

FREE

CityPULSE

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January 13-19, 2016

SLAVERY ISN'T DEAD

**MSU King tribute puts spotlight
on human trafficking --pg. 10**

Manager no more?

Snyder fails on Flint, SB571 --pg. 6

Next stop: Memphis

**Local blues musicians head south for
international competition --pg. 14**

BOBBY MCFERRIN: BOBBY MEETS MICHIGAN!

Saturday, February 6 AT 8PM

Bobby McFerrin comes to East Lansing to celebrate and draw inspiration from the creativity and diversity of Michigan artists. Together they'll perform, improvise and make a glorious night of music.



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With ties to Alvin Ailey, Joffrey Ballet, Cirque du Soleil and appearances on TV's *So You Think You Can Dance*, Complexions has a limitless creative vision that "grabs the viewer by the eyeballs and refuses to let go" (*Dance Magazine*).

"...wearing toe shoes has never looked like so much fun"
 -*Washington Post*

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 CONTEMPORARY BALLET

DESMOND RICHARDSON & DWIGHT RHODEN

Tuesday, January 19 at 7:30PM



Winner of a Juno Award for Roots Album of the Year, *Chic Gamine* enchants with Motown souls, French pop spirits and rock-and-roll hearts.

\$15 Student Tickets!



CHIC GAMINE

Thursday, January 21 at 7:30PM

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In uniform and kilts of British and Scottish heritage, this ensemble takes over the stage in a grand display of precision marches, bagpipes and Highland dancing.



**THE BAND OF THE ROYAL MARINES AND
 THE PIPES, DRUMS, AND HIGHLAND DANCERS
 OF THE SCOTS GUARDS**

Saturday, January 30 at 8PM

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**The MONSTER
 Who Ate My
 PEAS**



TICKETS
 JUST
\$9

Sunday, January 31 at 1:30PM & 4PM

A little boy doesn't want to eat his peas, but when a crafty monster appears under his kitchen table, the boy is ready to make a deal. A hugely entertaining tale about the value of will power and facing your fears. *For ages 4-8 and their families.*

Generously sponsored by Granger; Jackson National Life Insurance Company; and Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and National Endowment for the Arts.



Dear Readers,

CityPULSE needs your help!

Once again, it's time for our biennial Readership Survey to collect information for our advertisers — whose support makes City Pulse possible.

The survey is online at

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Look for a link in the large banner at the top.

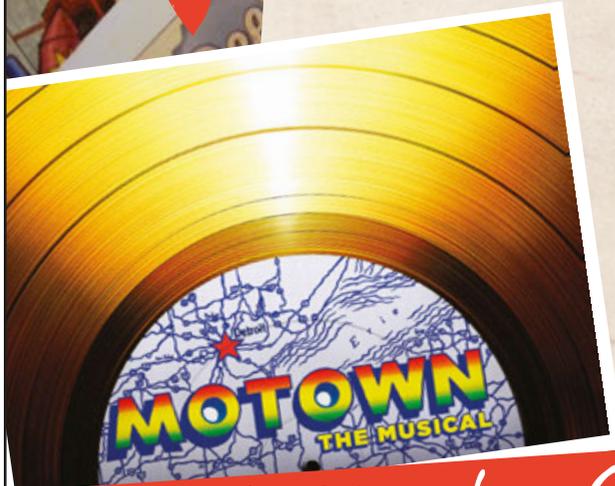
If you're unable to access the internet but still want to participate, contact Suzi at (517) 999-6704 and we can get you a physical copy which you can fill out and mail to our office.

To encourage your participation, we are giving away 50 tickets to NCG and two tickets to opening night for "Motown: The Musical."

Please take the time - maybe five minutes — to help out Lansing's weekly alternative newspaper. It will be up until at least 400 people respond.

Thanks and have a very happy holiday season!

B. Schwartz



At Wharton Center!

Feedback

LSO fan

During the winter months Lansing residents may be looking for some new weekend entertainment. This is a perfect time to spend an evening with Lansing Symphony Orchestra. Great programming is lined up, such as the first Lansing visit of internationally acclaimed violinist Rachel Barton Pine on January 23rd.

Does classical music seem too high-brow and inaccessible? No worries, LSO has you covered. Music director Timothy Muffitt chooses a theme for each performance that makes the diversity of classical music appealing and tangible for seasoned symphony goers and newbies alike. The pre-concert discussion by WKAR host Jody Knol gives you the backstory on the music and he interviews the guest musicians with trademark wit.

To get the most out of your classical music experience, be sure to read the pre-concert interview in Lansing City Pulse by staff writer Lawrence Cosentino. His knowledgeable (and entertaining) writing helps to frame and interpret what you're about to hear. Also check out his insightful review the week after and relive the experience.

Tickets begin at \$20, not much more than an IMAX movie ticket. But there are no CGI effects here. This is live and real time, with classical music old and new being wrought on the stage before you.

A lively music scene is one of the elements that makes a community vibrant and thriving. The Greater Lansing area is fortunate to have the dedication and talent of the LSO musicians. With their devotion to sharing their craft, we can see that classical music isn't a dusty relic sitting inside a museum. It's alive and

breathing, and made fresh daily in our community. The classics from the 18th century through the 20th century still have relevance and meaning to us. And new works are composed and premiered each season. You can meet the composers and guest musicians, and experience the future of classical music as it is being shaped. Right here and now.

So check out the LSO lineup for 2016. From the Classical and Romantic periods to jazz and beyond, they have something for all tastes.

—Dennis McGeen
Mason

The People Issue, yes

I enjoyed greatly the eclectic mix you included in this issue (1/6/16). Dr. Hamdan's story and comments about his experiences in America and the American people almost brought me to tears. I understand that many Syrian refugees are looking to Michigan as a home, and as a citizen, I want to encourage that. These people could offer this state a much needed boost.

—Janet Hershberger (Roe-Darden)
Lansing

Against selling WKAR's spectrum space

Congress' proposed sale of any or all TV station broadband spectrum creates the opportunity for largescale monopolies. Why would we want that .. for more "Bang'em up football"? Is this what switching from analog to digital led to? Please educate readers. I use PBS a lot and am a paying member, but I'm too aged and disabled w/CH7 to attend MSU hearings. I have no computers or cable.

—Lola Buckingham
Okemos

Correction

Because of a typing error by an editor, the wrong age was given for one of the subjects of last week's People issue. Sarah Kovan is 21.

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

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

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

PUBLIC NOTICES

B/16/070 Dry Pit Submersible Non Clog Pumps as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, c/o LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on Jan. 26, 2016 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or slr@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info for content and purpose of this bid contact Bill Brunner at (517) 483-4018.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#16-009

CityPULSE

**VOL. 15
ISSUE 22**

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com



SUSTAINABLE

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Link: Credit unions need to return to their origins



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Chic Gamine brings global soul sound to the Wharton Center



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'Trailer Park Boys' come to Lansing



COVER
ART

"DREAMERS OF THE DAY" By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

CITY PULSE *on the AIR* **NOW AT 10:30 A.M. SATURDAYS on** **WDBM IMPACT 88.9FM**

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

HEY KIDS! IT'S THE ALL NEW **JUNIOR MILITIAMAN ANTI-GOVERNMENT PLAYSET**

COMES COMPLETE WITH **REAL WORKING FIREARMS!** LOOK OUT EVERYONE! I'M A **GOOD GUY WITH A GUN!** AT LEAST, UNTIL SOMEBODY DOES SOMETHING I DON'T LIKE!

ALSO INCLUDES GENUINE-LOOKING **CAMOUFLAGE** JUST LIKE REAL SOLDIERS WEAR! THE FORCES OF **TYRANNY** WILL NEVER SEE ME COMING NOW! IT PROBABLY LOOKS LIKE THIS GUN IS JUST **FLOATING** IN MID-AIR!

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BUT DON'T FORGET TO PACK AN **EXTRA LUNCH**--OR YOU MIGHT HAVE TO PUT OUT AN URGENT CALL FOR **ASSISTANCE!** MOM!! I NEED SOME **SNACKS!** HELLOOO?

ORDER YOUR PLAYSET AND START **DEFENDING FREEDOM--TODAY!** (MANUFACTURER ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR ANY DEATH, INJURY, OR PUBLIC HUMILIATION THAT MAY OCCUR.)

Pension tensions

City officials recognize concerns, looking for solutions

First, the bad news. Lansing tops communities in the state in municipal pension and other retiree benefits obligations, an estimated \$600 million in short and long-term debt obligations.

How to solve that debt and maintain — perhaps even enhance — vital city services like roads, police, fire and more, is unknown. Right now, the city spends about 25 percent of its general fund expenditures on this debt service. If nothing is done, Randy Hannan, chief of staff to Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, said the debt obligations will crowd out other budget priorities.

And that brings the glimmers of good news.

The debt can be paid out over decades. The pension investments are performing well. For the first time in years, the city is financially stable, reporting small budget surpluses for the last two years. That in turn means officials can consider paying down some of the debt.

"Is it a crisis?" asked David Hollister, the former mayor whom Mayor Virg Bernero tapped to head the financial health team that advises him. "Eh, who knows."

Why such ambivalence from the man who is supposed to evaluate and chart the course for fixing the city's long term financial issues? Because the debt is a moving target — just like the economy. The pension debt is fairly well fixed, Hannan, Hollister and others said; but the health care costs are a variable.

Particularly challenging for those projecting health care costs is the impact of the Affordable Care Act. When the law went into effect, projections were that health care costs, which had been increasing by double digits for decades, would moderate. Last year, Hannan said, that was true. Only one of the city's two health plans saw an increase, and that was about 1 percent. This year, however, the city is bracing for steeper increases, although what they will be is still unclear.

Complicating the situation is a new accounting rule that requires the pension debt be listed as a liability in year-end financial reports. As a result, it can appear as though the city must pay off the entire

\$600 million in one sitting, when in fact that debt stretches out over decades.

"Everyone has known this was out there, but when you put it on the balance sheet it looks worse than it actually is," said Carol Wood, an at-large Council member.

Hollister said that part of the situation with the debt is an accounting sleight of hand but that the debt is still a real one that has to be addressed in the long term.

While there is uncertainty about the size of the city's debt, there is agreement that it requires action. Wood, along with fellow Councilmembers Jessica Yorko, from the Fourth Ward, and Jody Wash-



Hollister



Hannan

ington from the First Ward, question the \$600 million projection. But all Council members and officials interviewed concurred the debt issue "was real."

Newly elected Councilmembers Patricia Spitzley, who serves in an at-large role, and Adam Hussain, the Third Ward representative, agreed with the other Council members that there's a problem

"They told me we were not on the verge of bankruptcy," Hussain said of a briefing he received from Financial Health Team members. He called that meeting "encouraging."

"But it's real."

Hannan said he "wouldn't characterize it as a crisis right now. But it could become one if we don't act."

But what to do? The city's taxing authority under state law is near the cap. State revenue sharing, which has been declining for over a decade, is not expected to have a "miraculous" impact, according to Hannan. And while the economy is stabilizing and property values are climbing, state laws interfere with the develop-

ment of a mirrored recovery in tax capture. That's artificially stalled by law.

City Council in October authorized the city to spend \$100,000 to hire a firm to conduct a study on how cities and states across the country are handling the same debt issues. The state Treasury Department, which has loomed large for several years as the financial boogeyman of emergency manager-dom or bankruptcy, has agreed to pitch in another \$100,000 for the study.

"That's the beauty of the study," said Council President Judi Brown Clarke, an at-large member. "There is no 'right' solution; there's optimal solutions. We'll be able to look at those and see what benefits and best serves our fiscal scenario."

Said Hannan: "The goal of the study is to recommend specific solutions to our legacy cost solutions. The job is to crunch the numbers in those scenarios in Lansing's specific problems."

Hollister said the study will look at "what other communities are doing" for possible solutions.

The proposal for the study should be finalized in the coming weeks, and the final product could be available as soon as July, officials said.

Wood said she is interested in seeing whether bonds might be an answer. In that instance, the city would borrow money to cover the legacy costs as projected. That would create a more favorable balance sheet in financial reports, but would also require continued debt service for the

life of the bonds. What the interest rate might be is simply unclear.

Oakland County, Hannan noted, has already used bonds to address its legacy cost situation. He also believes the Affordable Care Act may yet come to the rescue in new ways. He noted that retirees may be able to find cheaper healthcare solutions using subsidies and possible a payment from the city through exchanges. That's something he said he expects the study will review and report on.

"It's not like we haven't been aggressive in addressing this," said Hussain. "We've done so much, but we've exhausted our options."

Elected and appointed officials say there is also not one single bullet to solve the problem.

"We didn't get here overnight, and we're not going to get out of it overnight either," Washington said.

— Todd Heywood



Property: 3200 Pine Tree Road

Delhi Township

Owner: Vertical Bridge Towers LLC, Boca Raton, Fla.

As is often the case with vacant buildings, this former office exhibits neglected upkeep. A fallen eaves trough blocks the main entrance and sections of siding have are missing from the south elevation. Untended landscaping has overtaken the front porch. Individually, these maintenance faults are minor, but they combine to create a picture of neglect.

The repair issues are matched with awkward design details. The most obvious (and easiest to reconcile) are the shutters, which are far too narrow to cover the adjacent windows and doors. Spindly porch columns are too thin for their height and lack the traditional architrave beam that physically and visually carries the roof load.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA



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

Struggling with standards

What has happened to Snyder's executive skills?

As Rick Snyder begins his sixth year as Michigan's chief executive, you have to wonder what happened to his pledge to bring finely honed managerial skills to the governor's office.

Perhaps dealing with, as Snyder puts it, "his partners" in the Legislature has dulled his critical managerial abilities. Certainly it has lowered his standards. Consider two issues involving Snyder last week. The most serious is the tacit acknowledgment that the people in Flint have been poisoned by his administration's oversight of the city's water system. More on this later.

The other is the sloppy Senate Bill SB 571, which he signed into law, that among its provisions tramples on the First Amendment and gags local officials from even refuting disinformation about millage issues during the two months preceding an election. It was buried in a bill that started out at 12 pages and without hearings or public comment grew to 55 pages, pushed hard by the Mackinac Center and the DeVos family's conservative Michigan Freedom



MICKY HIRTEN

Fund.

The legislation is so flawed some Republican legislators sought to hold back the bill. Snyder acknowledged the flaws and asked the Legislature to fix it, which, of course, it has no obligation to do.

Before becoming governor, Snyder ran Gateway Computers — his most significant credential for bringing business acumen to government. Would he have approved a new product as flawed as SB 571 while running Gateway? It would have to happen like this.

SNYDER: OK, boys, tell me about this new SB 571 model. I've heard that there are problems.

CHIEF ENGINEER ARLAN MEEKHOF: Nothing we can't live with. Let's say it's good enough for the Mackinac product line.

SNYDER: I still don't see how legal's good with the Mackinac name — you now, that Apple business — but, hey, they're the experts. Not my job to second guess the professionals.

MEEKHOF: So here it is. Take a look.

SNYDER: This is a lot bigger than we talked about. What happened?

MEEKHOF: We've crammed a lot of extras into this baby, just loaded it up. And here's the best part, we did it all in a week.

SNYDER: You had all year to work on this. What happened?

PRODUCT DIRECTOR KEVIN

COTTER: Lots of time off and then we got sidetracked. You know, that Todd and Cindy thing really slowed us down.

Right there on the floor. You can see how we'd be distracted.

SNYDER: Yeah, what a pair of loons. But, it got us plenty of publicity, Pure Michigan and all that ... well, maybe, not pure. Anyway, let's focus here. Does this S571 work?

COTTER: Well, that depends on what you mean by work. Some of the team feels that we need more time to fix the bugs. They recommended we delay the release. They're uncomfortable with the power source.

SNYDER: You've made the right call. The board is pushing me on this. You know the pressure I'm getting from the chairman. DeVos wants results.

COTTER: We know. And that's why we're using those Amway batteries. Big supplier. Chairman of the board. We get that.

SNYDER: Come on, give me the bad news. I don't have all day.

MEEKHOF: The speech module is the problem. We think the power source is distorting its functionality. It's also affecting the cache, only channeling one of the information channels. But we've seen this before on the Mackinac models.

SNYDER: I guess I can live with that. Like you said, good enough. Let's send it out. Most of our customers won't care about the glitches. But I want you to fix the problem. No rush. When you get around to it.

COTTER: No rush it is.

SNYDER: I'm out of here. There are rumblings that the Michigan plant has been discharging chemicals into the Flint River, something about the water. In Flint of all places. It's bankrupt. I'm

sure our people can control this.

COTTER: Good luck. I don't know how you do it. It's like they expect you to be on top of everything.

In business and in government leadership matters. For Snyder to sign the sloppy Senate bill signals to the House and Senate that it meets his diminishing standard. No need to do it right the first time.

The disaster unfolding in Flint is clearly an executive failure. Snyder appointed the revolving cast of city managers, oversees the discredited Department of Natural Resources and certainly could have followed two years of news reports that questioned the quality of water from the Flint River as soon as the city system switched from the Detroit water system. Apparently cost cutting remains one of Snyder's management attributes.

There are people in Flint whose lives are altered irrevocably by the lead that leached into their water. This is on him.

The effects of lead poisoning in children, according to the Mayo Clinic, may include developmental delay, learning difficulties, hearing loss, sluggishness and fatigue and more. In infants symptoms include learning difficulties and slowed growth. For adults it's high blood pressure, miscarriage or premature birth in pregnant women, abdominal, muscle and joint pains, a decline in mental function. And you know that some people are still drinking the water.

Being the boss often means enforcing standards, holding people accountable. You are expected to be on top of everything. It's not easy, but at least make the effort. That's a chief executive's job.

PUBLIC NOTICES

B/16/068 Automatic Transfer Switches as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, c/o LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **Jan. 26, 2016** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or slr@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info. for content and purpose of this bid contact Bill Brunner at (517) 483-4018.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#16-007



Lansing City Council 2016 Meeting Schedule

Monday, January 4, 2016;
Monday, January 11, 2016
Monday, January 25, 2016
Monday, February 8, 2016
Monday, February 22, 2016
Monday, February 29, 2016
Monday, March 14, 2016
Monday, March 28, 2016
Monday, April 11, 2016
Monday, April 25, 2016
Monday, May 9, 2016
Monday, May 23, 2016
Monday, June 13, 2016

Monday, June 27, 2016
Monday, July 11, 2016
Monday, July 25, 2016
Monday, August 8, 2016
Monday, August 22, 2016
Monday, August 29, 2016
Monday, September 12, 2016
Monday, September 26, 2016
Monday, October 10, 2016
Monday, October 24, 2016
Monday, November 14, 2016
Monday, November 28, 2016
Monday, December 12, 2016

Except as otherwise noted, all meetings will be on Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, City Hall.

Written public comments for Lansing City Council Meetings are accepted at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or by email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk

www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#15-304

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF EAST LANSING

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, at 7:00 pm, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. The hearing will be for the purpose of accepting comment on a proposed Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant application from the Natural Resources Trust Fund for improvements to the Patriarche Park ball fields. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard. Contact Wendy Wilmers Longpre, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts at (517) 333-2580 x 39, for additional information.

Marie Wicks
City Clerk

CP#16-005

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016, at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, for the purpose of supporting or opposing:

Act-15-2015, Parking Lot #24, located south of the 2000 block of Michigan Ave., Vacation of Alleys, Sale of approximately 0.83 acres.

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. These documents are available for review at the office of the City Clerk or at <http://www.lansingmi.gov/clerk> under the heading of Documents Placed on File. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, January 25, 2016, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk

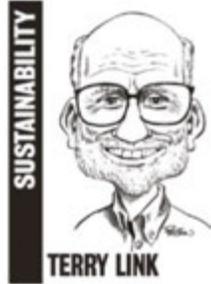
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CP#16-012

We can do better

A few credit unions are living up to their roots

The object of credit unions when created in the mid-1920s was to provide credit to those who couldn't get it from the banks and for any profits to be shared with the members. Credit unions were tied to certain



SUSTAINABILITY

TERRY LINK

community bonds, and many still are. They were designed by purpose to be community focused. Nationally, credit union membership continues to grow, reaching more than 100 million members last year and growing at a 4 percent rate.

More recently, however, credit unions have expanded their definition of community, and many are now effectively state-wide enterprises. Mergers are increasingly common, like NuUnion (originally State Employees Credit Union) with DTE Credit Union, now called Lake Trust. Recently, what is being called the largest credit union merger in history will join Lake Michigan Credit Union (Grand Rapids) with United Federal Credit Union (St. Joseph), making it the 19th largest in the U.S. and serving seven states when finalized. It's becoming harder to distinguish credit unions from banks anymore, either by their geography, their governance, or their buildings. There seems to be a battle for splendor over on the stretch of Coolidge Road north of Meijer, where the MSU Federal Credit Union and Mercantile Bank both built multi-story edifices.

As noted in a new book from Harvard University Press (2015), "How the Other Half Banks: Exclusion, Exploitation and the Threat to Democracy": "Credit unions were an ideological rejection of mainstream banking — a purposeful system of credit that favored the common good above profits, communities over institutions, and mutual control over hierarchy. ... Today, credit unions are much like mainstream banks. The American Bankers Association argues that credit unions are not fulfilling their mission to serve the underserved. Of course, the banks are biased, but the assertion is not unfair."

There are only 13 designated Community Development Financial Institution credit unions in our state. Such institutions are required to devote a minimum of 60 percent of their lending to disadvantaged communities, an original focus of credit unions. Only one of those is located in mid-Michigan.

How else might credit unions strengthen community? A recent report for the Filene Research Institute of Madison, Wis, called "Improving Social and Environmental Sustainability: A Credit Union Assessment and Comparison," notes that "credit unions

that embrace and communicate their social or environmental sustainability initiatives can carve out a unique niche for themselves within their communities." The report, which studied and compared the triple-bottom-line performance of credit unions and independently owned, sustainability-focused banks, found that "there are many benefits for credit unions that increase their social and environmental performance, including positive public relations, cost savings, talent acquisition, and access to new markets."

There are still some credit unions that pay heed to these origins. Alternatives Federal Credit Union in Ithaca, N.Y., for example, is dedicated to creating economic opportunity for underserved people and communities. "Our social mission is integrated into our economic mission, so for whatever reason, joining Alternatives is making a choice towards a more economically just community."

Vancity, the credit union I described in my last column, has certainly raised the bar. On top of its living wage commitment and carbon neutrality achievements, its 56-page 2014 annual report notes plenty of successes across the triple bottom line. But they even note where they have failed to reach their goals. This commitment to transparency is evident throughout the report as it was in conversations I had with management. For instance, they show the compensation package for their CEO and note that the ratio between it and the median salary was 16:1, which they compare to a study showing CEO pay at large Canadian banks at 135:1. They also noted a failure to meet their goal for new members. Unlike at least one credit union in our area, however, their board meetings are not open to members.

The Filene Research Institute report identified private banks that set higher standards than most credit unions these days. A few examples highlight what is achievable. The mission at Beneficial State Bank in Oakland, Calif., "mandates we produce social justice and environmental well-being at the same time as we are economically sustainable." Virginia Community Capital of Christianburg, Va. is a certified public benefit (B-Corporation), as is New Resource Bank in San Francisco. B-Corporations' charters commit to serve a social purpose. Certified B-Corps have successfully met the B-Corp triple-bottom-line assessment test. New Resource Bank is also a member of the Global Alliance for Banking with Values and their annual sustainability report demonstrates a strong commitment to TBL performance.

Might not our local credit unions or banking institutions adopt some of the admirable practices demonstrated by Vancity and the other sustainable credit unions and banks? Given their enviable success across the triple bottom line, let's hope they ask themselves "Why not?" We credit union members should use our voices to encourage them.

(Consultant Terry Link was the founding director of the Office of Sustainability at MSU.)

PUBLIC NOTICES

B/16/069 Motor Control Centers as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, c/o LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **Jan. 28, 2016** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or slr@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info for content and purpose of this bid contact Bill Brunner at (517) 483-4018.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#16-008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On January 7, 2016, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road
Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
Hope Borbas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road
Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street
Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road
Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Ave.
and the Township Web Site www.meridian.mi.us.

November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting
December 1, 2015 Regular Meeting
December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#16-014

B/16/071 Variable Frequency Motor Controllers as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, c/o LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **Jan. 28, 2016** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or slr@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info for content and purpose of this bid contact Bill Brunner at (517) 483-4018.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#16-010

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1347, a City-initiated ordinance to amend sections 50-382 of Division 2, section 50-402 of Division 3, section 50-422 of Division 4, section 50-442 of Division 5, section 50-462 of Division 5- of Article V-uses permitted – section 50-572 of Division 3, section 50-597 of Division 4- of Article VI, permitted uses –of Chapter 50 – Zoning of the Code of the City of East Lansing to Establish a maximum allowed number of bedrooms in each dwelling unit within the multiple-family and business district.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1348 is a City-initiated ordinance to amend sections 50-593(f) of Division 4 – Building Height-of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing to establish a minimum building height in the B-3, City Center District.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#16-011

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF MEETING SCHEDULES OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSION

On January 8, 2016, the following meeting schedules of various boards and commissions were sent for posting in the following locations:

Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, MI;
Hope Borbas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI;
Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street, Haslett, MI;
Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI
Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Ave., East Lansing, MI

Township Board
Park Commission
Planning Commission
Zoning Board of Appeals
Environmental Commission
Land Preservation Advisory Board
Economic Development Corporation

BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#16-013

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

CONSOLIDATED PLAN, FY 2016 – 2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN, FY 2016-2017

TO: CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CITY OF LANSING
FROM: LANSING PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on the proposed goals and objectives and projected use of federal funding allocations of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, 2016-2021 and the Annual Action Plan, 2016-17. Entitlement Grant Awards for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not been announced as of the date of this publication.

Amounts proposed herein for HUD 2016/City 2017 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are estimated based on prior entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown above, adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each program

Place: Lansing Planning Board Meeting
Neighborhood Empowerment Center
600 W. Maple
Lansing, MI 48915

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016

For additional information, please contact Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner at (517) 483-4063, M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FIVE –YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2016-2021 (7/1/16 -6/30/21) ANNUAL ACTION PLAN HUD FY 2016 /CITY FY 2017 (7/1/16 – 6/30/17)

CITY OF LANSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of Lansing's Housing and Community Development Program is the development of a viable community which will provide standard housing in a suitable living environment, principally to benefit low and moderate income persons, preserve and expand existing businesses and industries, and create an atmosphere conducive to stability in neighborhoods. Specific objectives are enumerated as follows:

- a. Provide standard housing in a suitable living environment through rehabilitation, new construction and improvement of the housing stock primarily in CDBG eligible neighborhoods and in specifically designated housing target areas.
- b. Provide housing counseling and assistance that will benefit low and moderate-income households.
- c. Promote home ownership for low and moderate-income households and promote deconcentration of poverty.
- d. Maintain at current levels the number of public and assisted housing units available to low and moderate-income households.
- e. Provide homeless prevention assistance, emergency shelter, re-housing assistance and supportive human services for people with special needs, people who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- f. Provide assistance for permanent supportive housing and human services for low and moderate income households with a history of chronic homelessness, including those with special needs.
- g. Promote economic opportunity for low and moderate-income individuals by facilitating economic development, providing employment opportunity, sponsoring job training, supporting business development, micro-enterprise lending and business or financial educational programs and initiatives.
- h. Promote economic development to provide jobs, business services and shopping opportunities for residents located in CDBG eligible areas.
- i. Provide community and neighborhood services, recreational opportunities and public facilities and promote neighborhood social cohesion to improve the quality of life in CDBG eligible neighborhoods.
- j. Increase security and safety in neighborhoods by supporting public safety and crime prevention initiatives, public educational programs and citizens' awareness in CDBG eligible areas.
- k. Improve the city's transportation, public facilities and infrastructure systems in CDBG eligible areas.
- l. Protect and improve the city's physical environment, including preventing or eliminating blight, removing lead or other safety hazards, preserving historic resources, mitigating flood hazards, promoting healthy housing and improving energy fitness in housing occupied by low and moderate-income households.
- m. Promote fair housing objectives.
- n. Provide affordable housing and economic development that benefits low and moderate income people in the context of mixed use development along transit corridors.

PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS FIVE –YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2016-2021 (7/1/16 -6/30/21) ANNUAL ACTION PLAN HUD FY 2016 /CITY FY 2017 (7/1/16 – 6/30/17)

CDBG Single-family, Owner-Occupied Rehab Program/Public Improvements

Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing units through city sponsored programs, and in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations and other state and federal agencies. Includes funds to meet lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures, funds to assist in emergency housing rehabilitation, market analysis activities and technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, contractors, and low- and moderate-income households. Includes loans and grants for owner-occupied single-family units through city sponsored programs, loans to rehabilitate historic homes in conjunction with rehabilitation of the unit, and loans or grants for ramps, hazard remediation or weatherization. Includes staff, office space, technical assistance, training and other direct project costs associated with delivery of Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant and other State and Federal Programs. 18 housing units estimated. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds.

General street, sidewalk, water/sewer improvements, including assistance to income eligible owner-occupants or those in CDBG-eligible areas for special assessments related to new improvements. Includes improvements to neighborhood parks, recreational facilities; public neighborhood, medical and community facilities in CDBG priority areas. Some improvements may be made with prior years' funds

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 4,639,475
Annual Action Plan	\$ 927,895

CDBG Rental Rehab Program/Weatherization

Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of rental housing units through city sponsored programs. Includes funds to meet healthy housing standards and/or lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures. 6 units estimated.

Includes financing of an Energy Fitness Program and/or Energy Optimization Program to benefit low and moderate-income households, 54 housing units estimated with current funding. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 768,685
Annual Action Plan	\$ 153,737

Acquisition

Includes acquisition, maintenance and security of properties acquired through programs, and activities related to acquisition, disposition, relocation and clearance of dilapidated structures. Funds may also be used to acquire properties in the flood plain. Includes staff time associated with this activity. 1 housing unit estimated. Prior year funds may be used.

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 5,000
Annual Action Plan	\$ 1,000

Public Services (limited to 15%)

Includes homeownership counseling, education, neighborhood counseling, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes, tool lending programs, employment ztraining, and community safety. Services are for low- and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits.

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 1,349,500
Annual Action Plan	\$ 269,900

Economic Development

Loans, technical assistance and training to low- and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprises within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. (A micro-enterprise is a business with five or fewer employees, including the owner(s).) Estimate 8 people trained and 4 loans issued. Prior year funds may be used.

Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion, referrals for the attraction of new business and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing. Estimate 36 individuals and 4 businesses assisted.

Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate-income city of Lansing residents. Estimate 3 jobs

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 645,300
Annual Action Plan	\$ 129,060

CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)

Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with the delivery of CDBG, HOME and other state and federal programs.

Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs. Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the city.

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 1,914,490
Annual Action Plan	\$ 382,898

CDBG Allocations

Total Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 9,322,450
Total Annual Action Plan	\$ 1,864,490

**PROPOSED HOME PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS
FIVE –YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2016-2021 (7/1/16 - 6/30/21)
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN HUD FY 2016 /CITY FY 2017 (7/1/16 – 6/30/17)**

Down Payment Assistance

Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$15,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance not limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership counseling fees associated with this activity. Estimate 12 housing units. Prior year funds may be used.

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 391,855
Annual Action Plan	\$ 78,371

New Construction/HOME Rehab/Development Program

Includes funds for loans and grants for housing construction and rehabilitation.

HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Acquisition, Development and Resale (ADR) activities. Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. Funds may be used for staff time associated with these activities. 2 housing units estimated in conjunction with partners. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds.

Also includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of at least 2 owner-occupied housing units.

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 1,648,270
Annual Action Plan	\$ 329,654

CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)

HOME Program set-aside reserved for housing developed, sponsored or owned by CHDOs in partnership with the City. 1 unit estimated. Prior year funds may be used.

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 427,160
Annual Action Plan	\$ 85,432

HOME General Administration (limited to 10%)

Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver the HOME program.

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 271,900
Annual Action Plan	\$ 54,380

HOME Allocations:

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 2,739,185
Annual Action Plan	\$ 547,837

**EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
AND USE OF FUNDS
FIVE –YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2016-2021 (7/1/16 -6/30/21)
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN HUD FY 2016 /CITY FY 2017 (7/1/16 – 6/30/17)**

Rapid-Re-housing

Funds provided to address homelessness through rapid re-housing

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 50,000
Annual Action Plan	\$ 10,000

Homeless Prevention

Funds provided to prevent homelessness

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 256,925
Annual Action Plan	\$ 51,385

Administrative Activities (limited to 7.5%)

Funds provided to offset the cost of administering emergency solutions program.

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 62,505
Annual Action Plan	\$ 12,501

Shelter Operation

Funds provided to shelter providers to cover cost of maintenance, operations, insurance, utilities and furnishings in shelter facilities.

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 464,000
Annual Action Plan	\$ 92,800

ESG Allocations:

Five-Year Consolidated Plan	\$ 833,430
Annual Action Plan	\$ 166,686

SUMMARY

Estimated Five-Year Consolidated Plan and Forty Second Year Community Development Resources

Program	Annual Action Plan	Five-Year Consolidated Plan
CDBG Entitlement Grant:	\$1,864,490	\$9,322,450
HOME Program Funds:	\$ 547,837	\$2,739,185
ESG Program Funds:	\$166,686	\$833,430
TOTAL:	\$2,579,013	\$12,895,065

Administrative management and operation costs for the above programs include the administration, management and operations of the eligible activities, as well as other federal and state community development programs in which the city is now or may be participating.

‘A MATTER OF HUMANITY’

MSU'S MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CONCERT

TAKES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

When Jane White tells people she is the director of Michigan's Human Trafficking Task Force, about half of them give her an odd look.

“Are you sure there is still slavery?” they ask.

The United Nations, the CIA, the U.S. Department of State and the 90 member agencies of the Michigan task force agree that there is a largely hidden, borderless gulag of sex and labor trafficking around the world — and even here in Michigan.

White has found that getting the word out is not easy.

“I knew there were times when the message needed to be given in a different way,” White said. “There are people who want to hear about it, but they really don't.”

MSU's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day concerts have taken on a lot of civil rights issues in their 15-year history, but the

“Jazz: Spirituals, Prayers and Protest”

World Premiere of “Do You Know My Name?” by Billy Childs
MSU Jazz Orchestra I, Professors of Jazz
3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17

FREE — but tickets required
Fairchild Auditorium
542 Auditorium Road,
East Lansing
(517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu

(Tickets are available for pick-up at the College of Music main office, Room 102, 353 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing)

College of Music and Jazz Studies program will enter new territory Sunday with the premiere of an ambitious work meant to give voice to the victims and survivors of human trafficking.

This is no quick public service announcement. “Do You Know My Name?” was commissioned, with White's approval, from Grammy-winning composer/pianist Billy

Childs. A much sought-after composer, Childs has written for the world's top musicians, from the Los Angeles Philharmonic to Wayne Shorter to Yo-Yo Ma to Sting.

Childs doesn't come cheap, but MSU President Lou Anna Simon and her jazz-loving husband, Roy, put up the commission fee personally.

The guest vocalist with the job of giving voice to the voiceless will be Alicia Olatuja, who soared to national fame after a star turn at President Barack Obama's second inauguration in 2013.



Guest artist Alicia Olatuja, who gained national attention after a performance at President Barack Obama's second inauguration, takes on lead vocal duties for the premiere of “Do You Know My Name?”

this hard music he wrote.”

“I just hope I do justice to the subject,” Childs said.

ELUSIVE EVIL

Mark Sullivan, a composer and professor of music at MSU, is under no illusions that music can stop injustice. As a staunch proponent of avant-garde music and director of the college's computer music studios, Sullivan is no softie.

But as the chief instigator of Sunday's premiere, Sullivan has practical reasons for spreading the word about human trafficking via music.

“Survivors often have a hard time putting their story together,” he said. “And they're afraid that if they tell their story to the public, it will open them up to repercussions from pimps, handlers, drug cartels.”

Sullivan took note as a handful of works dealing with human trafficking appeared in recent years. “Cuatro Corridos,” a 2013 chamber opera first produced in San Diego, tells the story of four women involved in human trafficking across the Mexican-American border. Another experimental opera, “Angel's Bone,” premiered in New York earlier this month.

Courtesy photo

Just last week, Childs finished the half-hour-long score. He called it one of the most difficult jobs he's ever done.

Tuesday, MSU Jazz Studies Director Rodney Whitaker blew on the wet ink, started studying the score and geared up for an intense week of rehearsals. Childs is due to arrive from L.A. Thursday to work with Whitaker and the student musicians in person.

“Billy is a force,” Whitaker said. “A lot of the students don't know his writing — but they'll know it tomorrow when they play

Closer to home, the Wharton Center has commissioned a new dance and theatre piece with Inlet Dance Theatre of Cleveland and playwright José Cruz Gonzalez, scheduled for a spring 2017 premiere. “Among The Darkest Shadows” will draw on dance, spoken word and music to tell the story of Lodi, a young victim of labor trafficking, and Pinta, a victim of sex trafficking.

“Artists can get the stories out in ways that could be powerful but that wouldn't have to reveal the identity of the people involved,” Sullivan said.

See Trafficking, Page 11

TRAFFICKING

FROM PAGE 10

When it comes to human trafficking, art also has to stand in for statistics, which are virtually impossible to come by. In 2006, the Central Intelligence Agency estimated that as many as 800,000 people around the world are enslaved each year, including nearly 20,000 in the United States, but nobody really knows the extent of it.

“We don’t yet have a system yet, how to quantify it,” White said. “We’re just starting to get some good studies. But there is hardly a city or town in Michigan where a case of trafficking hasn’t been identified.”

According to a 2015 report from the U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in persons,” “human trafficking” and “modern slavery” are umbrella terms for “the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud or coercion.”

The sex trade is the most notorious form of human trafficking, but a 2014 United Nations report found that trafficking for forced labor “has increased steadily in recent years.” Some 40 percent of the victims detected between 2010 and 2012 were trafficked for forced labor, a broad category which includes manufacturing, cleaning, construction, catering, restaurants, domestic work and textile production.

Slaveryfootprint.org, a nonprofit based in Oakland, Calif., offers a lively interactive site, “How Many Slaves Work for You?” Type in how many shirts, computers, shoes and other products you own and prepare for an unpleasant ending. (I was informed that I have 40 slaves working for me.) Cotton, chocolate and computer components are among the bigger red flags.

“Slave labor is attached to so many different things,” White said. “We are touched by it in what we eat, what we use, what we drive, the computers we use. I’m appalled that I would unknowingly be involved in it, but it would be impossible not to be.”

After delving into research into the signs of human trafficking, White met with about 30 police chiefs from around Michigan. She asked them if they had seen any of the signs.

Some sights, White said, scream for follow-up investigations: a car full of kids who can’t speak English with a driver who won’t let them say anything, a nail salon with beds in the back room, a massage parlor called “Happy Endings.”

“They all agreed, within about an hour, that we had (human trafficking) in Michigan,” White said. “Everyone had a case they believed was probably human trafficking but was labeled something else.”



Photo by David Katzenstein

Grammy-winning composer/pianist Billy Childs takes on human trafficking with “Do You Know My Name?,” a half-hour-long piece commissioned by MSU’s College of Music and Jazz Studies program.

White said that only about 25 percent of law enforcement agencies in Michigan (including the Lansing Police Department) are trained to recognize human trafficking. “Awareness is critical,” White said. “It’s easy to think it happens in some other country, but it has been difficult for Americans to understand that it happens here.”

BITTERSWEET VINAIGRETTE

Like most first-time projects, “Do You Know My Name?” took some unexpected turns.

At first, Sullivan planned to bring “Cuatro Corridos” to MSU. He pitched the idea to James Forger, dean of the College of Music, last spring.

Forger was intrigued, but he worried that the music, a mélange of Mexican corrido — bull-fighting music — fragmented into dissonant shards of modernism, might be too far out for a broad audience. And the opera’s U.S./Mexico border setting is distant from Michigan.

“Who, besides Mark Sullivan, is going to find this music engaging?” Forger pointedly asked Sullivan.

“Unfortunately, that’s probably true,” Sullivan conceded, “Or maybe fortunately, be-

cause that led to the second idea.”

Rather than bringing “Cuatro Corridos” to East Lansing, Forger suggested that MSU commission a new work.

White was an enthusiastic supporter, almost from the start.

“There’s no one way to make sure that we, as a society, recognize the issue of modern day slavery,” she said. “The ability to see art, to see visual movement in the theater or ballet or something like jazz, gives the opportunity to look at it with a different sensory impact.”

To find the right creator for the new work, Forger and Sullivan turned to Whitaker, among the world’s top jazz bassists and educators and a talent magnet who has brought many jazz luminaries for residencies at MSU.

Whitaker immediately thought of Childs, a sophisticated composer/arranger with towering credibility in the worlds of jazz, classical, folk and pop.

A genre unto himself, Childs is almost impos-

sible to classify. But if you whisk Quincy Jones, Aaron Copland (or at least his melancholy side), Lalo Schiffrin and Joni Mitchell into a bittersweet vinaigrette, you get an idea of his musical reach.

“He’s a sponge,” Whitaker said. “He’s absorbed so many different genres of music

and really created his own style.”

In “Map to the Treasure,” Childs’ 2014 collection of “re-imagined” songs by Laura Nyro, each track is an encapsulated epic with a distinct narrative arc and mood. The disc brought Childs’ genre-straddling, story-telling art to its zenith and won a 2015 Grammy.

The cream-of-the-cream guest artist list on the Nyro CD testifies to Childs’ reputation in several music worlds: Rickie Lee Jones, Yo-Yo Ma, Wayne Shorter, Dianne Reeves and many other top artists. Childs swirled this diverse group into a thoughtful, lyrical sound all his own.

“One note and you know it’s him,” Whitaker said.

Sullivan is more interested in avant-garde music, but he saw Childs’ potential to reach a diverse audience, including people unfamiliar with either classical music or jazz. Sullivan and Whitaker were also confident that Childs wouldn’t sensationalize an already sensitive and potentially lurid subject.

Pitfalls await even the most well-intentioned advocates. Sullivan cited a recent TV spot by a group called End It, who call themselves 21st century abolitionists.

“A swarthy-looking guy pulls out this wispy-looking young white girl and throws her in a truck,” Sullivan said. “It was intended to play on the fears of middle-class, white, suburban people by choosing to show a woman who looks like their daughters. It falsifies the reality. Women of color are predominantly the group affected by sex trafficking.”

Childs signaled that he was interested. After a few preliminary phone calls, Sullivan and Jane White were assured that they could entrust the delicate subject to him.

“He wanted to get away from the sensationalism you see in movies and so forth,” White said. “He didn’t just skim the surface. He studied the stories of victims and survivors, which is incredibly important. He understands it.”

But Forger and crew almost scrapped the project, owing to star-composer sticker shock. Sullivan said Childs asked \$1,500 for each minute of finished music.

“We were crestfallen,” Sullivan said.

The project seemed dead until Forger mentioned it to Roy Simon, husband of MSU President Lou Anna Simon. A few days later Roy Simon called Forger and told him he and his wife would put up the commission fee personally. The project was on again.

BIG BAND ON A TIGHT LEASH

The composer had to hustle to earn his juicy commission.

Childs has written music for major insti-

See Trafficking, Page 12

“THINGS LIKE THIS GIVE US CREDIBILITY. (HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS) NOT JUST A DIRTY MYTH.”

-JANE WHITE, DIRECTOR OF MICHIGAN HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

TRAFFICKING

FROM PAGE 11

tutions, but he said he has never faced a job this daunting

"This was really difficult," he said. "It occupied a lot of my brain. It's one of the most difficult pieces I've ever been confronted with."

As autumn settled in, Childs plunged into research on the forms and faces of human trafficking. He was struck by the story of a 12-year-old California girl sold as a child laborer to repay her sister's debt.

"I wasn't literal with the story, but I used it as a main inspiration," Childs said.

The music is continuous, but falls loosely into two parts evoking darkness and light.

"The first part deals with the anguish of being sold as a child laborer, being trapped," Childs said. The lyrics allude to sex traffick-

ing and "walking on the streets."

A key lyric is often heard from sex trafficking victims: "He told me he loved me."

"Often women are lured into the sex trade by a person who wins their trust," Childs said. "They think this person loves them, and it turns out they are a middle man for a larger sex trafficking ring."

Trafficking preys upon a variety of overlapping, vulnerable groups, including young women, poor people and runaways. Among them, White said, are LGBT people fleeing rejection at home or at school. People who are mentally ill or have been in the foster care system are also vulnerable.

"You're looking at a population that has to survive, and people out there are going to say they care and promise all kinds of good things," White said. "That's the entry point: 'I care.' For labor, it's 'Want a job?'"

If the first part of "Do You Know My Name?" follows a vulnerable soul into darkness, the second is a paean to human resil-

ience.

"I didn't want it to be just completely hopeless," Childs said. "Many of these women get saved and lead productive lives."

Childs homed in on the simple question "Do You Know My Name?" as both the title of the work and the first verse of the lyric.

"Many of these victims felt like they were walking invisibly through life, not being noticed and suffering in silence," he said.

It took weeks for Childs to sculpt a structure and write verses to flesh out the story. But when he sat down to write the finished score, he faced an even thornier task. The subject seemed to call for a sweeping, symphonic palette of sounds, but Whitaker wanted a piece for the MSU jazz program's premier group, Jazz Orchestra I, essentially a big band. Violins, woodwinds, harps and other symphonic trappings were not available.

"When they first approached me with this, I thought, 'Human trafficking? Big band? How do I make this work?'" Childs said. "That was the hardest part about this project."

Big bands are like big dogs, stringing at the leash, raring to swing.

"I'm used to getting what I need, emotionally, out of a string quartet, a harp and things like that," Childs said. "Unless you write very carefully for a big band, it defaults to a certain style with limited emotional choices."

But he didn't trim his sails for MSU's jazz students.

"I never write down for playing ability," he said. "It's a great program. The students are great, the faculty is incredible and the band sounds great. I'm excited to try this out. Yes, I wrote music that's kind of difficult. We'll practice."

Vocalist Alicia Olatuja, the only person to see the music before this week, said Childs did "a brilliant job at capturing the richness and colors of a large orchestral piece."

The secret weapon was Childs' own instrument, the piano.

"The piano is like an orchestra at your fingertips," Olatuja said.

"The piano is the essential glue that holds it all together," Childs added. "It's not a concerto, but it definitely has a large role."

VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

In January 2013, Olatuja got nationwide attention for a vibrant solo turn that threw some red meat into the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir's cheesy arrangement of "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Watching the inauguration at home, Whitaker sat bolt upright.

"She blew me away," he said.

After accepting the offer from Whitaker to be Sunday's soloist, Olatuja threw herself into the score and subject matter, having already worked on a similar project. In 2011, she appeared in "From the Fire," an Edinburgh Festival Fringe production about the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, when

See Trafficking, Page 13

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TRAFFICKING

FROM PAGE 12

146 young immigrant women died trying to escape a garment factory fire.

The girls weren't slaves, but the tragedy alerted the nation to shocking labor conditions and helped galvanize a series of labor reforms.

"It took a terrible tragedy to create the uproar that led to things like working fire escapes," Olatuja said. "I don't want something horrible and huge to force people to face human trafficking. I'm hoping that pieces like these will make a difference."

She was moved and impressed by Childs' score.

"It's quite a feat, capturing something so intense and terrible," Olatuja said. "It's very straightforward, very vulnerable."

Olatuja sings in both sections of "Do You Know My Name?" In the first section, she gives voice to a person who is enslaved. In the second, she takes on the persona of a woman who has escaped.

"She has not allowed the terror of it to rob her of her humanity," Olatuja said.

The College of Music has set aside tickets for about 100 people from the human trafficking network who work in law enforcement, social agencies, shelters and other services.

"Most of them are people who would never come to an MLK concert, or any kind of art presentation," Sullivan said.

That's a particular thrill for Olatuja. While she loves to sing pure jazz in the appreciative company of other musicians, the singer enjoyed the rush of reaching millions on Obama's inauguration.

"That's one of the greatest joys I've had as an artist," she said. "I like to reach people who don't necessarily go to a jazz concert or a big musical work."

'I SEE YOU'

With a cauldron of long-simmering civil rights issues coming to a boil, from racial profiling to Black Lives Matter to widening income inequality to poisoned water in beleaguered Flint, the choice of human trafficking as a subject might seem unusual for a 2016 Martin Luther King Day tribute.

Each year, Whitaker juggles artist availability, the politics of inclusion and the winds of social change to put together one of the community's most eagerly awaited events.

"For us, it's not necessarily looking at the hot-button issues, but looking at the opportunities we have to collaborate," Whitaker said. When the stars aligned for "Do You Know My Name?," Whitaker wanted to make it happen. He thinks King would have approved.

"Maybe it's not as important to civil rights, like Black Lives Matter, but it's about humanity," Whitaker said. "The fact that someone would abuse somebody for money or the sex trade, or that the police would gun

down a black man in the street, it's the same thing to me. It's a matter of humanity. King always talked about that."

Besides, he said, MSU's Martin Luther King Jr. Day concerts are "ongoing," with many more to come, and, unfortunately, America's civil rights struggles won't be over anytime soon.

In addition to Childs' world premiere, a blend of spirituals, anthems and jazz will flesh out the rest of the program Sunday. To make the link between human trafficking and other ongoing civil rights issues explicit, trombonist Michael Dease will bring a new arrangement of the 1960s Civil Rights anthem "I Wish I Knew How it Would Feel to be Free." The song was jazz pianist Billy Taylor's most famous composition and is best known from vocalist Nina Simone's recording.

"That was one of Martin Luther King's favorite songs," Whitaker said. "He would say, 'Dr. Taylor, please play me that Baptist

hymn.'"

Also scheduled for the 90-minute concerts are an arrangement by trumpeter Etienne Charles of "We Shall Overcome" and saxophonist Diego Rivera's take on John Coltrane's "Alabama," a sorrowful meditation on the bombing of a black church in Birmingham in 1963.

King's legacy takes many shapes. Next year, Whitaker plans to bring in a Vietnamese saxophonist and delve into King's opposition to the Vietnam War.

Childs' new piece is clearly about human trafficking, but he, too, is reaching for a meaning that transcends the subject matter at hand.

"I wanted to use human trafficking as kind of a springboard to make large statements," Childs said. "I painted a picture from the point of view of someone who has been trafficked to make statements about the loss and renewing of dignity."

To Olatuja, music is a deeply personal

art form with a unique potential to work on people from the inside.

"It has such a deep impact on our culture because it has such a deep impact on the individual," she said. "And the only way change can happen is on an individual level first, and then it becomes a collective experience."

"Billie Holiday's 'Strange Fruit' didn't end racism, but it sure woke a lot of people up," Sullivan said. "To this day, people find it a profound song. That's the kind of power some pieces have."

Working on "Do You Know My Name?" got Whitaker thinking about the Zulu greeting, "Sa wubona," meaning "I see you."

"That's the problem with all of this," Whitaker said. "The sex trade, labor trafficking for labor, black profiling — they don't see the person as a human being. For me, it's the issue of whether we choose to be humane or not and look at all people around the world as human beings."

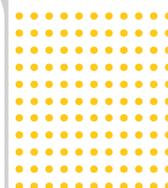
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ARTS & CULTURE

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MEMPHIS BOUND

Local musicians travel to compete in international blues competition

By TY FORQUER

A caravan of local musicians will pack up their gear and head south later this month to see how their blues chops stack up against the rest of the world.

Beale Street Bound

Fundraiser/send-off party
3-8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17
\$10/youth 16 and under
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The Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave.
(517) 482-6376,
greendoorlive.com

Two groups, the Twyla Birdsong Band and Stan & Ben, won the Capital Area Blues Society's Blues Brawl event in May, earning them a trip to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. The competition runs from Jan. 26 through Jan. 30 and has two categories, one for bands and the other for solo/duo acts.

The five-day, multi-site competition takes over several clubs and venues in Memphis' Beale Street Historic District. About 200 blues acts will take part in this year's competition, coming from all over the U.S. and Canada, as well as Australia, Europe and Asia.

"It's a concentrated dose of the blues," said Denise Lynch, president of the Capital Area Blues Society.

The competition is hosted by Memphis-based nonprofit the Blues Foundation, of which the Capital Area Blues Society is a local affiliate. The foundation boasts over 200 affiliate groups worldwide, and each group is eligible to send a band and a solo/duo act

to the International Blues Challenge. The foundation requires acts to win a regional competition, like the Blues Brawl, to be eligible.

Birdsong, 44, is making her third trip to the competition, but her first leading her own band.

"The first time, it was so intimidating because I didn't know what to expect," she said. "The second time, I was a little more open to see what it really is. It's a networking opportunity to talk to people from other countries and around the United States, to listen to their music and see what they're doing."

For Birdsong, those connections are invaluable.

"I still have friends that I met down there, and we collaborate on different things," she said.

Lynch, who will attend the competition this year, has traveled to the competition four times to support Lansing-area blues artists. She expects a crew of over 30 Lansing-area blues fans to make the trip, including family members of the bands and Capital Area Blues Society members.

One such traveler is Paul Rathbun, executive vice president of Rathbun insurance. While he doesn't know Birdsong personally, he heard about the competition through a friend and decided to help sponsor the band's trip to Memphis. He will be flying down with a crew of friends to attend the competition.

"I've always wanted to go to Memphis and I've always wanted to go to this competition," he said.

Rathbun said he normally tries to go somewhere warm in January, and the competition seemed like a good excuse to get down to Memphis. He hopes to see Sun Records and Gibson Guitar's Memphis factory, but he prefers to "travel loose" and keep his schedule open for interesting opportunities.

"We're for sure going to see the Lansing bands compete," he said. "That's our only concrete plan."

Lynch, who is in her first year serving as president of the Capital Area Blues Society, has been involved with the group for nearly a decade. She agrees that while



Photo by Jesse Tanner

Singer Twyla Birdsong is taking her band, the Twyla Birdsong Band, to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis later this month.

there are lucrative prizes for the winners — including studio time, magazine features, guaranteed gigs and cash prizes — the real value in the competition is the chance to connect with like-minded musicians and blues fans.

"You meet so many people and see so many good bands. You become family," she said. "You can go anywhere, and you're immediately part of this group."

Guitarist Stan Budzynski, one-half of duo Stan & Ben, is also making a return trip to the International Blues Challenge. Budzynski has competed in Memphis twice before, both times with his band, Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree. Part of the competition's appeal, he said, is the locale.

"It's a mecca for blues and early rock 'n' roll," he said. "It's steeped into the culture of the city."

Budzynski's duo partner, however, is competing in Memphis for the first time. Ben Hall, coordinator of East Lansing's Summer Solstice Jazz Festival and music coordinator for the East Lansing Art Festival, is the duo's singer and also plays harmonica and ukulele. He's not planning on taking home any major prizes at this year's event.

"I'm just looking forward to taking in the

festival," he said. "I'm not placing any expectations on it."

While Budzynski, 63, and Hall, 41, have played music together for years, they formalized their duo just months before the Blues Brawl competition.

"It was something I had been thinking about for a while," Hall said. "We had done some open mics together, and I've sat in with his band."

The duo's sound, Budzynski said, comes from the meshing of the two musicians' styles. While Budzynski describes his influences as "old school" blues and classic rock, he admits that Hall — the younger of the two — is into even older music.

"His influences go back even further. It's almost a Tin Pan Alley sound," Budzynski said. "But he does rock and blues too. He's a chameleon."

Hall has been playing blues music for over 20 years, but his wide-ranging musical career includes stints as a professional opera singer and a line dancer. Going to a major blues competition is one more notch in his musical belt.

"I want to have as many musical experiences as possible," Hall said. "I want to be well-rounded."

While Hall is just hoping to soak up the scene in Memphis, Birdsong is looking to make some noise. Her band includes Lansing scene stalwarts like drummer Clarence "Boonie" Dottery and Steve "Frog" Forgey.

"This year I'm going with a great group of guys. I feel really good about our chances down there," she said.

Capital Area Blues Society hosts a fundraiser for the groups Sunday at the Green Door. While the society kicks in some money to help with expenses, the musicians are tasked with raising most of the funds for the trip. Sunday's event is the third fundraiser for the trip; the first two were organized by the musicians.

"We've had great attendance," Hall said of the previous fundraisers. "People have really dug down deep."

This is no surprise to Lynch, who is expecting a good turnout at Sunday's event.

"I think Lansing has a phenomenal music community," she said. "There's a core group who are very supportive, the hardcore music lovers that come out to everything."



Courtesy photo

Stan & Ben, a local blues duo formed earlier this year, earned a spot in this year's International Blues Challenge.

CURTAIN CALL

History repeating ‘All My Sons’ a grim reminder of war’s toll

By TOM HELMA

“All My Sons”

Riverwalk Theatre Co.
7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14;
8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15 and
Saturday, Jan. 16; 2 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 17;
\$10/\$8 seniors, students
and military Thursday;
\$15/\$12 seniors, students
and military Friday-Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive,
Lansing
(517) 482-5700,
riverwalktheatre.com

Middle East, North Korea’s alleged H-bomb testing and the unpredictable President Putin in charge over in Russia, it’s a perfect moment for Riverwalk Theatre Co. to resurrect Arthur Miller’s “All My Sons,” a powerful and grim reminder of the darker aspects of war.

The play be-

gins innocently enough. The setting, the backyard of Joe and Kate Keller (Michael Hays and Eve Davidson), evokes late-‘40s small town Americana, just after the end of World War II. Set designer Leroy Cupp’s picture-perfect postcard of a set draws the audience in. It has an intimacy of its own, separate from the action that is about to unfold.

The Kellers’ eldest son, Larry, never returned from the war. Further complicating matters, Joe and his business partner have been charged with knowingly selling defective airplane parts to the U.S. Army, resulting in the deaths of 21 American pilots. The business partner is in prison, but Joe has returned home after a short jail spell, having been exonerated by the court. And then a darker side of the plot unfolds.

Midway through the first act, George Deever (Joe Dickson), the son of the busi-

ness partner, arrives, alleging that Joe was complicit in the cover-up of the defective airplane parts. Dickson’s presence ramps up the story’s tension. Suddenly, there is a bristling, angry electricity present between his character and the Keller’s adult son, Chris (Jeff Magnuson). The play really comes alive in this scene, and the energy continues through the second act.

Dickson’s role is significant and sets the tone for the rest of the play. Magnuson, Hays and Davidson, as the ill-fated Kellers, work through a range of complex emotions — agitated pain, emotional suffering and explosive anger.

Kate Keller’s desperately brave and brittle denial of her son’s death is at the heart this conflict, and Davidson shines in this role. Hays’ edgy portrayal of Joe — as we learn of his business practices and his role in the cover up — shows a desperate conflict between pragmatic business decisions and personal morality.

Chris clearly loves his father, yet is torn apart as he learns of the cover-up. Magnuson manages to look physically sick as the character struggles with his divided feelings. There is an intense moment on the stage where these conflicts between father and son become visceral — and violently physical.

This revelatory exposition is staged with a dynamic rhythmic tension that crackles and sizzles. The audience became silent, as if everyone had stopped breathing. Kudos to director Bob Robinson, who has balanced actor against actor to great dramatic effect.

The modern relevance of Miller’s play is palpable. The war hawks are circling once again, ready to swoop into Syria and other global hotspots, while others are acutely aware that corporations like Halliburton stand to make huge profits from this course of action.

Will history repeat itself? Will we factor in the lessons of the past as we deal with our global neighbors? Only time will tell.

Review



Photo by LukeAnthony Photography

Kate (Eve Davidson, left) and Chris Keller (Jeff Magnuson) deal with the aftermath of World War II in “All My Sons” at Riverwalk Theatre Co.

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Courtesy photo

Canadian band Chic Gamine (left to right: Alexa Dirks, Benoit Morier, Annick Bremault, Andrina Turenne and Sacha Daoud) brings its eclectic sound to Wharton Center Jan. 21.

Montreal meets Motown

Chic Gamine brings global soul sound to the Wharton Center

By TY FORQUER

When talking about mixing musical cultures, writers are often drawn to metaphors of gumbos or stews. That doesn't seem appropriate for global soul outfit Chic Gamine, which hails from Winnipeg and Montreal. Perhaps a better option is the classic Canadian comfort food, poutine. You can think of Chic Gamine's sound as a dense layer of Motown, slathered with rich French Canadian folk and sprinkled with South American rhythm.

The band began in 2007 as a quasi-cappella group — a quartet of female vocalists backed by a single drummer. The band's unique sound, Motown-esque soul peppered with French-Canadian folk and world music influences, earned performances at Canada's premier folk and jazz festivals and opening slots for singers like Mavis Staples and Smokey Robinson.

The founding lineup, vocalists Andrina Turenne, Alexa Dirks, Annick Bremault and Ariane Jean backed by drummer Sacha Daoud, composed the band until 2014. That year, Jean left the band for personal reasons, and the band added guitarist/bassist Benoit Morier to the mix. The singers also began playing instruments, adding guitars, keyboards and extra percussion into the band's sound.

"In the beginning, we always had to rely on the harmonies to make the sound as thick as possible, and now we don't need to, so it permits the girls to do these other things with their voices," Daoud said.

This version of the band is featured on its latest album, "Light a Match," which was

released in October. The band's website describes the release as showing an "amped-up, fleshed out side of Chic Gamine."

"Now that there's an accompaniment aspect, and the girls are playing all these instruments, it really changed the sound," Daoud said. "It took it out of the folk realm and brought it more into a more pop place. You can hear the voices — they're still very prominent — but the background is a bit heavier than it used to be."

The bands multi-singer approach has earned it comparisons to classic Motown girl groups like the Supremes. Part of the group's signature sound lies in this three-headed vocal approach.

"I think what defines the band still is the fact that there's no true lead singer in the band," he said. "Usually with bands, you identify a bandleader or a lead vocalist. Even the Supremes had the two girls in the back and Diana Ross in the front. I think in this band, it's interesting to see how they really pass the ball. The girls take turns leading different songs and co-writing them."

The band's name references both its girl-group roots and its French Canadian/American pop crossover.

"Since most of the band members were of a French (Canadian) background, initially, we thought about finding a name where the words within the name existed in French and in English," Daoud explained.

The French word "chic," which means hip or stylish, has been absorbed into the English language. "Gamine," a French word for a mischievous young girl, is often used in English to describe a boyish yet elegant style often associated with actress Audrey Hepburn.

The band's upcoming slate of performances includes a Jan. 21 stop at the Wharton Center and a Jan. 22 show at the City Opera House in Traverse City. While Daoud finds playing shows in Canada and the U.S. quite similar, there's one thing that he loves about touring in the U.S. — less time in the tour bus.

"Canada is a big country, but it has a smaller population. Distances between urban centers are quite huge," Daoud said. "In the U.S. you can tour in a different fashion. There's less traveling between important cities."

Double wide 'Trailer Park Boys' duo hits Lansing

By RICH TUPICA

Back in 2001, John Dunsworth landed the television role of Mr. Lahey, a disgraced bisexual police officer turned belligerent, perpetually sloshed trailer-park supervisor with something to prove. An accomplished theater and film actor in his native Nova Scotia, Dunsworth, 69, figured his stint on Canadian mockumentary "Trailer Park Boys" would be a short-term acting gig, just another notch on his belt.

Randy and Mr. Lahey of "Trailer Park Boys"

With Roial Improv Players

7 p.m. Saturday,

Jan. 16

\$25/\$20 adv./\$50 VIP

The Loft

414 E. Michigan

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(517) 931-0103,

theloftlansing.com

"The first season of 'Trailer Park Boys' was shot at a real trailer park an hour away from my home," Dunsworth recalled. "Then the owners of the trailer park saw the series and asked us not to come back. They thought we were a little too raw."

The show, which debuts its 10th season later this year via Netflix, is known for its outlandishly dark humor. It quickly developed a cult following thanks to its odd-ball cast of characters, including a pack of weed-peddling Sunnyvale Trailer Park hoodlums: Ricky (Robb Wells), Julian (John Paul Tremblay) and Bubbles (Mike Smith). A bulk of each season centers on Mr. Lahey chasing down the trio of goof-ball criminals and their sordid associates.

"The first season was a lot of fun," Dunsworth said. "I had no idea we'd be going on and doing more. But it caught on, and



Courtesy Photo

John Dunsworth (left) and Patrick Roach bring their "Trailer Park Boys" characters, Mr. Lahey and Randy, to the Loft Saturday night.

now we're in the 10th season. I don't do demographics, but every year it seems more and more people all over the world are tuning in."

But Mr. Lahey's not in it alone. By his side is assistant trailer park supervisor Randy (Patrick Roach). An ex-prostitute, Randy is Lahey's faithful sidekick/lover, known for his signature beer belly and severe cheeseburger addiction. The pair's tumultuous, drunken romance has been the catalyst of many "Trailer Park Boys" plots — and has earned them their own zealous following.

"The show is irreverent. It's a lot of fun, and people who love it love it a lot," Dunsworth said. "I can walk down the street in Montreal with my fur hat on and coat zipped up to my neck and people will still go, 'Lahey, Is that you?'"

The growing fandom led to a touring two-man live show featuring Dunsworth and Roach, both fully in character. The Randy and Mr. Lahey show, which stops Saturday at the Loft, is now in its eighth year. Silly and crass, it features a string of skits, songs and audience participation bits. The live show is loosely based on the television series, but it leans more toward a twisted, alcohol-fueled variety show.

"It's like being in a traveling rock band. I feel like I'm a fish out of water sometimes," Dunsworth said. "The live show is a bunch of tomfoolery. We're in character and doing our thing."

As for how he originally channeled the drunken personality of his now iconic character, Dunsworth said the show's creator was pivotal in the creation of the eternally inebriated Mr. Lahey.

"Mike Clattenburg was a masterful director," Dunsworth said. "He used to tell me, 'Give me six on the drunk and four on the angry.'"

While the show's reputation has grown over the years, it's still shot in Nova Scotia, a convenient location for Dunsworth.

"I am the luckiest actor in the world because I get to do most of my work near home," Dunsworth said. "It's a two-hour drive to the set of 'Trailer Park Boys.'"

And when he's not acting or touring as Mr. Lahey, he keeps busy with other network gigs.

"I'm also in two other series," he said. "One is on SyFy; it's called 'Haven.' We had William Shatner as a guest star this year. The other one is 'Forgive Me.' I play a Catholic priest. That's a wonderful, intelligent show — a real joy to do."

As for the few hours he has free from acting, he devotes that time to his family and other forms of artistry.

"I'm married and have four kids. They're all grown," he said. "I live on the Atlantic Ocean and like boating quite a bit. I also do stonework; that's my hobby. I like building things. I drive to the quarry in my 1987 Ford 250 with a hydraulic lift on the back and I buy handpicked stone. I load it on, take it home and glue it together with cement. It's going to be there long after I'm gone."

Remembering King

Robert Green reflects on decades of civil rights activism

By BILL CASTANIER

In a date book kept by civil rights leader and former MSU Professor Robert L. Green, a simple note, dated April 4, 1968, brings back a flood of memories. The entry reads, “MLK shot and killed.”

Robert L. Green

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“I know exactly where I was,” Green said. “I was at 221 Durand St. (in East Lansing), shaving and getting ready to go out to dinner, when Mrs. King called me.”

The conversation was short and to the point. King’s wife, Coretta Scott King, told him, “Dr. King has been shot.” He asked her how serious it was, but she didn’t know yet. About 20 minutes later, he learned King had died.

“I was dumbfounded,” he said. “Then, I was still.”

Stories like this are at the core of Green’s new memoir, “At the Crossroads of Fear and Freedom: The Fight for Social and Educational Justice,” recently released by the Michigan State University Press.

Green, 82, earned a doctorate from MSU in 1965 and later served as dean of the College of Urban Development. He returns to the Lansing area next week for a string of Martin Luther King Jr. Day events. His friend Andrew Young addresses Lansing’s 31st annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday luncheon at the Lansing Center on Monday. Later, the two activists will travel to Jackson where they will address 1,000 prisoners.

Tuesday evening, Green will join the Historical Society of Greater Lansing for a book signing and discussion at the Capital Area District Library’s downtown branch.



Courtesy photo

Civil rights leaders Robert L. Green (left) and Andrew Young, pictured here at a 2013 Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce scholarship event in Detroit, will be in Lansing next week to participate in a string of Martin Luther King Jr. Day events.

East Lansing is where Green began his career in the civil rights and anti-war movements. He learned early on about racial injustice when he was unable to buy a house in the city due to racial exclusionary clauses.

Green became very active in East Lansing’s open housing debate in 1965, and even served on the city’s Open Housing Commission. But that did not keep him from joining demonstrators when talks stalled. His good friend John Duley, a

former chaplain and minister at MSU, plays an important role in the book. Green and Duley, along with Duley’s spouse, Betty, and local minister Truman Morrison, fought against East Lansing’s well-established housing discrimination practices.

Green writes of local Realtor Walter Neller confronting him in his home and of then-MSU President John Hannah offering to buy him a house to sidestep the problem. Green declined the offer.

Despite significant advances in civil rights, Green still sees de facto housing discrimination as minorities are pushed to poor neighborhoods.

“The fight is not over,” he said. “We need more John Duleys. In fact, we need more Bob Greens.”

Later that same year, a momentous occasion would take Green’s life in an unexpected direction.

As one of the leaders of social activism on campus, Green was selected to accompany King, who had been invited to campus to help raise funds for MSU’s Student Educational Project. The program sent students and faculty to Rust College in Mississippi to provide tutoring services.

Green had first met King while a student at San Francisco State University. They had kept in touch, so Green was quite familiar with the dynamic leader. But he did not expect King to say to him, “Brother Green, you ought to join us in the struggle.”

On the trip back to the airport, King repeated his request, “You ought to consider working with us in the South.” Green agreed, and he soon found himself

in the heart of the tumultuous civil rights movement.

Green served as education director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and he would ultimately go on to become a consultant on major school desegregation cases across the country.

“King believed that education was central to the civil rights movement,” Green said.

In one of the most interesting passages in the book, Green describes taking over leadership of the traumatic March Against Fear after the march’s leader, James Meredith, was shot on the first day. Later, Green writes about being a pall bearer at King’s funeral. After all of these experiences, Green still traces the roots of his activism to MSU.

“I look back and I was always for pressing for social change,” Green said. “I always felt that MSU was a place you could fight and people there would help.”

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OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Allison at (517) 999-5066.

Wednesday, January 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Finance 101. Bank representative outlines saving, budgeting, investing and more. 6-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster, 200 N. Foster St., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

H.E.R.O. Special DIY Kitchen Class #2: Installing Vinyl Flooring. Home improvement course. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

Aux Petits Soins. French immersion class for ages 0-12. See web for specific times for each age group. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Computer Club. Discuss technology questions with an expert in a group setting. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

EVENTS

After School Movie. Popcorn and a movie, recommended for kids ages 8 and up. 3-4:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324, cadl.org.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington St., Lansing. (517) 351-5866, lmc.info
Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

Open Workshop. Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.

Allen Street Farmers Market - Indoors. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Line Dancing. Basic steps and rhythms taught. 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$10/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Restorative (Chair) Yoga and Meditation. Course to relax the body and mind. 3-4:15 p.m. \$10/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 706-5045,

See Out on the Town, Page 20

Bewitchingly funny



Courtesy Photo

Comedy Coven (left to right: Stephanie Onderchanin, Tricia Chamberlain and Emily Syrja) presents its latest occult-themed comedy show Tuesday at the Robin Theatre.

January 19

Lansing's occult-themed comedy show, Comedy Coven, is gearing up for its one-year anniversary next month. The group, comprises local comedians Emily Syrja, Stephanie Onderchanin and Tricia Chamberlain, is presenting its 11th comedy variety show, "Comedy Coven XI: The Persistence of Mammary," Tuesday evening.

"We are really excited for this show," Onderchanin said. "The show that we'll be doing for the one-year (anniversary) in February is really great too."

The shows a series of just-about-monthly events that combine sketches and stand-up routines. The trio writes a few new sketches for each show and often invites friends to join them on stage. The group performed its first show at Syrja's house in February 2015.

"We started out by casually hanging out," said Syrja, "From those hangouts came the idea of putting on shows."

Since then, the low-key gatherings have grown into a semi-regular series of shows with a

growing following. Tuesday they take the stage at a venue that has become a sort of "home base," the Robin Theatre. The theater, which opened in REO Town in August, has hosted Comedy Coven's past five shows.

As the group's name suggests, much of its humor is built around a particular occult theme: witchcraft.

"A lot of sketches play off the idea that we're witches," said Onderchanin on the origin of the theme. "It was a joke about our personalities that we embraced."

"I think that it speaks to how, overall, our themes are more subversive," Chamberlain added. "We're just a little off-beat."

The three were unanimous on how to describe their comedic style, if they had to pick just one word: "Weird."

While coven alludes to a band of witches, the group said it also implies a sense of sisterhood.

"Female friendship is often defined as if you are competing with each other, and we three women don't have that sense of

competition," said Onderchanin. "As a group, we are greater than the sum of our parts. It's a harmonious, collaborative relationship."

The group's name also plays off of gender perceptions and expectations.

"When a group of women becomes very powerful, there's this idea that they're somehow exclusive," Onderchanin said. "We decided to own that and consider ourselves a coven."

The witty witches consider their comedy to be a little off-beat, and they welcome others who share a skewed perspective on the world.

"There are a lot of people who say they don't like comedy, or that they haven't found comedy for them," said Onderchanin. "As people who also didn't think there was comedy for them, we want to invite them to our show."

Comedy Coven XI: The Persistence of Mammary

7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19
\$10/\$7 adv.
Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington
Ave., Lansing
facebook.com/comedycoven

— ALLISON HAMMERLY

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

'LEATHER & LACE' GOTH AT THE AVENUE

Thursday, Jan. 14 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, \$3, 9 p.m.



For those looking to escape the perils of perky pop drivel, Leather & Lace, The Avenue Café's monthly Goth night, is the gloomiest ticket in town. Aside from absinthe specials, DJs Loren Pudvay and Cattie Jensen deliver shadowy sets of spooky tunes. "There's some post-punk, synth-pop, death rock and industrial," Pudvay said. Expect to hear some Nick Cave, Depeche Mode, KMFDM, Skinny Puppy and Ministry. "The vibe is light and fun amid a dark, spooky atmosphere – and the dance floor is always crowded," Pudvay said. "Put on some eyeliner and your finest funeral attire and get into the morbid spirit." As for the crowd, Jensen said it's diverse. "It's a mix between locals who just want to dress up and dance to music rarely played at clubs," she said, "and people in the Goth scene, coming as far away as Detroit and Muskegon."

THUR. JAN 14TH

BOBBY KNUCKLEZ AT MAC'S BAR

Saturday, Jan. 16 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15, \$10 adv., 8 p.m.



Local rapper Bobby Knucklez headlines Saturday at Mac's Bar, openers are Asylum Insane, Faultered Step and Amani Crush. The all-ages show is the annual fundraiser for Kick it Out Dance Studio. Knucklez kept busy in 2015, warming up stages for a string of big names. "Last year I did approximately 25 shows," he said. "The highlights would definitely be opening for Tech N9ne, Snoop and Wale at Common Ground and performing at the 16th Annual Gathering of the Juggalos." This year, fans can expect a few new releases. One is a new Off-Course Hooliganz LP, the record, "White Trash Famous," is a joint project with Str8jaket. Another joint effort, this one with JR of BadInfluence, drops later this year. A solo Bobby Knucklez EP, "Keep 'Em Hatin'/The Return of Mazerati" hits this summer.

SAT. JAN 16TH

Bobby Knucklez

BILLY STRINGS & DON JULIN AT THE TEN POUND FIDDLE

Friday, Jan. 15 @ the Ten Pound Fiddle – Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing. \$18, \$15 members, \$5 students. 7:30 p.m.



Billy Strings and Don Julin play their final East Lansing show as a duo Friday at the Ten Pound Fiddle concert series. The Traverse City-based folk/bluegrass duo, known for its intense brand of mountain music, announced in November that it's parting ways after two years of rigorous touring – though they're finishing out their last run of scheduled performances. Strings' departure comes on the heels of his move to Nashville, where the lightning-fast guitarist will focus on his solo career. Julin, the mandolinist, will stay in Michigan and continue teaching mandolin and focusing on future projects. Strings (real name William Apostol) was praised by the Northern Express, which praised his ability to "sling hundreds of notes with razor-crisp precision at the speed of a machine gun."

FRI. JAN. 15TH

Billy Strings and Don Julin

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT RICH TUPICA AT RICH@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM >>> TO BE LISTED IN LIVE & LOCAL E-MAIL ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Leather and Lace Goth Night, 9 p.m.	The Stick Arounds, 8 p.m.	Nightmare After Christmas, 9 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.				Chip Christy, 8 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Scott Seth, 8 p.m.	Alistar, 8 p.m.
Brookshire, 205 W. Church St.			Rachel Curtis, 7 p.m.	
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Rush Clement, 8:30 p.m.	Grant Hendrickson, 8:30 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.		Young Guns, 9 p.m.	
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Donald Benjamin, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Darb's, 117 S. Cedar St.				The Tenants, 9:30 p.m.
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Rd.			The Cheap Dates, 10 p.m.	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.		Third Degree, 9 p.m.	Third Degree, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 7 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.	The Hot Mess, 9:30 p.m.	Well Enough Alone, 9:30 p.m.
Gallery Brewery, 143 Kent St.		Open Mic, 7 p.m.		Chris Lasko, 7 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Star Farm, 9:30 p.m.	Mix Pack, 9:30 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.			Alistar Bereen, 5:30 p.m.	
Leroys, 1526 S. Cedar St.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Olivia Mainville & Aquatic Troupe, 8 p.m.	O106 Homegrown Throwdown, 6:30 p.m.	Trailer Park Boys, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		7 Minutes in Heaven, 8 p.m.	Austen Reno, 5 p.m.	Bobby Knucklez, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Jo Serrapere & the Willie Dunns, 9 p.m.	Second Nature, 9 p.m.	Those Delta Rhythm Kings, 9 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road				Kathy Ford, 7 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.			Life Support, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.				New Rule, 7 p.m.
The Roadhouse, 70 W. Grand Ledge Hwy.			Blind Ambition, 9:30 p.m.	Blind Ambition, 9:30 p.m.
Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Sq.	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.	Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.		The Third Degree, 9 p.m.	The Third Degree, 9 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill, 5965 Marsh Rd.	Mark Sala, 7 p.m.		Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel, 410 S. Clippert St.				Gunnar & The Grizzly Boys, 10:30 p.m.

Out on the town

from page 18

meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Table Tennis. Improve health and hand-eye coordination. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Senior Discovery @ ANC. Zentangle Part 2 with Jane Reiter. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Thursday, January 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Celebrate Recovery. For all types of hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing. (517) 492-1866.

EFT Tapping; Group Sessions. Sessions using

the Emotional Freedom Technique. 10 a.m.-noon. \$35/\$25 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Hearing Screenings. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675, quanamtemple.org.

Starting a Business. Business planning course. Call to register. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcnichigan.org.

MUSIC

Music at the Mansion. Circulo Trio debuts new classical piece. 7 p.m. \$10. Turner-Dodge House, 100 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220.

Open Mic @ The Colonial Bar & Grill. Weekly bring-your-own instrument open mic. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. The Colonial Bar & Grille, 3425 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 882-6132.

Stockbridge High School Jazz Band. Student

musicians perform fun jazz tunes. 7-7:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Stockbridge, 200 Wood St., Stockbridge.

THEATER

All My Sons. Post-WWII drama by Arthur Miller. 7 p.m. \$10/\$8 students and seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

EVENTS

Kids Reading to Dogs. Kids read to specially trained dogs. 4-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324, cadl.org.

Ladies Figure Skating. Lessons and practice. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5/\$2 skate rental. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 574-4380, ladiessilverblades.com.

Lansing Neighborhood Council Open House. Resources for improving neighborhood organizations. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Elmhurst Elementary School, 2400 Pattengill Ave., Lansing. (517) 394-3996, lansingneighborhoods.org.

Lunch @ MSC. Call ahead to reserve meal. Noon-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested donation for ages 60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Friday, January 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aux Petits Soins. French immersion class for ages 0-12. See web for specific times for each age group. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Mud And Mug. Pottery workshop. Guests welcome to bring food and drink. 7-10 p.m. \$25. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave. Lansing., reachstudioart.org.

MUSIC

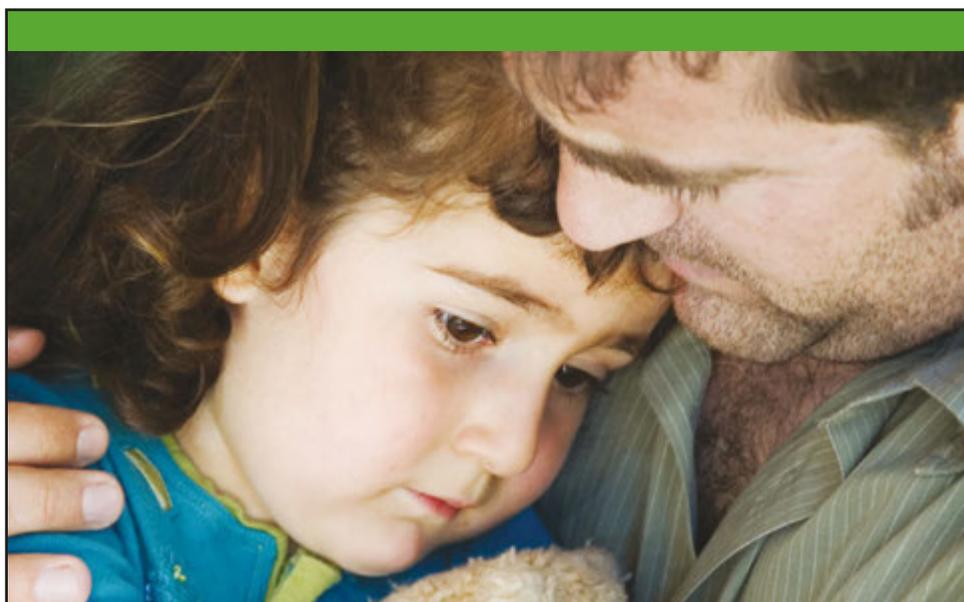
MSU Faculty Recital: Richard Sherman, flute. 8-9:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Cook Recital Hall, MSU Music Building, 333 West Circle Drive, East Lansing.

EVENTS

Game Day. Games with Okemos students. 3-4 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Kids Skate. 6-8 p.m. for ages 13 and under; 8-11

See Out on the Town, Page 20



Are you in jeopardy of losing your home?

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing wants you to know there may be help.

Go to

www.HoldOnToYourHome.org

to see a property tax foreclosure listing. If you or someone you know is on that list, the Ingham County Treasurer's office can direct you to resources that could help.

HOLD ON TO YOUR HOME
HOLDONTOYOURHOME.ORG

517-676-7220

WEDNESDAY, JAN 13 >> R.J. FOX AT SCHULER BOOKS AND MUSIC

The title of Ann Arbor author R.J. Fox's first book, "Love & Vodka: My Surreal Adventures in Ukraine," only hints at its volatile and hilarious content. Fox's memoir about finding love — and lots of vodka — in Ukraine is a beautiful study in and cross-cultural and socio-economic differences between the U.S. and the former Soviet state. Fox will discuss the book and his travels tonight at Schuler Books & Music's Okemos location. After a serendipitous first meeting with his future wife, Fox set out on an international voyage with an engagement ring in hand. Along the way he had to deal with his desired bride's family and the realities of living in Ukraine, where the only thing that seemed to work well is the distilling industry. "Love and Vodka" is published by Fish Out of Water Books, a new Ann Arbor press specializing in true life stories. 7 p.m. FREE Schuler Books & Music (Meridian Mall location), 1982 Grand River Drive, Okemos. (517) 349-8840, schulerbooks.com.

THURSDAY, JAN. 14 >> CIRCULO TRIO MUSIC IN THE MANSION

The Turner-Dodge House's salon-style concert series, Music at the Mansion, continues Thursday with the world premiere of Paolo Marchettini's "Trio In Four Movements," performed by Circulo Trio. The trio, which formed in December 2014, comprises MSU College of Music graduate students Tanyawat Dilokkunanant on clarinet, Lia Wang on piano and violinist Hayne Kim. The concert will also feature two 20th century landmark works, Darius Milhaud's "Suite" and Igor Stravinsky's "Histoire Du Soldat." 7 p.m. \$10. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North Street, Lansing. (517) 483-4220, lansingmi.gov/tdodge.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15 >> DREW NELSON AT THE BROAD ART MUSEUM

Get your lunch with a side of American roots music as East Lansing's Pump House Concerts presents veteran folk artist Drew Nelson. A songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, Nelson has traveled the globe opening for rock and folk artists like Melissa Etheridge and Josh White Jr. He performs an Acoustic Lunch set at the Broad Art Museum Friday; attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch to enjoy during the performance. 12:30 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing.

Out on the town

from page 20

p.m. for ages 14 and up. \$8. Skate City Roller Rink, 905 Southland Ave., Lansing. (517) 894-8429.

Mystery in the Library. Ages 11-18 solve live-action murder mystery puzzle. Call or register online. 6-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088.

Peckham, Inc Hiring Event. Apparel jobs open house. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Peckham, Inc, 3510 Capitol City Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-4000, peckham.org.

TGIF Party. Dance party. 8 p.m.-midnight. \$13. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Road, Bath.

Opening Reception: One New Day. Opening of show with artist Megan Hildebrant. 5-8 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. micagallery.org.

THEATER

The Boys Next Door. Heartfelt tale about four men living with disabilities. 8 p.m. \$15/\$13.50 students and seniors/\$7.50 kids. Lebosky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. owossoplayers.com.

All My Sons. Post-WWII drama by Arthur Miller. 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 students and seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Saturday, January 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aux Petits Soins. French immersion class for ages 0-12. See web for specific times for each age group. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Cross Country Ski Class. Ski rentals available, must be reserved ahead of time. 9:30-11:30 a.m. \$15/\$20 with ski rental. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. meridian.mi.us.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15 >> "INDIRECT MESSAGING" AT THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER LANSING

How much can one say in a text message? How much meaning do those small words on screen convey, stripped of voice and human expression? Artist Britta Urness explores these questions and more in her exhibit, "Indirect Messaging," opening this weekend at the Arts Council of Greater Lansing in Old Town. Urness, the council's January exhibiting member artist, presents a series of textured prints that explore themes of conversation and communication in the digital age. The exhibit opens with a Friday reception; the artist will be in attendance to answer questions and meet viewers. Light refreshments will be served. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Arts Council of Greater Lansing, 1208 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 372-4636, lansingarts.org.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15 >> 'BIGMOUTH' AT THE WHARTON CENTER

Valentijn Dhaenens' innovative stage show, "Bigmouth," explores the manipulative power of words. The Belgian artist weaves together snippets of speeches by Socrates, Osama bin Laden, Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy and other historical figures in a dramatic presentation. Dhaenens examines speeches that have been used to start wars, praise the dead and move nations. A preview talk by Lisa Biggs, professor in MSU's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, is presented at 7:15 p.m. in the Christman Lounge, and a moderated chat with Dhaenens follows the performance. 8 p.m. \$45/\$15 students. Pasant Theatre, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

SUDOKU

ADVANCED

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

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 22

Lansing Area Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Support Group. Info and support for MS patients. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 393-9747.

Tai Chi at Allen Market Place. Instruction in Qigong, meditation and Yang style tai chi forms. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

MUSIC

MSU Guest Recital: Michael Heald, violin, and Timothy Lovelace, piano. 8-9:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Cook Recital Hall, MSU Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/WOKjl.

Whoa, Nelly! Rides Again @ Red Cedar Spirits. Americana, roots, blues, country, folk and gospel tunes. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Red Cedar Spirits, 2000

See Out on the Town, Page 22

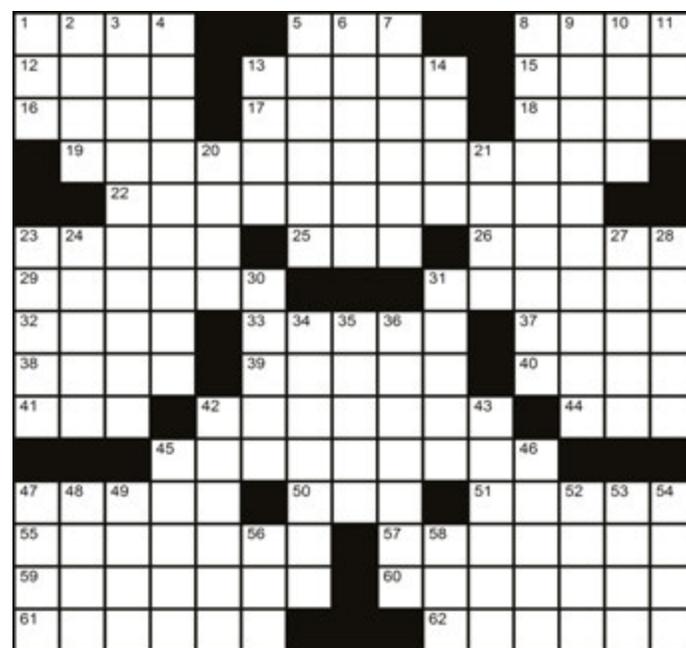
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Worst of Pop Culture, 2015"—a year to remember.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Muppet with an orange nose
- 5 Certain physical measurement, for short
- 8 "___ first you don't succeed ..."
- 12 Short, shrill sound
- 13 ___ fro
- 15 "___ arigato, Mr. Roboto"
- 16 Poultry herb
- 17 Nomadic mob
- 18 Class with graphs, for short
- 19 2015 superhero film reboot with a 9% score on Rotten Tomatoes
- 22 Iggy Azalea/Britney Spears collaboration, listed on Entertainment Weekly's Worst Singles of 2015
- 23 "Mission: Impossible" character Hunt
- 25 "Full," at a theater
- 26 Hatha and bikram, for two
- 29 Weather map lines
- 31 Get hold of again
- 32 Feline tooth
- 33 President who's thanked a lot?
- 37 College in New Rochelle, New York
- 38 "Oh, yeah!"
- 39 Santa-tracking defense gp.
- 40 Paper wounds
- 41 Canadian vocal tics that aren't as commonplace as Americans think
- 42 Doesn't say



- 44 Little ___ ("Languages for Kids" learning series)
- 45 Short-lived Rain Wilson cop show, listed on Yahoo's Worst TV Shows of 2015
- 47 Change places with one's wrestling teammate
- 50 ___ of Sauron
- 51 Seafood selections
- 55 Power shake need
- 57 Rooster's morning perch
- 59 Choir
- 60 Mix it up (var.)
- 61 2015 Adam Sandler movie that got an epic ten-minute review/rant from "MovieBob Reviews" on YouTube
- 62 Much-maligned 2015 reality show which put contestant couples in the titular enclosure (later to be inter-

- viewed by therapists)
- Down**
- 1 Some CDs
- 2 Nissan hybrid
- 3 Cones of non-silence?
- 4 Cattle site
- 5 Gives a leg up to
- 6 Sacrificial figure
- 7 Part of Roy G. Biv
- 8 Visionary
- 9 Market research panel
- 10 Love, in Xochimilco
- 11 Massive quantity
- 13 "Yeah, about ___ ..."
- 14 Prefix meaning "one-tenth"
- 20 It's designed to stay up all night
- 21 "Punky Brewster" star Soleil Moon
- 23 Trinket in "The Hunger Games"
- 24 Totally destroy
- 27 "___ a stinker?" (Bugs Bunny catch-

- phrase)
- 28 Back twinge
- 30 Hedgehog of Sega fame
- 31 "M*A*S*H" character
- 34 Nutsoid
- 35 Like craft shows
- 36 High degree
- 42 "Messiah" composer
- 43 In the future
- 45 Go nuts with a whole season, e.g.
- 46 "Fantastic" character in a Roald Dahl novel
- 47 1/16 of a cup, briefly
- 48 Et ___ (and others)
- 49 Baby boomer followers
- 52 Get from ___ (make progress)
- 53 Doofus
- 54 Glasses, in comic book ads
- 56 Hosp. locations
- 58 Cries of surprise

Out on the town

from page 21

Merritt Road, East Lansing. whoanelly.org.

EVENTS

CADL Adventurer's Role Playing Game Club. Ages 13-18 embark on creative RPG adventure. Call or register online. 2-4 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088, cadl.org.

Ladies Night Out. Vendors, massages, refreshments and door prizes. 6-9 p.m. \$12/\$10 adv. Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath. (517) 641-6728.

Meet Author/Illustrator Ruth McNally Barshaw. Author helps kids write and sketch. Call to register. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324, cadl.org.

Mobile Food Pantry. Food for those in need. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Tabernacle of David Church, 2645 W. Holmes Road, Lansing.

Puppet-making Workshop. Puppet crafts made from a variety of materials followed by puppet show. 11 a.m.-noon FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511.

THEATER

All My Sons. Post-WWII drama by Arthur Miller. 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 students and seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

The Boys Next Door. Heartfelt tale about four men living with disabilities. 8 p.m. \$15/\$13.50 students and seniors/\$7.50 kids. Lebosky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. owossoplayers.com.

Sunday, January 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Charlotte Yoga Club. Beginner to intermediate levels. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Road, Charlotte. (517) 285-0138, charlottetoyoga.net.

Perfect Little Planet. Planetarium show. 2 p.m. \$4/\$3.50 students and seniors/\$3 children. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676, abramsplanetarium.org.

EVENTS

Free Public Tours. 1 and 3 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons 6-6:45 p.m., dance 6:45. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Swiss Steak Dinner. Meal in a family-friendly atmosphere. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. \$10/\$4 kids. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-6330, liederkrantzclub.org.

THEATER

All My Sons. Post-WWII drama by Arthur Miller. 2 p.m. \$15/\$12 students and seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

The Boys Next Door. Heartfelt tale about four men living with disabilities. 3 p.m. \$15/\$13.50 students and seniors/\$7.50 kids. Lebosky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. owossoplayers.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 24

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsy

Jan. 13-19

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You love autonomy. You specialize in getting the freedom and sovereignty you require. You are naturally skilled at securing your independence from influences that might constrain your imagination and limit your self-expression. But here's a sticking point: If you want the power to help shape group processes, you must give up some of your autonomy. In order to motivate allies to work toward shared goals, you need to practice the art of interdependence. The next test of your ability to do this is coming right up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Nothing is really work unless you'd rather be doing something else." So said Taurus writer James M. Barrie (1860-1937), who created the Peter Pan stories. Your challenge and invitation in the coming months is to increase the amount of time you spend that does not qualify as work. In fact, why don't you see how much and how often you can indulge in outright play? There'll be no better way to attract grace and generate good fortune.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Here's my proposal: Get in touch with your madness. And don't tell me you have no madness. We all do. But listen: When I use the word "madness," I don't mean howling rage, hurtful lunacy, or out-of-control misbehavior. I'm calling on the experimental part of you that isn't always polite and reasonable; the exuberant rebel who is attracted to wild truths rather than calming lies; the imaginative seeker who pines for adventures on the frontiers of your understanding. Now is an excellent time to tap into your inner maverick.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Here's an excerpt from Doriane Laux's poem "Antilamentation": "Regret nothing. Not the cruel novels you read to the end just to find out who killed the cook. Not the insipid movies that made you cry in the dark. Not the lover you left quivering in a hotel parking lot. Not the nights you called god names and cursed your mother, sunk like a dog in the living room couch, chewing your nails." I'm giving you a good dose of Laux's purifying rant in the hope that it will incite you to unleash your own. The time is favorable to summon an expanded appreciation for the twists and tweaks of your past, even those that seemed torturous in the moment. Laux doesn't regret the TV set she threw out the upstairs window or the stuck onion rings she had to sweep off the dirty restaurant floor, and I hope you will be that inclusive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Modesty is the art of drawing attention to whatever it is you're being humble about," said Alfred E. Neuman, the fictitious absurdist whose likeness often appears on the cover of Mad magazine. I'm here to tell you, Leo, that now is an excellent time to embody this aphorism. You are in a perfect position to launch a charm offensive by being outrageously unassuming. The less you brag about yourself and the more you praise other people, the better able you will be to get exactly what you want. Being unegotistical and non-narcissistic is an excellent strategy for serving your selfish needs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "To go wrong in one's own way is better than to go right in someone else's," says a character in Fyodor Dostoyevsky's novel Crime and Punishment. I don't agree with that idea 100 percent of the time. Sometimes our wrong ideas are so delusional that we're better off getting interrupted and redirected by the wiser insights of others. But for the near future, Virgo, I recommend Dostoyevsky's prescription for your use. One of your key principles will be to brandish your unique perspectives. Even if they're not entirely right and reasonable, they will lead you to what you need to learn next.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "I love kissing," testifies singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens. "If I could kiss all day, I would. I can't stop thinking about kissing. I like kissing more than sex because there's no end to it.

You can kiss forever. You can kiss yourself into oblivion. You can kiss all over the body. You can kiss yourself to sleep." I invite you to temporarily adopt this expansive obsession, Libra. The astrological omens suggest that you need more sweet slippery sensual tender interaction than usual. Why? Because it will unleash sweet slippery sensual tender emotions and sweet slippery sensual tender thoughts, all of which will awaken a surge of dormant creativity. Which you also need very much.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Everything has been said before," said French author André Gide, "but since nobody listens we have to keep going back and beginning all over again." I am happy to inform you that you're about to be temporarily exempt from this cynical formulation. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you will be able to drive home certain points that you have been trying to make over and over again for quite a while. The people who most need to hear them will finally be able to register your meaning. (P.S. This breakthrough will generate optimal results if you don't gloat. Be grateful and understated.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do you want more money, Sagittarius? Are there treasures you wish you could have, but you can't afford them? Do any exciting experiences and life-enhancing adventures remain off-limits because of limited resources? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, now would be an excellent time to formulate plans and take action to gather increased wealth. I don't guarantee total success if you do, but I promise that your chance to make progress will be higher than usual. Cosmic tendencies are leaning in the direction of you getting richer quicker, and if you collaborate with those tendencies, financial magic could materialize.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "It's a terrible thing to wait until you're ready," proclaims actor Hugh Laurie. He goes even further: "No one is ever ready to do anything. There is almost no such thing as ready." His counsel is too extreme for my tastes. I believe that proper preparation is often essential. We've got to get educated about the challenges we want to take on. We need to develop at least some skills to help us master our beloved goals. On the other hand, it's impossible to ever be perfectly prepared and educated and skilled. If you postpone your quantum leaps of faith until every contingency has been accounted for, you'll never leap. Right now, Capricorn, Laurie's view is good advice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Fate has transformed a part of your life that you didn't feel ready to have transformed. I won't offer my condolences, though, because I've guessed a secret that you don't know about yet. The mythic fact, as I see it, is that whatever you imagine you have had to let go of will ultimately come back to you in a revised and revived form -- maybe sooner than you think. Endings and beginnings are weaving their mysteries together in unforeseen ways. Be receptive to enigmatic surprises.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Good news: Your eagerness to think big is one of your superpowers. Bad news: It's also one of your liabilities. Although it enables you to see how everything fits together, it may cause you to overlook details about what's undermining you. Good news: Your capacity for intense empathy is a healing balm for both others and yourself. At least potentially, it means you can be a genius of intimacy. Bad news: Your intense empathy can make you fall prey to the emotional manipulation of people with whom you empathize. Good news: Your willingness to explore darkness is what makes your intelligence so profound. Bad news: But that's also why you have to wrestle so fiercely with fear. Good news: In the next four weeks, the positive aspects of all the above qualities will be ascendant.

FRIDAY, JAN. 15-17, 22-24 >> 'THE BOYS NEXT DOOR' AT OWOSSO COMMUNITY PLAYERS

The Owosso Community Players presents the humorous and heartfelt story of four disabled men living together in a communal residence. The play is presented in a series of vignettes that take place over two months. The performance also marks the 60th anniversary of the Arc Shiawassee, a nonprofit advocacy group that assists individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. "The individuals I work with every day are the most accepting, generous individuals I know," said Lynn Grubb, executive director of the Arc Shiawassee. "I'm hoping that 'The Boys Next Door' will bring more awareness about individuals with disabilities in our community and create a greater degree of acceptance." 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday. \$15/\$13.50 students and seniors/\$7.50 children 13 and under. Lebosky Center, 122 E. Main Street, Owosso. (989) 723-4003, owossoplayers.com.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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Out on the town

from page 22

MUSIC

Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer, and Protest Concert. Billy Childs performs. 3 and 7 p.m. FREE, ticket required. Fairchild Theater, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Rd., East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/WORTx.

New in Student Performance. Doctoral student and chamber group perform original score. 2 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Monday, January 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Adult Rape Survivor Support Group.

Registration preferred. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Job Seekers Support Group. Finding the right career. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Support Group. For the divorced, separated and widowed. 7:30 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Luncheon. Keynote speaker Andrew Young discusses peace and justice. 11 a.m. \$40. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-7637, lansingmi.gov/MLK.

EVENTS

MLK: The Fight Against Hate Crimes. Keynote speaker Jocelyn Benson, music by Earl Nelson Singers, Q&A and lunch. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. FREE. International Center, 427 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing.

Social Bridge. Play bridge and meet new people. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Tuesday, January 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice. All experience levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. \$3. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. crisisrfg.com.

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-2697, cadl.org.

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn, grow and heal together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Not So Happy Endings Support Group. For women ending relationships. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-3311.

Overeaters Anonymous. Support for weight loss

efforts. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 290-5163.

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

Shamanic Education & Healing Clinic. Talk and demos on shamanism. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave. Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727 willowstickceremonies.com.

Yawn Patrol Toastmasters. Learn public speaking. 7-8:30 a.m. Studio 1210 Place, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. (989) 859-2086, yawnpatrol.com.

One-on-One Business Counseling. Meet with an experienced business consultant. Email hanfork@

lcc.edu to register. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtdl.org.

THEATER

Comedy Coven XI: The Persistence of Mammary. Lansing's only occult based comedy gang perform. 8-9:30 p.m. \$10/\$7 pre-sale. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/comedycoven.

EVENTS

Bible and Beer. Discussion of scripture's power in daily events. 6 p.m. Kelly's Downtown, 220 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600, bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

See Out on the Town, Page 25

TUESDAY, JAN. 19 >> COMPLEXIONS CONTEMPORARY BALLET AT THE WHARTON CENTER

The nationally acclaimed dance troupe Complexions Contemporary Dance hits the Wharton Center stage Tuesday. The company was founded by veteran dancers Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson, both former members of Alvin Ailey Dance Theater. The evening's wide-ranging performances will be set to music by Odetta, Vivaldi, and Metallica and even the words of poet Maya Angelou. A preview talk by Richardson is presented at 6:45 p.m. in the Grand Tier Lounge, and a chat with the performers follows the performance. 7:30 p.m. \$28/\$15 students and youths 5-18. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

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FOR CREPE SAKE/GUMP'S BBQ/RIVER STREET CATERING & CAFÉ

Photo by Allan I. Ross for City Pulse

Craig "Gump" Garmyn, is owner/operator of the recently opened Gump's BBQ and River Street Catering & Café just east of REO Town.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

It's a good time to be a morning person in Lansing. Over the last year, the number of breakfast joints in downtown, REO Town and Old Town has exploded, and most of them have taken a nontraditional approach to the most important meal of the day.

There's the Hangover breakfast sandwich at **Good Truckin' Diner**, with smoked pork, fried eggs and sausage gravy; the Shrimp and Grits at **Creole Coffee Co.**, served with jalapeno bacon; and the Brioche Pizza (pizza for breakfast!) at **Glazed & Confused**. And last week, two new places opened, adding their eclectic fare to the mix.

After a successful 18-month run at Lansing City Market, **For Crêpe Sake** moved into the former digs of the Spotted Dog Café, 221 S. Washington Square, in downtown Lansing. For most Lansing-area denizens — heck, for most Americans — crêpes are thought of as thin pancakes, but the French staple holds a lot of appeal to the new class of diners seeking vegan and gluten-free options.

"We connected with a lot of people (at Lansing City Market), but we could only do so much with the limited space there," said Mark Owen, who co-owns/operates the business with his wife, Deborah Owen. "This move really opens us up to a much bigger crowd and allows us to try some new things as well."

In addition to the menu of sweet and savory crêpes, the Owens have added homemade soups, quiches, galettes (more on that in a second) and expanded their salad options.

"This space has a full kitchen, which is something we didn't have before," Owen said. "But we made the decision to build our crêpe-making station out in front so people can watch their food prepared. It makes it more fun, and also a little easier."

At For Crêpe Sake, diners first select what type of batter they want: sweet (for dessert) or savory (for more sandwich-y type affairs), including gluten-free buckwheat. The crêpe is made fresh to order and rolled into a wrap. Savory options include the Louvre (prosciutto or bacon with red pesto, egg and brie), the Eiffel Tower (turkey, bacon, spinach, tomato and cream cheese) and the Grec (spinach, olives, tomato, onion and tzatziki sauce). If you're going sweet, you can choose from a variety of fruit topped with Nutella, caramel, sugar and/or cheese.

"It took a little while for people to catch on to the concept, but now that they get it, we're really taking off," Deborah Owen said. "January is a traditionally slow time for restaurants, but we've had a line out the door a few times. If this pace continues, we may have to add more crêpe makers to keep up."

Coincidentally, January and February are big

French food holidays. In January, the traditional food item is galette de roi (king cake). For Crêpe Sake doesn't feature the authentic variety (that would require baking plastic charms into the food, a health code no-no), but it has added galettes to the menu. And Feb. 2 is a French holiday called Chandeleur, which involves eating crêpes and drinking hard cider.

"We don't have a liquor license, so if you want to celebrate, it'll have to be (non-hard) cider," Mark Owen said.

For Crêpe Sake will have a grand opening event 9 a.m. Thursday with samples, specials and giveaways. Meanwhile, **Gump's BBQ/River Street Catering & Café**, just east of REO Town, is holding off its grand opening until it's a little warmer. The figurative dust is still settling for the new breakfast and lunch diner.

Owner/operator Craig "Gump" Garmyn worked in construction for 26 years, but is a barbecue hobbyist on the side. In recent years, he started kicking around the idea of jumping into the restaurant biz. A fortuitous conversation with restaurateur Scott Simmons — owner of the **Waterfront Grill** in the Lansing City Market and the **River House Inn** in Williamston — put the wheels in motion for Gump's BBQ.

"I was telling Scott about my idea, and he said he had the perfect building for me," Garmyn said. "He came up with the idea of having (the business) do catering in addition to just barbecue, so that's where the River Street Catering part came in."

And so a wood-fed electric smoker was installed in Simmons' building. Garmyn spent a few months crafting the menu — including specialty barbecue sauces and a roster of side items like cheesy potatoes — and transforming the interior into some semblance of a dining room.

"There's a baseball field right across the street. This summer, I want to add a patio out front so people can sit and watch their kids play," Garmyn said.

A liquor license is also in the works, which would sweeten the deal even more for Little League parents. For now, though, the big seller is breakfast burritos.

"I just wanted to open be able to accommodate all the construction workers," says Garmyn. "I'm OK being grab-and-go for now. I'm operating it like an indoor food truck."

Gump's BBQ/River Street Catering & Café
1105 River St., Lansing
7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday; closed weekends

For Crêpe Sake
221 S. Washington Square, Lansing
6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday
(517) 374-0401, facebook.com/fcslansing

Out on the town

from page 24

New Year, New You. Presenter Leanne Davis explains how to set goals and balance your life. Call to register. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Reflexology. Class to stimulate circulation in the body. Call for appointment. 10:20 a.m.-2 p.m. \$14/\$12 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridiancenter.weebly.com.

DTDl Crafters. Handcrafting projects. Bring your own supplies. 2:30-4:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. dtdl.org.

Wednesday, January 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

H.E.R.O. Special DIY Kitchen Class #3: Tiling a Backsplash. Home improvement course. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

Women and Codependency. Workshop to help women and children avoid unhealthy relationships. 9-11 a.m. and 6-8 p.m. FREE. Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing.

Writing a Business Plan. Introductory business planning course. Call or register online. 9-11:30 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

Aux Petits Soins. French immersion class for

ages 0-12. See web for specific times for each age group. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Suite F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

EVENTS

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington St., Lansing. (517) 351-5866, lamc.info.

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

Open Workshop. Bike repair, bike safety and biking as healthy exercise. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Kids Repair Program, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 755-4174.

Allen Street Farmers Market - Indoors. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Computer Basics. Learn the parts of a computer, plus how to use a mouse and keyboard. Call to register. 5-6 p.m. FREE. CADL Aurelius, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason. (517) 628-3743, cadl.org.

Remember When Reminiscers: Discovering Michigan. Author of "Discovering Michigan County by County," speaks. 10-11 a.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400, cadl.org.

Senior Discovery @ ANC. "The 60s" with Bill Nelton of CADL. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

ARTS

Comic Book Signing. Local artists Rick Schlaack and Joe Haines sign "Die Katze #1." 3-7 p.m. FREE. Red Fox Comics, 723 Brookside Drive, Lansing. (517) 574-4974.

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Cannabis undercover

Capitol Cannabis offers medical marijuana from a nondescript storefront

I have a friend who regularly uses the services at one particular south side shop. She recom-

THE GREEN REPORT



STEVE GREEN

mended it to me, but she did not know the name of it. Now that I've visited the shop, I understand why. It's sign has no store name. No words at all, in fact, just a big purple marijuana leaf. The shop isn't loud about its presence, and I appreciate that. But I know many people who are not

aware of the shop, even though it has been open five years.

The parking lot is, like many of Michigan's roads, full of large pot holes. The store shares a plaza with the defunct

Uli's Haus of Rock, so there is plenty of parking. After I entered the exterior glass door, I was in a "man-trap" — a small entryway with another door before one can enter the dispensary proper. Many dispensaries are set up like this. A security guard with a gun on his hip greeted me, checked my credentials and allowed me in.

The waiting room had a clean, nice décor. I noticed that they offer green apples to their patients, a nice touch. As I waited, I sat on a loveseat and flipped through a magazine. The security guard who checked me in yelled back to the budtender and then told me I could enter the back room.

I walked through to the green room, and on the right I saw the display cases with a budtender behind them. I was quickly drawn to a new product I had yet to see anywhere, Herbalife. I asked what it was, but the budtender didn't know much about it. He did tell me that despite the name, it does not contain marijuana. Herbalife, apparently, is a

nutrition company.

The shop does not carry edibles, and I couldn't find any extracts to dab. I was pleased to see some hash coins, but that

Capitol Cannabis

10 a.m.-8 p.m. daily
4513 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing

is all it offers in terms of concentrates. As far as flowers, there were several small jars sitting on the glass counter, showing the strains that were available. The shop uses a color-coding system for pricing. A blue dot, which indicated an \$8/gram price tag, marked two strains. The red dot had a larger selection, about eight strains at \$10/gram. Two black-dot strains were priced at \$15/gram. The shop offers price discounts for larger orders.

A board on the wall displayed "care-giver specials," including two ounces

of red dot strains for \$400 or black dot strains for \$500. I then noticed the pre-rolls, and I could not resist getting one.

This shop has gone a step further in pre-rolled joints than most shops. It even has a cute name for them, "Rasta joints," and packages them in tamper-proof blister packs. The joints cost \$15 each, and there were two types to pick from: Cherry Pie and Blue Perm. I selected the Blue Perm, which was greeted by a nod of approval from the budtender. The Blue Perm, which is a cross of Blueberry and Permafrost strains, increased my appetite, helped with my joint pain and reduced my anxiety.

Steve Green, who writes this column every two weeks, uses marijuana to prevent seizures. He has no business ties to any dispensaries or products.



Photo by Steve Green for City Pulse

Capitol Cannabis' sign features no words, just a large, purple marijuana leaf.

TOP FIVE DINING GUIDE!

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thefleetwooddiner.com
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soupspooncafe.com

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