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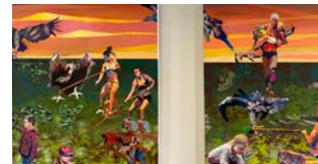


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The Lansing Art Gallery is on the move — again

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Learn about where some of Lansing's dankest weed is produced

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Experimental rockers Mr. Denton on Doomsday return

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**Cover
Art**

By Nevin Speerbrecker

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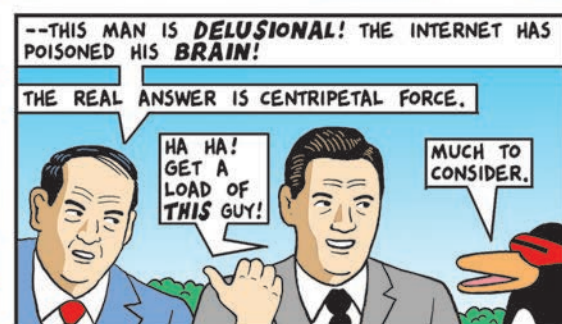
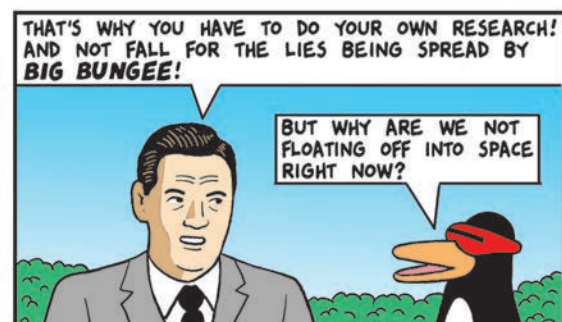
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Lansing Legends: Ernie Boone

Ernie Boone, 79, is a self-starter. While living across the street from Sexton High School, he taught community journalism, ran a neighborhood paper with his wife and helped raise his four kids. He is the embodiment of Black pride. A sports writer for the Michigan Bulletin, Boone has covered athletics for 60 years — longer than many papers have had Black writers on staff. His career included a stint at the Lansing State Journal at a time when Black journalists on mainstream newspapers were few and far between.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Corktown, Detroit. I went to Western High School (now Western International). That is where I started reporting our football and basketball scores to Detroit papers. After we played a ball game, I would call the Free Press, the News and the (old Detroit) Times to give a report. Then I moved to Ecorse High School and continued covering sports for their weekly paper. Detroit was predominantly white when I was growing up. So I never attended a high school that was more than 15% minority. Black or Hispanic.

Favorite MSU professor?

My favorite teacher was in the school of journalism. He pushed me and guided me. He was a godsend. He took the time to not just read my papers, but we talked and he gave me advice when I wasn't in his class. I graduated from



Audrey Matusz, the author of this series, is a former arts and culture editor of City Pulse who was born in Lansing and grew up in Okemos. She is a graduate of the Residential College of the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University. She is a digital and instructional designer for the Michigan Victim Advocacy Network.

Lansing Legends

This is the second in a four-part series during Black History Month with long-time Lansing residents who witnessed a generation of Black excellence. Interviews have been edited and condensed.

MSU in '64. I may have done it without him, but it wouldn't have been the same.

Do you remember your first day at the Lansing State Journal?

Of course I was excited. I was fresh out of college starting a professional job on a daily newspaper. My beat was sports. The only non-sports story I did was when Jackie Robinson came to Lansing and I got to interview him. He was a personal hero of mine.

I don't know for sure, but at that time I was the only Black working at a daily newspaper outside of Detroit. There were three Black writers at daily newspapers in Michigan that I knew of.

Did you ever have issues as a Black reporter going out into the field?

(Laughs.) Well, yeah. One time it was a high school game between two small communities, Portland and — I don't remember — but it was a big game. Both were undefeated. I arranged to cover it. I got there and they had a pickup truck set up for me outside. Normally, I would go to a press box. I didn't cover that game. I went home.

When did you start your own newspaper?

I was at the Journal for three years. While I was there, I volunteered at the Community Action Agency on the west side. It came through the federally funded anti-poverty program, and they housed a drop-in center, which was basically a center for kids. It was uncommon for Blacks to be encouraged to study journalism, so I started a journalism course. We had about five or six kids in the class and we decided to start a neighborhood paper called The Westside News. We started with the



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Ernie Boone photographed at the City Pulse office on East Michigan Avenue.

kids writing stories about things they were doing in church, upcoming dances and such. The State News had some money and they were interested, so we were able to start printing the paper. Eventually we started selling advertising and it ran for four years.

What was your connection with Sexton High School?

In 1971, there was not much done for Black History Month and the Black students at Sexton decided that they were going to do it right. They had a demonstration at the Sexton office and they wanted to meet with the school administration. They wanted some kind of assembly curated by the students. They wanted Black history added to the curriculum. I was one of the adults in the community that students asked to join them for the negotiations with the school board.

The board refused to meet with them and things got out of hand. The kids called me, but by the time I got over there, they had taken over the office. The school was closed down. Eventually they called the cops and they came and arrested the kids. It was 20- or 40-something kids. I went to jail because the kids were going to jail. I guess that's how I changed into a leader. I just wanted an adult to be there so I stayed in jail until all the kids were bailed out.

What is the difference between a newsroom and a classroom?

First of all, there are no grades. The motivation has to be there because if

you don't want to be there, you don't have to. The only thing you get is what you put in. Secondly, we taught skills. A good example was Terry Johnson. He's a Sexton graduate, but when he started as a sophomore he couldn't write a complete sentence. Today, he will retire as a well-respected journalist.

Are there any students that you still remain in contact with?

Oh, yes, but none of them live in Lansing.

How many students would you say graduated from the Westside News?

Fifteen. Some of them were already in college and others were at Sexton, Everett and Eastern. One of the Westside News grads is a superintendent in Ann Arbor. One of the writers went on to The New York Times writing editorials. Two of them are lawyers. Four or five of them are journalists. Two are college professors. There are others that I have no idea where they are, but those kids that were on the Westside News, it was amazing.

What has kept you in Lansing?

Well I always had jobs. Lansing is a good place to raise kids. Lansing schools are not as good as they used to be, but my kids did really well. It's not without problems, but there is no place in this country without problems. I've never had problems finding a group of people here to work on the issues that I felt concerned about. Sometimes you make progress and sometimes you don't.

— AUDREY MATUSZ

Study pegs Lansing among fastest growing cities in Midwest

About 7,600 Detroit ex-pats move here yearly, report says

A recent population analysis shows that people are moving to Greater Lansing at a faster rate than any other metropolitan area in the Midwest. And most of them are coming from Detroit.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor declared himself “pissed off” last year when the latest U.S. Census results tracked an overall 1.8% population decline in the Capital City between 2010 and 2020 — a population dent large enough to have him contemplate challenging those decennial results.

But this week, Schor’s administration is a bit more optimistic about those population trends — particularly after an analysis from CommercialCafe pegged the city as having the highest average annual population gain in the Midwest, specifically from other metropolitan areas.

The study listed Lansing as the “fastest-growing Midwest metro” with an average of 7,538 new residents gained per year from other Midwest metropolitans. Notably, the city has gained the most residents from Detroit while its population exchange with Grand Rapids stayed mostly flat.

“I am excited but not surprised to hear this great news,” Schor said. “We know that people are moving to Lansing, both anecdotally and with the small vacancy rate in many new housing projects, and I am excited to see this report showing that people are moving to the city.”

Using inter-city migration data released in late September by the U.S. Census Bureau, CommercialCafe winnowed down the 10 Midwest

cities that gained the most residents at the expense of others. Net gains were calculated by deducting the number of residents lost to other metropolitan areas from the number of residents gained from other metropolitan areas.

And Lansing came out on top — in a big way.

The study shows that an average of about 7,600 Detroiters have moved to the Capital City annually, compared to only about 3,800 Lansing residents moving to the Motor City. It also showed that about 2,800 Grand Rapids residents and 2,000 Flint residents relocated to Lansing annually — a relatively even trade for Grand Rapids and a majorly disproportionate draw from Flint, where fewer than 1,000 Lansing residents have relocated annually over the last five years.

In a statement, Schor added: “Lansing is a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire. I’m very happy to see that others in Michigan agree and are choosing to move here. Overall, this is fantastic news that can only make Lansing, and our entire region, even stronger in the future.”

Lansing’s five-year surge in annual metro-to-metro migration put the city in the top spot on CommercialCafe’s latest ranking. The city edged out second-place finisher Champaign, Illinois, by more than 1,500 new residents. Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids also ranked in the top 10 cities in the Midwest with an average, respectively, of about 5,100 and 4,500 new residents each year.

Ann Arbor has also lost about 1,000 people to Lansing annually since 2015, the data showed.

“This is the result of 15 years of consistent, aggressive, smart, regional, economic development,” said Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, or LEAP. “I’m always asking newcomers to our area why they’re moving here. It’s always about affordability and some type of connection to Michigan State University. Our region is a true goldilocks in the Midwest — it’s this perfect balance between a moderate-sized community, quality of life and affordability.”

Schor has also touted Lansing as the “most affordable city” in America, a reference to the city being named at the top of Livability.com’s “Top 100 Most Affordable Small to Mid-Sized Cities” list in 2018. The city hasn’t ranked on that listing since, but offi-

Which Midwestern cities are seeing the most metro-to-metro migration?

1. Lansing — 7,538
2. Champaign, Illinois — 5,949
3. Columbus, Ohio — 5,453
4. Ann Arbor — 5,104
5. Grand Rapids — 4,473
6. Des Moines, Iowa — 4,372
7. Lincoln, Nebraska — 4,012
8. Lafayette, Indiana — 3,820
9. Dayton, Ohio — 3,262
10. Cincinnati, Ohio — 2,390

Where is Lansing drawing its population?

1. Detroit — 7,606
2. Grand Rapids — 2,806
3. Flint — 1,962

Where is Lansing losing its population?

1. Detroit — 3,794
2. Grand Rapids — 2,829
3. Ann Arbor — 967

Source: U.S. Census Bureau & CommercialCafe

cials said not much has changed.

Census data shows the average monthly rent in Lansing is about \$819 compared to \$824 in Detroit. Mortgages in Lansing are also about \$999 a month, compared to \$1,099 in Detroit. Grand Rapids was even higher — with rent at about \$925 and monthly mortgages at \$1,124.

“With the pandemic, people have been able to do remote work in different places, and it’s great to see Lansing as that destination,” said Steve Japinga, vice president at the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. “Besides MSU right in our backyard and being the Capital City, it’s pretty affordable. I think people are finding their dollar stretches a lot further here in Lansing.”

MSU has also tracked record-breaking enrollment levels in recent years, which economic development officials said has naturally led to an increase in young professionals in the region. Last fall brought in more than 9,000 new undergraduate students to campus — an all-time high for the university and a signal to Greater Lansing that the pipeline of fresh talent is still flowing.

Trezise added: “More importantly, what we’re seeing right now is more strategic growth. It’s not out of con-

trol with constant gentrification. It’s clear that regional efforts to diversify our economy have had a profound impact. We’ve found we’re also attracting and retaining Generation Z, showing the city has become an increasingly attractive place for young people to live and work.”

The CommercialCafe analysis cited a few other factors that are driving population growth locally, including people moving to Lansing to take a job at one of the state’s many government agencies or at “several major General Motors operations and a robust insurance sector.”

Data from LEAP shows that the majority of local residents — about 55,000 people — work either for the state, MSU, Sparrow, General Motors, Lansing Community College, McLaren, Auto-Owners Insurance, Peckham, Jackson National Life Insurance or Dart Container.

While Schor said his administration is pleased with the longer-term trends, his new chief of staff, Jane Bais-DiSessa, is still actively pursuing a potential challenge to the latest census results.

She said fluctuations in decennial census counts could potentially spell the difference between hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal funding including through Medicaid, Head Start, block grant programs for community mental health services and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known as SNAP. The decennial census results also help ensure that communities like Lansing get their fair share for schools, hospitals, roads and public works based on the number of residents that benefit from those public services. They can also help private businesses decide which cities are most worthy of continued investment, officials said.

Bais-DiSessa suspects that a few new housing developments were left out of the latest census, a mystery that she hopes to have solved his year ahead of the challenge deadline in 2023.

She’s also exploring discrepancies between ratepayer data from the Board of Water & Light.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan’s office is also contemplating a Census challenge after the city reportedly lost about 10.5% of its population (nearly 75,000 people) since 2010. After talking with staffers in Detroit, Bais-DiSessa said Lansing has a “good chance” at a viable challenge.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

TO ALL CREDITORS:

Virginia Louise Lasher, who lived at 3524 Oakcliff Lane, Lansing, Michigan 48917, died on October 30, 2021. There is no personal representative of the decedent’s estate to whom letters of administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the decedent, will be forever barred unless presented to Michael G. Lasher, Executor, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the estate assets will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: 2/1/2022

Amanda Afton Martin P54400
Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC
28411 Northwestern Hwy.
Suite 500
Southfield, MI 48034
Phone: 248.539.9900
Michael G. Lasher, Executor
204 Lakeshore Dr.
Roscommon, MI 48653
(517) 290-2317 **CP#22-027**

Proposed pot law changes burn out with Betz' resignation

Ordinance amendments go up in smoke

Plans from former Lansing City Councilman Brandon Betz to expand the local licensing cap on the number of marijuana growing facilities, micro-businesses and consumption lounges that are allowed within the city limits have dissolved following Betz' abrupt resignation last month.

Before he quit, Betz had proposed an amendment to the city's marijuana ordinance to erase the 75-license limit on cultivation facilities — instead allowing for an infinite number to open in Lansing, as well as an increased number of microbusinesses and on-site consumption lounges.

But before those changes could be introduced to the Planning Board this month, Betz quit. And his proposed ordinance amendments followed him out the door. Council President Adam Hussain said the proposal can no longer advance without a Council sponsor.

And so far, nobody on the Council is willing to pick up where Betz left off. Hussain said that he's "open to the conversation," but he is otherwise personally disinterested in reviving the changes.

"I'm open to the conversation of whether caps on certain license types are appropriate/adequate now that we are a few years into this and have a better understanding of what our ordinance has meant for the industry here in the city."

He also told City Pulse: "As you know, I take my marching orders from those I represent." Hussain represents the 3rd Ward, which is in southwest Lansing.

The recreational marijuana ordinance passed in 2019 allows for a maximum of 75 cannabis cultivation facilities, with

a built-in clause that reduced that limit to 55 facilities through attrition beginning last year. As of this year, more than 70 cultivation facilities are still growing and open for business — leaving

no room for any additional companies to open within the city of Lansing.

Betz' proposal would have essentially handed local oversight to the state, enabling the City Clerk's Office to dole out city licenses to any grower that has also been licensed by state regulators. The former Councilman labeled the proposal a "pro-business approach" that was designed to open the door to more economic investment and allow the city to be more competitive in the industry.

"I don't want so much gatekeeping in the cannabis industry," Betz explained. "These extreme limits could be sending the wrong message. I want people to know that Lansing is open for business, that we're not going to stand in the way of allowing this industry to keep on growing."

The proposal had also sought to boost the allowable number of microbusinesses and consumption lounges citywide from four to 50 and tried to erase a prohibition on the facilities in commercial areas — which would have instead allowed them to open on busier, commercial strips rather than just on far-flung industrial properties, Betz told City Pulse in November.

A microbusiness license allows for smaller-scale entrepreneurs to grow, harvest and process up to 150 of their own marijuana plants that can also be sold directly to customers on site. Betz had said that allowing for more of them in Lansing would open the door to more small businesses — especially for the local "moms and pops" of the weed world without corporate cash to burn. So far, no microbusinesses or consumption lounges have been licensed to operate in Lansing.

Betz' proposal would not have adjusted the limitless cap on licenses for processing facilities, safety compliance labs or transportation companies. It also would not have expanded the city's 28-shop limit on provisioning centers — only for cultivators, microbusinesses and lounges.

Over the last several weeks, the proposed changes met a warm reception among cannabis entrepreneurs — including several who said that they initially had plans to expand their cultivation operations in Lansing, but were otherwise limited by the ordinance.



Betz



Hussain said that the Council plans to reopen the city's pot ordinance for a different set of amendments from City Clerk Chris Swope this year, including zoning-related changes that could allow testing laboratories and processing facilities to operate closer to downtown Lansing.

An early proposal introduced to the Planning Board last month could also allow the city to revoke conditional licenses if the applicant fails to obtain a state license within two years.

"Anything is possible" in terms of other changes as those amendments advance, Hussain said.

But between Betz' resignation and former Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar's departure from the dais this year, the City Council is now running a bit slim on vocal cannabis industry enthusiasts.

In 2019, this writer asked the Council members whether they consume cannabis. Only Betz, Dunbar and Councilman Brian Jackson said they regularly toked. Two of them are gone. The others at the time — including Jeremy Garza, Hussain, Peter Spadafore, Patricia Spitzley and Carol Wood — may not necessarily have a problem with pot, but said they don't smoke it.

Spadafore said last week that he was also still interested in discussing Betz' old proposal, though he doesn't expect the Council to be particularly speedy in bringing it back.

"I don't think it's a secret that we've lost two of our biggest advocates for the expansion of the industry in Lansing," Spadafore added. "I don't think this Council is going to approach this topic in a hostile sort of way, but I also don't think it will be particularly aggressive in making changes."

Councilman Jeff Brown stopped returning calls to City Pulse after he was elected in November, so his stance on marijuana regulation is relatively unknown. Newly appointed First Ward Councilman Brian Daniels, however, labels himself a "huge" cannabis proponent. He's also a regular consumer and even offered to light up a joint with this writer during a brief interview late last month.

Daniels was still attaching the training wheels to his new Council career this week, but said he plans to "look into" Betz' proposal and consider some "more progressive" cannabis reforms.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



Schor

Schor looks for help rebuilding City Hall

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor rebooted plans to relocate, renovate or reconstruct City Hall and find a new home for the 54-A District Court and the Police Department. A new request for proposals seeks to contract with a developer this year to “relocate” City Hall from the corner of Michigan and Capitol avenues to a single location “consisting of one facility or complex or multiple properties,” either through renovations or new construction. Read more at lansingcitypulse.com.

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Downtown Lansing begs for state cash

Several local economic development agencies, including the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, have asked Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to immediately approve \$5 million in funding for Downtown Lansing Inc. to compensate for the “devastating” economic blow from COVID-19. In

a letter, officials said local businesses are “now on life support, with no end in sight.” The requested shot in the arm from the state could help offset drastically reduced revenues, it reads.



Top honors for Grand Ledge teacher

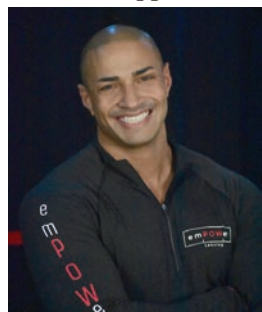
Wacousta Elementary teacher Cathy Fox was named this year’s “Music Educator of the Year” by the Michigan Music Education Association. Fox has mentored 15 student teachers, helps with the state elementary honors choir and takes her students to perform at community events.

Icy roads trigger 15-car pileup

At least 15 vehicles were involved in an I-496 pileup near the South Pennsylvania Avenue exit on Saturday morning, causing the highway to close for about an hour, reports the Lansing State Journal. A three-car collision reportedly led to minor damage to at least another dozen vehicles. Cold temperatures and slick conditions from the recent ice storm played a factor in the crash.

Daniels replaces Betz on Council

By a 7-0 vote, the Lansing City Council picked Brian Daniels as the appointed replacement for former First Ward City



Daniels

Councilman Brandon Betz. Daniels, 35, is a U.S. Army veteran, a Purple Heart recipient and the founder and head trainer of Empower Lansing, an eastside boxing and fitness studio. He was picked over two other top finalists, Ben Dowd and Caitlin Cavanagh. Daniels said he intends to run in the November election to fill the final year of Betz’ term.

Civil rights icon visits East Lansing

Ernest Green — one of nine Black students dubbed as the “Little Rock Nine” who helped to desegregate Little Rock Central High School in 1957 — visited students at East Lansing High School during a Black History Month celebration Friday to share his personal experiences. Green attended Michigan State University and worked for two presidential administrations.

Lansing baristas look to unionize

Employees at four Michigan Starbucks stores (including the one on Lake Lansing Road in Lansing) demanded that Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson recognize their newly formed union through the Starbucks Workers United movement. In a letter to Johnson, the employees there cited concerns about poor communication, inadequate compensation and staffing shortages.

Lansing cops investigate shooting

The Lansing Police Department is looking for tips after authorities said a 15-year-old boy was shot in front of a liquor store along the 4400-block of South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on Sunday afternoon. The boy was hospitalized. Information can be reported to 517-483-4800.



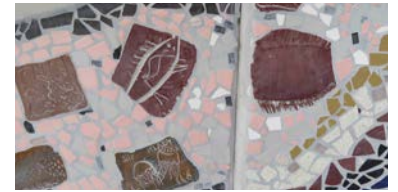
Developer plans pot shop hotel

Construction is set to begin this spring on a 7,000-square-foot dispensary, hotel and shopping center between Merritt and Park Lake roads in East Lansing, reports the Lansing State Journal. Developers bought the parcel for \$1 million in 2019 and plan to invest about \$13 million to turn it into a multi-tenant shopping center with a drive-thru window and a four-story Holiday Inn hotel. The pot shop, called “High Society,” will be the first of its brand to open in the Lansing region.



Ex-cop sues LCC over racism reports

Curtis Sanford, a former Lansing Community College police officer, filed a lawsuit against the college after officials allegedly disregarded his complaints about a colleague’s racist remarks and fired him instead, reports the Lansing State Journal. After reporting a fellow police officer for making offensive remarks in the wake of George Floyd’s murder in Minneapolis, Sanford alleged that university officials decided not to investigate his complaint and instead turned the internal investigation around on him — which reportedly led to Sanford being fired for “harassment.”



Shiawassee Street Mosaic Project

In the fall of 2021, walkers and bikers on the Lansing River Trail and visitors to downtown Rotary Park saw a grand mosaic 600 square feet in size take shape on the south wall of the Shiawassee Street Bridge over the Grand River. The project is on ice until spring, but a winter walk is a great way to catch it in its early stages. From afar, it looks like an archaeological dig on a fantastic planet where earthy strata of olive green, bright orange and dusky browns and greys surge upward into a plume of watery blue.

That planet happens to be our own. Ceramic artist Alexandra Leonard’s grand design evokes a bridge within a bridge, where the work of humans meets with elemental forces of nature, especially the Grand River. It’s also a time capsule. Seen up close, the layer cake of rolling, textured strata resolve into hundreds of individual tiles and fragments with distinctive patterns, signatures and messages. The project received a \$75,000 grant from the City of Lansing’s Arts Cultural Grant program, not just for its artistic merit, but also for its community input. Throughout 2021, Leonard hosted tile-making workshops where over 250 community members of all ages made home-made tiles to contribute to the mosaic. The tiles range from whimsical to decorative to inspirational; one tile clearly reads “2020 sucks.” They are deftly tumbled into the mix with hundreds of scavenged tile shards and mirror fragments. Anyone interested in contributing a tile before the resumption of work in spring can visit the Shiawassee Street Mosaic Project page on Facebook or Instagram.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

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

On a new City Hall

Mayor Andy Schor is off to a strong start in his second term as the city's chief executive officer, buoyed by GM's announcement of a \$2.5 billion electric battery plant to be built in the Lansing region and the mayor's own unveiling of plans for a new performing arts center in downtown Lansing. What's next?

How about a new City Hall?

Picking up where former Mayor Virg Bernero left off, Schor has released a Request for Proposals for the construction of a new home for Lansing's municipal government. It's been a long time coming. Four years ago, the Bernero administration came within a whisker of closing a spectacular deal with Chicago real estate developer Paul Beitler that would have transformed the existing City Hall into a luxury hotel and renovated the former Lansing State Journal building on Lenawee Street to become the new City Hall.

The Beitler plan was a masterstroke of adaptive reuse of two key buildings in downtown Lansing and featured an innovative financing arrangement wherein the revenues from a 99-year ground lease for the old City Hall would pay for renovations needed to create the new City Hall. Thanks to expected construction of the performing arts center venue at the corner of Washington Avenue and Lenawee Street, plus a critical mass of new housing developments underway in the same area, repurposing the former LSJ building as the new City Hall looks even more attractive now than it did four years ago.

Alas, the Beitler project couldn't get across the finish line. At the end of his third and final term as mayor, Bernero handed off the deal to the incoming Schor administration, which promptly put it on a shelf to gather dust. At the time, Mayor Schor expressed concern that the proposal didn't accommodate a new city lockup or space for the 54-A District Court. Rather than coming up with solutions to those modest challenges, Schor punted the idea altogether and turned his attention



Courtesy

The Beitler plan for City Hall in 2017 was a hotel. It remains a great idea.

elsewhere.

We're still enamored with the Beitler plan. It is the standard against which we will measure any new proposals. Is there a chance it could be resurrected? We'll soon find out. Beitler invested a significant sum of money preparing his previous City Hall proposal and he may well be interested in making good on that investment by taking another run at the project. On the other hand, his taste for Lansing may have soured after being scorned by the new mayor. We encourage him to take another look.

In any case, we hope Schor's initiative to move the City Hall project forward is a genuine effort to cast a wide net and come up with a new development plan that will meet the needs of city government for the next 50 years or more. The process must be open and fair. We will be deeply disappointed if it turns out the RFP is merely a formality and that behind the scenes

the skids are already greased for one of Schor's benefactors to win the project. When Bernero's RFP was released, a number of Michigan-based developers threw their hat in the ring, including Ron Boji, who has never met a government construction contract he couldn't win; Richard Karp, whose Arbaugh Building renovation on Washington Square was one

of the early successes in breathing new life into downtown Lansing; and Harry Hepler, developer

of the Motor Wheel Lofts. We won't be surprised to see one or more of them retool their previous proposal and pitch it to Schor.

As it happens, the mayor's plan to build a downtown performance venue may turn out to be an important part of the City Hall puzzle. That's because the current home of the Lansing Public Media Center is the city-owned South Washington Office Complex, formerly the state's National

Guard Armory. With plans to move the media center to the other building, the old armory could again become a leading candidate for reinvention as a new police/courts/lockup facility. In fact, plans were developed during the Bernero years to do exactly that. Mayor Schor should revisit them and consider the possibilities.

An even more compelling option, at least insofar as the courts and city jail are concerned, would be for Schor to relaunch discussions with Ingham County toward expanding the existing lockup facility in the basement of the Veterans Memorial Courthouse in downtown Lansing and moving the city's 54-A District Court to the same location. Given Schor's previous experience as a county commissioner, he should leverage his relationships at the county to get that conversation started again.

Our last piece of advice for Mayor Schor is to abandon the notion of consolidating the district courts in Lansing and East Lansing as a precursor to whatever comes next. Hell will almost certainly freeze over before court consolidation happens, and it shouldn't be used as an excuse to delay moving ahead with the City Hall project.

The CP Edit

Opinion

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com • Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912 • Fax: (517) 371-5800 • At lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column. Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061. (Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

Mask or no mask?

Local lawyer sues Oakland Co. over mandate

A Delta Township attorney has filed suit to challenge mask mandates in Oakland County, in part because he believes the latest state budget prohibits them from being enforced.

David Kallman, a firebrand conservative attorney who has represented several businesses that have attempt-

ed to circumvent previous pandemic orders, filed Monday in the county's 6th Circuit Court that challenges the mask directive in educational settings. He argued in the suit that the mask mandate violates Sec. 250 of the state budget — a part of the law that explicitly prohibits local health offi-

cers from ordering mask wearing for any person under the age of 18.

The state law provision in question, Sec. 250 of Public Act 87 reads: "The director or a local health officer shall not issue or enforce any orders or other directives that require an individual in this state who is under the age of 18 to wear a face mask or face covering."

This is the first lawsuit to challenge a county mask directive in state courts under Sec. 250.

"It is a shame we must request that

the court uphold our clients' legal rights. This is an improper attempt to mandate daily mask wearing that even the CDC acknowledges has little efficacy," Kallman said in a statement.

"Defendants have no legal authority to issue or enforce the mask order. The order clearly violates our clients' rights pursuant to state law and the Constitution."

Kallman also argued that the directive violates First Amendment religious rights. Religious freedom arguments related to local and state mandates have already been struck out in the federal courts, stemming from a case brought

by Resurrection School, a Catholic school on Lansing's east side. That suit was filed in 2020, and both the Western District Federal Court and the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals have rejected the arguments of religious freedom and mask directives. Kallman reports the request by Resurrection School to have its case heard by the entire 6th Circuit Court of Appeals has been granted.

The Resurrection School case involved a lawsuit designed to block statewide health orders and mask mandates but courts — at least so far — have rejected requests for restraining orders. School officials from Resurrection tried again in October, but Judge Paul Maloney directed the attorneys on both sides to file briefs about Sec. 250 and its application in the Resurrection case.

Maloney brushed the issue off in a footnote in early November, noting that the Ingham County Board of Commissioners had buoyed the health order from Ingham County Health Officer Vail with a nonbinding resolution. Kallman said there was no such resolution passed by Oakland County, but if the commissioners did pass one, his case would be moot. In that order, he also refused to issue a temporary restraining order to bar the county from enforcing the emergency order for masks in educational settings.

In a filing from Attorney General Dana Nessel's office — on behalf of Vail and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services — attorneys argued with the federal court that the insertion of the prohibition in the latest state budget bill had violated Michigan's Constitution.

State attorneys said the provision was unconstitutional because of "the cloak-and-dagger method by which it relates to the Public Health Code, quietly tucked into an appropriations bill despite having no appropriation-related purpose." They labeled it "invalid and unenforceable."

Meanwhile, Vail said her mask directive on educational settings in Greater Lansing remains in effect, in part because the federal court did not take steps to block it or issue an injunction. She also labeled the language in the state budget bill, the premise of the lawsuit, "unconstitutional." "It's that simple. The mask directive for educational institutions remains in full effect," Vail said.

— TODD HEYWOOD

Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is requesting qualifications for **Lawn Maintenance**. The Request for Qualifications packet is available February 9, 2022 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 11:00am on February 23, 2022 and will be opened at 11:00am February 23, 2022. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFQ#: Lawn-2022-25

CP#22-029

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF EAST LANSING Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 7:00 pm, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. The hearing will be for the purpose of accepting comments on a proposed grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. The grant is requesting funds to construct an extension of the Northern Tier Trail from the East Lansing Soccer Complex to Coolidge Road, in East Lansing. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard. Comments may also be submitted to Wendy Wilmers Longpre, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, via email at wlongpr@cityofeastlansing.com or telephone at (517) 319-6940.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#22-026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 1st Floor
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. Appeal of DTN Management (owner) requesting a variation for the property at 451 & 461 Glenmoor Road and 1315, 1325, 1335 Westview Avenue from the following requirement of Chapter 4 of the International Property Maintenance Code (2006 edition).

Section 403.2 Bathroom and Toilet Rooms

403.2 Bathroom and Toilet Rooms. Every bathroom and toilet room shall comply with the ventilation requirements for habitable spaces as required by section 403.1, except that a window shall not be required in such spaces equipped with a mechanical ventilation system. Air exhausted by a mechanical ventilation system from a bathroom or toilet room shall discharge to the outdoors and shall not be recirculated.

All persons interested in this appeal will be given the opportunity to be heard. Call (517) 319-6871, the Department of Planning, Building and Community 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 Building Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6871. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.



Scott Weaver
Building Official

CP#22-033



Kallman

AMENDED: STATE OF MICHIGAN INGHAM COUNTY PROBATE COURT ORDER REGARDING ALTERNATIVE SERVICE CASE NO. 21-3013-DO

Reynaldo Flores, 514 E. Maple St., Lansing, MI 48906.

V Flor Elizabeth Flores, 749 N. Larch St., Lansing, MI 48906 Domestic Relations Case. There are no pending or resolved cases within the jurisdiction of the family division of the circuit court involving the family or family members or the person(s) who are subject of the complaint. Civil Case: There is no other pending or resolved civil action arising of the same transaction or occurrence as alleged in the complaint.

SUMMONS:
NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: In the name of the people of the state of Michigan: 1. You are being sued. 2. You have 21 days after receiving this summons and a copy of the complaint to file a written answer with the court and serve a copy on the other party or take other lawful action with the court. 3. If you do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgement may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. 4. If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a special language interpreter to help you full participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.

CP#22-036

Shades of Snyder: Rich GOP candidate takes field with newest Super Bowl ad

We all remember the “One Tough Nerd” Super Bowl ad of 2010 and the less-than-successful “China” Super Bowl ad Pete Hockstra tried in 2012.

This year’s promised political ad is some-one you’ve likely never heard of, but you’ll likely hear a lot more from.

Perry Johnson, 74, is a charismatic, self-made multimillionaire and nationally renowned expert in quality standards. In certain circles, he’s credited with helping Ford and General Motors figure out how to make better automobiles in the 1980s when Japanese automakers were eating our lunch.

He’s a former Fortune 500 executive who has written several books and become a national expert on ISO 9000, ISO 14000 and other practices designed to improve quality and productivity in the workplaces.

According to one estimate online, the Bloomfield Hills resident’s net worth is measured in the hundreds of millions of dollars. We’re talking Dick DeVos-like wealth. It’s a different stratosphere than Rick Snyder or Shri Thandear.

He brought in John Yob, the notable Republican political consultant who successfully steered Snyder through the 2010 primary. Together, apparently, they’re about ready to spend a lot of money in an attempt to win the Republican gubernatorial primary.

Who is this guy? Physically, he looks like Martin Short or Christopher Walken. He’s a renown public speaker. In growing his consulting business, Johnson often used sports analogies in his inspirational speeches to line-workers on how to track improvements in their output.

Last fall, he was so lathered up during the Michigan Republican Party leadership conference, he literally shouted about the “absurdity” of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s COVID-era restrictions.

“Isn’t it great to be an American? Doesn’t it feel fantastic? I am an American! THANK GOD I’M AN AMERICAN! THIS IS THE GREATEST COUNTRY IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD!!!”

The GOP grassroots ate it up with a spoon. To the casual listener, though, it felt like John Travolta giving Uma Thurman an adrenaline shot to the

heart. We can expect Johnson to dial it down a notch in probably some clever TV ads.

Should we take him seriously? Yes. In the last 13 gubernatorial major-party primaries since 1994 in which the Republicans and Democrats had declared candidates raising money in the year prior, the person who had raised the most money won 11 times.

Johnson comes a little late into the party, but none of the other 12 candidates in the primary have much in the way of name ID. Former Detroit Police Chief James Craig was at 44.7% in the last poll. So, more than half of the state doesn’t know who he is.

The conservative grassroots in the party seem to be coalescing behind Garrett Soldano, a Kalamazoo-area chiropractor, but that could change depending on what former President Donald Trump does. Trump had another candidate at Mar-a-Lago last week, an alt-right political commentator named Tudor Dixon. He said nice things about her, but he didn’t endorse her. Dixon would seem to have an “in” with Trump seeing she’s working with Trump aide Susie Wiles.

Like every other politician, Trump wants to get behind a winner, and we’re not sure Dixon is that. She hasn’t raised a ton of money and has spent nearly everything she’s been able to raise. That may be why she didn’t get an endorsement.

He may be a little gun shy after making, arguably, some hasty legislative endorsement. But we honestly don’t know what Trump is going to do in this race, if anything. At this point, it’s fair to say half of Republican voters don’t know any of the candidates. Outside of another millionaire in the race, Kevin Rinke, none of them have the ability to do the statewide, multi-month TV buy Perry Johnson can pull off.

Rinke has some personal baggage with some less-than-flattering lawsuits from the 1990s that a Dixon-connected PAC is already bringing up. It’s fair to say there are four candidates in the best position to win the GOP primary at this point. Craig is a known quantity. Soldano has great organization. Trump can turn anyone into a frontrunner.

And Johnson with his money instantly shoots him to the top of that discussion, too.

(Email Kyle Melinn of the Capitol News Service MIRS at melinnky@gmail.com.)



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

NOTICE OF FILING AN ORDER LAYING OUT AND DESIGNATING A DRAINAGE DISTRICT

BLANDING’S TURTLE DRAIN

Notice is Hereby Given, that I, Patrick E. Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, filed an Order Laying Out and Designating a Drainage District, dated February 4, 2022 for the Blanding’s Turtle Drain, according to Chapter 3 of Public Act 40 of 1956, as amended.

The route and course of the proposed Drain is described as follows:

Commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 19, T3N, R1W, Alaiedon Township, Ingham County, Michigan; thence over and across the NW ¼ of said Section 19 S 56°40’28” E 476.95 feet to the point of beginning on the centerline of the Sycamore Creek; thence as an open drain S 64°45’46” W 30.00 feet; thence S 41°15’41” W 28.05 feet; thence S 53°21’56” W 61.04 feet; S 67°19’51” W 111.46 feet; thence S 83°54’07” W 5.62 feet; thence S 67°55’10” W 24.34 feet; thence S 64°03’05” W 46.31 feet; thence N 48°45’12” W 47.62 feet; thence N 78°09’33” W 43.33 feet; thence as an enclosed drain S 85°41’32” W 51.24 feet to the West line of said Section 19; thence over and across the Northeast ¼ of Section 24, T3N, R2W, Delhi Charter Township, Ingham County, Michigan, S 85°41’32” W 43.25 feet to the Point of Ending. The total length of the Blanding’s Turtle Drain is 492.26 feet, or 0.09 miles more or less.

The lands comprised within the Drainage District are described as follows:

That part of Section 24, T3N, R2W, Delhi Charter Township, Ingham County, Michigan described as Commencing at the northeast corner of section 24; thence along the east line of said section S 4°10’30” W 25.34 feet to the Point of Beginning of the Blanding’s Turtle Drain Drainage District Boundary; thence S 0°08’27” E 2428.95 feet; thence S 77°19’52” W 376.25 feet; thence N 35°33’39” W 215.22 feet; thence N 51°23’56” W 283.85 feet; thence S 89°37’26” W 229.46 feet; thence S 85°04’10” W 99.40 feet; thence N 40°06’04” W 162.83 feet; thence N 37°18’19” W 169.72 feet; thence N 41°43’27” W 94.80 feet; thence N 49°29’04” W 86.26 feet; thence N 52°52’05” W 76.36 feet; thence N 59°12’56” W 93.58 feet; thence N 64°04’05” W 86.02 feet; thence N 69°03’27” W 159.61 feet; thence N 71°57’21” W 158.71 feet; thence N 89°58’37” W 202.91 feet; thence N 0°01’25” E 233.66 feet; thence N 89°58’37” W 367.16 feet; thence N 0°05’51” E 633.78 feet; thence N 53°04’35” E 76.94; thence N 20°07’58” E 158.84 feet; thence N 0°30’23” E 96.74 feet; thence N42°30’48” E 160.33 feet; thence N 49°59’55” E 399.45 feet; thence N 89°35’32” E 1132.68 feet; thence S 51°21’28” E 102.41 feet; thence S 37°32’18” E 110.18 feet; thence S 63°09’12” E 118.39 feet; thence N 69°16’50” E 133.02 feet; thence N 86°01’32” E 211.00 feet; thence N 55°07’49” E 256.84 feet terminating at the Point of Beginning. Containing 102.48 acres more or less.

Dated: February 4, 2022

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

CP#22-031

PUBLIC NOTICE

NSP 1 Substantial Amendment to adopt the resale provisions February 9, 2022

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing is submitting a substantial amendment to its Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP1) to adopt the resale provisions.

The original NSP1 substantial amendment to the City of Lansing FY2008 Action Plan (7/1/2008 – 6/30/2009) was submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on December 1, 2008 and approved by HUD on March 19, 2009. HUD approved a subsequent minor amendment in 2010 to consolidate home buyer assistance and related activity into overall rehab and construction activity and to increase funding for the Neighborhood Empowerment Center. Another amendment included adjusting amounts budgeted for NSP 1 activities to match actual spending needs for those activities. Since those proposed budget changes exceeded the 10% threshold for a minor amendment as set forth in the City of Lansing’s Citizens Participation Plan, the changes were posted for public review and comment prior to submission to your office.

The City of Lansing is requesting HUD’s approval of the substantial amendment to adopt the resale provisions which were not part of the original NSP 1 Plan or subsequent amendments. More specifically, the City of Lansing’s NSP1 program which provides emergency assistance to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties is amending Activity 1 – Housing Rehab for Supportive Housing. The activity is being amended to include the adoption of the resale provision as the enforcement method to ensure continued affordability for the Supportive Housing developed under NSP1 effective February 1, 2022 through December 31, 2051, as per the requirements of 24 CFR 92.252e.

A summary of the amendment is available on the City of Lansing Development Office website: www.lansingmi.gov/development. The 30-day comment period on the proposed amendment to NSP 1 is February 10, 2022 – March 11, 2022.

Any written comments must be received at the City of Lansing during the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on or before March 11, 2022 at the following address: Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner, Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Avenue, Suite D-2, Lansing, MI 48933, Phone: 517-483-4063. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail at doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov

CP#22-025

Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is requesting qualifications for Lawn Maintenance on For Sale Properties. The Request for Qualifications packet is available February 9, 2022 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 11:00am on February 23, 2022 and will be opened at 11:00am February 23, 2022. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFQ#: LawnForSale-2022-25

CP#22-030

2022 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW
MEETING SCHEDULE
Charter Township of Lansing, Ingham County

The Lansing Charter Township Board of Review for March 2022 will be held in-person at the Lansing Charter Township Hall, 3209 W Michigan Avenue Lansing, MI 48917. Taxpayers are able to protest by letter or email, sent to: Board of Review, 3209 W Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48917 Or to DeeAnnO@lansingtowship.org, provided protest is received prior to 5:00 PM, March 16, 2022.

The Lansing Charter Township March Board of Review will meet on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - Organizational Meeting
- Monday, March 14, 2022, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Appeal Hearing
- Monday, March 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Appeal Hearing
- Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Appeal Hearing
- Friday, March 18, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Appeal Hearing

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2022 are as follows:

*Commercial.....	49.95%.....	1.00000
*Industrial.....	40.86%.....	1.22369
*Residential.....	46.92%.....	1.06565
*Personal Property...	50.00%.....	1.00000

Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 day notice. Contact: Margaret Sanders, Clerk, 3209 W Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48917 517-485-4063

DeeAnn Overton, Secretary of Board of Review

CP#22-028

PUBLIC NOTICE
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
NSP2 PI Funding Opportunity
DATE: February 9, 2022
CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

The purpose of this notice is to provide an opportunity to comment on the environmental review and use of \$250,000 of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) funds to rehabilitate owner-occupied housing in the Churchill Downs Neighborhood in the City of Lansing, Michigan

All interested parties are invited to submit written comments related to the environmental review and use of MSHDA funds to rehabilitate up to \$25,000 per home for approximately 8 CDBG eligible owner-occupied households in the Churchill Downs community in the City of Lansing, MI. MSHDA selected the City of Lansing for a Neighborhood Stabilization Program Income Grant (NSP-2021-384-NPI) in the amount of \$250,000. MSHDA funds will be used for rehabilitation activities only. Exterior code-related rehabilitation activities will be provided to approximately 8 owner occupied homes with household incomes at or below 80% of area median income (AMI) in the Churchill Downs Neighborhood. The activities will include roofing, siding, window replacement, porch replacement and related interior repairs, modest landscaping at the façade and the removal of dead trees. There are no expansions of the footprint of the structures. In efforts to accomplish this activity, the City of Lansing will partner with the Capital Area Housing Partnership (CAHP) to deliver the program to residents which will include income qualification, inspection, bidding and project management. To ensure quality and compliance with building codes, all work completed through the project will undergo a final inspection by the City of Lansing Rehabilitation Specialists and Building Inspectors.

The public comment period is February 10, 2022 – February 24, 2022

A copy of the environmental review is available on the City of Lansing Development Office website: www.lansingmi.gov/development. Written comments must be received at the City of Lansing during the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on or before February 24, 2022 at the following address: Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner, Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Avenue, Suite D-2, Lansing, MI 48933, Phone: 517-483-4063. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail at doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov

CP#22-032

At Coontz Law, we believe the justice system can do better. We believe in holding the Government accountable. We believe in empathetic representation of the accused. We believe Black Lives Matter. We believe we can—and will—change the world, starting right here in our backyard.

We were voted Top of the Town for a reason. It's because we have a vision for a better and more just society. And it starts with the work we're doing right now.

BLACK
LIVES
MATTER



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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Lansing Art Gallery moves south — and up — on Washington Square

Gallery plans 7th relocation to performing arts center

By CHLOE ALVERSON

The Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center is on the move — and it may be again soon.

A staple of the Capital City's artistic scene since 1965, the gallery relocated — for the sixth time — last week to a new leased space inside the historic Knapp's Centre on South Washington Square.

Lansing Art Gallery

300 S. Washington Sq.
Ste. 100, Lansing
Free admission,
masks required
Wednesday-Saturday,
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
lansingartgallery.org

And while executive director Barb Whitney was thrilled to see the gallery elevated from its out-of-the-way basement on North Washing-

ton, she's already lining up bigger plans to move to another location.

The latest idea is to move the gallery, for a seventh, and hopefully final time, exactly one block south to the performing arts center complex.

"We've been a part of conversations around a performing arts center for many years," Whitney said. "We are very eager to see this come to fruition and have a vested interest in it because we have the potential for occupancy there."

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor announced plans last week to begin building the complex as early as this year. It has an estimated price tag of up to \$21 million. The complex will consist of two buildings. One is a performance venue with a capacity of about 2,000.

The other building is the old Lansing Credit Exchange, near the corner of Hillsdale and Washington. The developers, Dymaxion Development, are in the process of purchasing the building from Lake Trust Credit Union.

The Lansing Art Gallery is expected to occupy part of the building, along with the All of the Above Hip-Hop Academy and the Lansing Public Media Center, said Dominic Cochran, director of the media center. He explained that the gallery may pay rent there. But he said the gallery's rent could be lowered to as little as nothing, depending on how much the gallery can raise to put toward capital expenses for rehabbing the building. Cochran said a meeting has been scheduled to discuss the possibility of tenant ownership of the building.

Whitney said Tuesday that she does not yet details on what it would cost "for the possibility of tenancy/ownership" in the project. She said her board will consider options in the spring.

An earlier home was the Center for the Performing Arts — located at Lenawee and Grand Avenue — which it shared with the old Boarshead Theatre for three decades.

For now, Whitney said she is pleased with the new space in the Knapp's Centre. The easily accessible downtown location will hopefully bring in more foot traffic and attract those who may have been hesitant about visiting the art gallery in its basement location at 119 N.



Chloe Alverson/City Pulse

Work from Andrew Rieder's exhibit at the Lansing Art Gallery, "Some Avail."

Washington Square.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be in this new space in such a beautiful, historic-landmark building," she said. "We are really eager to enact our mission in this beautiful setting with natural light, plentiful parking and an above-ground location."

Suite 100 at Knapp's Centre, 300 S. Washington Square, boasts plenty of natural light that bounces off the white walls of the gallery. It also has a mezzanine, which is where the educational center is displaying the vibrant artwork of Ingham County students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Art teachers can submit the work of their students to the gallery to be judged by a professional artist.

The ground-level area showcases an array of artwork from wooden sculptures to dinnerware. Much of the art is available for purchase. The gallery's latest exhibition is from artist Andrew Rieder, "Some Avail," which he says "explores the concept of work ethic and the various ways in which it is quantified."

The gallery was founded to represent Michigan artists "in a progressive move to provide Michigan's capital city with a showplace for original art forms," according to the gallery's website. The Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center was the first permanent

art gallery in the city, and it receives funding through donations and sponsorships. Membership opportunities are available but admission is free. The gallery also hosts workshops, intending to draw in the local community to the world of the arts.

"The arts can be a forum for self-expression and a way we engage with one another as humans," Whitney said. "More and more people in this community are learning about this gem of an arts organization that has been around for more than 50 years, and is still, at times, an unintentional secret."

The gallery is also planning the return of in-person classes and workshops. In the past, the gallery has hosted workshops for activities like pet portraits and watercolor painting. The gallery offers many hybrid programs, and Whitney hopes to maintain that type of pandemic innovation going forward.

"As the pandemic begins to normalize life, to some degree, we're hopeful that we provide a place that feels like a safe haven to enjoy art and to have community," she said.

"We're a community agency," she said. "Our best moments are when people realize the arts are for them, and that's what we're trying to foster."

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Favorite Things

Jacob Nevin and his metal outfit



Jacob Nevin works in Lansing as an attorney and is an ultimate metalhead. His favorite thing is his collection of leather regalia inspired by the metal band Judas Priest.

When I was approached, put on the spot, and asked, “Do you wanna be in the City Pulse? We need somebody for ‘Favorite Things.’” I knew immediately what to write about: My soundbar. It has all the features. A subwoofer. A remote control.

I’m just kidding.

Some metalheads will complain about other metalheads looking the look, but not walking the walk. “It’s passion, not fashion” is a favorite line of the poser patrol. To me, you can’t have one without the other.

When I was grabbed by metal in my early teens, it was Judas Priest that grabbed me hook, line, and sinker. When I first heard “Painkiller,” I didn’t realize music could be like that. The drums, the guitar, the screaming vocals of Rob Halford. It drove me wild!

As I delved deeper into their catalog, the ideologies of metal were all there in their unphased, rugged independence. Along with the ideology were the coolest clothes I had ever seen in my life. Leather black as night with the blinding glint of steel.

My parents had been really supportive of me with music even when I was too angsty to appreciate it. One particularly symbolic gift of their support came from my mother when

I was just graduating high school. I think I had said something about how cool it would be to dress like Rob Halford and she jumped up and said, “I think I have some old leather pants in my closet!” I didn’t believe her, but she came back with leather pants and passed them on to me. When I found out they fit, I was over the moon.

It wouldn’t be until a few years later and I moved out of small town Michigan that I would assemble the rest of the look. I had transferred to Michigan State University and I finally found my first black leather biker jacket in a thrift store. I took it back to the dorm and demanded to have my photo taken immediately. There’s still a dorky picture of me with Mexican flag aviators standing proud in my friend Louis’ dorm room.

Putting on “the look” made me feel all the excitement of first hearing “Painkiller.” A connection to my metal gods and it was something physical and real. In order to capture a small piece of this wherever I go I carry a “British Steel” razor blade on my keychain and I use it to envision myself draped in the blessing of the metal gods.

I cannot wait until this pandemic is behind us so I can strut my stuff around The Avenue Café and Mac’s Bar.

(Words by Jacob Nevin. Edited by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, email skyler@lansingcitypulse.com)

New shop is a realm of oddities



Chloe Alverson/City Pulse

The entrance sign for Voodoo’s World of Oddtiques at REO Town Marketplace.

By CHLOE ALVERSON

Picture the houses of the Addams family and the Munsters. Now, picture the two spooky homes combined. That’s what it’s like inside Voodoo’s World of Oddtiques, the newest edition in REO Town Marketplace.

According to John “Voodoo” and Jenifer Harris, owners of the “oddtiques” shop, their house is a mix of the Addams family home and that of the Munsters. And their house is just like their shop.

The couple, who have been married for 26 years, are fans of all things horror and odd. After a barbecue catering business didn’t work out for them during the pandemic, they went in a different direction — a creepy, kooky direction.

What started as a Halloween collection eventually grew enough for them to open up a shop to sell their finds. Collectors for nearly 30 years, they decided to open a shop after traveling around the state’s conventions and flea markets last year.

As for the name, Harris says “Voodoo” is a longtime nickname of his, which came long before he actually started practicing Voodoo. “Oddtiques” are what the two look to sell in their shop: Oddities and antiques.

“We’re looking for that odd, vintage, old, one-of-a-kind, out-of-production type of item,” Harris said. “Oddtiques fit what I was looking for.”

Jenifer does most of the buying. Harris says she has a “unique eye” for the things they want in the shop, though she often gravitates towards skulls, glassware and handmade crafts. Harris goes for anything medical or funeral-related.

“We see a little bit of everything,” Harris said. “We get everything, from people who bring in old magazines from their childhood, animal taxidermy, bones, skulls. If you don’t know what it is, you haven’t seen it before, it’s something we want in the shop.”

Though the goal is to eventually have their own standalone building, the couple is pleased with their spot inside the marketplace. They had a successful opening last month and are looking forward to serving Lansing as the place to go for all things mysterious and spooky.



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SNAKE IN THE GRASS

The **'toxic'** religious teachings that nurtured
former House Speaker Lee Chatfield



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Rusty Chatfield, father of former House Speaker Lee Chatfield, speaks to a Sunday morning congregation at Northern Michigan Baptist Bible church.

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

ALANSON, Mich. — Tucked off a poorly paved, unplowed road across Burt Lake from the sleepy Up North vacation town of Indian River, the Northern Michigan Baptist Bible Church would struggle to fit in a congregation of 100 people. One Sunday morning in January, only about three dozen people sparsely dotted the pews in the modest sanctuary.

Each week, Rusty Chatfield, the father of former House Speaker Lee Chatfield, stands at the pulpit behind a humble wooden cross — no flashy jewelry and gold; only a Bible and a few pages of notes guide him through a sermon. It's a place where everyone knows your name.

But hiding behind this humble country church veneer, critics said, is a loose confederacy of similar minded people. Driven by an idea of life drawn from the pages of the King James version of the Bible, which they believe to be the only word of God without error or omission, the leaders of these churches are deities of sorts, who nurture a cult-like sphere of influence prone to extreme sexism, purity constructs, bans on interracial or inter-religious marriages and education that fail to address anything beyond the insular communities in which they live.

It's a theological landscape that leaves the vulnerable — children, women and LGBTQ folks — at the mercy of a strict Old Testament theology that is backed with commands to still their rebellious souls, even if it requires a paddling that leaves bruises or welts on their behinds.

It was into this world that Lee Chatfield was born and raised. And critics said it was that environment that allowed him to allegedly sexually exploit women, including accusations that he abused a former 15-year-old student who went on to become his sister-in-law.

This is the Independent Fundamental Baptist Church movement. And while each church is subject to the pastor who leads it, the confederacy churches share a circuit of camps, retreats, evangelists, spiritual mentors, experts, private colleges and universities — constantly cross-pollinating their controversial theologies.

It is easy to miss Chatfield's out-of-the-way church on Burt Lake, though visitors are still enthusiastically welcomed, including a City Pulse staffer. Rusty Chatfield — among others — quickly welcomed the lone visitor with a smile and a handshake.

"I haven't seen you here before. Welcome," Chatfield said, who asked, "Where are you from? What do you do for a living?"

Having a journalist at the Sunday service made Chatfield "uncomfortable," he said. "But you're still welcome to stay. And you'll certainly get a sermon."

Chatfield's church is only one of hundreds of IFB churches scattered across the U.S.

Nearly every person interviewed for this report, both on the record and off the record, referred to IFB as a cult. A cult is generally a group with an ideologically driven belief system and adoration of one person as their leader. At the movement's core is a fundamental set of beliefs, seasoned by the personalities of each individual pastor, and most im-

portant is what is referred to in IFB circles as "The Umbrella of Authority." This teaching is key to understanding how abuse — mentally, physically and sexually — can go undetected and unreported for years while the survivors hide the trauma out of shame and threat of exposure.

"Independent Fundamental Churches, for those who don't know, is a very extremist form of Christianity. They don't do dancing. They don't do drinking," said Eric Skwarczynsk, the host of the "Preacher Boys" podcast, which is dedicated to uncovering mental, physical, sexual and emotional abuses in the IFB church movement, often through the direct stories of its survivors.

He added: "I would go so far as to say the majority fit the category of cults by definition."

The 'Umbrella of Authority'

The IFB church movement does not have centralized leadership, with each church setting up its own governing authority. Some might have a council of deacons who work at the direction of the pastor. In other churches, pastors are the head of the church and a direct conduit to God.

This direct messenger of God is a fundamental prism through which the IFB churches and theology must be viewed. Under this belief, authority comes from God and is bestowed on the pastor, who is always a man. Men in the church are also bestowed with authority over women and their wives, as well as children. Women who are mothers have authority as it relates to the children, but they must submit to their husbands. It's a strict reading of the Bible that places women in servitude — peo-

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ple to be seen but not heard. The same applies to children.

Rebekah Chatfield, 26, said she found herself thrust into the middle of this culture in the fourth grade. That introduction to the Northern Michigan Christian Academy and the Northern Michigan Baptist Bible Church, in turn, put her into an orbit with the Chatfield family.

She confirmed that the strict authoritarianism of Chatfield's church and school was a contributing factor to her alleged abuse and exploitation by Lee Chatfield. She met her future brother-in-law when he was a teacher, coach and the school's athletic director.

"It was also a place where women, I feel, didn't really have a choice to listen to the rules. It was either you were in this community and you were in this church and you were in this school — either all in, or you kind of disobey the rules," Rebekah Chatfield explained in a video interview with City Pulse about her experience in the church and school. "If you don't really fit in, you'll be kind of kicked outside; or, even, people have left the church and the school because they just didn't agree with their rules and guidelines."

Chatfield's church was created in 1987.



Woodbury

Its first school superintendent was Norm Olson, an Alanson native who came to national prominence during the 1995 Oklahoma City bombings, which killed 168, as a cofounder of the Michigan Militia. The two

men convicted of the bombings, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, may have attended Michigan Militia meetings, according to media reports.



Courtesy

Rebekah Leonard with her then high school boy field Aaron Chatfield after a soccer tournament. They married when both were 19.

Male authority is an essential tool in IFB teachings. And it's a rigid patriarchal sort of existence: When men are wrong, God is said to protect women and children if they follow the directions anyway.

Justin Woodbury, 41, has left the IFB. In an interview with City Pulse, he alleged that he was sexually abused by a woman at his IFB church in Ann Arbor beginning when he was a 17-year-old member of the congregation.

(Attempts to independently verify Woodbury's claims were unsuccessful.)

His IFB church, Ann Arbor Baptist, focused on the importance of the "Umbrella," he said.

"If your parents were wrong, God would still protect you from anything bad happening because you are under that umbrella of protection," Woodbury explained.

He also recalled an instance from his youth involving a particularly physically abusive father, who he said pulled out a gun after he had been abusing his wife and children one evening.

One of the children called the pastor "begging" for help, Woodbury said.

"He told her, 'As long as you are under your dad's roof, you must submit to his

In response to questions from City Pulse, Mary Chartier, the attorney for former state House Speaker Lee Chatfield, wrote: "False claims against Mr. Chatfield have been reported in the media despite that even a superficial review of the allegations shows that the claims defy logic, common sense, and rational thought. Mr. Chatfield is not going to participate in a story that appears to be driven by yet another false narrative against religion and those who hold religious beliefs."

authority and God will protect you from anything bad happening," Woodbury recalled. "There is a strong emphasis that a man could do no wrong."

Challenging the decision of male authority is considered a grave sin and an act of rebellion. In IFB culture, that means the "will" must be broken — including through corporal punishment.

Spare the rod. Spoil the child.

Ruthie Heiler was steeped in IFB culture from birth. Her two sisters were sent to Gaylord, in northern Michigan, to a program run by Grace Baptist Church. It was a program for girls who were "troubled," she said.

Homes and schools such as those run by Grace Baptist were designed to reform rebellious children and develop them into better Christians, Heiler said. She said that a child could land in one of these homes for the most simple church missteps — anything from "a rebellious spirit" to "listening to rock and roll."

"In IFB circles, what they would deem as rebellious is more so a typical child-like acting out," she said. "It's normal behavior for a child to have, but to them they feel like you need to break a child of that rebellious spirit."

At age 12, Heiler's mother moved to Gaylord, where she attended Grace Baptist Church and school. That's where Heiler met her abuser, who has already been convicted in Washington state for sexually assaulting her and is awaiting trial in Michigan for another

alleged assault.

And breaking a child's "rebellious spirit" is a philosophical construct throughout the IFB faith.

Spanking kids stems from the book of Psalms, where readers are implored not to spare the rod or risk spoiling the child. The fundamental belief: All people are born into sin and rebelliousness against God, so children require a firm hand to be "saved" from this sin-stained existence.

The leading practitioners of spanking as "training" your children into godliness are Michael and Debi Pearl. The duo have published four books and volumes of articles on the topic, starting with their 1994 book, "To Train Up a Child." It was updated and republished in 2015.

The books present spanking as a benevolent act of love by a parent. In one volume, Michael Pearl repeats the tale of teaching parents to control their toddler. A couple was driving down a backroad returning from a church session and their child had become antsy and whining.

Pearl advised the father to tell the child to be quiet or he would be spanked. When the child didn't stop, Pearl directed him to pull over and get a switch from a tree. He disciplined the child, and put the toddler back in the car and began driving again. When the toddler started acting up again, Pearl directed the father to repeat the action. This continued for miles.

The Pearls also teach that a tool such as "a wooden spoon or a spatula" should be used rather than a hand. Michael Pearl demonstrated the lesson with flexible plumbing tubing on the Dr. Drew show — smacking Drew Pinsky's hand until he said it hurts. Pearl responded: "It's supposed to." Pearl also said the physically abusive training for kids should begin as early as 9 months.

A 2017 study from the University of Michigan — which had included more than 8,300 people of all ages — determined that being spanked was linked to adulthood mental health issues.

Woodbury, the teenage abuse victim, said that the use of an implement was

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Rebekah Chatfield speaks her truth

Ex-House speaker's sister-in-law reveals abusive life behind the church

Rebekah Chatfield remembers the first time Lee Chatfield allegedly abused her like it was yesterday — long before Lee Chatfield became a state lawmaker, several years before she married his brother.

Now 26, Rebekah Chatfield told City Pulse that the alleged abuse began when she was a 15-year-old student of Lee Chatfield's at Northern Michigan Christian Academy. She was babysitting for Lee and his wife, Stephanie — something she had done previously for her teacher. Lee Chatfield also doubled as a coach and athletic director at the rural Up North school on Burt Lake near Alanson.

"So, the very first time: I was at his house babysitting. They had a three-level home, and so I was watch-

ing TV and he came down and acted like he just wanted to watch TV with me," she said. "Then he shut it off. I was going to go upstairs while he goes up and sits at the top of the stairs. And that's when my first encounter was and he was basically not going to let me up through the stairs." Chatfield fondled her body, with "inappropriate touching everywhere," Rebekah Chatfield alleged.

She was stunned and froze when the touching began. After a few minutes, Chatfield stood up and opened the door — offering an escape, she recalled. The next day at school was grueling.

"I remember just looking at him and the way he just stood there, and I could tell he was in a deep, deep process. Just staring at me. I don't know what he was thinking but I could tell it was something deep and big," Chatfield said, noting that Lee Chatfield was teaching in a nearby classroom.

Through Lansing attorney Mary Chartier, Lee Chatfield acknowledged a "consensual affair" with Rebekah Chatfield and others, but he denied any sexual contact with his sister-in-

law before she was at least 18.

The Lansing Police Department and Michigan State Police are investigating Rebekah Chatfield's allegations. Attorney General Dana Nessel's office is also participating in the investigation.

The school she attended — where Chatfield was teaching — was small and insular, Rebekah Chatfield said in an interview. Her graduating class was only 13 people and she recalled no enrollment over 100 students in the K-12 program.

When Chatfield won election to the Michigan House in 2014, Rebekah Chatfield was pregnant with the couple's first child, and Lee Chatfield offered Aaron Chatfield, his brother and her husband, a position in the State House. Lee Chatfield also hired his brother to work for him in the legislature.

Despite the marriage, Rebekah Chatfield said Lee Chatfield had continued engaging in sexual activity with her for years — including last year, throughout his time in the legislature and as the House speaker.

"Lee would control Aaron's sched-

ule," she said. "He controlled our finances. He knew when Aaron would be home; when he wouldn't be."

She alleged that Lee Chatfield would use computer programs (like Snapchat and WhatsApp) to delete conversations after they occur, leaving no way for the infidelity to be tracked electronically. She said it was via those computer apps she would be told when Lee Chatfield was coming over for sex.

"I verbally said no. I verbally said I cannot do this anymore," she said she told Lee Chatfield more than once. "He would do whatever he had to do. However long he needed to step away, he would always come back. So it would be harassment through text messages or Snapchat."

The persistent sexual activity, despite her attempts to rebuff her brother in law's advances, led to severe depression, "even suicidal thoughts," she told City Pulse.

She worried that coming forward with her allegations could "ruin the family," Rebekah Chatfield said.

— TODD HEYWOOD

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designed to separate the hand from the act and leave it only to be seen for a loving embrace. During his religious studies at the Baptist College of Ministry in Wisconsin, he took a parenting class where he was taught to use a “long glue stick,” he explained. The reason?

“They sting and you can hit somebody really hard and a glue stick won’t leave a mark,” Woodbury said. “It’ll make you red, but it won’t leave a bruise so there’s no evidence.”

Woodbury said he was spanked using a wooden dowel as a child. And his spankings would include an entire discussion of what the bad actions were, followed by additional discipline.

Paddling, or corporal punishment, is allowed at Chatfield’s church. Lee Chatfield, in a 2014 interview with the Petokey News-Review, defended the practice. When asked to define spanking, Chatfield told the newspaper’s editorial board it was “normally a swat on the behind.” He also said he thinks spanking is “good” if “a child, at a young age, is misbehaving.” His church requires written approval from a parent or guardian to administer spankings during school hours.

A “swat on the behind” is not what Rebekah Chatfield witnessed during her time there.

Chatfield recalled an instance in which her then-boyfriend and future husband, Aaron Chatfield, had run around the school in his boxer shorts. She mentioned it to other members of the church. Two days later, Rusty Chatfield appeared in the gym and summoned his son. He was repeatedly struck with a wooden paddle so hard that his buttocks were bruised, she said.

City Pulse recently reported that after an 11-year-old boy sexually assaulted another boy of the same age at the church school that Rusty Chatfield

oversees. Chatfield’s solution was to tell the pupils to beat up the offending child if he assaulted any of them.

Aaron Chatfield has hired East Lansing attorney Mike Nichols to represent him. Nichols declined to explain why he is representing him, confirm this story or facilitate interview requests with Chatfield.

Skwarczynski, the podcaster, said he remembers the paddling instrument well.

“I saw the paddle,” Skwarczynski said. “It was called Mr. Blue. It was a blue ping-pong paddle that they used to spank kids. It was this idea that the control of the children is the church and parents’ responsibility. Is a parent responsible for training a child? Yes. But do I think wailing on a kid in the office with a ping pong paddle is raising a kid? No.”

Modesty

Heiler said that IFB churches also have rigid expectations of modesty and purity, which extends into strict dress codes. In all the churches referenced in this report, women are prohibited from wearing pants. They’re instead expected to wear dresses and skirts that hang below the knee.

After all, bare skin on a woman at IFB churches is seen as an impure temptation for its men.

“It is taught from a young age that you, as a woman, as a girl, should dress modestly. You don’t want to cause a man to stumble, is what they say. You don’t want to cause a man to have impure thoughts,” Heiler explained to City Pulse. “It’s definitely something that is imprinted to children’s brains that the female’s responsible for purity and for modesty.”

Courting between young couples also requires them to have another person in the room. Holding hands, kissing and hugging are all strictly prohibited. Theologically, this conception of the temptress is biblically based on the story of man’s fall in the Garden of Eden.

“Women are definitely positioned as the temptress,” Skwarczynski explained. “They’re the people that can mess up

@duggarfam endorsing Lee Chatfield! #LeeChatfield #19yearsandcounting



Courtesy

Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar proudly endorsed Lee Chatfield for state Representative in 2014. This image was widely distributed on Twitter following City Pulse’s report Chatfield was under criminal investigation for alleged sex abuse.

a guy’s chance at being pure. Men are taught really that you have this uncontrollable sexual desire and for women, it’s your responsibility to help men.”

Skwarczynski called this concept a “powder keg.” Men are taught a cornucopia of conflicting ideas about sex — it’s awesome, it’s forbidden, you can’t control it. Women, on the other hand, are “taught if something happens to you, it’s your fault,” Skwarczynski said.

These confused and contradictory teachings are combined with a lack of reproductive health education from the church schools. Heiler wasn’t even taught the basics about menstruation.

“When I reached the age to have a period, I didn’t know what was happening. I thought I was dying,” Heiler said, noting that she was also never taught about the male reproductive system. “I didn’t know anything about anatomy. You didn’t even know how a baby was made.”

All of the people interviewed in this story said that interracial relationships, or relationships with someone from a different religion, even other Christians, were either banned or discouraged.

In one memo that Skwarczynski reported on his podcast, a minister encouraged students to pray about God’s

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Wolves in sheep’s clothing

Sex abuse survivor challenges IFB culture to face itself

Ruthie Heiler wants to understand the years of sexual abuse she alleged she endured at the hands of a teacher at an Up North Independent Fundamental Baptist church. She also wants justice.

The 31-year-old told City Pulse that the alleged abuse began when she was 12, but because of the lack of reproductive health education in her church school, combined with teaching children to obey directives from adults, she didn’t know how to clearly identify abuse — even when it happened.

Aaron Willand treated her like his own daughter at first, Heiler said. It was a welcome respite from her family. Her mother had been physically abused by Heiler’s father. After she reported the abuse to police in Indiana, the family’s

former church “turned their backs on us,” she said.

To escape the shunning from the IFB church in Indiana, her mother had moved the family to Gaylord, where her two sisters were already living in a church home for rebellious teenage girls.

From birth, Heiler had been steeped in the misogynistic IFB movement — taught that girls and women were there only as inferior temptresses. She was taught to listen and obey her elders.

“You’re just a child and you don’t really have a say,” Heiler explained. “I think when you put it into a child’s mind that they can’t question what they’re being told, that’s definitely a way for sex abuse to happen. Because you have an older person preying on a child and that child is taught to listen — no matter what — you can’t question what’s being done.”

Heiler alleged that Willand assaulted her when she was a 12-year-old student at Grace Baptist Church in Gaylord. She said he preyed on her sexual innocence, noting that when she got her period,

she cried because she thought she was dying. She also didn’t realize men had penises.

“I thought they looked like me,” she said.

When Willand moved to Washington state to teach at a Christian school there, Heiler was asked to help the family with the move. She was 14, and Willand engaged in sexual intercourse with her in Washington State. When Heiler returned from the trip, she told her mother what occurred.

Following IFB teachings, Heiler’s mother reached out to then Grace Baptist Church pastor Jon Jenkins for counsel on how to address the abuse.

“He told her he wasn’t surprised,” Heiler said. “Come to find out he had known of two other girls that my abuser, Aaron Willand, had been inappropriate with.”

Jenkins did not respond to calls to his church in North Carolina. In 2019, as others connected to Grace Baptist were being charged and convicted of child sex abuse, Jenkins claimed he had reported Willand and another teacher to the Osego County sheriff for alleged sexual abuse. A records request by the Petos-

key News-Review did not uncover any reports by Jenkins about Willand.

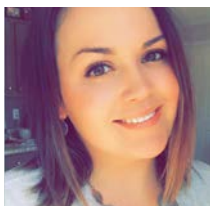
Heiler’s mother took her to local police and reported Willand’s alleged sexual assaults. He was charged in Washington on three counts of child rape and spent about three years in prison. Michigan officials charged him with 15 counts of various criminal sexual conduct in 2019 related Heiler and another victim. That case has been delayed multiple times because of COVID-19.

Heiler has since stepped up and is actively reaching out to other survivors of abuse from other IFB leaders and congregants. She also started the Blind Eye Movement, noting that’s the treatment the church has given sexual and physical abuse claims — turned a blind eye to it.

Heiler said speaking out is important for her healing, and protecting others.

“I’m not trying to attack the church. I’m not trying to attack a religion,” she said. “It’s more shining a light on these wolves in sheep’s clothing that have used people’s beliefs to abuse and manipulate and do everything they say that they’re against.”

— TODD HEYWOOD



Heiler

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intent (and seek parental input) before engaging in “exotic” relationships. The flagship university of IFB, Bob Jones University, also banned interracial dating until 2004. Even after lifting the ban, the university still required parental permission for interracial relationships.

Dating in an IFB church is not like it is in the secular world. Fathers pray about matches, then discuss it among themselves. If they decide God wants their respective child to marry, they are introduced to each other and are given a month to “court” — which requires constant adult supervision and prayer. If the couple agrees that God wants a marriage, it is done — quickly.

Having sex out of wedlock, Rebekah Chatfield explained, was tantamount to being married in the eyes of God. If such physical relationships were discovered — as was the case with Chatfield and her husband, Aaron — marriage in the church is required in order to satisfy God’s commandments.

Skwarczynski heard sermons and teachings about rape. The messages from those teachings was not “men shouldn’t be raping.” It was “women shouldn’t be going to parties,” he said.

Emily, who is using an alias to discuss what she described as the brutal sexual assault of her young daughter, was a teacher at a school attached to another rural northern Michigan IFB church. When she brought allegations to church officials, as well as law enforcement, she was encouraged not to discuss it publicly, she said.

“You don’t want people looking at her in 10 years, when she’s 15, and singing her heart out in the choir and saying, ‘Oh, that’s that poor girl who was abused,’” she said a pastor had told her.

When she refused to stay quiet, her home and vehicles were vandalized.

“It was all addressed in a way to somehow place her at the center and the

WHY DID GOD LET A FOUR YEAR OLD BOY BE MOLESTED BY A FIFTEEN YEAR OLD NEIGHBOR?

1. To teach Him his responsibility to cry out to God for help.

In our fallen world with all its evil men and women, there will be attacks by a stronger upon a weaker. When this happens, the law of God is very clear that the weaker must cry out for help or he will be equally guilty. This principle is found in Deuteronomy 21:23, 24. When a “victim” does not cry out or immediately tell his authority he will carry around a sense of guilt which Satan will then use for condemnation and further defeat. It would therefore be important for your son to confess his failure to do this and ask God to forgive him.

2. To motivate him to dedicate his body to God.

Romans 12:2 explains the importance of every believer presenting his body as a living sacrifice to God. Once this is done, our body no longer belongs to us, it belongs to God. This concept is important in order to avoid bitterness. Your son is able to then say, “That neighbor did not molest my body, he molested God’s body and God’s judgement is upon him for doing that.”

3. To give him a “moral vaccination” against future temptations.

God will severely judge the fifteen year old boy for the evil that he did. However, your son can turn what was meant for evil into good. The vaccinations we receive for various diseases contains a small amount of the actual disease. Our immune system builds up a reaction to it so that if our body is exposed to the disease, it is prepared to fight it off. A similar result can occur in the life of your son if this matter is handled in a Scriptural way.

4. To transform aroused desires to spiritual power.

When molestation takes place, sexual desires are often awakened. Sexual energy however can be transformed into spiritual power as we yield the members of our body to the Lord on a daily basis and hide God’s Word in our heart. Scripture refers to sexual drives as coming from our innermost being and the apostle John states “Out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.”

5. To motivate him to write God’s law on his heart.

In order to transform this event into spiritual power, your son must begin to memorize large portions of Scripture and meditate on them day and night. As he keeps the Law of God before his spiritual eyes, he will fulfill the requirement of John 14:21. “He that hath my commandments and keepeth them [before his eyes] he it is that loveth me, and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father and I will love him and manifest myself unto him.” See also James 1:21

6. To concentrate on God’s hatred of sodomy.

Since this offense would be in the area of sodomy, it would be very important for your son to memorize the law and testimonies which speak of this abomination. He should study the account in Genesis about Sodom and Gomorrah and he should memorize Romans 1 and all the other passages that directly refer to the sin of sodomy.

7. To confirm the importance of avoiding evil companions.

The book of Proverbs is filled with warnings to avoid evil companions, “Be not deceived, evil companions corrupt good manners.” “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” God wants us to learn to have contempt for the wicked as explained in such passages as Psalm 15, “In whose eyes a vile person is contemned, but he honoreth them that fear the Lord.”

8. To learn how to discern evil companions.

When a person is molested, he develops a new sensitivity to people with wrong motives. This awareness is for future protection and must be developed into the quality of discernment instead of fear. Your son should now have a natural resistance to any person who has impure motives.

9. To work out justice and mercy.

It is important that justice be carried out in this situation. This means proper punishment should be administered to the offending neighbor. As a preparation for this, it is vital to make diligent inquiry with each boy to find out all the facts. Any hidden aspects of this molestation will give the enemy authority and will be used by him in the further defeat of both boys. Once the full facts are known and repented of, mercy may be extended.

10. To help parents understand the basis of “genius”.

In a study by the Smithsonian Institute, 40 men considered geniuses were studied in order to find common denominators. The three common denominators were 1. Parents protected them from contact with other children. 2. They were continually around caring adults who taught them what they knew. 3. They were taught how to creatively solve problems. Based on this, your son should not have been with the other boy but rather with the adults so that he could learn from them.

11. To see the need for a daily schedule for the best use of time.

“Free time” is a dangerous and unwise commodity. The phrase “Idle hands are the devil’s workshop.” is true. The wise parent will schedule productive activities throughout the day so that a child does not have time to get into trouble.

12. To remind the father to pray a daily hedge of protection.

Each day it is important for the father to pray a hedge of protection around each member of the family and to ask God to rebuke the principality over the family in the name and through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

TOTAL

Courtesy

Two pages of a curriculum distributed by homeschool guru Bill Gothard. Gothard has been convicted of sex crimes, including transporting a 16-year-old girl to northern Michigan. Gothard’s homeschool curriculum and philosophies gained wide distribution after being featured on ‘19 Kids and Counting.’

cause,” Emily said in a phone interview. “I told him that I wanted them to see her standing up there and say, ‘That’s a strong young woman who has fought back and healed.’”

In a homeschool curriculum produced by former evangelical IFB lead Bill Gothard, there’s a two-page explanation and justification about why a 4-year-old boy’s molestation by a teenage male neighbor was ultimately good for God. Gothard resigned from his ministry in 2014 after allegations of sexual harassment in his operations arose. He was also sued by 12 women who alleged he had sexually, physically or emotionally abused them. That lawsuit was dropped in 2018; neither party will discuss why, according to NBC News.

Gothard’s curriculum was used by the Duggar family of the television show “19 Kids and Counting.” In 2003, the couple’s eldest son admitted to touching two of his sisters. And in December 2021, he was found guilty by a federal jury of possessing and receiving child pornography. The Duggars endorsed Lee Chatfield in 2014.

Stephen Kent, a professor of sociology at the University of Alberta in Canada, is one of the few academics to study the purity movements in conservative churches. He said that congregants and leaders simply do not expect such abuses to happen in their midst — not under God’s eye.

“What they fail to realize is that manipulative individuals can use their pre-

sumed spiritual purity as a cloak under which they can commit offenses without being suspected or reported,” he said. “If caught, then these predatory men may only face calls for repentance within a doctrinal atmosphere that sees young, abused women as a seductive temptress rather than groomed, manipulated, and exploited targets.”

(Kyle Kaminski contributed to this report.)

Editor’s Note: The Independent Fundamental Baptist Church movement is separate from the New Independent Fundamental Baptist Church, which the Anti-Defamation League has designated as a hate group.

A parent’s nightmare

Mother alleges church inaction, retaliation after abuse claims surface

Emily, who asked City Pulse not to use her real name in this story for fear of retaliation from church members, moved to northern Michigan with her husband and young family in tow. They were happy, she said. Her husband worked for a delivery company. She found work teaching at the school attached to their local Independent Fundamental Baptist church.

She was a popular teacher, with the school’s teens clamoring to spend time at Emily’s home. She kept the same rigid rules of the school in place at her home — always keeping the boys and girls separate. The girls were always happy to help care for her young children, she said.

“We were the safe place. We were the cool people,” she said. “We loved them. They loved us.”

Emily moved her mother, who had multiple sclerosis, in with the family. It seemed as if the American dream had dropped in their lap after helping

“plant” an IFB church in Texas.

They had come into their own. But then her mother died suddenly.

Emily had to not only deal with her grief, but the grief of her children and the students who had come to know her mother. She was the executor of the estate. She was buried in the tumult in the wake of the death, but she trusted her students to help fill the gap and mind her children.

“I had backup plans and backup plans for backup plans,” she said. “I had lots of extra eyeballs.”

One of those students at her home was a 15-year-old boy. And he brutally assaulted Emily’s 5-year-old daughter in a bathroom during the chaos in the wake of her mother’s death, she said.

It took nearly six months for the daughter to tell her what happened. She had been wetting her bed and showing other signs of trauma. Emily and her husband chalked it up to grief at the loss of her grandmother because

each time they would ask, she would tell them, “I miss grammy.”

Emily said she invited some of the single female teens over for Valentine’s Day and created a celebration of independence and girl power. And that’s when her daughter mentioned that a teen boy who visited the home had her “pull her panties down” one afternoon.

She whisked her daughter to a more private area and encouraged her to tell her what she was talking about. Her daughter feared telling Emily about the boy’s actions because “I’ll get hurt.”

“She was petrified, the poor little thing was shaking, afraid she was going to get hurt and we would be mad at her,” Emily said.

As law enforcement began its investigation into the incident, the pastor told her that the boy was innocent until proven guilty, she said. Still, Emily demanded the boy be removed from the school. The pastor, in turn, said he would take care of everything. And that Sunday, the family walked into church to find the abuser was in the choir. Her child refused to enter the sanctuary.

The sermon given that day was

about forgiveness, she said.

“I followed him, the pastor, to his truck, after the service and asked him what are you going to do,” she said. “He said: I am going out of town tomorrow, so basically you do what you have to.”

Emily reached out to her daughter’s teacher, who in turn alerted the elementary teachers. It took two weeks to get the boy removed from the school — and only after a confrontation with the pastor, who was more worried about the boy’s reputation than the trauma to Emily’s daughter.

Word got around about the abuse, and the pastor accused her of “ruining” the boy’s potential.

“He did that when he viciously attacked my baby girl,” she said to him. “He made that choice.”

Afterward, Emily said that her car was subjected to vandalism, including slashed tires. No suspects were identified. The 15-year-old boy was convicted in juvenile court of criminal sexual conduct and given a severe punishment by the local courts. Emily and her family left the church.

— TODD HEYWOOD

Three powerful strains from Lansing's 'Terpene District'

By KYLE KAMINSKI

If you couldn't already tell from the pleasant odor, there's a bit of cannabis cultivation magic happening inside that old automotive service station on Hosmer Street across from Art's Pub.

Inside the nondescript garage, about 4,000 marijuana plants are constantly blooming their way to the recreational pot market. About 250 lbs. of bud rolls out of the building monthly — from so many plants, that they have to be stacked inside on top of one another like dank little bunk beds.

Mike Thackeray is one of several cannabis entrepreneurs who have descended on that otherwise quiet corner of the city's eastside along Kalamazoo Street. There's a bit of cannabis cultivation magic happening behind his building, too. And in that ominous looking black building across the street. And behind that building. And in that large warehouse behind Art's Pub, too.

All told, there are enough state licenses within one block of Thackeray's shop to accommodate at least 7,500 plants. It's a bustling operation that I now refer to as the city's "Terpene District." And after toking on some of the finished product, I'm ready to vote in Thackeray as its mayor.

Thackeray has been involved in the weed game for decades before it was made recreationally legal in Michigan. About three years ago, he decided to bring his talents to the licensed level with Terple Gang — a terpene-focused cultivation brand focused on high-end (yet affordable) weed. With its first harvest in September, his outfit now boasts about two dozen employees and supplies a range of provisioning centers, including Homegrown, Gage and Meds Cafe in Lowell.

"The biggest thing for us is trying to find and grow new strains with a big focus on their terpene profiles," Thackeray told me as we wandered through towering rows of frosty white plants. "It's about finding genetics that work well for us in terms of cultivation, but also finding genetics that work well for our customers, growing the strains that people want for whatever they may need."

Thackeray reached out after he read a recent column in which I pledged to stop putting so much emphasis on the THC content of any given strain — which I've learned plays a fairly insignificant role in determining the overall dankness of your bud and the potency

of the resulting high.

The quality of the stoned experience, instead, is guided heavily on the terpene profiles — the thousands of different combinations of cannabinoids that work together with THC to



create a series of different physical and psychoactive effects and dictate how you feel when you're high.

Terple Gang (as the name implies) always grows with terpene profiles in mind, Thackeray said. And that makes sense, because some of the samples tested with a terpene content above 3%.

"We're a group that has operated in the traditional market and we're making our transition to the legal market," he added. "So, how do we compete with the big boys? We make a really high-end, craft product that you just can't find anywhere else. We believe in superior products."

An intricate array of hoses connects each row of plants to industrial-sized tanks inside the building — all of which are wired to a digital display so the staff can tinker and automate the nutrient or water levels, or adjust the humidity, temperature and light at the touch of a button.

The growing room floor is also unique in that it's set up in two layers — with dozens of rows of plants stacked vertically like bookshelves, doubling the square footage and cultivation output.

And in true laboratory fashion, I had to gear up in a Hazmat suit for a 20-minute tour last week.

At least five unique strains from the Terple Gang have hit the shelves at pot shops across Lansing — ranging in price from \$25 to \$40, depending on the retailer. Thackeray said that up to 30 other varieties are set to be developed exclusively for the Michigan market later this year.

Here's a look at a few of them:

Terple Gang — Bombulan

The limonene is strong with this strain, which smelled and tasted like a lemon meringue pie with just the slightest funky diesel notes on the side. The buds, which glistened with trichomes, were also incredibly dense and sticky — enough to quickly gum



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

A large bag of cannabis produced in Lansing's so-called "Terpene District."

up even the highest quality grinder.

About halfway through one joint, a pleasant warmth poured over me. My eyelids felt noticeably heavier. The rest of my body (including my mind) felt fully uplifted, yet somehow totally relaxed.

An energetic kick of initial chattiness quickly transitioned into a two-hour daydream — one that I spent accomplishing a mundane task in a video game and eating an entire bag of potato chips.

Terple Gang — Crunch Berry

These buds had a dessert-like berry aroma with a mild touch of earthy woodiness — like a combination of blueberries, mint, graham crackers, a strawberry malt, dryer sheets and grapes.

Strange as that may sound, it all made for a delectably sweet flavor

profile and one hell of a smooth smoke. One joint also gave me the burst of energy needed to actually take care of some chores around the house, so I'm reserving the rest of this bag exclusively for evening dog walks.

Also: I was bummed that I finished those chips with the Bombulan. Serious munchies here too.

Terple Gang — Girl Scout Cookies

I saved the best for last with this fruity, indica-dominant strain — a cross between my all-time favorite, OG Kush, and Durban Poison. Aside from the pungent cherry-like flavor, the most noticeable feature of this strain was that it was almost entirely purple and caked with trichomes.

Seriously: I've never seen weed this frosty. I truly felt bad grinding up something this pretty.

Those berry notes — along with more lemon — came through in the flavor profile, which also had a bit of grassy earthiness on the exhale. One joint planted me deep in my couch with a dumb smile on my face for most of Sunday afternoon, culminating with a two-hour beauty nap.

Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse's managing editor and a cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Editor & Publisher Magazine has also labeled him as "arguably, the state's authority on everything you need to know about cannabis." Have a suggestion for a cannabis product? Email kyle@lansingcitypulse.com.

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Cupid's picks: Gifts worthy of your Valentine's heart

By ERIN HAGEN

Finding the perfect gift for the special someone in your life feels critical around Valentine's Day. So much time is spent, especially in newer relationships, trying to read peoples' minds and learn their interests. It's nice to have a gift guide to spark some ideas and take out the guess work! I've spent time scouring the Lansing retail community to find an array of businesses going the lengths to provide quality home-made products.

Fabiano's Candies, a family-owned business, has been a top producer of high quality sweet treats since 1935. In February, it offers a wide variety of

beautiful boxes of all shapes, sizes and colors filled with handmade chocolates and candies of your choice. The prices are from \$16 to \$66, depending on how many sweets you want for your sweetie. I love the experience of going to the Michigan Avenue shop to smell everything and pick it out myself. If you prefer to shop from home, Fabiano's offers online shopping. No matter what you choose, your sweetie is bound to be impressed.

Great Lakes Ace Hardware in Frandor is the perfect stop for the handyman (or handywoman) in your life. It's a Michigan-based company that's been in the hardware business for




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an eternity. Its expert buyers have put together a creative collection of grills and coolers, as well as all the accessories to go along with them. Ace's in-store selection is great, but the online inventory is expansive. Online has anything for any season! All the goods for a tailgate party or backyard barbecue in one location. It's a great place to shop for outdoors enthusiasts, too.

If jewelry is the way to your hon-

ey's heart, then a stop at the **Jewelry Doctor** in Frandor is a must. Not only does it do custom pieces and work with you on design, but it also has an extensive collection of estate jewelry. It has a wide range of competitive prices and a collection that is sure to please. Jewelry Doctor will work with you to make a very special bijouterie

See V-Day, Page 22



Jon Anthony
FLORIST

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V-Day

from page 21

for the love in your life.

An out-of-the-box idea for the special beer drinker in your life is a craft beer of the month club. This will take a bit more work on the giver's part, but your first step would be to visit **Ellison Brewery + Spirits** in East Lansing and select the amount you want the recipient to get every month. It's the definition of the gift that keeps on giving. Ellison has many different craft beer selections. I happen to love the tiramisu coffee stout. Ellison has vodka, gin and rum, too, so no matter what you have a taste for, it is a great way to put a little creativity into supporting a local business!

Two of my favorite stores in East Lansing are **Mad Eagle** and **Clever Clover**, which are owned by the same amazing folks. If you can't find that unique item in one store, pop over to the other! Clever Clover is a fantastic mix of women's clothing, jewelry, home

goods and plants. Mad Eagle has more sterling silver jewelry, bags and stationery. Both stores are artfully curated and designed, which makes going in an experience in and of itself. Clever

Clover has beautiful candles and air plants that bring coziness into any home or office.

For a one-stop shopping experience, pop over to West Lansing's **Horrocks Farm Market**. If you are anything like me, your whole family are your Valentines, and Horrocks has something for everyone to love. Even on the night of Valentine's Day, you can treat your loved ones to the Ice Bar, where they frequently have live music and an assortment of tasty beverages. Check out their fresh flowers, and some can be preordered to suit your exact needs. Horrocks also has sweet treats, like popcorn and macaroons. Not to mention, an extensive selection of coffees, candies and already prepared foods to have a lovely night in without the fuss of cooking. I haven't even talked about the nursery and all the gardening goodies that would delight any gardener in your life. I could go on and on, but it is best that you see for yourself if you haven't already. There is something new to see every time I go.

You can always head over to REO Town and stop into one of many little shops over there, but the **REO Town Marketplace** seems to be a rotating marketplace filled with different goodies. It's likened to an indoor farmers market. Different vendors and artists can sell their wares in a large, open place. When shopping at the Marketplace, it is a good idea to go in with an open mind on what you are looking for — you can't have one item



Absolute Gallery

307 E. Cesar E.

Chavez Ave., Lansing

Absolutegallery.com

Because Valentine's Day is such a personal day, art makes for a special gift. Absolute Gallery is full of handpicked unique items, with works to match even the most uncommon styles. Owner Kathy Holcomb says that selecting the perfect piece of art for someone "shows how much you know them." A piece like this miniature acrylic painting, "Lake in Autumn," by local artist Juanita Baldwin would make the ideal gift.

in mind. If you are a "go with the flow" type of person who likes to peruse and look around and pick up what speaks to you, then this is your type of spot.

A great way to surprise your loves is by starting their Valentine's Day off with a special delivery from **Flour Child Bakery** in Grand Ledge. You would have your pick of an array of tasty treats, starting off with homemade bagels and delicious pastries and donuts. Not only are they delicious, but they are beautiful and would make quite an impression on anyone who was to receive them. Or, you could buy the treats to-go to enjoy later. It makes for an elegant presentation if you are gathering with friends on Valentine's Day, too.

Valentine's Day, for me, is always a good reminder of the people that make this journey through life so much better. Those relationships can be the ones that we most often forget to recognize. Whether your Valentine is your mom or the love of your life, it's always good to take a pause to recognize those relationships and spoil that person. Happy Valentine's Day, all!

(Erin Hagen is a personal shopper and stylist.)

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'Lobby Hero' director George Popovich finds the balance

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

"Lobby Hero" wasn't George Popovich's first choice to direct at Riverwalk Theatre.

"I was scheduled to direct 'Sweeney Todd' at Riverwalk in 2020," he said. "COVID crushed that."

When the theater sent out a call for small shows with minimal casts for this season, Popovich submitted the four-character, Kenneth Lonergan play.

"I love his dialogue," Popovich said.

"Lobby Hero"

Thursday-Sunday,
Feb. 10-13 and Feb.
17-20
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Masks are required for all
audience members.
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place.

"A friend of mine directed it at another theater, and it played rather well."

When the meant-for-mature-audiences "Lobby Hero" starts a two-

week run at Riverwalk on Thursday, it will be only the second live show on its main stage since the 2020 shutdown. "Since Riverwalk had severely reduced the number of its shows for the '21-'22 season, we had the whole place

to ourselves," Popovich said.

Pre-pandemic, it wasn't unusual to have four different productions in various phases inside the theater. "The rehearsal process was intimate and quiet," he added. "We were the only ones in the building."

"Lobby Hero" reunites Popovich with producer Laura Croff. He directed her in Peppermint Creek Theatre's "Shakespeare in Love." Joe Dickson — who did the lighting for that play — is the lighting designer for "Lobby Hero."

Popovich designed its set. "Couldn't seem to find anyone else," he said.

Popovich had help from Riverwalk's set crew — Leroy Cupp, Tom Ferris, Leon Green and Bob Nees. They worked with Popovich when he directed "Sweat" at Riverwalk in 2019.

"Working in the shop is pure Zen," he said. "It is peaceful, productive and creative."

"Lobby Hero" is set in the lobby of a deteriorating apartment building in New York City. Popovich described the set as "No Trump Tower with velvet and gold."



Popovich

"Swing-door elevators are present in older apartments in New York City," he said. "I did a lot of research on how these things work."

Popovich, 72, has often designed scene, light-

ing, sound and effects for his shows. From 1985 to 2017, Popovich was the Director of Theatre at Dearborn's Henry Ford College. He still teaches there part-time.

Popovich has directed several plays for the Community Theatre of Howell, where he resides. Since December, Popovich made the commute to Lansing for "Lobby Hero" rehearsals.

His familiarity with New York City helped him identify the kind of New Yorkers depicted in the play.

"Before COVID, I took many trips to the city," Popovich said.

For the character-driven drama set

in Manhattan, Rachel Daugherty, Ndegwa McCloud, Ayden Soupal and Andrew Stewart make up the "punctual and hardworking" cast. For "Lobby Hero's" four roles, 35 to 40 actors auditioned for the parts.

Popovich said it was "quite a turnout." "Lobby Hero" deals with ethics and moral decisions — and universal issues that are still relevant.

"I have decided to keep the show set in 1999," Popovich said. "I think the audience will be amazed how prescient Lonergan was."

To Popovich, the Me Too Movement and consequential figures like Harvey Weinstein and George Floyd — and the outcomes they produced — are relatable the play.

"I'm not so sure we have improved as far as the social issues in the show are concerned," Popovich said. "At least, not judging from the daily news."

The most challenging part of doing this show?

"Trying to balance my input — notes, analysis, etc. — with giving the cast enough time to run the show," he said.

"I think I found the balance."



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Gwen Frostic's legacy lives on through her written work

By **BILL CASTANIER**

If you are in the market for a hobbit house in Northern Michigan, one came on the market last month for a cool \$1.9 million. You could say it's a storied place, the former home, studio and retail outlet for Sara Gwendolen Frostic — Gwen — one of Michigan's most notable writers who, in her lifetime, created hundreds of thousands of coasters, napkins, notecards, placemats, books and greeting cards.

Frostic's work has become a highly sought collectible. Remnants of her work are sold online and routinely turn up at estate sales. Frostic's studio Presscraft Papers was world renowned and, at one point, employed more than 30 artisans and printers who worked off the more than 2200 wood blocks with carved linoleum renderings of forest life including raccoons, rabbits, flora and birds printing the images on 15 Heidelberg presses.

How Frostic came to Benzie County, near Frankfort, is a story unto itself which has been retold in the delightful children's book "Nature's Friend: The Gwen Frostic Story," by Lindsey McDivitt, and in a biography, "The Life and Wisdom of Gwen Frostic," by Sheryl James.

Born in 1906 in Sandusky, Michigan, Frostic eventually moved to southeast Michigan with her parents and seven siblings. Her father was a schoolteacher and later a superintendent and her mother was a homemaker. At a young age, Frostic was struck with a fever, leaving her with disabilities for her entire life. She walked with a slight limp, had slurred speech and lost strength in her hands.

Frostic was drawn to art at a young age, as she enjoyed sketching the natural world. She took her artistic bent to

college first at Michigan State Normal School in Ypsilanti, now Eastern Michigan University, and then to Western State Normal School in Kalamazoo, now Western Michigan University. Showing her lifetime penchant for entrepreneurship, she began crafting and selling metal arts and became quite successful at it, opening a storefront in Wyandotte. Frostic's bronze metal work is very collectible, and a piece of her work can be seen at the Benzie Area Historical Museum. Pieces of her work were also purchased by Clara Ford, the spouse of Henry Ford.

Like most Americans, Frostic's life was thrown into disarray when World War II intervened. During the war years, she was a Rosie the Riveter, working at the Ypsilanti bomber facility at the Willow Run Airport. Despite her physical limitations, she fit right in, and became a technical draftsman and a tool designer. Because of the shortage of all types of metal for her artwork, she began experimenting with linoleum and block printing. By 1945, she had founded Presscraft Papers. While still working at the plant, she used some of her wages to purchase her first Heidelberg Press.

Her next big leap would be to Frankfort, Michigan, where her father had bought vacation property. Frostic became attracted to the area, and working with her father, built the family's first cottage. It ultimately would become the first home of Presscraft Papers. Following the death of her father in 1954, Frostic bought a storefront in Frankfort to sell her wares. It wasn't long before she outgrew that space. In 1963, she latched onto 40 acres of what can best be described as a primordial swamp, which was the perfect location for her new operation. Over the years, the location



Bill Castanier/City Pulse

Gwen Frostic's storefront, where visitors can purchase her published work.

would grow into a 21,000-square-foot showroom, retail outlet and production studio holding 15 presses. Frostic would live upstairs.

Before it became chic, Frostic used timber, boulders and natural building materials for her hobbit-like store, including a natural water feature a la Frank Lloyd Wright. For many, a trip up north would include a pilgrimage

to Frostic's studio, where she would talk with customers about her work. In 2001, Frostic would die a day before her 95th birthday. Shortly before her death, she gave Western Michigan University a gift of \$13 million, and as a tribute, the university named the art school after her. In 2021, the Frostic's studio became listed on the National Register of Historic Homes. Quite an honor for a woman entrepreneur whose disability spurred her to do linoleum block prints to strengthen her hands.

Now, her entire legacy is for sale, including surplus stock, the presses and more than 2,200 original linoleum wood blocks featuring her work. The property is being sold by the last owners with the hope that someone will continue Frostic's legacy, which includes more than a dozen books of poetry and her ruminations illustrated with her artwork. In a previous interview for the City Pulse, McDivitt said, "She was very successful in an age when women owned and operated a business."

ART BY NEVIN

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

Illustrations • Murals • Graphic Design
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f ArtByNevin i Art_By_Nevin

Curious Book Shop

307 E. Grand River, E. Lansing
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**The snow is falling....
and books are calling!**

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Fenders"—
failing to see the
significance here.
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1. Air marshal's org.
- 4. Hilarity, on the Interwebs
- 8. West ____ (Long Island locale)
- 13. "Believe" singer
- 14. Opera showstopper
- 15. See 22-Across
- 16. Flag position in remembrance
- 18. Go inside
- 19. Holiday visitor, maybe
- 20. "Along with all the rest" abbr.
- 22. With 15-Across, "A Change Is Gonna Come" singer
- 23. Robbie who was Cousin Oliver on "The Brady Bunch"
- 26. "Famous Potatoes" state
- 28. Meat and mushroom dish originally made with a mustard and sour cream sauce
- 33. Notable time division
- 34. Appear
- 35. Column style simpler than ionic
- 37. Bits of work
- 39. Prepares, as kiwifruit
- 42. Prefix before "plasmosis"
- 43. Ancient artifact
- 45. First-timer, slangily
- 47. Yes, in France
- 48. German-born NBA player who appeared multiple times on "Parks & Recreation"
- 52. "You ____ not pass!"
- 53. Gang leader?
- 54. Mo. for most of Sagittarius

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13					14					15				
16				17						18				
19							20		21			22		
			23		24	25		26			27			
28	29	30					31						32	
33				34						35				36
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43				44			45			46		47		
	48				49	50					51			
			52					53						
54	55			56			57			58		59	60	61
62			63			64		65	66					
67						68					69			
70						71					72			

56. Promotional bit

58. Skewered dish

62. Knock for ____

64. 1986 Fabulous Thunderbirds song (or the album it was on)

67. Neutral brownish color

68. Singer Fitzgerald

69. Low quartet?

70. Adjust to fit

71. Archetype for one of "The Odd Couple"

72. Miss Piggy, for one
8. Country with fjords

9. "Sanford and ____"

10. What uncramped areas have

11. Furniture store with meatballs

12. Salon do

13. Sox home, on scoreboards

17. Reuben ingredient

21. Org. recommending regular checkups

24. Instruction part

25. Word after family or phone

27. Owl sound

28. Pub pour

29. Miscalculated

30. Earner of 21 merit badges

31. "Good ____" (Gaiman/Pratchett novel)

32. Repair

36. Salon do

38. "Revenge of the ____" ("Star Wars" subtitle)
40. Key's partner

41. "Last Night in ____" (2021 film)

44. Sound-activated infomercial gadget

46. Out of money

49. Joint with a 90-degree bend

50. Grade school orchestra section

51. Justice Kagan and forward Delle Donne, for two

54. Numbers to be crunched

55. Airline with Hebrew letters in the logo

57. Beach bird

59. Osso ____ (Italian dish)

60. Not too many

61. Some partners, for short

63. Unlock, in poetry

65. "Low" rapper ____ Rida

66. Beatles adjective

Down

- 1. "Easier said ____ done"
- 2. Put on the marketplace
- 3. Pound sound
- 4. Back muscle, in the gym
- 5. "Kia ____" (Maori greeting)
- 6. Subject of many toasts
- 7. Rubenesque

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Answers on page 28

SUDOKU

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

Intermediate

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 28

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

February 9-15, 2022

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Real love is a pilgrimage," declared author Anita Brookner. "It happens when there is no strategy, but it is very rare because most people are strategists." That's the bad news, Aries. The good news is that you have more potential than ever before to free your love of strategic maneuvering and manipulation. For the foreseeable future, I invite you to drop all romantic agendas and simply make yourself extra receptive to love's teachings. Are you ready to learn what you don't even realize you need to know?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In the near future, I'll be pleased if you dole out lavish praise to allies who enchant you. I will celebrate if you deliver loving inspirations and lush invitations to those who help you fulfill your reasons for being here on the planet. To get you in the mood, here are some suggested provocations. 1. "Your body makes mine into a shrine; holy, divine, godtouched." —Ramona Meisel. 2. "Your luster opens glories on my glowing face." —Federico García Lorca. 3. "All night long if you want. We'll tell our secrets to the dark." —Gayle Forman. 4. "I'll let you be in my dreams if I can be in yours." —Bob Dylan. 5. "We are each other's harvest. We are each other's business. We are each other's magnitude and bond." —Gwendolyn Brooks.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In Gemini author Orhan Pamuk's novel *Snow*, the main character Ka asks a woman named Ipek, "What is the thing you want most from me? What can I do to make you love me?" Ipek's answer: "Be yourself." In the coming days, Gemini, I would love you to engage in similar exchanges with those you care for. According to my understanding of the astrological omens, now is a favorable time for you and your best allies to shed all fakery and pretense so that you may be soulfully authentic with each other—and encourage each other to express what's most raw and genuine.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Are you in the mood to make extravagant gestures in behalf of love? Are you feeling an urge to move beyond your habitual approaches to intimate togetherness as you dare to engage in fun experiments? Now is a good time for such behavior with allies you trust. To spur your imagination, immerse yourself in the spirit of this poem by Nizar Qabbani: "I abandon my dictionaries to the flames, / And ordain you my language. / I fling my passport beneath the waves, / And christen you my country." Your homework: Dream up and carry out a playful and audacious venture that will energize one of your close relationships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I've created a list of splashy titles for stories or poems or songs or artworks or dances that you could compose for beloved allies or people you want to be beloved allies. I hope my list inspires you to get gushy and lyrical. I hope you'll be creative and marvelous as you express your passionate appreciation. Here are the titles: 1. Glistening Passion. 2. Incandescent Rapture. 3. Succulent Dazzle. 4. Molten Luminosity. 5. Splashy Fire Bliss. 6. Shimmering Joy Beams. 7. Opulent Delirium. 8. Wild Soul Synergy. 9. Sublime Friction. 10. Fluidic Gleam Blessings. 11. Throbbing Reverence. 12. Sacred Heart Salvation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Author Eve Ensler tells us, "You have to give to the world the thing that you want the most, in order to fix the broken parts inside you." This is perfect counsel for you to carry out in the coming weeks, Virgo. Life will conspire to help you heal yourself, in dramatic and even semi-miraculous ways, as you offer the people and animals you care for the same blessings that you crave to receive. I foresee an influx of restorative karma flowing in your direction. I predict the fixing of at least some of your broken parts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In Michael Chabon's novel *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, the character named Arthur says to the character named Cleveland, "Love is like falconry. Don't you think that's true?" Cleveland replies, "Never say love is like anything. It isn't." I propose we make that your

meditation during this Valentine season, Libra. In accordance with astrological omens, you will be wise to purge all your preconceptions about love. Use your ingenuity to revive your innocence about the subject. Cultivate a sense of wonder as you let your imagination run wild and free in its fantasies about love and sex and intimacy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I'll love it if sometime soon you create a situation in which you tell an ally words similar to what author Jamaica Kincaid spoke to her lover: "To behold the startling truths of your naked body frees me to remember the song I was born from." Do you think you can make that happen, Scorpio? The astrological indicators at play in your life suggest that it would be right and sacred for you to do so. And if there is no such ally, then I hope you will deliver the same message to your naked self. And by the way, what is the song you were born from? (PS: There has never been a better time than now to learn treasured truths about yourself through your connections with others.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I'm afraid I must be downright practical and mundane in my oracle for you. Don't hate me! I'm only reporting what the planetary omens are telling me. They say that now is a favorable time for you to practice, practice, and practice some more the fine arts hinted at by author Ivan Goncharov: "A close, daily intimacy between two people has to be paid for: It requires a great deal of experience of life, logic, and warmth of heart on both sides to enjoy each other's good qualities without being irritated by each other's shortcomings and blaming each other for them." Be diligently positive, Sagittarius, as you work through the demanding daily trials of togetherness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I'll offer you a radical idea about love from author Hélène Cixous. Although it's not always true for everyone, it will have special meaning for you in the coming months. She wrote, "It is easy to love and sing one's love. That is something I am extremely good at doing. But to be loved, that is true greatness. Being loved, letting oneself be loved, entering the magic and dreadful circle of generosity, receiving gifts, finding the right thank-you's, that is love's real work." How about it, Capricorn? Are you up for the challenge? Are you willing to expand your capacity to welcome the care and benevolence and inspiration coming your way from others?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Actor Leelee Sobieski was mourning her romantic adventures—or rather the lack of romantic adventures. She said, "If only I could find a guy who wasn't in his 70s to talk to me about white cranes, I'd be madly in love." The good news is that Sobieski knows *precisely* what she wants, and it's not all that complicated. The bad news is that there are few men near her own age (38) who enjoy discussing the fine points of the endangered bird species known as the white crane. I bring her predicament to your attention, Aquarius, in the hope that you'll be inspired to be as exact and lucid as she is in identifying what you want—even as you cheat just a bit in the direction of wanting what is actually available.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I've never offered you the wisdom of actor Natalie Portman, but her idealistic attitude about relationships is exactly what I think you should aspire to in the coming months. She said, "I always ask myself, would I want someone to do something that wasn't comfortable for them to do just to please me? And the answer is no." What do you think, Pisces? Do you suspect it might be interesting to apply that principle to your closest alliances? I hope so. If you do, the planetary energies will conspire to deepen your intimate bonds.

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

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

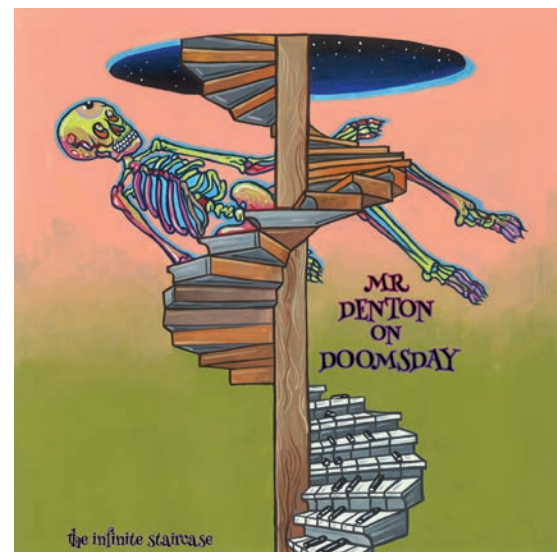
MR DENTON ON DOOMSDAY RETURNS WITH 'THE INFINITE STAIRCASE'



Photo credit: Ally Seger



Photo credit Dboz Photography



Album Art: Drew Roulette

Band hosts album release show Saturday at The Avenue Café

For the last 15 years, Mr Denton on Doomsday has been dishing out high-octane experimental rock. Over the years, the Lansing-based group has performed in front of 10,000 people at Common Ground, and has shared stages with The Misfits, Three Days Grace and Candlebox — to only name a few. The band — which comprises vocalist Josie Jo Taylor, Brian Alspaugh (guitar, vocals), drummer Benjamin Martin and bassist Evin Myrick — releases its new self-released LP, “The Infinite Staircase,” Saturday at The Avenue Café. Show starts at 9 p.m. That same day, the album also hits all streaming platforms.

When and where did you record “The Infinite Staircase”?

Brian Alspaugh: We started recording this album in 2019 at Elm Street Studios here in Lansing. Due to COVID, and other circumstances, this album feels like it has taken an infinity to record. The studio has now closed and we were forced to work on the mixes virtually. Our previous albums were “Origami Trail” in 2014 and “The Mouse Circus” in 2009. These new songs have a more expansive quality. We try to never make the same album twice, and I believe that is reflected with this album. This new album is more introspective and less overtly political.

What are a couple of your personal favorite tracks on the new album?

My favorite from this album is the lead-off track, “Just Stop Fidgeting.” This is the first song we have written dealing with our singer’s chronic illness. She suffers from CRPS, a severe pain condition that currently has no cure. We have spent years in and out of hospitals and doctors’ offices. I really enjoy the colliding sounds in this song. It’s atonal and chaotic, capturing the feeling of intense physical pain.

Being in a band during a pandemic is no doubt difficult — how was it for Mr Denton?

This is the longest we have gone without playing a show since our inception. It’s difficult and frustrating to lose one of the most important pieces of my life. I have felt incomplete without live music. COVID has slowed down the progress and release of this album significantly. We had a 2020 tour set to go which was also wiped away. As a DIY band, it hurts to see all of that hard work wasted. So many great venues, local and otherwise, will never open again.

We didn’t know when we played The Loft or Mac’s Bar that we would never set foot on those stages again. We are excited to finally be performing live again. We have never taken it for granted. When

something is taken away it creates a void. I sincerely hope that we can see live music return stronger than ever, and I know that it will.

Looking back, what is the most memorable show you’ve played?

Common Ground was amazing! Performing for thousands in our hometown in between tour dates is a highlight of my life. Having gone to Common Ground when I was younger, it was always a hope to someday perform at. We also had great times on tour, traveling from Eugene to Trenton, New Jersey. We are lucky to have fans and friends across the country to take us in. We will forever be grateful for those experiences. We are excited to finally be performing live again.

Have you noticed any lyrical themes on the new LP?

We are in a time of great change and believe the lyrics reflect that. Change is inevitable both in the world and in the band. This album marks the final for our former bassist Matt Bush, and we welcome Evin Myrick into the fold. The name of the album itself refers to growing and learning from the repeating cycle of life. We will find ourselves in a similar spot again. Do we learn from it and move ahead? Or do we walk in a circle? It is a challenge to myself to keep moving

forward and learning from past mistakes.

Sonically, what sounds were you going for on this record?

We were looking to capture how we felt at that moment in time. In this case it led to new and interesting approaches to song development. We have gotten both mellow and heavier, depending on the track. On “The Great Escape,” we added keys and were attempting our version of a funeral dirge. With “P.O. Box Concealer,” we have gotten close to our version of ‘90s rock.

Over the years, who has inspired your playing the most?

Most definitely King Crimson. They have a unique approach to song construction that has always appealed to my ear. I have always tried to take a song and twist it beyond its breaking point. Our drummer, Ben, has been influenced by intense energy and odd timing of The Dillinger Escape Plan and Mars Volta. Josie draws from a wide range of influences especially Dredg — whose bassist Drew Roulette was kind enough to create the amazing artwork for this album. It is unreal that a member of one of our favorite bands designed the art for us. Evin brings a heavier bottom end to the music, with a more metal palette than the rest of the band.

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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.

LIVE + LOCAL

B&I Bar

5247 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing

Devyn Mitchell

Thurs., Feb. 10, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Darin Larner

Sat. Feb. 12, 8-11 p.m..

Blue Owl

1149 S Washington, Lansing

Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill

Thurs., Feb. 10, 6-8 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill

16219 N. US 27, Lansing

New Rule

Fri., Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m.

Medusa

Sat., Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

Russ Holcomb

Fri., Feb. 11, 7-10 p.m.

Jamison Livingston

Sat. Feb. 12, 7-10 p.m.

Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Frog and the Beeftones

Fri., Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m.

Grady Hall & the Disciples of Funk

Sat., Feb. 12, 8:30 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Company

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing

Jimmy Likes Pie

Fri., Feb. 12, 7-11 p.m.

Urban Beat

1213 N. Turner St., Lansing

Brandon Rose & Soul Therapy

Fri., Feb. 11, 7-10 p.m.

Terri Davis-Hayden

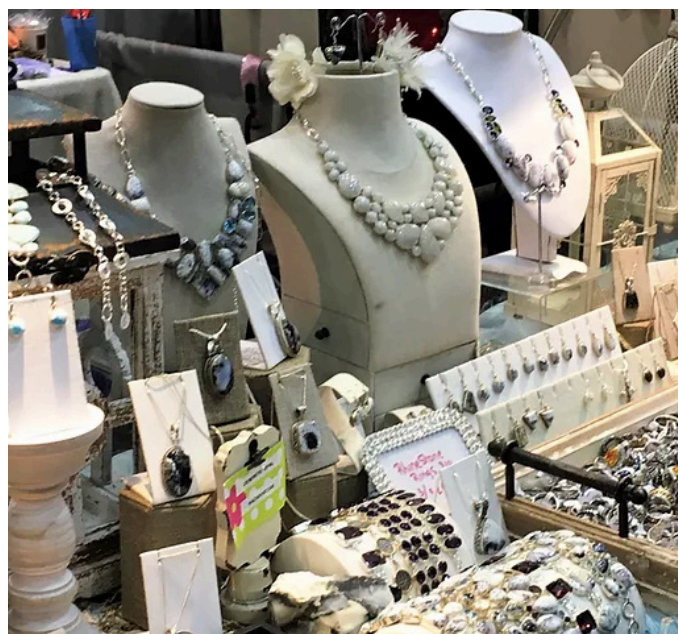
Sat., Feb. 12, 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 9

AFP-CAC February Program: Learn to Network Like a Expert - 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr., Lansing. community.afpglobal.org

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing.

Battle of the Books: Virtual Author Visit! - One of this year's Battle authors will be joining us via Zoom for a chat and Q&A! 6:30-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.



517-627-7014. gladl.org

“Best Books” Tiny Art Show - Pick up your Tiny Art Kit starting Feb. 1. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Blind Date with a Book - Adults and Teens: through Feb. 13. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org

The Elements Series: Water - 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Nelson Gallery, 113 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. thenelsongallery.com.

Hidden Hearts - We've lost our hearts--can you help us find them hiding in the library? 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. gladl.org

MILibraryQuest - Mystery Edition 2022 - for teens. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. milibraryquest.wixsite.com.

Our Beautiful World Art Show 2022 - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Framers' Edge and Gallery, 1856 West Grand River Avenue, Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

Studio Squad - Calling all creative kids ages 9-12! 4:30-5:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. 50807.

Threads of Wisdom - In-person or Zoom for a discussion of the Altar. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St Ste 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, February 10

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

Mid-Michigan Women's Expo

Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lansing Center

333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

The Mid-Michigan Women's expo is happening at Lansing Center all weekend long. There are hundreds of exhibits and shopping options, as well as seminars to attend. From cosmetics to home decor, the expo has all the works — regardless of what you're looking to find. Everything is aimed at providing women and their families with both entertainment and education. Concessions will also be available. Face coverings are encouraged, but not required. Tickets are \$10, and can be purchased at the door or online.

Lobby Hero - 7-9:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com.

“Some Avail” Exhibition Opening with Artist Andrew Rieder - Join us for the opening reception in our new space at the Knapp's Building! 6-8 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Sq., Ste 100. 517-374-6400.

Stitch 'n Bitch - Come hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center Street, Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Switch Gaming - Grab your Nintendo Switch, or play ours! All skill levels welcome! 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Symphony Band - MSU College of Music. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Info at music.msu.edu/

Friday, February 11

Fairytale Science - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Lobby Hero - 8-9:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com.

Make & Take Pop Up: Screen Printing Bookmark - P 12-3 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. lib.msu.edu.

Mid-Michigan Women's Expo - Feb. 11-13, Lansing Center, 333 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. kohlerexpo.com.

TGIF Dance Party - Everyone welcome! 7-11:59 p.m. 15500 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com

See Events on page 29

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

T	S	A		L	O	L	Z		I	S	L	I	P
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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Events

from page 28

Saturday, February 12

Broadway Rocks - Join us for an evening of your favorite Broadway music! 7:30 p.m. Info at lansingsymphony.org.

DAR Application/Supplemental Workshop - The Lansing Chapter of D.A.R. 1-4 p.m. Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos.

Fairytale Science - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Learn to Snowshoe - 1-3 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

Lobby Hero - 8-9:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com.

Toys & Fidgets - AM 9 a.m., PM 1 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Williamston Pop Up Art & Craft Show - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Keller's Plaza, 107 S. Putnam, Williamston.

Winter Birding in the Eastern U.P. Tour - Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos. michiganaudubon.org.

Sunday, February 13

Symphony Orchestra: Sounds of Oppression, Resilience, and Transcendence - MSU College of Music.

3-4 p.m. Info and tickets at music.msu.edu

With Circuitry: Sculpted Wire Game - 1 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Monday, February 14

Comedy Night - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Monday Night Bingo - Adult Bingo at the Reo Town Pub. 7-9 p.m. Reo Town Pub, 1145 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

With Circuitry: Sculpted Wire Game - 3 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Tuesday, February 15

Board Game Meet Up - Ages 18 & up. 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

Make & Take Pop Up: Screen Printing Bookmark - 1-4 p.m. Main Library, East Lansing. msu.edu.

Minecraft Mania - Join us for fun and friendly competition. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org

Preschool Family Storytime - 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. gladl.org.

Sporcle Live! Trivia - 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. crunchyseastlansing.com



CityPULSE LOCAL EXPERTS

GIFTS

Did you know?

Like most people, once you hang a picture on the wall, you don't give it a second thought. But what if there is more to think about?

Ideally, you should never place artwork that is of high value, or not replaceable, above a fireplace, on exterior walls, or in direct sunlight. These are all areas that can cause environmental damage to the art.

If you have a fireplace, it is natural to want a great piece above it. You should always consider how often you plan on making a fire. The changing temperature of the wall can negatively affect the artwork; heat can cause expansion of the artwork, as the same artwork cools, if it is under glass, condensation can form. If it is a canvas, it could cause the painting to crack over time as well as dry out. Smoke damage as well as residue buildup are also important to consider.

Proper care of your artwork should include regular dusting and inspecting the framed piece to ensure that the dust jacket is fully sealed to prevent insects and dust from entering and causing harm.

Finally, you should regulate your home HVAC system to create a humidity level of 55%.

Preserving your past, present and future allows family stories to continue.



**Absolute
GALLERY**
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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Tomato sauce

By ARI LEVAUX

The middle of winter can be a tough time for tomato lovers. We are about as far away from the end of last season as we are from the beginning of this sum-



mer's harvest, and no member of the produce kingdom suffers such a noticeable lack of flavor when it's imported, out of season, from some faraway place. So this time of year, many people choose to simply forego tomatoes entirely, rather than suffer the indignity of a cardboard-flavored impostor.

Every summer, I do what I can to hang onto tomato season by preserving as many as I can, when the price is low and the quality is high. its frozen counterpart.

Dehydrating tomatoes takes much less time and work during the summer than making a sauce, and doesn't overheat the kitchen. In the winter, I have plenty of time to make a sauce, and the opportunity to be more creative. By dehydrating the tomatoes, you can use them to make any sauce you might want during the off-season, instead of

making a vat of just one sauce in fall, like the marinara I typically make.

I've also begun using my dried tomatoes in soups, curries, even stir-fries. They add their acidic tang to the meal, while absorbing the surrounding juices and taking on the flavors around them.

So here are your marching orders: Find some dehydrated tomatoes online, and explore the possibilities. Here are some tips for getting started with dehydrated tomato cookery. Next summer, you'll dehydrate your own tomatoes. And this time next year, you'll still be tasting that summer sunshine.

Tomato sauce

This red sauce is bright and tangy, with a fresher taste than a sauce that was canned months ago.

- 1 ounce dried tomatoes
- 2 cups stock (I use chicken stock)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, minced
- 1 clove garlic, minced or pressed
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely grated carrot
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon red chile pepper powder or paprika or both
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup red wine
- 2 tablespoons wine vinegar
- Salt to taste

Put the stock and dehydrated tomatoes into a sauce pan and simmer for about ten minutes. Turn off the heat and let it cool slowly.

Add the olive oil to another pan and

sauté the onions, garlic and carrot. When the onions turn translucent, stir in the spices, then add the stock and tomatoes. Cook for about five minutes on medium heat, then turn off the heat and let it sit. When it's cool enough to work with, add the contents of the pan to a blender and liquify. Return the smooth sauce to the pan, add the wine and vinegar and add salt to taste. Your sauce is ready.

Shakshuka

This Middle Eastern egg dish has developed something of a cult following in the last few years.

The sauce ingredients are almost the same as the sauce above. Simply omit the shredded carrots and wine, and substitute 1 tablespoon cumin for the oregano. You'll need two-to-four eggs, and a fresh garnish like parsley or cilantro. Add a cup of shakshuka sauce to a pan, along with a cup of water. Heat it to a simmer on low/medium heat.

Crack the eggs into a bowl, one at a time – it's easier to gently pour an egg into a poaching liquid than to crack it in. When the eggs are simmering, keep an eye on them as they approach your desired state of cooked. Some people use a tight-fitting lid to do so, but then you risk overcooking the eggs.

When the eggs are done to your liking, garnish with the fresh herbs and set the pan on a hot pad and use it as a serving dish.

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