandor Ave, Lansing. 517-483-2450. paintingwithatwist.com.

Monday, July 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

After the invasion: Restoring with native species. 6-7:30 p.m. Michigan Wildflower Farm, 11770 Cutler Rd., Portland.

ALIVE Mini Camp: Active sports camp. Participate in age-appropriate gymnastics, athletics and recreation. 1-3 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Charlotte Area Sports Performance Training - Learn the fundamentals. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Group Guitar: Beginner. 5:45-6:45 p.m. ALIVE: Your Community Well-Being Place, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Make a Space “Craft”: Make your own model of our galaxy at this workshop. 2-3 p.m. Grand

Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

MAKE with Wood - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

S.T.E.A.M tinkrCAMP - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. tinkrLAB, Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ste. 321, Okemos.

Summer Art Camp: July 22-26, 2019 - Ages 7-12. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square, Lansing. .

Taste of the World Youth Culinary School - Ages 9 and up. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

EVENTS

Best Commercial Ever! - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

DDL Walking Club - 10-11 a.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Rd, DeWitt. 517-669-3156. dewittlibrary.org.

Grossology - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Mason Chess & Backgammon Club - All ages and skill levels. 6-8 p.m. Bestsellers Books and Coffee, 360 S. Jefferson St, Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

Movie Magic - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

On the Farm - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Wildflower Walk - 6-7:30 p.m. ALIVE: Your Community Well-Being Place, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

ARTS

Twilight Beach 7-9 p.m. Painting with a Twist, 580 Frandor Ave, Lansing. 517-483-2450. paintingwithatwist.com.

Create a Butterfly Garden with AgeAlive - 12-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

Tuesday, July 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

ALIVE Mini Camp: Participate in age-appropriate gymnastics, athletics and recreation. 1-3 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

Group Guitar: Beginner. 5:45-6:45 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

S.T.E.A.M tinkrCAMP - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. tinkrLAB, Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River, Ste# 321,

Okemos.

Taste of the World Youth Culinary School - Ages 9 and up. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte. myalive.com.

EVENTS

Garden Club Tuesday Meeting - Grand Ledge Area District Library 1-3 p.m. Grand Ledge. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Injury Clinic - Free consult with a sports or health professional. 5:30-7 p.m. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence Ave, Charlotte.

Play in the Park - 7 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Summer Activity by Parks & Recreation - Using Your 5 Senses in Nature. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Bath Middle School, 13675 Webster Rd, Bath. bathtownship.us.

ARTS

Colors in the Wind - 7-9 p.m. Painting with a Twist, 580 Frandor Ave, Lansing. 517-483-2450. paintingwithatwist.com.

Teen Open Studio: - 4:30-6:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

MUSIC

East Lansing Kiwanis Community Band Rehearsals 7-9 p.m. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Dr., East Lansing.





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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Brunch sandwiches and more at Lansing's newest food truck

By DENNIS BURCK

Chef and owner Aaron Hebert is living the food truck dream. After years spent slinging breakfast sandwiches in Portland, Maine, Hebert buckles down in Lansing to bring his breakfast fare to the Midwest on four wheels.

On the menu are five distinct breakfast sandwiches with a choice of bagel or English muffin. Bangos additionally stocks vegan sausage, cream cheese and butter options. Rounding out the choices are two types of chicken salad wraps as well as fried potatoes. Most sandwiches are around \$5.

Hebert grew up in the restaurant industry working with his dad at 11 years old. His journey through the food industry saw him work in Boston and Brooklyn, before settling down for a few years in Portland, Maine.

"I was working at a place called Ono Cafe," Hebert said. "We were featured as one of the best breakfast sandwich places in America. I was the main cook there for five years. I must've made over 20,000 sandwiches in that time."

For Bangos, he runs the same setup inside the food truck and took inspiration from some of the past dishes he used to make.

"Brunch was big, but breakfast sandwiches were bigger there," Hebert said. "When we came to Lansing, we saw people going to work in need of a real breakfast sandwich — instead of what you get at a chain coffee shop."

Hebert, who moonlights as a comedian, moved to Lansing because his girlfriend, Melissa Libby, is going to school at the University of Michigan. Will Green, a fellow comedian and the food truck co-owner, suggested Lansing as a great place to live. As co-owner, Green works Bangos' counter.

For the pair, the food truck is only half the dream. Both run the Michigan Comedy Co-op, a booking agency for comedians to work in Michigan. Connxtions, Lansing's last comedy club, went out of business in 2014. Working on the truck will hopeful-



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Bangos co-owner Aharon Hebert and his food truck in downtown Lansing

ly enable them to raise funding for a comedy club in Lansing, Hebert said.

Bangos' truck — formerly a chip delivery vehicle — would later be the attached kitchen to the club.

"We got this from a guy in Texas and getting this ready was hellish," Hebert said referring to the truck renovation. "It was supposed to take six to 10 weeks, but it took nine months."

Hebert designed the vehicle outside as well in pastel pink with a flower pattern.

Bangos is looking for more opportunities to park and a local bagel shop to provide them with the freshest bagels available.

"There is definitely room for another cool breakfast place here and specifically breakfast sandwiches," Hebert said.

"It feels good to be here because Portland is a huge foodie town and you can walk by amazing restaurants constantly. Here, things are all a little more spread out. With Bangos, we are able to bring something else to Lansing that we wanted to see."

Bangos Food Truck

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Wednesday and Friday, 7 a.m. — 1 p.m.
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Prudden Tech Center,
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The Brew Cafe, 610 N. Creyts Road, Lansing
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facebook.com/bangos-bangobangos/



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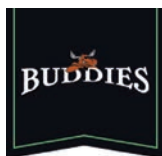
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