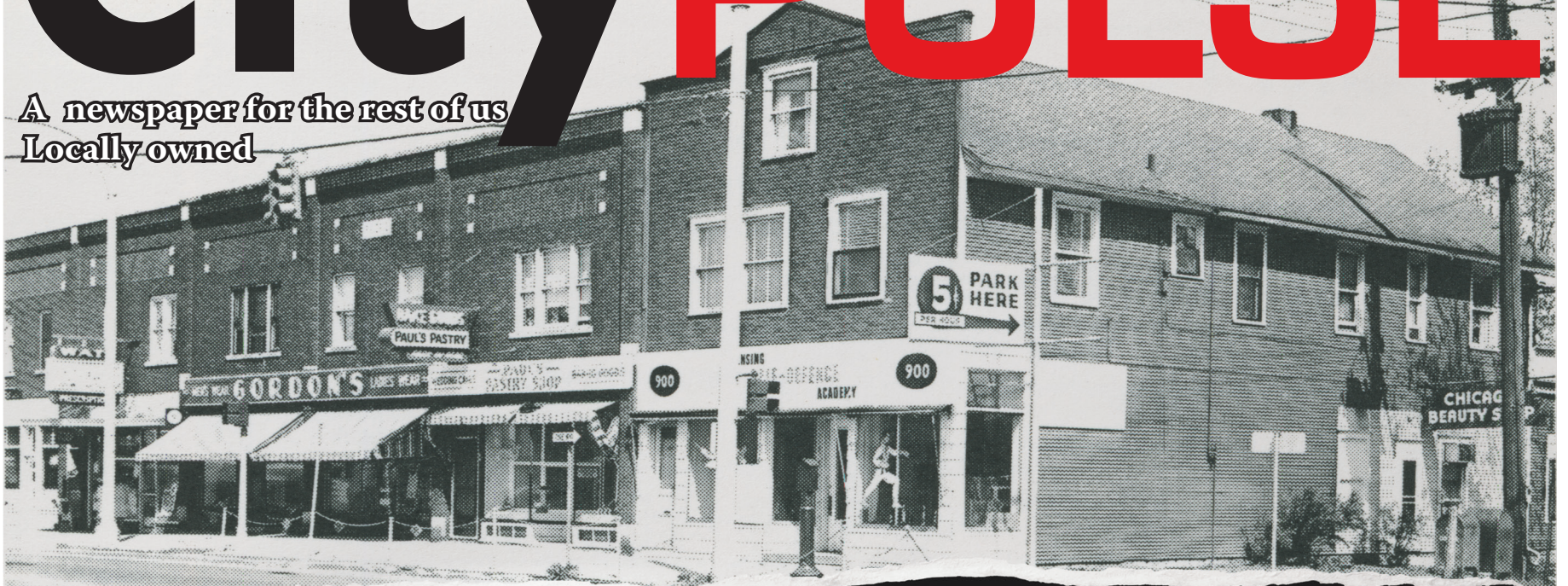


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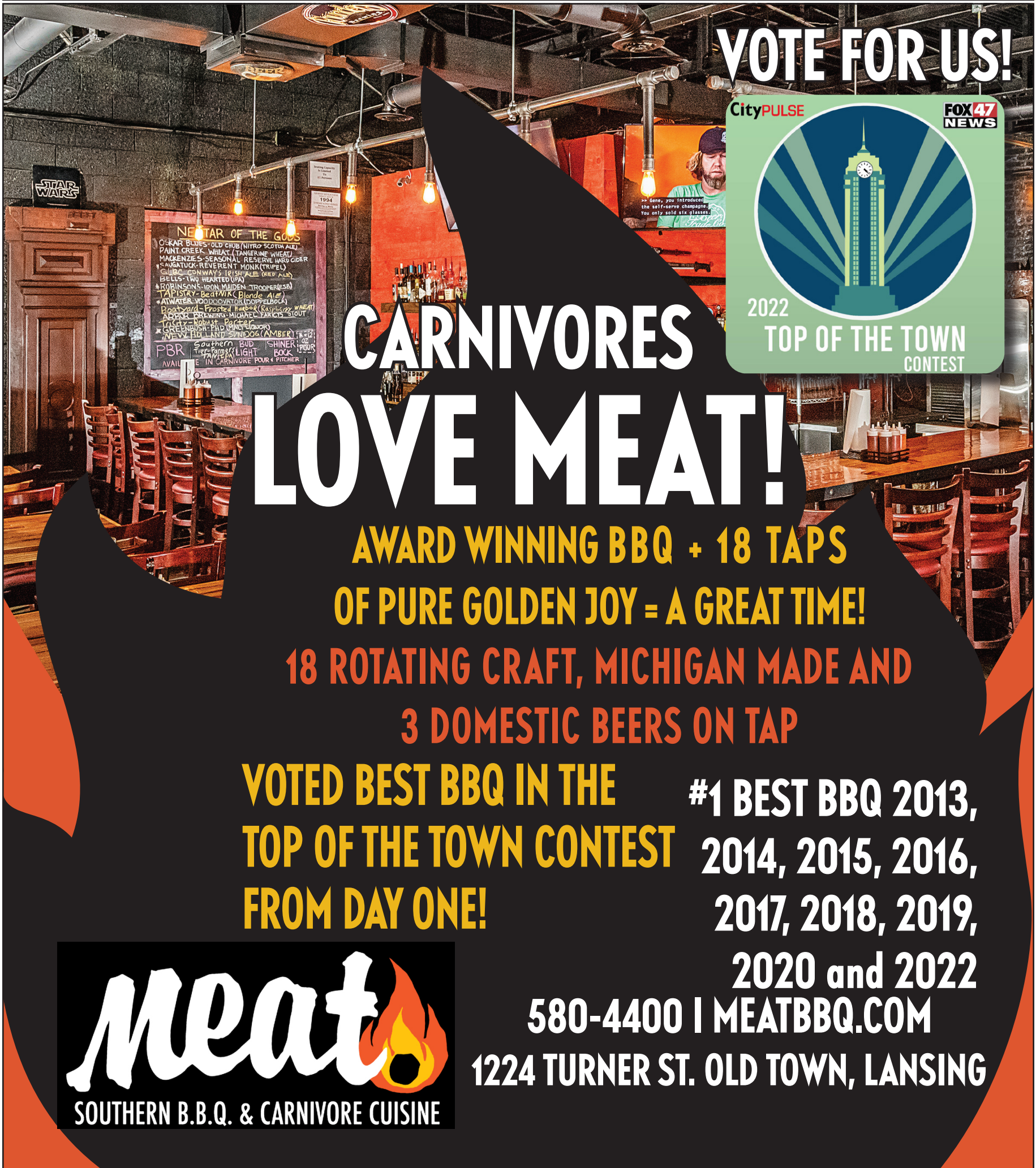
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Local artists stop traffic



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CannaNugs brings buds to the NFT world



PAGE 21

Goodfellas Bagel Deli is a hit

Cover photos by Lawrence Cosentino and CADL

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE NEWS & OPINION

The Neller Building dilemma

Should longtime downtown eyesore be demolished — even for a vacant lot?

Jen Estill, owner of Red-head Design, bought the historic Nelson Building at 113 S. Washington Square. She was eager to center her communications company in the hustle and bustle of Lansing's downtown. But, when she walks out her back door, she takes in the view of the Neller Building on Allegan Street.

"It's falling down to the point where glass litters the ground and trees are growing out of the building," she said. "I just can't understand who would let that happen. I don't understand a property owner who let that go like that."

Gary Granger might know. Granger is chairman and CEO of the Granger Group, a suburban Grand Rapids developer whose motto on its web page is "A History of Excellence."

Summit Associates II is a limited liability company that owns the Neller Building — whose address on file with the state of Michigan is the same as the Granger Group.

But Granger is not talking. Efforts to reach anyone at the Granger Group for comment on why the Neller Building has been allowed to decline into downtown's biggest eyesore were unsuccessful.

The 1938 property, whose official address is 122 S. Grand Ave., sits at the corner of Allegan and Grand, across from the city parking ramp. It has played host to everything from restaurant and hotel to a bus depot and business offices over the years. Walter Neller Enterprises sold it for \$865,000 in 1997 to Summit Partners



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

The murals have been the only improvement in the structure at the corner of Allegan and Grand avenues since purchased in the 1997 by a limited liability company associated with the Granger Group, a suburban Grand Rapids developer.

LLC — for which Gary Granger was listed as resident agent. Summit Partners gave it to Summit Associates in 2005.

It has twice been featured in City Pulse's "Eyesore of the Week," first in 2014 and again in 2018.

It was deemed a "dangerous building" in 2016, according to City of Lansing property records. In 2018, it was red tagged and boarded up.

Since then, nature has taken its course to reclaim the property. Plants are growing in the windows along Allegan Street pouring out in a massive bundle of greenery from the top. Peeking inside, trees and other vegetation can be seen growing literally from the floor. One can see right through to the back of the building and into an area where the building once had a basement. That's been removed, but not filled in, resulting in a one-story-deep crater. That crater is fenced in, but it's become a small,



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Once the entrance to hotel, this door features a red tag attesting to the deplorable conditions inside and out of the old Neller Building.

insects of all ilks feast on the nectar.

Much of this damaged building is hidden behind large art murals put up by the owner in part to mask the broken windows and raw plywood that had been the exterior.

"It helps," said Estill of the murals. "But it masks the actual danger. To hold it over, protect people from harm because the property owner isn't moving forward. Yes, that helps in certain ways. And it tides you over for a while."

Even those are now warping and beginning to suffer from the elements. The lipstick on the proverbial pig is fading; but city officials are caught between two difficult choices.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor said his team has been trying to work with developers since he took office the first time five years ago. The owners have offered a litany of proposals on a near-annual basis, officials said. But none have come to fruition. Schor acknowledged in his time in office some of that may have been delayed by the pandemic and the shifting economic outlook.

"I'm concerned about the look of the building. I am concerned about the structure," Schor said. "If there is not going to be some development there anytime soon, we're going to have to go through the process to take it down."

Schor acknowledged the property is a blight, pointing out it was worse when he took office. The murals were temporary, he said. And still the owners are dragging their feet, presenting new proposals, but not following through. The building gets worse. The pit out back attracts more trash. Nature claims a little bit more of the building, while Schor and his team discuss the future of the property weekly during administrative development meetings.

The concern, and the internal battle, is

See Building, Page 6

thick forest of trees and vines. The west wall, along an alley of the building, is cascading with vines and flowers. During a busy summer, it's a veritable pollinator convention with hundreds of

If you own a residence in Lansing that has been red-tagged by city inspectors, you are liable for paying \$150 a month in fines until you've remedied whatever led to the zoning violation.

But if it is a commercial property, the fine goes away.

City Pulse tripped across this discrepancy in reporting on the fate of the Neller Building. Administration spokesperson Scott Bean said the owners have not been charged a cent for so-called monitoring fees even though it was red-tagged in 2018. He said he does not know why, but he city does not assess the fee in the case of commercial buildings or property.

To which Lansing City Councilmember Patricia Spitzley had this response when asked for comment: "What the fuck?"

Building

from page 5

one of balancing the safety of the building and the impact of an empty space. It's called infill in relation to urban planning, the mayor said, and it's key to revitalizing and stabilizing downtown.

"When people come downtown, they expect to see buildings," Schor said. "An

open vacant lot doesn't show activity or the potential for activity. Lansing has more parking lots than any other city."

That distinction is one made by USA StreetBlogs.com in 2018. Schor said he has already told developers if they tear the building down without any plans, they cannot plan on turning it into a parking lot.

If developers wanted to put in a parking lot, they would have to get a zoning

waiver from the City Council — something Schor said he would not support.

"I have told them, it will not be another parking lot," he said.

Patricia Spitzley, an At-Large City Councilmember, called that argument a "cop-out."

"You don't allow red-tagged buildings to languish; to give a pass to commercial buildings," she said. "We are always under fire. Of giving special treatment to one group or another. We don't need evidence that we are actually doing it."

She said she would not support turning the property into a parking lot either.

Considering Summit Associates owns eight properties that are alleys or parking lots, Schor's expectation is not unreasonable. In fact, the company owns the parking lot at the corner of Michigan and Grand avenues, a block away. It was once home to Jim's Tiffany Place, a downtown eatery where lawmakers

would retire after sessions to socialize, drink, smoke and hammer out tough deals. The restaurant closed in 1993.

In 1995, according to the Lansing State Journal, the 112-year-old building met its fate with a wrecking ball. Developers Van Martin and Gary Granger told the Journal the empty lot would be replaced by a 15-story brick and glass office building.

Administration sources acknowledged that City Pulse's inquiries about the Neller Building spurred the city to push a more aggressive timeline. Those sources were not authorized to discuss administration internal deliberations.

"That building is not going to be re-used, so it has to come down one way or another," said Schor. "It will either come down with a plan, or it will have to come down without a plan. And we're getting to the point it needs to come down without a plan."

— TODD HEYWOOD



Courtesy of GADL Local History

This photo from 1948 shows the Neller Building in its glory days.

B/23/035 SWITCHGEAR INSTALLATION as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site (www.Mitn.Info) until 2PM local time in effect on OCT. 18, 2022. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

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Heritage Hall

Heritage Hall is the long-awaited addition to the Capitol that is the result of over three years of construction, during which the area was largely inaccessible and surrounded by chain-link fence. Now, the Capitol lawns are once again green and lush, and the new entrance is open to the public. And it is quite an entrance.

Large, translucent panels line three sides of the entryway, set at an angle toward the entrance to draw people in. The light blue panels contrast the otherwise sand-colored structure, but their real effect is felt only once you are all the way underneath their filtered sunlight cover. There, you are subject to one of the coolest architectural experiences you can get in the Lansing area, a feeling of openness and illustriousness that is certainly worthy of our Michigan Capitol Building.

A new main entrance has been a significant need ever since the beautiful main doors at the front of the building were permanently closed for security purposes. The new entrance is a major upgrade from the obscure side door previously used, and it is much better equipped to handle school busloads of children on a Capitol field trip.

Some of the interior is still under construction, but the entrance is open for Capitol tours, self-guided or with a tour guide. It is worth a trip.

— JAMES KNARIAN

“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.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY DAWN PARKER



Courtesy City of Lansing.

City Hall was the location for a Hispanic Month celebration that featured speakers and dancers.



An illegal “chop shop” was shut down Monday in Lansing through a joint effort of the Michigan State Police Fugitive Team and the Lansing Police Department. Officers recovered two illegal firearms, seven stolen vehicles, two stolen

trailers and dozens of stolen tools at a facility in the 300 block of S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing police said one suspect is in custody, and detectives will continue processing evidence and seeking additional suspects. Anyone with information should call LPD at (517) 483-4600.

Samuel Stanley Jr. is still the president of Michigan State University. That

could change at any time, however. According to the Detroit Free Press, multiple members of the university’s Board of Trustees have said they would like to see him step down, citing evidence that he mishandled sexual assault investigations as well as the demotion of the dean of MSU’s Broad School of Business. Stanley is MSU’s third president in the last four years. Both of his predecessors — Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon and former Gov. John Engler — fell victim to something related to Dr. Larry Nassar’s abuse of hundreds of female athletes in his care. Nassar is serving a life sentence in prison.



Lansing School district principals are in for a pay raise. The Lansing State Journal reports that a new contract between the school board and administrators aims to equalize their pay with surrounding districts, so that elementary principals will make a minimum of \$100,000. Middle school principals whose schools have at least 400 students will be bumped up to a minimum of \$104,444, and high school principals will go up to \$108,100. “What it has gotten us is very comparable salaries to surrounding districts,” said Lewton School Principal Richard Gutierrez, who was involved in contract negotiations.

Two Lansing men have been arrested and charged in connection with the shooting death of a third man, identified later as 32-year-old Dominick Hopson. Grant Thompson Jr., 53 and Marcus Thompson, 33, were each charged with one count of open murder-felony and held on \$100,000 cash or surety bond. The men will next appear in 54-A District Court at 9 a.m. Sept. 30 with Judge Anthony Flores. According to an LPD press release, at 8:20 p.m. Sept. 13 officers were called to the 100 block of East Barnes Avenue after reports of shots fired. Upon arrival, officers found a man lying in the street with gunshot wounds, who was later pronounced dead at the scene.

A 60-year-old Lansing man was sentenced in federal court in Grand Rapids to life in prison for attempting to coerce and entice children in sexual activities. Robert Duane Wicke was also sentenced to 60 years on three counts of distributing child pornography and 20 years for possessing child pornography. U.S. District Judge Jane M. Beckering said



Wicke’s conduct was among the worst she had ever seen in her tenure as a judge. According to authorities, an FBI agent was working undercover in a messaging application that is reportedly used by individuals interested in sexually abusing children. The agent posed as a mother in California with two daughters. Authorities said Wicke sought out children to abuse and wanted the mother to bring her 7-year-old and 9-year-old daughters to him so he could assault them and train them to be sex slaves.

The Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office dropped charges Thursday against one of three members of the since-disbanded Pi Alpha Phi fraternity at Michigan State University in connection with the death of Phat Nguyen in November 2021. Two other people charged in connection

with Nguyen’s death waived preliminary hearings and were bound over to circuit court to stand trial. Charges against John Pham were dismissed. He was one of three men charged in June with one count of felony hazing resulting in death, and three counts of misdemeanor hazing resulting in physical injury, East Lansing District Court administrator Nicole Evans said. Ethan Cao and Andrew Nguyen — who both face the same four charges — will be arraigned in 30th Circuit Court this month after waiving their right to a preliminary examination before District Judge Molly Hennessey Greenwalt.

Grand Ledge residents are mourning the death of Mayor Thom Sowle, who died Wednesday after a brief illness. Sowle, 67, was appointed as mayor in 2018 and won reelection the following year. He began serving on City Council in 2012. He and his family lived in Grand Ledge for more than 30 years. He spent more than two decades as a substitute teacher and served on the Grand



Ledge Board of Education and as president of the Grand Ledge Educational Foundation. “He will be missed,” Mayor Pro Tem Keith Mulder said in a statement. “The city came first in everything. He was always interested in what would make the city better.” A memorial service is planned at 2 p.m., Saturday (Sept. 24) at Jaycee Park, with visitation one hour before.

The fight for democracy

This is the first in a series of editorials leading up to the Nov. 8 General Election.

We need to vote this year to save our democracy. It is that simple.

The Nov. 8 election is still about voters' deciding which candidates and ballot issues best represent their views and interests. But it is increasingly evident that the 2022 General Election is also about stopping the erosion of our democratic system. We are faced with a raft of candidates — running for everything from local school board positions to the highest offices — who are seeking to undermine democracy itself. Our overriding concern is not about differences of opinion on abortion, climate and other important issues — though we do not make light of the extreme right-wing ideas of many candidates, either. Rather, our fear is fed by how many of these local and statewide candidates believe (or at least profess to believe) that Joseph R. Biden was illegitimately elected president. These election deniers must be stopped.

That means denying office to Republicans.

Here's a quick review of the Michigan GOP's trip down the conspiratorial rabbit hole.

Their gubernatorial nominee, Tudor Dixon, has repeatedly said that Donald Trump won the 2020 election due to some vague, unproven, coordinated multi-state fraud scheme. Trump endorsed both her and her running mate, Shane Hernandez.

This same fantasy drove Matthew DePerno, the GOP's attorney general nominee, into politics last year. He used his campaign as a political shield from possible legal charges as his crew snuck away with ballot tabulators to prove somebody did something to them. His thinking: How else could Trump have lost?

And lastly, Kristina Karamo, the secretary of state nominee, became a cult hero for screaming that something didn't smell right at Detroit's TCF Center when ballots were being counted 22 months ago. She's right. That fishy stench was her gang's demand to stop counting ballots.

Feeding the vivid imaginations of the exploitable who can't come to grips with Trump's loss is shameful. It should earn them roles on an X-Files Redux, not state leadership roles.

This trio has no business even being elected precinct delegate.

Up until recently, Dixon was most recently a news commentator on an obscure TV network that's to the far right of Fox News. DePerno and his former client, disgraced former Rep. Todd Courser, were forking over \$20,000 to The Detroit News to settle a defamation suit he lost against the newspaper.

Karamo was calling abortion "child sacrifice" and sniffing out satanism in modern culture through a mercifully short-lived podcast.

Yet, these three could win. It could happen. Really.

We need to vote.

Michigan needs to send a signal back to Mar-A-Lago that we in Michigan underestimated Donald Trump once in 2016. We must not elect him or his charlatans again in 2022, 2024 or any other future election.

Absentee ballots are scheduled to go out in Lansing on Sept. 29. Election day is Nov. 8. Stopping them means taking a few other critical votes.

For starters, practical and accessible U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin must return to Congress to continue her thoughtful representation of mid-Michigan. The two-term member isn't banging the liberal drum as loudly as progressives would want. Still, the upside is that she forges reasonable compromises designed to make prescription drugs cheaper and our environment cleaner.

Anyone who truly believes Republican Tom Barrett would do the same forgets his stint as the unofficial legislative point-person of the pre-pandemic anti-vaccination crowd. In 2021, MIRS News ranked Barrett as the state Senate's most conservative member, over hard-righters like Sen. Lana Theis, who called a fellow senator a "groomer" in a fundraising piece.

On the legislative front, all area Democratic candidates are worthy of your vote. The Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission didn't draw many competitive districts in the Lansing area, but two are worth noting.

The first is in Okemos and rural Ingham County, where studious Rep. Julie Brixie is looking at a third term against former state Canvasser Norm Shinkle, the guy who refused to certify the 2020 election.

In the minority, Brixie called out Republican legislators like Matt Maddock, who float half-baked impractical ideas to score cheap political points. We'd love to see what she would do chairing a committee.

Rep. Angela Witwer has been a bipartisan deal-cutter within the House Democratic caucus whose practical effective approach to the job is the right fit for her moderate Eaton County/Delta Township district.

The ballot will also include three proposals: abortion rights, expanded voting rights and term limits in the Legislature. We will examine the latter two in a subsequent editorial. In last week's paper, we stated why we support the abortion rights proposal, which is transcendently essential to pass.

As the result of a battle led by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ever since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade*, you will have the opportunity to enshrine a woman's right to an abortion into the Michigan Constitution. Moreover, this proposal must pass to prevent this right from being thrown into legal limbo.

The fact that we're even voting on this measure shows you the dangers of electing Republicans who push the boundaries of the fringe every year. Their reactionary dogma inflames the imagination of an under-informed, angry population who want overly simple solutions to complex issues.

We're not electing a president this year, but this election is just as, if not more, important than a presidential year.

Michigan needs to make the real progress that comes with Whitmer back at the helm with a Democratic-controlled Legislature and a constitutional right to abortion firmly in place.



The CP Edit

Opinion

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Desperate to move the poll numbers, Dixon attacks LGBTQ training videos

Republican gubernatorial candidate Tudor Dixon has been stuck at around 40% in the polls for the better part of a month now. She still doesn't have any money. She's getting pummeled in TV ad spending.

With the issues she's attempted to trumpet not making much of an impact, Dixon and Republicans at large are turning to yet another societal wedge issue to help move numbers: LGBTQ training videos.



POLITICS
KYLE MELINN

Dixon and other Republicans are looking to make political hay over a belief that state government under Gov. Gretchen Whitmer doesn't think parents should know if their student is coming out as gay, changing their pronouns or becoming gender fluid.

She's trying to capitalize on the fears of a generation that knows only two genders — male and female — and that decisions to change that gender should come much later in life.

What they're seeing are parents who are freaked out that a younger generation is coming out with their sexuality and the gender they identify with at a younger and younger age.

Enter the latest GOP culture war.

Here's how we got here.

Back in December, the Michigan Department of Education put together a collection of training videos it shared with teachers on how to work with LGBTQ+ issues and the rapidly changing world of gender fluidity in America's youth.

The eight videos are around 85 minutes long each. They address timely subjects such as "How to Recognize and Address Barriers to Supporting LGBTQ+ Students and Families."

Somewhere in these videos, a conservative researcher with a New York-based think tank called the Manhattan Institute claims he found evidence of how these videos instruct teachers to hide information from parents when a student begins the gender transitioning process.

The thought is if teachers are asked by the student to address "him" as a "her" or "her" as a "they," it should be accepted as how the students wants to be identified and move on.

The question of whether parents should be brought into the equation may open up safety issues. What if dad is an alcoholic and has a major issue with this? What if a teenager who has come out as non-binary is kicked to the curb by non-understanding parents?

Is it the school's role to kickstart personal conversations between parents and students? Or is their job to teacher kids in an accepting environment and move on?

The Republicans are taking the position that if their child is entering the gender spectrum, parents ought to know about it. And while poking the bear on this subject, Dixon is touching a few related subjects:

- Banning students who have "male" written on their birth certificate from participating in women's athletics

- Stopping "puberty blocker" medications from children without parental consent.

- Preventing students with one gender listed on their birth certificate from going into the other gender's locker room.

Dixon is going here because, quite frankly, nothing else is working. It took President Joe Biden until a few days ago to say the pandemic is over, but we've all lived as if it was for months.

Few have much interest in revisiting those frantic days or the emergency decisions Whitmer made. Most folks concede Whitmer probably made her share of mistakes during the height of the pandemic, but she did the best she could.

Dixon is trying to make the case that crime is up. Whitmer cozied up with the "Defund the Police" movement, you know? Maybe the numbers show crime is up, but most people aren't feeling it.

Gas prices are going back down. Inflation is high, but what the heck can a governor do about that? Besides, there are jobs out there if you want them.

Like gay marriage and transgender individual bathroom use before it, the Republicans are trying to stoke the fears of people confronted with societal change they're not ready for.

At this stage in the campaign, they feel like it's the best play they have.

(Email Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS at melinnky@gmail.com.)

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STATE OF MICHIGAN INGHAM COUNTY PROBATE COURT. NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Decedent's Estate. Case No. 22-00817-DE. Estate of Norma Lee Stout. Date of birth: 08/30/1932. **TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Norma Lee Stout, died 05/28/2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Gregory Stout, personal representative, or to be the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. 9/15/2022. Gregory Stout, 224 East Thomas Street, Lansing, MI 48906. 517.599.4354. **CP#22-206**

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CityPULSE



Back on the block

Life returns to the 900 block of West Saginaw

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

If there are seasons in the life of a city block, it's been a long winter on the 900 block of West Saginaw Street, in the heart of the city's near west side.

Photographs from half a century ago show a classic neighborhood commercial block. Locals shopped at grocery stores like Piggly Wiggly, Kroger and Schmidt's. Kids tugged their parents from American Bank & Trust toward the candy counter at the D&C five and dime store down the street. People walked up to Updyke Pharmacy for prescriptions, men got their hats at Gordon's Men's Wear, cops munched donuts at Paul's Pastries, thirsty patrons wet their beaks at Pasquale's, the Westown Bar or McCleer's Saloon.

Today, crosstown traffic sweeps past a bleached reef of bare walls and blank boards.



Courtesy of CADL Local History

By the 1980s, a one-way, widened Saginaw Street was sweeping crosstown traffic past the block, but local foot traffic was still hanging on.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Developer Aaron Williams grew up near the 900 block of West Saginaw and has renovated three buildings there.

Even Toolan's liquor store — the only going concern on the north side of the block — gave up on facing the street years ago, parked a planter in front of the door and directed patrons to the back.

But spring is coming. Last Wednesday, Re'Shane Lonzo, a prominent Black business leader and owner/CEO of DRM International Learning Center, a growing, Lansing-based medical and job training center, bought the hulking former Park's Furniture complex. The five storefronts that run from 900 to 916 W. Saginaw were formerly owned by Neil Park. Lonzo plans to move the learning center, now housed at 809 Center St. in Lansing, to the first floor of the former Park's complex

and remodel the second floor for rental apartments.

Park presided over his decaying fortress of furniture and nearby properties for decades. His death in February 2022 accelerated an already nascent renaissance. Earlier this year, Lonzo bought a long-vacant building, also formerly owned by Park, at 923 W. Saginaw. Next door, at 927 W. Saginaw, Lansing Everett High School grad, NBA player and entrepreneur Desmond Ferguson is planning a local outlet for the popular Moneyball Sportswear firm. Just to the west, at 913 W. Saginaw, Lansing-based Strange Matter Coffee has turned the former bank into a roastery and supply warehouse. Lansing native

Aaron Williams renovated the bank, along with a spiffy Art Deco building with a curved glass-brick wall at 909 W. Saginaw, next door, that went up for sale in September.

It will be a tall order to bring back the bustle of bygone years, but nearly every moribund storefront on the block now has a caring steward and bright prospects. Spring often looks like winter at first, but the crocuses are peeping through.

'It was alive'

Aaron Williams was born just down the street from West Saginaw's 900 block, at St. Lawrence Hospital. As a
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kid, he was trundled off to American Bank & Trust, the same building he renovated last year and sold to Strange Matter Coffee, to manage his first pass-book savings account.

“Then we’d go to the five and dime and end up at Paul’s Pastries,” Williams said. “That was the highlight of the day.”

Williams calls Gregory Eaton, venerable owner of Gregory’s Soul Food Bar & Grill for over 50 years, his “consultant.” Eaton is also his uncle.

Last week, Williams was showing Eaton, who is 82, the renovated building at 909 W. Saginaw, next to the old bank. The curved glass brick window threw gold September light into the main room. Everything inside, from the flooring to the fixtures, was brand new. The place even smelled like a new car.

“This was a neighborhood bar with great hamburgers,” Eaton mused. A series of businesses moved in and out over the years here. In the late 1960s, it was Celentino’s pizza and the Westown bar.

“It was alive,” Eaton went on, waving in all directions. “There were people walking all over. The bank was here, the gas station was there, you had a bakery across there. Great twisters, glazed doughnuts and stuff. We’d stop and get them on the way to school. And Toolan’s, and Bob’s Market and Shaheen’s Grocery. You don’t see people walking here now.”

On April 4, 1968, 10-year-old Aaron Williams was buying a donut at Paul’s when he heard over the radio that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been shot. “I didn’t even know who Dr. King was, but I learned,” he said.

Williams went to Sexton High School



Neil Park



Photo by Jennifer A. Berggren

The former American Bank & Trust at 913 W. Saginaw Ave. is now a roastery and storage warehouse for Lansing-based Strange Matter Coffee.

and MSU and worked for 37 years as an engineering manager at General Motors. The work took him out of Lansing and around the world, from China to Russia to Latin America, with a base of operations in the Tech Center in Warren, but always kept his eye on his old neighborhood.

“I thought it would be nice if we bring it back — the community, the business-

es, the church — and that’s what’s happening right now, right in front of my eyes,” he said.

He started with the former Standard Oil station (also home to P.J.’s Car Clinic) at 901 W. Saginaw, vacant for decades, now home to a busy auto tinting shop.

Most of the buildings on the south side of the 900 block had been dark for decades, except for fires in trash cans. Williams couldn’t wait to turn the lights on.

Working with a generator at first, his crew began to renovate the old service station, tearing out asbestos and wrangling wires and pipes in the cold and the dark. They installed bright new garage doors, thanks in part to a façade grant from the Lansing Economic Area Partnership.

“This was the shiny object that lit up this whole corner, that started drawing people in,” Williams said.

That brilliant corner caught the eye of Terri Taylor, now the owner of Touch of Tint.

“She brought her husband back and they bought it on the spot, cash,” Williams said. “We weren’t even finished working yet.”

As Williams made the rounds of the block last week, he found Touch of Tint technician Curtis Farris busy

working on three vehicles, with half a dozen more parked in the lot. Some days, the shop handles 20 to 50 vehicles a day.

But Farris hasn’t been too busy to notice the buzz on the 900 block.

“It’s great to be a part of it,” he said.

Next door to the tint shop, the Rev. Andrew Brodie, 76, worked with the patience of a nest-building ant to move a chest-high stack of two-by-fours, freshly dropped on the sidewalk that morning in front of 907 W. Saginaw, currently owned by St. Luke Community Baptist Church.

The handsome 1925 brick building has many nice touches of decorative masonry. Above the entrance is a distinctive white stone carved with the name “McComb.”

One by one, Brodie carried the fresh-smelling boards into the first floor. He said he gave the building to his son, Frederick, who will use them to begin converting the top floor into apartments. The first floor will continue to serve as church sanctuary.

“He’s doing new bathrooms, new floors, everything,” Brodie said. “It’s going to look good. I wouldn’t mind living there myself when it’s done.” He laughed. “No taxes, no rent.”

See Block, Page 13



ReShane Longo

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Courtesy of CADL Local History



Courtesy of CADL Local History



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

A tavern, later a pharmacy and again a tavern, at 909 W. Saginaw Ave. and the bank at 913 W. Saginaw St., as they looked in 1940 (top), 1970 (center) and today. Both buildings were renovated by Aaron Williams. The former bank is a roastery for the Strange Matter Coffee and the other is up for sale.

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Roasting in the vaults

Many stories are embedded in the old buildings along the 900 block. Former Lansing Councilwoman Jessica Yorko was walking past the old American Bank & Trust building, now the Strange Matter coffee roastery, at 913 W. Saginaw in 2010, when she observed a buzz of activity.

The owner of the building, Joseph Covello, had just died.

Covello owned several properties in Lansing, including Joe Covello's Lounge, a gay bar, on the Michigan Avenue "sin strip" in what is now the Stadium District. He was a master of bartering and lent money to people who couldn't otherwise get it.

"He bought the bank building because he didn't believe in banks and stashed his money there," Yorko said. "They were cleaning it out and finding money everywhere. They found \$250,000 in the vaults and lining the underside and top side of one of the big interior doors." Aaron Williams confirmed Yorko's account.

Strange Matter owner Cara Nader said the building still contains two large safety deposit boxes the cleaners never opened. They rusted shut decades ago.

"It would cost hundreds of dollars to get them all open," she said. "I've talked with a few locksmiths, and I'm sure at this point they are empty, but now you have me curious."

Nader bought the building in October 2021.

"Driving around the city, running errands for the stores, I've been in love with the building for years," she said. "It has gorgeous windows and I saw a lot of potential in it."

The circle top windows and Art Deco cornices are highlighted with limestone. Heavy rectangular stones weigh down the base of the street-facing wall.

"As soon as it was listed on the market, I jumped on it immediately," Nader said.

"It's built of steel and concrete. Our building inspector told us we could park our vehicles on top of the building."

Strange Matter uses the place mainly for roasting and production, both for retail and mail order trade, and storage.

Farther west, between the former bank and the Rite-Aid Pharmacy on the corner of West Saginaw and Martin Luther King Jr. two more long-neglected buildings are heading for a new life.

Earlier this year, Re'Shane Lonzo bought 923 W. Saginaw, the former D&C five and dime. She has not yet announced her intentions for the space, but the building next door, 927 W. Saginaw, was purchased at about the same time by Moneyball, a popular sportswear company founded by Lansing Everett High School graduate and former NBA player Desmond Ferguson.

Ferguson confirmed the sale by email last week, but declined to give any specifics about the project until there is an official announcement.

Yorko welcomes the advent of Moneyball as a business with broad appeal and community roots. While on the Council and before, Yorko worked on many projects in the immediate neighborhood, including the community murals nearby at the old Shanora's Beauty & Barber Supplies and the establishment of a bike lane along West Saginaw.

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Block

from page 13

“All kinds of people buy and love Moneyball gear, including me,” Yorko said. “The neighborhood is extremely diverse in terms of income, race, ethnicity, age and fashion. I think a Moneyball store will do great in that location.”

“It will be nice to see more life around the block,” Nader said. “There’s so much value in a lot of these old buildings. It just requires someone to do the work.”

Crossing the Rubicon

To take the big leap and check out the action on the south side of West Saginaw, you have to walk across the street, and that’s a problem.

Saginaw Street was given a fatal dose of steroids in 1964 to become M-43, converting to four lanes of high-speed, one-way traffic.

Janell Freeman, the real estate agent handling the renovated building at 909 W. Saginaw, was born at St. Lawrence Hospital and grew up in the neighborhood.

“It changed when they widened the road,” Freeman said. “You couldn’t park in front of these businesses. People fly down that street and the businesses started to suffer.”

“That’s the craziness of having a four-lane highway coming through a neighborhood,” said Brian McGrain, the city economic planning and development director. “This was the I496 of its day, before we had I496.” (I496 opened in 1970.)

“Our current master plan is the opposite philosophy,” McGrain said. “We’re now interested in livability within the city, not getting people out of the city. Back then, everybody was enamored with autos, enamored with speed, with getting people across town.”

Lansing has already converted many of its one-way paired streets, most re-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The former Park’s Furniture dominating the north side of the 900 block sold last week to Re’Shane Lonzo, Lansing-based owner of a job training center specializing in health care.

cently Grand and Capitol avenues, to two-way traffic.

“Almost nobody remembers that Shiawassee and Ionia were one-way pairs,” McGrain said. “We are undoing what we can.”

However, Saginaw Avenue and its eastbound counterpart, Oakland Avenue, present special problems. Like northbound Larch and southbound Cedar streets, Saginaw and Oakland avenues are state trunk lines under the control of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Federal designation of Saginaw and Oakland avenues as a business route of I-69, and the federal dollars that designation brings, further complicate the process.

“MDOT’s mission, to facilitate large movement of traffic, somewhat conflicts with ours,” McGrain said. “We’ve been concentrating on the ones we have more control over.”

Park’s and devastation

Once you make it safely across the street, the view is grim, but there are signs of life.

On the west end of the block, a former dry cleaner’s and Laundromat at 926 W. Saginaw is being renovated and marketed for rental. There are construction permits in the door window and a hand-lettered poster reads, “Your ‘dream’ shop. LOCATION LOCATION.”

The east end of the block is a different matter. Neil Park, owner of Park’s Furniture and several other buildings in the area, let his furniture outlet slide downhill for over 30 years. Toward the end, it was more of a collection agency than an active storefront.

“He’d sell to low-income people,” Eaton said. “The furniture would wear out before you paid for it, but you got a deal, and he’d put you in furniture cheap, and he got it on the back end.”

McGrain said the interior of the building is “essentially unchanged” from 20 years ago, when he went inside on behalf of a former employer.

Park was, by many accounts, uncooperative, belligerent and quick to let his guns do the talking for him.

“City inspectors used to come and inspect his buildings,” Williams said. “They talked about how Park would never let them in. He’d come to the door with a 9 mm. He would not have anything to do with the city.”

In the mid-2000s, Park hosted all of the community planning meetings for the First Annual Westside Summerfest, spearheaded by Yorko and neighborhood musicians and promoters. After the event, which was billed as “Celebration of Community and Diversity,” Park took a different tone, accusing Yorko of bringing “riff-raff” behind his business. “When I asked him what he meant by ‘riff-raff,’ he started mumbling a bunch of old-timey racist-sounding stuff,” Yorko recalled. “So I asked him if he was referring to Black people as ‘riff-raff.’ Then he pulled out a gun, slammed it on the counter, and told me to get out of his store.”

The city ordered the store closed in November 2020 when inspectors found “imminent safety issues.” As recently as early 2022, McGrain said, city officials feared the city might have to “urgently take the building through demo.”

“We had some concerns,” McGrain said. “We fenced off an addition on the east side and shored it up to make sure it’s not an imminent danger.”

Williams called the Park Furniture complex, from 900 to 916 W. Saginaw, the “big one.”

“In the dark ages, a couple of years ago,” he said with a laugh, “everybody was talking about Park’s Furniture. I was just minding my own business, taking care of my property, but we were all

keeping an eye out.”

Park died Feb. 18, 2022.

“When they put the For Sale sign out, I couldn’t believe it,” Williams said. “It was a game changer.”

McGrain said the structures are “in need of some TLC, but they have cool features,” he said. “It has the tin roof, nice arches.”

DRM International Learning Center, where Lonzo is CEO, aspires to become “the most respected and influential healthcare education facility in the region,” according to its website. The former Park Furniture complex has more space and higher visibility than the current home of DRM, a modest office on Center Street, near O’Leary Paint.

Lonzo, a longtime entrepreneurial force in Lansing, formerly worked at Lansing Community College, the Michigan Department of Corrections and the Lansing School District. Her husband, Steven Lonzo, is principal at Willow Elementary School.

DRM provides a range of training in fields where demand is growing — health care fields such as hospice care, dementia and Alzheimer care, and employment training programs in the construction trades, along with seminars in resume building, interviewing skills and job skills.

The prospect of a grass-roots, community-based project aimed at uplifting local job seekers in a long-derelict chunk of West Saginaw’s 900 block is another sign of spring.

“It’s good to see someone purchasing it, someone who has plans, who is willing to do the right things,” McGrain said. “She has an architect on her team. She has some grand visions she’s willing to put her time and money behind. I wouldn’t call it a renaissance yet, but there’s a lot of activity and investment going on in that area.”



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Local artists stop traffic

Downtown Lansing traffic boxes become the canvas

By SARAH SPOHN

Chances are, most have never looked twice at a nondescript traffic signal control box, but thanks to imaginative artists, locals are now doing double-takes at intersections.

More than 20 Greater Lansing area artists have given these previously blank, gray “canvases” across the downtown corridor a colorful makeover.

The project was a vision of the Design and Public Spaces Committee for Downtown Lansing Inc., formerly headed by the late Brandon Navin of the Artist’s Umbrella.

Julie Reinhardt, DLI director of community development, and Bob Rose developed the concept and implemented the project. Rose, an advocate, artist and volunteer, said he enjoys and champions creating art in a public setting.

“From chalk art to painting live on stage, it’s part performance art, education and just plain human socializing,” he said. “It’s good for the soul.”

While some of the artists were recruited, Rose said others asked to help makeover the 12 traffic boxes. Each spot alongside Washington Square and Grand and Capitol avenues saw two to three artists participating, some collaborating for the first time.

Rose, Genevieve Richardson, Susan Krans, Stephanie Vasko and Michelle Gregory worked together to create a mini-gallery of sorts with the boxes. The loose theme was “love letters to Lansing,” an effort to develop a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere in Lansing. “This project is touching everyone who visits, works, or lives downtown. That’s a lot of folks seeing works of art daily,” Rose said.

For help on the mission, Rose said he contacted local illustrator, caricaturist and musician Dennis Preston, who was instrumental in spreading the word of the project to other artists in the Lansing community. Preston spent a few weeks working alongside fellow artists Paul Vetne and Marcus Cottom on their box in front of City Hall.

“Our styles are similar,” Preston said. “We all know each other, have drawn together before, and even had joint shows at art galleries. We were the ones chosen to spearhead the project and to have our art showcased on the box across from the Capitol building.”

Although Preston has worked on public art projects before, including mu-



Courtesy photo

Dennis Preston collaborated with Marcus Cottom and Paul Vetne on a traffic box across from the Capitol. Preston said the project allowed him to “let loose.”

silhouettes pop and noticed the tire cover on the back of her car,” Hillman recalled. “Rebecca is a giant dinosaur nerd and has this super colorful geometric graphic of dinosaurs on her tire cover, which sparked the idea for something geometric and colorful.”

“The stained-glass look was a natural evolution of that,” she added. “And, as one guy pointed out to us last week, it’s reminiscent of peace, which is something everyone wants for their city.”

Hillman said locals passing by were overwhelmingly supportive and inspiring. “People yell encouraging things from their cars as they drive by or stop at the light right there,” she said. “Sometimes people walk up to see what we’re doing and give their opinions on the work.”

Getting these works created was a true passion project not only for organizers but also for the creators. The artists essentially volunteered their time and talent for the project.

“We aren’t being paid for this,” Hillman said. “Downtown Lansing Inc. has said they will refund artists up to \$100 for supplies, as long as we provide receipts for our purchases. I’m really grateful for this because Posca Pens aren’t cheap. I blew almost the entire \$100 budget on Posca Pens alone at Odd Nodd Art Supply in Old Town.”

“I don’t mind the idea of sometimes giving some of my time and effort to make the place where I live better,” she added. “It’s a way to give something back to your community and has the added benefit of being enjoyable to do — never a bad combo. Anything that makes the place we live more beautiful, more colorful or more interesting is a good thing. The fact that so many of them are done by local artists and as collaborative projects makes it even more wonderful.”

After local artist Sarah Hillman heard about the project from Preston, she partnered up with her sister, Rebecca Lynn-Douglas, and worked once a week for the past three weeks to complete their box on the corner of Washington Square and Kalamazoo, near Strange Matter Coffee and Thai Village.

Hillman said there were not a lot of restrictions or rules for the project — just keep it positive. Nothing political or derogatory.

“We were just encouraged to make it eye-catching, uplifting and interesting,” said Hillman, who along with her sister, put silhouettes of different parts of the city into gears. The work was inspired by Lynn-Douglas’s tattoo honoring her REO Town neighborhood.



Courtesy photo

Sisters Sarah Hillman and Rebecca Lynn-Douglas collaborated on a colorful REO Town-inspired traffic box.

“There was some confusion, but it has all been resolved,” Reinhardt said. “The artist community came out in droves to participate in this project. Word spread like wildfire,” particularly because Preston was involved. “It happened so quickly a few of the normal approval processes required by the city were skipped. Downtown Lansing Inc. has since worked with the city to rectify this and, while the proper steps should and will be followed in the future, the city is thrilled that so many amazing artists have beautified our Downtown.”

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“We were standing at the box talking about making the

Traffic box artists and locations:

Dennis Preston, Marcus Cottom & Paul Vetne (Capitol & Michigan). Ryan Holmes & Todd Ross (Washington & Allegan). Mila Lynn & Christina Castilla (Washington & Washtenaw). Sarah Hillman & Rebecca Lynn-Douglas (Washington & Kalamazoo). Bob Rose, Genevieve Richardson, Susan Krans, Stephanie Vasko & Michelle Gregory (Washington & Lenawee). Tom Phillips & Nevin Speerbrecker (Grand & Allegan). Sam Roe & Jennifer Wilson (Capitol & Washtenaw). Julian Van Dyke & Carrigan Van Dyke (Capitol & Kalamazoo). Steve Pulford & Justin Platte (Grand & Michigan). Corey Marie Kitley-Hassenger & Daniel J. Hogan (Grand & Washtenaw). Samskee Del-taco (Capitol & Ionia). Lauren Beimers, Emily Lynch & Meredith Remington (Capitol & Ottawa).



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High-end art

CannaNugs brings buds to the NFT world

By SARAH SPOHN

Steve Green has worn many hats within Michigan's marijuana industry. He rallied for medical legalization in the state before the 2008 elections and then, in 2011, opened up a Lansing-based "medible" business with his wife, Maria.

In 2013, he said the couple were victims of the drug war after Child Protective Services removed their infant daughter from their home because of marijuana. While it was a tense time, Green fought through the stress and remained focused. Since 2015, his expertise has landed him various professional roles within the still-budding industry.

"I've consulted with other companies about freeze-dried edibles and other packaged products," Green said. "Companies come to me for my knowledge of the science behind food-making and cannabis-infusing. I've also helped companies fine-tune their customer service and marketing efforts to reach a more authentic client base. I find it very rewarding to work in an industry I'm passionate about."

For his latest venture, Herb 'N Beans LLC, Green is launching a Cannabis NFT art series, CannaNugs. NFTs are non-fungible tokens, digital assets created in many areas, such as visual art, music, games, videos, events and more. Bought and sold online, each piece is encoded with underlying software, making each unique. While the new medium launched in 2014, it's made colossal waves over the last year and has rapidly become a multi-billion-dollar industry. In March 2022, a New York Times headline asked: "The NFT Has Changed Artists. Has it Changed Art?"

"The more I learned, the more my mind spun with opportunities for using NFTs and ways they could help people and businesses," Green said. "I wanted to start with a project that would benefit the community, so CannaNugs was born. I had the idea that the money spent on the project could be reinvested into the stakeholders. Project revenue would be reinvested through giveaways and events that NFT holders benefit from."

He describes CannaNugs as a display of cute, playful, humanized cannabis nugs. Several Lansing residents have already purchased a ground-level NFT, and they're available worldwide thanks

View or purchase the CannaNugs NFTs at:
opensea.io/collection/cannanugs

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Courtesy photo

Steve Green and his wife, Maria, just launched cannabis NFTs, CannaNugs. In the future, they're hoping the non-fungible token's revenue will benefit the community.

to a website called OpenSea. The site is essentially the Amazon of NFTs and allows people to create, sell and buy NFTs.

Beyond selling the works, Green said it's also essential that CannaNugs has a philanthropic aspect to it as well.

"In upcoming releases, there will be certain attributes that, when purchased, will fund a gift of actual cannabis to people with a specific need," Green said. "For instance, when CannaNugs NFTs that have a military hat are purchased, a gift of cannabis will be given to injured veterans."

While NFTs are quickly gaining popularity with other venues and big-name brands across many industries, Green hasn't seen the "NFT gold rush" happen within the cannabis industry. He'd love to see an event for local NFT-holders and find businesses looking to partner in providing benefits to NFT-holders and other demographics needing cannabis donations.

This isn't the first time Green has been considered a pioneer in the industry. When he and his wife operated their medible business from 2011 to 2015, they identified an underlying issue with how medibles were marketed.

"My wife tried one of the products to see if it was medicated enough. She ended up having a rough night because it was too strong. We started thinking about what that meant. How strong is too strong, and how do we even know how much we're putting in?" Green said.

For instance, medibles, like weed brownies, were produced and labeled "2x" or "3x," but consumers weren't aware of

Lansterdam
PROFILE



Courtesy of Steve Green

CannaNugs are available on opensea.io, an NFT trading platform.

what the baseline companies were using.

"In the medical arena, we realized some people want to use THC without going overboard and while still functioning in daily life," Green said. "That's when we started exploring testing the edible products and following that up with labeling our packages. At the time, no one knew what '10mg' meant, so we even published postcards with infographics to help others understand dosing."

Overall, Green said he would like to see more unity, kindness and compassion when it comes to the future of the cannabis community in the state.

"I recently found out about an event happening in Lansing called the Michigan Cannabis Harvest Rally at the Capitol on Oct. 11. With more events happening lately, I hope that brings people together more," he said.

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Want to write? Start by reading this book

By **BILL CASTANIER**

“Write what you know” is a common slice of advice given to aspiring authors. Lansing area author Thomas C. Foster, who has taught college writing for more than four decades, has taken that wisdom to heart in his new book, “How to Write Like a Writer: A Sharp and Subversive Guide to Ignoring Inhibitions, Inviting Inspiration, and Finding Your True Voice.”

Foster, who has written several books on how to read, including “How to Read Literature Like a Professor” and “How to Read Poetry Like a Professor,” was searching for a topic for his next book when he decided to write about what he knows best “how to write.”

“I pretty much ran out of genres to write about,” Foster said.

“This is a writing book for everyone interested in writing,” Foster said.

In his new book, Foster also decided to take a different tack on how writing is taught at the high school and especially the college levels. Instead of focusing on “process writing,” also known as workshopping, Foster decided to write about his preferred model, which uses a less rigid formula than the one imposed on students for more than 50 years. In process writing, writers revise and edit drafts with advice from students and teachers. This process can go on for an entire semester and has been used in composition classes almost exclusively for decades.

Foster finds two problems with process writing: “First, such sustained attention and group oversight can squeeze

the life out of an essay or short story or poem ... and second, in many cases, that such classes produce three finished pieces (only) in a 15-week semester.”

Instead of the formulaic process he taught as a professor at the University of Michigan-Flint, which was more about



Courtesy photo

Thomas C. Foster

plant closures in Flint.

He espouses one tenant in “How to Write”: “You are the most important being in your writing world.” With one chapter titled “The ‘I’ at the Center of ‘Write’” is representative of his approach in teaching writing.

In his book, he writes, “How much anxiety have we burdened, would-be writers with before anything gets written?”

Foster said new writers get “their fingers all tongue-tied and words stammer and stagger our disconnectedly.”

He blames this on the modern world which has seen reduced reading, too much time spent on a digital screen, poor instruction and what he calls “the root of all evil” — social media.

In 21 chapters ranging from “What to Write and How” to “Even the Nile Has a Source,” Foster walks young and

older writers through the process of writing.

Certainly, this book is accessible for the lone reader, but it is likely to be used to advance writing classes in high school to beginning writing at the college level. This was also his formula for his previous books, which have caught on with high school writing teachers.

As with all his books, Foster writes with a breezy, often funny, style that gives a somewhat dry topic life.

Foster said the workshop method is often too strident for most writers to face.

He also said that beginning writers generally “don’t want to hurt anybody’s feelings.”

“There is no right or wrong way to write, and beginning writers have to find a way to write that works for them,” Foster said.

The author also believes it is essential to teach all types of writing styles, not just those that help you write fiction. He said most people often write memos for work or emails to family.

One-chapter writers will want to pay

close attention to is “Interlude: The Writer’s Seven (or However Many) Deadly Sins.”

“He writes: “Notice that nowhere on this list is there a mention of semi-colons.”

The deadly sins not in order of importance are: worry; self-doubt; overconfidence, muddiness; vagueness; poor structure and dishonesty. Foster said the only unforgivable sin is dishonesty.

“If we intend to deceive our readers, the writing has no legitimacy,” Foster writes.

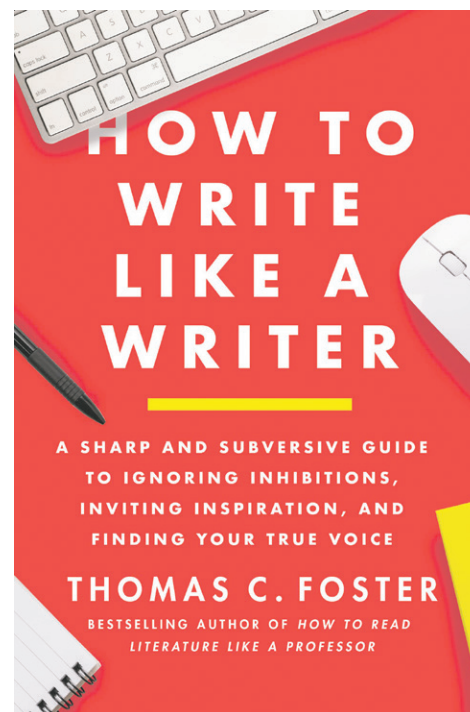
“The sins are things that interfere with writing,” he said.

Foster said that recently he has begun to read “younger”

writers such as Emily St. John Mendel (“Station 11”), Colson Whitehead (“The Underground Railroad”) and Kelly Ronan (“Chevy in the Hole”).

He is especially excited by Ronan, a former student in one of his classes while still in high school at nearby Southwestern High School in Flint. She obviously “wrote what she knows,” Foster said.

Foster calls his book “for the rest of us,” and his advice to aspiring writers is “to write.”



“How to Write Like a Writer” was published Sept. 6 via Harper Perennial.

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Courtesy photo

Taiwo Adeleye, owner of Tatse & Alobosa Bar, hosts the first-ever Capital AfroFest this weekend.

Capital AfroFest launches in downtown Lansing

Inaugural event hosts AfroBall, fashion show, three-course meals and more

By SARAH SPOHN

Capital AfroFest, a multifaceted new festival dedicated to celebrating African culture, connection and representation, happens this weekend in downtown Lansing.

Hosted by The Michigan Dance & Movement Collective and Tatse & Alobosa Bar on Washington Square, the event hosts two days of food, fun, fashion and live entertainment.

Capital AfroFest

Friday, Sept. 23-Saturday, Sept. 24
Tatse Restaurant & Alobosa
221 S. Washington Sq., Lansing
capitalafrofest.com

Taiwo Adeleye, the owner of Tatse and Alobosa Bar, said the event's mission is to introduce or reintroduce African life to the Lansing community. Adeleye grew up in Nigeria and moved to America in 2015. Once living in Lansing, he missed the food and culture he was accustomed to. "If it's not available, then I should create it," Adeleye thought.

"We will have two days of street vending throughout the blocks of S. Washington Square. There will be opportunities for visitors from Lansing or outside of Lansing to shop at African and black-owned businesses."

Tatse and Alobosa Bar, a Nigerian restaurant, opened in February 2022. The restaurant is known for its chicken

bowls, veggie bowls, yam bowls, bean bowls, fish bowls, fufu with egusi/okro and more. But its mission is bigger than just dishing out delicious menu items.

"We are not just selling food — we're sharing the culture," Adeleye said. "There have been many people coming down to learn about the food, where it's from, and to try different kinds of food," he said.

As for the inaugural event this weekend, Adeleye said this is just the start.

"The Capital AfroFest is one of the many things Tatse will be doing in Lansing," he said. "When we say African festival, it's not just an African festival. It's a platform for people to come and not just see African culture, but a cross-cultural event."

The events start at 10 a.m. on both days, with live performances of African dance, music and beats beginning at noon. And along with African board game competitions, participants can enter to win gift cards to local downtown businesses.

Tatse will host Friday and Saturday night soirees, including the AfroBall, with live music and a three-course meal. The family-friendly events, including African culture talks, games, music, activities and the vendor market, are free to enjoy. Tickets for The AfroBall are \$50 and include a three-course meal. VIP tickets are \$50 and include the gala, VIP entrance and sitting at all parties, including the after-party. All tickets can be purchased in advance via Eventbrite.

"The AfroBall will have a fashion show with a runway with 10 designers showcasing their walks with African designers," Adeleye said. "Most importantly, part of the AfroBall is to honor African excellence. We will be giving a recognition award to Nyaka, a nonprofit organization in Uganda. We'll be recognizing their work and the African excellence in what they've been doing."

Live & Local CityPULSE

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Stormy Chromer, The Wild Honey Collective

Fri., September 23, 9 p.m.

Anvil Crawler, Bubak, Room 101, Repeat

Sat., September 24, 9 p.m.



Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

DJ E-Nyce

Thurs., September 22, 7-10 p.m.

JT Sundae

Fri., September 23, 7-10 p.m.

Melissa Robin

Sat., September 24, 7-10 p.m.



The Exchange

314 E Michigan Ave., Lansing

The New Rule

Fri., September 23rd, 9:30 p.m.

Sat., September 24th, 9:30 p.m.



The Green Door

5001 W Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

Atomic Hullabaloo

Fri., September 23, 9 p.m.

Soulstice

Sat., September 24, 9 p.m.



Lansing Brewing Company

518 E Shiawassee St., Lansing

Shelby & Jake

Fri., September 23, 7 - 10 p.m.

Jimmy Likes Pie

Sat., September 24, 7 - 10 p.m.



Urban Beat

31213 Turner Rd., Lansing

Pulse

Thu., September 22, 6 - 8 p.m.



‘As far back as I can remember, I always wanted a bagel’

— Quote from opening scene of "Goodfellas" (...well, almost)

Goodfellas Bagel Deli is a hit

By SARAH SPOHN

Adrian Joseph, 27, grew up in his family’s restaurants, sparking an interest in the hospitality industry. That interest grew from his time in professional kitchens and led him to study at the Secchia Institute for Culinary Education in Grand Rapids.

In the spring of 2019, Joseph learned a space was available at 625 E. Michigan Ave., in downtown Lansing. Joseph thought the former ice cream shop looked like an attractive spot on the corner and, although small, had tons of potential. By January 2020, he opened the original 720-square-foot Goodfellas Bagel Deli location.

“The idea for Goodfellas Bagel Deli came from pure vision,” Joseph said. “I imagined a corner joint in New York that served great bagel sandwiches — that felt like a hole-in-the-wall place, similar to a bodega. (I thought) this building could very well be something like that.”

Visually, he adopted a New York mafia theme, which was a hit. After the “second grand opening” in May, following mandatory COVID shutdowns, Goodfellas took off. “We just kept getting busier and busier until it made sense to look for more locations,” Joseph said.



Courtesy photo

Goodfellas Bagel Deli, a downtown Lansing business founded by Adrian Joseph, celebrated a back-to-back expansion of two new locations. Their unique bagel sandwiches are now available at Capital City Market and their new East Lansing spot next to El Azteco on Albert Avenue.

After an opportunity to open up a spot in the Capital City Market arose, Joseph jumped at the chance to reduce wait times for customers at the original location by directing them across the street. A month after that August expansion, Goodfellas finalized a third location in East Lansing. With a grand opening planned for late September, the East Lansing spot is in its soft-opening stages, serving customers at 235 Albert Ave., next to El Azteco.

“The East Lansing location is definitely the biggest project I’ve ever worked on. It’s close to 2600-square feet, and it’s a huge expansion in space compared to where we started,” Joseph said. “There is plenty of sitting room for people to dine in. If students want to get together and enjoy breakfast together, we also offer late night hours

on the weekends until 3 a.m.”

Popular menu items include the Bada Bing, with chorizo, tomato, bacon, egg, and avocado cream cheese, and the Fugazi, a black bean chipotle patty, egg, spinach, chipotle aioli, and avocado cream cheese.

“Sure, it’s just bagel sandwiches,” Joseph said, “but the ingredient combinations and flavor profiles we offer are truly unique,



Goodfellas Bagel Deli

Opening scheduled for late September
235 Albert Ave.
East Lansing
517-977-1895
goodfellasbageldeli.com
Monday-Friday,
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.,
Saturday-Sunday,
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.,
Thursday-Saturday
(night hours),
10 p.m. - 3 a.m.

and the names and vibe of the joint are great.

“And the customer’s reactions to Goodfellas have been first class,” he added. “You’ll get some people that come up and just start dropping lines from movies like ‘The Godfather’ or ‘Casino.’ You can tell they love it. Everyone’s got a little mafia in them,” he joked.

Paid Notice

Kathryn Marie Minix

On August 20, 2022 Kathryn Marie Minix, born November 2nd, 1947, departed our realm and made her transition to be with Our Heavenly Father.

She will be dearly missed and thought of frequently by her best friends (sisters) Karen and Pam, each of her four children; Kandi, Allen, Rhonda and Jon, her 14 grand-children; Jerome, Mathew, Stuart, Kyle, Melody, Nathaniel, Jonathan, Dillon, Jacob, Sean, Jessica, Ryan, Kyra, and Kylie, her great grandchildren; Jeydon, Brooklyn, Neil, August and Jacqueline, along with her brothers and sisters; Penny, Kris, Mike, Martin and Cheryl as we continue on our paths through life. She was preceded in peaceful rest by her parents LG and Rowena Mears, 2 brothers and 1 sister.

Kathy was a very hard worker and she was capable of doing any job, no matter what it may have been. She had worked most of her life and held several positions, before retiring from the Post Office. In her spare time, you could find her deep in a book or crocheting a blanket for someone. A true fighter, Kathy survived cancer multiple times along with other debilitating issues. In every aspect of life Kathy was a mentor to many!

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Delving into the brain, identity and Einstein

Ixion's 'Incognito' sparks intellectual interest

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

Sitting in the former American Eagle storefront in the Lansing Mall, waiting for "Incognito" by Nick Payne to open, the store's former security light (which never turns off) quietly hummed a ghost of retail past — offering an apt metaphor for the themes of the show overall.

Under the direction of Heath Sartorius, Ixion Ensemble Theatre has tapped a talented cast to handle this complicated show. While there are stumbles, the production resonates in the mind for hours after.

Doak Bloss capably handles a series of characters, including the pathologist who took Einstein's brain during his autopsy. His pathological focus on unlocking the famed physicist's genius is endearing, innocent and heartbreaking.

Gini Larson, who depicts a recently out-of-the-closet neuroscientist, handles a second storyline. Her role, partic-

ularly in the scenes with Kate Clark as her potential partner, is filled with anticipation, anxiety and constrained desires nearly exploding from her body and her eyes. Countering that persona, as she talks with her patient Albert (aptly handled by Bloss), she's analytically cool.

Edward Heldt, who plays multiple roles, explores humanity, frustration and isolation as a man who's lost the capacity to remember anything beyond a few minutes. In a post-pandemic era, it will resonate with anyone who spent time alone while days melded into each other.

Kate Clark connects many stories, playing counter to Heldt as his newlywed wife as Larson's potential girlfriend with a school girl's eagerness and naivete propels her character arc beautifully.



Doak Bloss (front) and Katie Clark rehearse a scene from "Incognito," by Nick Payne.

should with the simplicity of the staging, the set and the costume requirements.

The stage is sparse, with just three coat racks, some chairs and a rolling table. Lighting is also as expected with a company on the move. Sound is produced from backstage and can be difficult to hear from the back — as can some of the actors. A small structural beam over the mid-stage can often capture the voices and sounds, muting them. For those with hearing issues, grabbing a seat near the front is recommended.

In the end, however, the simplicity of all the technical production factors puts focus on the stories, characters

and ideas rather than detracting from them. Combined, the four actors play 21 different characters, each bouncing off the surface to drive a narrative while deeply connecting as a pivotal person. The characters are identified by one simple item of clothing or an accessory: a corduroy cap, a leather cap, a jacket, a clipboard or a purse. With just one simple item, the actors transform on stage, shifting accents, identity and story with near seamless action.

Sartorius generally does an admirable job handling this free-flowing melding of characters and stories, but the staging sometimes has minor traffic jams. And transitions took longer than they

and ideas rather than detracting from them.

Those concepts resonate long after the house lights pop back on. One is left contemplating the nature of time, memory, genius, and identity. What makes us, US? You won't find one answer in "Incognito," but you will find an intellectually and emotionally satisfying production that leaves you asking those questions. Like that humming security light, the characters' voices will challenge and question you. And that is ultimately part of the human condition that humanity has sought since time began: who are we, and why are we?

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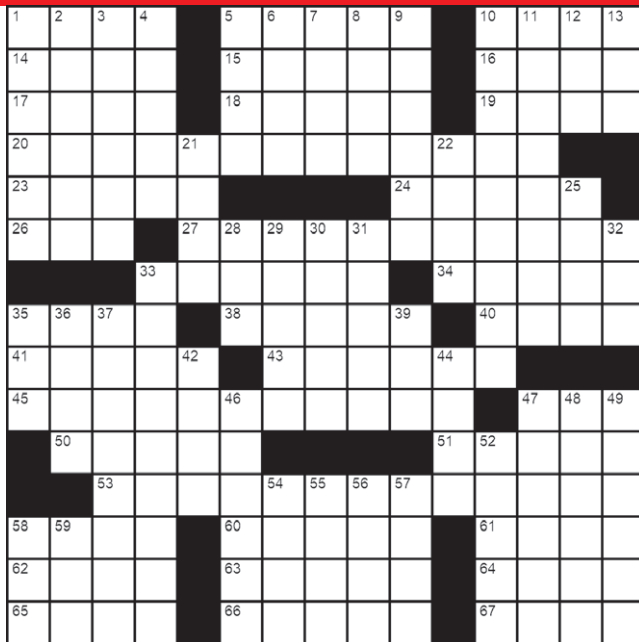
By Matt Jones

“Singularity”-- because we reached #1111.

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1. Without help
- 5. Lay's variety
- 10. ___ Danger (MAC lipstick shade)
- 14. Jazz trumpeter Baker
- 15. Rammy or lamby?
- 16. I can't believe it's not rice (well, unless you told me)
- 17. Future doc's subj.
- 18. Made over
- 19. Egg repository
- 20. Art student who passed all the Impressionist courses?
- 23. Ancient Jordanian city
- 24. Went slowly
- 26. "Equal" prefix
- 27. "Mr. Robot" actor's cousin who's part of an influential punk band?
- 33. Go toe to toe in the ring, maybe
- 34. Trancelike look
- 35. Inking
- 38. Anesthetized
- 40. "Good golly"
- 41. She debated Biden in 2008
- 43. Get over (with)
- 45. Like writers of Seth Rogen comedies, maybe?
- 47. Airport code at the 2002 Olympics
- 50. Singer Day who played Billie Holiday
- 51. Word before crust



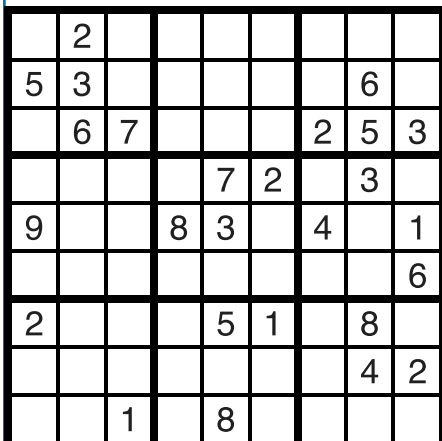
- or hand
 - 53. "Have a sample, Mr. Clooney"?
 - 58. Squished circle
 - 60. Type of column
 - 61. Slangy "name" for COVID-19
 - 62. Facebook's parent company
 - 63. Sly meeting
 - 64. Alternative to 1%
 - 65. Author Zane
 - 66. Casual approvals
 - 67. Watchers
- Down**
- 1. Dish prepared with garlic butter and wine
 - 2. Comedic "That's a disaster!"
 - 3. Simple shack
 - 4. Cute carnivore
 - 5. Bjorn with five straight Wimbledon wins
 - 6. Affirm
 - 7. Radiohead album of 2000
 - 8. Oklahoma town
 - 9. Figure out
 - 10. Entreaty to a monster in a scary dream
 - 11. Arcade game reward, sometimes
 - 12. Abbr. in a birth announcement
 - 13. Go bad in the fridge
 - 21. Skater Lipinski
 - 22. Starfish features
 - 25. School time
 - 28. Grand Canyon State sch.
 - 29. Rachel Maddow's network
 - 30. Partner of wiser
 - 31. "___ lift?"
 - 32. Encryption element
 - 33. Ball game
 - interruption
 - 35. Online IDs
 - 36. Number cruncher's stuff
 - 37. Stretch
 - 39. "Frasier" producer
 - 42. "I, Claudius" emperor
 - 44. Stooge's laugh
 - 46. Collector's item
 - 47. Like a lot of October content
 - 48. "Of Mice and Men" man
 - 49. Coffee additives
 - 52. By its nature
 - 54. "It's My Party" singer Lesley
 - 55. Irish New Age singer
 - 56. "The Addams Family" nickname
 - 57. Opera divisions
 - 58. Text exclamation
 - 59. Software abbr.

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Answers on page 24

SUDOKU

Advanced



TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 24

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Sept 21 - Sept 27, 2022

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Poet Susan Howe describes poetry as an “amorous search under the sign of love for a remembered time at the pitch-dark fringes of evening when we gathered together to bless and believe.” I’d like to use that lyrical assessment to describe your life in the coming days—or at least what I hope will be your life. In my astrological opinion, it’s a favorable time to intensify your quest for interesting adventures in intimacy; to seek out new ways to imagine and create togetherness; to collaborate with allies in creating brave excursions into synergy.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Social reformer Frederick Douglass (1817-1895) had a growlery. It was a one-room stone cabin where he escaped to think deep thoughts, work on his books, and literally growl. As a genius who escaped enslavement and spent the rest of his life fighting for the rights of his fellow Black people, he had lots of reasons to snarl, howl, and bellow as well as growl. The coming weeks would be an excellent time for you to find or create your own growlery, Taurus. The anger you feel will be especially likely to lead to constructive changes. The same is true about the deep thoughts you summon in your growlery: They will be extra potent in helping you reach wise practical decisions.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): “Conduct your blooming in the noise and whip of the whirlwind,” wrote Gemini poet Gwendolyn Brooks. I love that advice! The whirlwind is her metaphor for the chaos of everyday life. She was telling us that we shouldn’t wait to ripen ourselves until the daily rhythm is calm and smooth. Live wild and free right now! That’s always good advice, in my opinion, but it will be especially apropos for you in the coming weeks. Now is your time to “endorse the splendor splashes” and “sway in wicked grace,” as Brooks would say.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): “Don’t look away,” advised novelist Henry Miller in a letter to his lover. “Look straight at everything. Look it all in the eye, good and bad.” While that advice is appealing, I don’t endorse it unconditionally. I’m a Cancerian, and I sometimes find value in gazing at things sideways, or catching reflections in mirrors, or even turning my attention away for a while. In my view, we Crabs have a special need to be self-protective and self-nurturing. And to accomplish that, we may need to be evasive and elusive. In my astrological opinion, the next two weeks will be one of these times. I urge you to gaze directly and engage point-blank only with what’s good for you.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Tips to get the most out of the next three weeks: 1. Play at least as hard as you work. 2. Give yourself permission to do anything that has integrity and is fueled by compassion. 3. Assume there is no limit to how much generous joie de vivre you can summon and express. 4. Fondle and nuzzle with eager partners as much as possible. And tell them EXACTLY where and how it feels good. 5. Be magnanimous in every gesture, no matter how large or small. 6. Even if you don’t regard yourself as a skillful singer, use singing to transform yourself out of any mood you don’t want to stay in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): In the coming weeks, you should refrain from wrestling with problems that resist your solutions. Be discerning about how you use your superior analytical abilities. Devote yourself solely to manageable dilemmas that are truly responsive to your intelligent probing. PS: I feel sorry for people who aren’t receptive to your input, but you can’t force them to give up their ignorance or suffering. Go where you’re wanted. Take power where it’s offered. Meditate on the wisdom of Anaïs Nin: “You cannot save people. You can only love them.”

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh was born under the sign of Libra. He said, “The root-word ‘Buddha’ means to wake up, to know, to understand; and he or

she who wakes up and understands is called a Buddha.” So according to him, the spiritual teacher Siddhartha Gautama who lived in ancient India was just one of many Buddhas. And by my astrological reckoning, you will have a much higher chance than usual to be like one of these Buddhas yourself in the coming weeks. Waking up will be your specialty. You will have an extraordinary capacity to burst free of dreamy illusions and murky misapprehensions. I hope you take full advantage. Deeper understandings are nigh.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): I invite you to be the sexiest, most intriguing, most mysterious Scorpio you can be in the coming weeks. Here are ideas to get you started. 1. Sprinkle the phrase “in accordance with prophecy” into your conversations. 2. Find an image that symbolizes rebirth and revitalization arising out of disruption. Meditate on it daily until you actually experience rebirth and revitalization arising out of disruption. 3. Be kind and merciful to the young souls you know who are living their first lifetimes. 4. Collect deep, dark secrets from the interesting people you know. Employ this information to plan how you will avoid the trouble they endured. 5. Buy two deluxe squirt guns and two knives made of foam rubber. Use them to wage playful fights with those you love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): There’s an ancient Greek saying, “I seek the truth, by which no one ever was truly harmed.” I regard that as a fine motto for you Sagittarians. When you are at your best and brightest, you are in quest of the truth. And while your quests may sometimes disturb the status quo, they often bring healthy transformations. The truths you discover may rattle routines and disturb habits, but they ultimately lead to greater clarity and authenticity. Now is an excellent time to emphasize this aspect of your nature.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Let’s imagine you are in your office or on the job or sitting at your kitchen table. With focused diligence, you’re working on solving a problem or improving a situation that involves a number of people. You think to yourself, “No one seems to be aware that I am quietly toiling here behind the scenes to make the magic happen.” A few days or a few weeks later, your efforts have been successful. The problem is resolved or the situation has improved. But then you hear the people involved say, “Wow, I wonder what happened? It’s like things got fixed all by themselves.” If a scenario like this happens, Capricorn, I urge you to speak up and tell everyone what actually transpired.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): To honor your entrance into the most expansive phase of your astrological cycle, I’m calling on the counsel of an intuitive guide named Nensi the Mercury Priestess. She offers the following advice. 1. Cultivate a mindset where you expect something unexpected to happen. 2. Fantasize about the possibility of a surprising blessing or unplanned-for miracle. 3. Imagine that a beguiling breakthrough will erupt into your rhythm. 4. Shed a few preconceptions about how your life story will unfold in the next two years. 5. Boost your trust in your deep self’s innate wisdom. 6. Open yourself more to receiving help and gifts.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Author Colin Wilson describes sex as “a craving for the mingling of consciousness, whose symbol is the mingling of bodies. Every time partners slake their thirst in the strange waters of the other’s identity, they glimpse the immensity of their freedom.” I love this way of understanding the erotic urge, and recommend you try it out for a while. You’re entering a phase when you will have extra power to refine and expand the way you experience blending and merging. If you’re fuzzy about the meaning of the words “synergy” and “symbiosis,” I suggest you look them up in the dictionary. They should be featured themes for you in the coming weeks.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 9 a.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Hannah at (517) 999-6704.

Wednesday, September 21

50 Over Fitness - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Allen Farmers Market - 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing.

Decorate a Donut - Show off your donut decorating skills. Grades K-3. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 South Main Street, Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Diabetes Support Group - 6:30 to 7:30 pm at Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing. 517-321-4014.

It's Elementary! Discover science in the world around you. Students in grades 3-6. 2:45-3:45 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 South Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh Tradition - All are welcome. 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., Lansing.

Meridian Farmers Market - 1995 Central Park Dr. 3-7 p.m.

PeaceQuest Greater Lansing 2022 - Community-wide celebration in the Greater Lansing area held every September Noon-11:59 p.m. peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Tech Tear-Down (registration required) - Teens and tweens learn fun science as they disassemble tech devices in this hands-on workshop. Ages 10+. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. 517-627-7014.

Wine Wednesday - Wine & Cheese tasting at 6:00 or Wine & Chocolate tasting at 8:30 p.m. 6-10 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-721-1330.

Thursday, September 22

Bell, Book & Candle - 7-9 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Dimondale Farmers' Market - We invite you to join us for the 15th season of the Dimondale Farmers' Market. Opening day is Thursday, June 2nd! 3-7 p.m. Downtown Dimondale, 136 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. 517-230-0520.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:20 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org

MAC - Group Dance Classes - Beginning West Coast Swing. 7-7:50 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. www.sparrow.org.

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

Trivia - 9-11 p.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. avenuecafelansing.com.

Friday, September 23

50 over Fitness - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Audio Air Force presents "Adam's Rib" - 7-10 p.m. Albert A. White Performing Arts Theater, East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbott Road.

Bell, Book & Candle - 8-10 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Cruise to - Weekly cruise-ins every Friday night, 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market, 2150 Cedar St., Holt. delhitownship.com.

From Scotland, Old Blind Dogs - 7:30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

TGIF Dinner & Dance Party - Everyone is welcome. Single, couples, partners, young and old. 7-11:59 p.m. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. tgifdance.com.

Saturday, September 24

Animal Yoga - Tap into your inner animal in Fenner's Animal Yoga. 10-11 a.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. mynaturecenter.org.

Bell, Book & Candle - 8-10 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

iFiesta! Celebrating Hispanic Heritage In Michigan, the exhibit - 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Casa de Rosado Galeria and Cultural Center, 204 East Mount Hope Ave., Lansing.

Sunday, September 25

Bell, Book & Candle - 2-4 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Crystals and their Impact - 9:30-10:15 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Nature Storytime - Storytimes are great. Storytimes in nature are even better. 10-11 a.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave, Lansing. mynaturecenter.org.

Screenprint Sundays - 2-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

World Rhino Day Celebration - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Monday, September 26

50 over Fitness - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion (Old Farmers Market) from 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian50plus.com.

An evening with Brian Stokes Mitchell

Friday, Sept. 23
Wharton Center for Performing Arts
750 E. Shaw Ln, East Lansing
8 p.m., tickets from \$39
whartoncenter.com



Two-time Tony Award winner Brian Stokes Mitchell has enjoyed a 40-year career spanning Broadway, television, film and concert appearances. No wonder the New York Times called him "the last leading man."

Friday, the Theatre Hall of Fame inductee's performance at the Wharton Center showcases a intriguing variety of Broadway hits and more. Over the years, he's received numerous awards, including a Tony for "Kiss Me, Kate" and also nabbed Tony nominations for his performances in "Man of La Mancha," August Wilson's "King Hedley II" and "Ragtime."

Fans might also recall his other credits in "Kiss of the Spider Woman," "Jelly's Last Jam" and "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown." Stokes Mitchell made a long-awaited return to Broadway in 2016's "Shuffle Along."

Fun with Colored Leaves (registration required) - Children will explore "color science" to craft beautiful fall leaves from coffee filters. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St.

Karaoke - 9 p.m.-1 a.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E MICHIGAN AVE, Lansing. avenuecafelansing.com.

Meaningful Mondays - Each Monday at 8 ET, we gather to nourish our spiritual selves as we send out love and prayers to the world. 8-9 p.m. Self Realization Centre, Michigan, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath.

"Mirari, the Way of the Marys", with Lucille Olson - Group discussion with Lucille Olson. 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

Tuesday, September 27

Adult Craft Fall Tie Dye with Bleach - Patrons will be using bleach to reverse tie-dye. Shirts provided. 6-7 p.m. Charlotte

Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St, Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Board Game Meet Up - Board Game Meet Up for ages 18 and up. Everyone welcome! 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

Capitol Area Climate and Sustainability Forum - 4:30-5:30 p.m. Hopcat, 300 Grove St., East Lansing. misbf.org.

Parent Happy Hour - Storytime for kids and wine flight specials for parents. 5-7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-721-1330.

Preschool Family Storytime - Preschool Story Time for 1-6-year-olds with their young siblings, parents or caregivers. 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. viethconsulting.com.

Sporcle Live! Trivia - Are you a trivia buff? Get your team together and come out for Sporcle Live! We host two games starting at 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. every Tuesday. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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



Lawrence

By GABRIELLE LAWRENCE

Although it has been open for many years, I have only been to Stillwater Grill a handful of times. My two recent experiences there can be summed up as inconsistent.

A few weeks ago, a girlfriend and I met for dinner on the patio. There was live music, which was lovely, and our server was extremely knowledgeable and attentive.

We started with the crispy fried Brussels sprouts (\$10.95). Brussels are one of my favorite vegetables, although I know they've been replaced in food trends with the unexpectedly Gen Z-friendly workhorse, cauliflower. These Brussels were crispy, tossed with parmesan cheese, pecans and a balsamic glaze. They were perfectly savory, and the texture was spot-on. I moved on to the chicken Cobb salad (\$15.95). The romaine was fresh and crunchy. The sliced avocado was wonderfully ripe and creamy. The hard-boiled egg and crumbled bacon added a bit of textural complexity. I was surprised, however, with the shredded cheddar cheese. While I admit to not being careful when reading menu descriptions, I expected blue cheese on a Cobb salad.

I also ordered an exceptional side of truffle fries (\$4.95). To call these "fries" is a misnomer; they are fat potato wedges topped with parmesan and truffle oil. They were fantastic.

On a return visit, Ms. She Ate and I braved a sit-down restaurant with our young children but had the forethought to bring a few snacks to tide them over. Good thing because the service was slow and clunky. Do you like to drink water while you eat dinner? Well, you only get one glass until you beg for more. We started with calamari (\$14.95). The breading was heavy and greasy, and the accompanying saffron aioli was flavorful but could barely cut through the fried coating.

I remember hearing about the Cajun tenderloin tips (\$15.95) and chose them for my entrée, with a baked potato on the side. When I think of tenderloin, I think of the beef I always make for Christmas Eve dinner. It is velvety, juicy and practically melts in your mouth. It barely needs a sauce because the flavor of the beef is so tantalizing. These beef tips, for the sake of comparison, were coated in a thick layer of vaguely spicy "Cajun" sauce, which covered up many sins. The texture vacillated between being fine and almost inedible due to its chewiness. The baked potato was basic and boring, but it won't offend anyone.

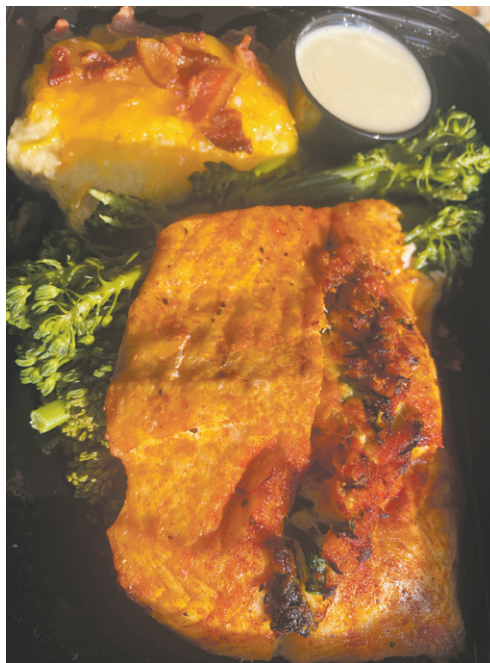
Mr. She Ate chose the honey mustard chicken club sandwich (\$12.95). Again, Stillwater has messed around with time-honored traditions. When most people think of a club sandwich, they think of a triple-layer sandwich on bread. Nothing in the menu description prepared him for the fat, unwieldy chicken and bacon sandwich on a hamburger bun, and while he ate it because we were starving by this time, he wouldn't order it again.

The She Ate children enjoyed their noodles with red sauce, chicken tenders and French fries, but if your child is expecting spaghetti, be forewarned: They'll be getting fettuccine. Kids' meals also came with a scoop of ice cream, and we waited so long for the dessert that I was certain we'd been forgotten. Evidently, the only option is vanilla because that's what we got without any discussion. Vanilla is an apt description for Stillwater Grill, come to think of it. I didn't leave offended, but I certainly won't be making a special trip back.

Hits and misses at the Stillwater Grill



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stillwatergrill.com
M-W&Sa: 4 p.m.-10 p.m.
Th-F: noon to 10 p.m.
Su: 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.



Photos by Bryan Beverly

By BRYAN BEVERLY

Overall, the food scene in Lansing is burgeoning, with fantastic finds in an array of genres and flavors. One can also find a good meal for a relatively reasonable price across the tri-counties. Yet, the upper end of the spectrum of-



Beverly

ten leaves patrons wanting more.

I struggle even to count the number of restaurants in the area that could qualify as fine dining. That's not to say there aren't fine options because there are plenty not draped in traditional fine dining pageantry. Most of Lansing's finer options are styled as grills, steakhouses and taverns with exciting menus, comfort food and specialty cocktails.

Such is the case with Stillwater Grill, an institution at the corner of Jolly and Okemos Road for several decades and has served as a flashpoint for much of the surrounding developments. Stillwater Grill has strong roots in New American cuisine and décor. Like its sister location in Brighton, the ambiance is part intimate dining, part watering hole, thanks to its massive bar anchoring the space.

The Stillwater team was welcoming and accommodating, but I wondered if the staffing challenges hitting so many local businesses prevents it from being open for lunch, as I'd unsuccessfully attempted on a previous visit.

What's parched

I enjoy seafood. I dine on some variation at least twice per week. When I find a seafood dish I like, I often return for it. Stillwater Grill does a nice job with the presentation, and the first dish looked the part. Sadly, the Crab-Stuffed Salmon (\$31.95) missed the mark. The fish itself was far drier than I expected from a stuffed dish. It barely flaked when it encountered my fork, and the roasted pepper, spinach and crab stuffing was nothing I'd qualify as shellfish or even an imitation. The loaded baked potato with cheese, chives and bacon offered a welcome distraction, along with the nicely steamed broccolini. However, even more disappointing than the fish itself was the lemon caper beurre blanc sauce. It was overly sour, and I wondered if it was fresh. At this price point, I expected more.

What's saucy

I enjoy Brussels sprouts (\$10.95), and the flash-fried version here is a strong entry. Shaved parmesan, pecans and a maple-balsamic glaze all worked in tandem. The Point Judith Calamari (\$14.95) was also excellent, with a fantastic saffron aioli that's light and flavor-packed. My kiddos enjoyed the Chicken Tenderloin Platter (\$17.95), and I'm here to testify that the more-honey-than-mustard dipping sauce was

among the best I've had. My much better half relished the Lobster Bisque (Bowl, \$10.45), commenting on the subtle sherry flavor and chunks of seafood. I found it thicker than I anticipated and lacking a pinch of salt. Overall, it was respectable.

Best bites

While it was hard not to list some of the dipping sauces here, the tried-and-true Cajun Beef Tenderloin Tips did not disappoint. Cooked to a perfect medium rare with a great seared crust on the outside, the tips are bathed in a flavorful Cajun butter that is not overpowering. I enjoyed them as part of a Create Your Own combination (\$29.95) with a tasty shrimp skewer. Further, the accompanying truffle steak fries that amounted to a whole russet potato were wonderful, with a generous double dose of parmesan cheese on the fries at the bottom of the heap. The side Stillwater salad was also a pleasant surprise with their Dijon vinaigrette, dried cherries and blue cheese crumbles. Stillwater Grill continues to be a strong culinary option in the area.

Chile Verde with purslane

A stew fit for two misfits

By **ARI LEVAUX**

Pity the misfit tomatillo, aka the Mexican husk tomato. Most cooks don't know what to do with that swaddled orb that looks like a paper lantern and tastes like some underripe fruit. Green salsa is the most common application, but I often prefer tomato salsa because tomatillos can be a bit slimy.

So where does that leave the poor tomatillo? Our one good idea, salsa, is second string to everyone's favorite tomato salsa. Our misunderstood, underappreciated hero is like the last kid picked to play kickball. Luckily, tomatillos can stay fresh for a long time because they might languish in the fridge.

My go-to use for tomatillos is pork chile verde, where pork is simmered in a tomatillo sauce with

chile peppers and spices. I like to make it with various peppers of various colors and heats, creating a seamless complexity that's hard to quit. Once, we dropped a finished batch on the floor. The five-second



the highest recorded levels of omega-3 fatty acids. Purslane is easy to forage, as the tender stalks give up without a fight, making purslane a most eligible ingredient on paper. But in practice, not so much. The flavor isn't bad. It's salty, crunchy and plump with tart juice — none of which are terrible characteristics. The problem is that purslane, like tomatillos, is slimy.

I speculated that chile verde might be a great context to enjoy purslane, as the sliminess would be absorbed, dispersed and covered up by the textures and flavors of this fragrant stew. I figured its earthy, slightly bitter taste might offset the sweetness of the stew. Indeed, the purslane improved the verde, which can otherwise border on too sweet if you aren't careful.

To be clear, to cook this dish, you don't need to go hunting through some vacant lot for purslane. With or without the world's healthiest weed, chile verde is definitely the thing to make with tomatillos. Its tartness penetrates the meat, tendering and imbuing it with flavor. If you aren't a pork eater, you can substitute pinto beans to balance the sour, spicy sweetness of chile verde.

My recipe includes apples because everyone knows they go with pork, creating a redundant complexity with the tomatillos.

See Flash, Page 27

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Flash

from page 26

Chile Verde

This stew is hands down the best thing to make with tomatillos. It's a meaty whirl of aromas and flavors, with enough sour sweetness to balance the pork and enough heat and bitterness to counter the sweetness.

Serves 8

2 lbs pork Something tough and marbled like stew meat, shoulder (aka butt), country-style ribs (which are cut near the shoulder-end of the rib cage) or even uncured belly if it's not too fatty)

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, minced
- 1 tablespoon whole coriander seed
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons cumin
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1/2 pound sliced apple
- 4 large cloves of garlic, chopped

- 1 lb tomatillos, cut into quarters
- 2 cups of chopped chile peppers.
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup lager beer, such as Pacifico
- 1 cup purslane, if available, cleaned and chopped

Cut the pork into inch-cubes (if using ribs, cut the meat off but include the bones to flavor the stew). Heat the oil in an oven-safe dish with a tight-fitting lid, and then add the pork. Cook on the stovetop, over medium heat, until brown and tender. Add olive oil if the pork isn't fatty enough.

When the pork is cooked, add the spices and onions, and stir it together. When the onions become transparent, add the tomatillos, apples, garlic, peppers and two cups of water. Add the beer and cook on low with the lid for one hour.

Alternatively, for a smoother sauce, blend the tomatillos, apple, garlic and peppers until smooth, and add that. You can also mix half of these ingredients and leave the other half chunky.

Season with salt and pepper and pos-

sibly more cumin. When the flavor is right, spoon it into bowls with rice, beans and tortilla chips if you want to be all proper, and garnish with purslane.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the **East Lansing Public Library Conference Room**, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Richard Cramer for the property at 431 Abbot Road to install new a roof/awning over the entrance door of the building.

For more information on the request please contact Darcy Schmitt at (517) 319-6941 or dschmitt@cityofeastlansing.com. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelhistoricaldistricts@cityofeastlansing.com.

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 must contact the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6920 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

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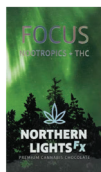
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