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February 4-10, 2015



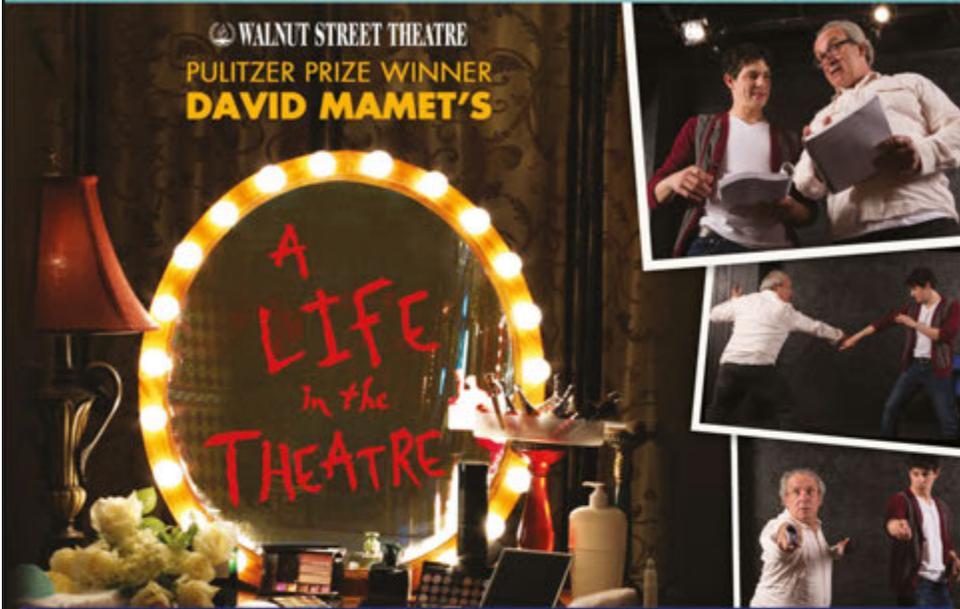
**GENERALLY
SPEAKING**
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GENERAL? • PAGE 5

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SISTER**
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GETTIN' SCHOOLED

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IN THE COMMUNITY • PAGE 9

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WALNUT STREET THEATRE
 PULITZER PRIZE WINNER
DAVID MAMET'S

A LIFE
in the
THEATRE

**Wednesday, February 11 &
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A side to David Mamet not always seen in this hilarious comedy!
 Go behind the curtain for a funny, touching, behind-the-scenes peek
 at actors battling to share the spotlight, and dressing room.
 From ego trips to acting tips, this charming play will have you in stitches.

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Join two young explorers as they discover a long-forgotten trunk filled with
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6th Annual JAMM TRIBUTE for BETTY JOPLIN

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The Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan (JAMM) is pleased to announce that the Tribute To Betty Joplin has **SOLD OUT!!** No tickets will be sold at the door. Don't miss out on tickets again! Sign up at www.jazzjamm.com to receive our free weekly e-newsletter.

JAMM will help you to be the first to know about live jazz happenings here in Mid-Michigan. If you missed your chance for tickets, JAMM invites you to send Betty a congratulatory note on Facebook.

Chocolate Walk



Thursday
February 12th
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$15
(in advance)

\$20
(day of)

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Old Town General Store
Katalyst Gallery
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Grace Boutique
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Whipped

Explore Old Town, enjoy Valentine's Day and get some delicious chocolates.

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or at

The Old Town Commercial Association Office
1232 Turner St. Lansing, MI, 48906



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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on Wednesday, **February 25, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1344, a request from Robert J. Phipps (Trust), to rezone the property at 3200 West Road from RA, Residential Agricultural to B-4, Restricted Office Business District. The property is 1.55 acres in size.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a lot split application from Edwin D. Weaver, Jr. for the property located at 3200 West Road.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Lingg Brewer for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the property at 500 Albert Avenue and 122 Division Street. The applicant is proposing to construct a four story, mixed-use building containing 13 apartment units and approximately 1,000 square feet of non-residential space. The property is zoned B-3, City Center Commercial District.

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

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#15_021

NOTICE

The Board of Review of the City of Lansing will meet in regular sessions in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, City Hall for five days March 09,10,11,12, &13 2015 at 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON and 1:30PM to 4:30PM. **EXCEPT** for Wednesday, March 11 from 1:30PM to 4:30PM and 6:00PM to 9:00PM to review and correct the assessment roll made by the City Assessor. The Board will hold open sessions, during which time any resident taxpayer may be present to make appeals and be heard in person. Taxpayers are permitted to file his or her protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. Protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An appointment is necessary and must be scheduled before 4:30 PM, March 11, 2015. Letter appeals must be **received** in the Assessor's Office by 4:30 PM, March 12, 2015. If you wish to contact the City of Lansing Assessor's Office, you may do so by calling (517) 483-7624.

RATIO AND TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTORS FOR 2015

INGHAM COUNTY

	RATIO	FACTOR
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

EATON COUNTY

COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

CLINTON COUNTY

AGRICULTURAL	50.00	1.00
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
DEVELOPMENTAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

Subject to revisions by:
Board of Review, County Equalization, State Tax Commission

City Assessor's Office

CP#15_017

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Koenig's property shell game likely politically motivated



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Crowdsourcing gives dog a second, and third, chance



PAGE 22

Finding the right wine for your relationship



COVER ART

"IN SESSION" by DARRYL EVANS



THIS WEEK

- Dr. Dean Sienko
- Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero
- BWL Commissioner Dennis Louney
- Former BWL Commissioners Nancy Wonch and Ron Callen



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

SCIENTISTS SAY THAT 2014 WAS THE HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD.

IF THERE'S SO MUCH GLOBAL WARMING, WHY IS IT SO COLD OUT?

BIFF, DIDN'T YOU HEAR? SENATE REPUBLICANS JUST VOTED FOR AN AMENDMENT ADMITTING THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL!

IT WAS A LEGISLATIVE MANEUVER TO AVOID ACKNOWLEDGING HUMAN CULPABILITY--BUT INTENTIONALLY OR NOT, THEY'VE OFFICIALLY CONCEDED HALF THE DEBATE!

THE ONLY THING LEFT TO ARGUE ABOUT NOW IS THE CAUSE!

YOU CAN STOP TYING YOURSELF IN PRETZEL KNOTS DENYING THE OBVIOUS! YOU NO LONGER HAVE TO LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT INSISTING THAT NOTHING'S WRONG!

YOU'VE BEEN LIBERATED, BIFF! IT'S A GIFT! EMBRACE IT!

OR YOU COULD JUST PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED.

YOU'LL PRY MY AL GORE JOKES FROM MY COLD, DEAD FINGERS.

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

BWL control, and questions

Bernero's inspector general proposal a 'midway measure'

Mayor Virg Bernero's struggle with governing the Lansing Board of Water & Light is on slow motion repeat — a "Groundhog Day" measured in years, rather than hours.

In July 2006, the BWL was on the hunt for a new general manager (eventually resulting in the choice of Bernero's candidate, J. Peter Lark). First-term Mayor Virg Bernero had clear ideas about whom that new leader should report to: him, according to an op-ed piece by then BWL Commissioner Joseph Graves Jr. in the Lansing State Journal. He alleged the independence of the board was "under assault" by Bernero.

"The mayor has further pledged that a new general manager will be appointed who will answer to him," Graves wrote.

Fast forward to 2015. Before his State of the City address, Bernero was ginning up the media with indications he was planning to try to get rid of the independent board and make the general manager a direct report to him. That move was widely questioned locally, and the American Public Power Association, a trade group of municipal owned utilities, said doing so would run counter to how most large municipal utilities were governed.

So when Bernero took the stage at Lansing Community College on Thursday night, he surprised viewers by announcing what he later characterized as a "midway measure." Rather than eliminate the board, and bring direct control over the utility into his office, he proposed creating a position that would be a cabinet-level official reporting to him. The position: inspector general.

The inspector general, who would report directly to the mayor, would have broad oversight powers to monitor BWL operations and best practices. Such a move would allow him to be able to readily assure the public that everything was operating appropriately at the BWL, Bernero said.

Ursula Schyver, vice president of education and customer programs with the American Public Power Association, said she is unaware of any public utility that has developed such a model

before.

The proposal is being eyed warily by some locally. Take Nancy Wonch, a former BWL commissioner appointed by former Mayor David Hollister: "When the mayor talked about an inspector general, I think a reasonable inference could be drawn that he intends that this person answer directly to the mayor and educate and support the mayor relative to the BWL," she wrote in an email.

Referring to the panel Bernero set up to look at BWL's 2013 ice storm performance, she added: "My understanding of what the review team recommended was someone who would educate and support the Board of Commissioners in following best practices"

"I don't think those two ideas are consistent."

While the mayor has backed off eliminating an independent Board of Commissioners, he did not completely dismiss that option either when he noted in an interview with City Pulse publisher Berl Schwartz that the inspector general proposal was a halfway measure between keeping the governance as it is and gutting it completely.

Wonch says she believes the inspector general proposal may, in fact, be a takeover of the BWL from a different direction.

"Might as well skip the inspector general and have the [General Manager] report directly to the mayor," she wrote.

With this kind of history — Bernero's influence over the board in hiring J. Peter Lark, and his subsequent role in firing Lark as prime examples — it leaves many questioning Bernero's motives.

"The mayor keeps saying the BWL is broken," said Ron Byrnes, business manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which represents many BWL workers. "We're in the dark as to what is broken. We have not heard any specifics."

For the union, the inspector general position is not necessarily the answer to that accountability. They want to know what authority the position would have — for instance, they ask, would this person be able to overrule the actions of the general manager? That's unclear.

Retired Gen. Michael McDaniel, who chaired the community review team, said the only major recommendation the BWL hasn't adopted is to create a position designed to review operations and programming and report to the board on recommendations for changes to bring the operations into line with best practices. It's a job that sounds much like an inspector general, except reporting to the commissioners, not the mayor.

That recommendation, he said, was because the review team "did not have a sense we had a complete picture" because certain documents — such as emails — were missing and not provided. Combine that, he said, with the "siloeing" — where those working in water, worked on water; those in electricity, worked on electricity; and

Mayor is trying to control utility

The citizens who wrote Lansing's City Charter were very specific. They directed that the Board of Water and Light be separated from politics when it comes to operating the public utility owned by Lansing citizens.

Here's what the charter does:
 It designates the BWL as an administrative board



"The mayor is on a campaign to politicize Lansing's publicly owned utility. This is a tactic that has been applied by some politicians in other American cities served by municipally owned utilities. Where successful, it's a tactic that, without exception, has been disastrous to those municipal utilities — and the customers they serve."

July 2, 2006

Joseph E. Graves Jr., former Board of Water & Light commissioner



SORE

OF THE WEEK




Property: 622 Genesee Street, Lansing
Assessed value: \$15,400
Owner: RAL Realty LLC, Grand Blanc, MI

To be fair, this house is not excessively deteriorated. Although the trash scattered in the front yard has been removed, the scrubby shrubs and peeling paint remain. It would not be unfair to describe the property as "tired." The main upper story window is damaged and the original trim details were removed or obscured when the current grey siding was installed. With some minor effort, this simple side-loaded home could be transformed into the illustration attached.

The removal of the synthetic siding will likely reveal narrow horizontal boards and the former trim details. A fresh coat of paint, highlighting the trim casing in complementary colors will brighten the exterior. Pairs of outswinging casement windows could be installed on the front elevation, providing welcome ventilation in place of the picture window on the main level, and hardly changing the appearance of the sliding window on the upper level. In both cases, dividing the large glass panes with muntins would introduce additional character.

— 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 Belinda Thurston at 999-5065.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCE # 2582

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-6-2014
Address: 8 Teel Court & 1900 S. Cedar Street
Parcel Number: PPN: 33-01-01-28-202-141 & 33-01-01-28-202-423
Legal Descriptions: 8 Teel Court: South 350.3 Feet of Lot 5, Assessors Plat No. 46, also Lot 57 Chittendens Subdivision, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, from "B" Residential District to "F-1" Commercial District.

1900 S. Cedar Street: Commencing 7 Feet South of the Northeast Corner of Lot 8, Thence West 79 Feet +/- to the West line of Lot 8, South 3 Feet, West 574.14 Feet to the Point of Beginning 10 Feet South & 100 Feet East of the Northwest Corner of Lot 5, South 162 Feet, West 100 Feet, South 110 Feet, West 100 Feet, South 55 Feet, East 100 Feet, South 132.42 Feet, East 268.84 Feet, South 350.3 Feet, East 197 Feet to the Northwest Corner of Lot 17, South 123.75 Feet, East 40 Feet, North 123.75 Feet, East 170.5 Feet to the Southeast Corner of Lot 13, North 00deg 24min West 433.35 Feet, North 12deg 08min East 385.9 Feet to the Point of Beginning; Assessors Plat No 46 from "D-1" Professional Office District to "F-1" Commercial District.

Section 2. The following restrictive conditions shall run with the land described above and shall be binding upon its successor owners:

- (1) There shall be no vehicular access to Teel Avenue from the right-of-way located between 1923 and 2001 Teel Avenue; and
- (2) There shall be no vehicular access to Teel Avenue from Teel Court, located between 2025 and 2107 Teel Avenue, unless the sole use of the property is single family residential.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on January 29, 2015, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of seven (7) days from the date this notice of adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation.

CP#15_025

ORDINANCE #2583

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-7-2014
Address: 310 N. Seymour Street
Parcel Number: PPN: 33-01-01-16-177-022
Legal Descriptions: Lots 4 through 9, also the South 12 Feet of Lots 3 & 10 Block 84, Original Plat, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, from "CUP" Community Unit Plan to "G-1" Business.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on January 29, 2015, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of seven (7) days from the date this notice of adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation.

CP#15_024

BWL

from page 5

those in steam, worked in steam, and never the twain would meet — he felt such a position would help the volunteer board “know what they don’t know.”

Further clouding this issue is a proposal from the mayor to amend the City Charter to make the BWL attorney report directly to the city attorney. The city attorney is an appointee of the mayor who also represents the City Council. Under Bernero’s proposal, the BWL would receive all its legal opinions from a person answering directly to the city attorney — a person under the direct control and influence of the mayor.

Wonch said that’s a recipe for a conflict of interest for the attorney.

“Mingling the interests of the city with the responsibility of BWL would impact the way the BWL lawyer represents the BWL,” she

Mayor says he seeks ‘balanced approach’ to BWL

City Pulse freelance reporter Todd Heywood asked, by email, for further comment from Mayor Virg Bernero on his proposed City Charter amendments to create an inspector general in his cabinet to oversee the Lansing Board of Water & Light and to clarify the change of command of BWL’s attorney. Randy Hannan, Bernero’s chief of staff, responded:

What made the mayor decide to go with what he called a “midway measure” between leaving BWL governance as it is and scraping the current governance in favor of the general manager direct reporting as a cabinet official to the mayor?

Mayor Bernero’s proposal is a balanced approach that reflects his careful consideration of several alternatives for giving real meaning and authority to the City Charter provision that requires the BWL to be responsible to the Mayor and City Council.

Is there a reason it couldn’t be an inspector general reporting to the BWL Board of Commissioners, with the mayor copied on all reports?

The IG is designed to create a direct line of accountability from the BWL to the Mayor and City Council. Having the IG report to the BWL commissioners would defeat the purpose of ensuring structural accountability to the Mayor and City Council as envisioned in the Charter.

On the City Pulse TV show this weekend, Bernero said he favored having BWL’s attorney report directly to the city attorney. Does that raise any concerns related to conflicts of interest?

The BWL’s in-house legal counsel has long been designated as a “Special Assistant City Attorney” appointed with the advice and consent of the Lansing City Attorney. Through the years, the BWL has diminished this necessary rela-

said. “Requiring the BWL lawyer to report to the mayor or the city attorney does just that.”

Wonch, who is also an attorney, provided this example.

“For instance, say the City says, ‘We want to raise rates and also the payment to the City to fund something that benefits only the City, like a shortfall in the budget.’ Assume that the BWL really needs and is actually required to invest any money from a rate increase in BWL infrastructure to serve its customers — all of them,” she posited. “Whose side is the lawyer going to take? I think the BWL needs a lawyer that represents the BWL. She can be a special assistant city attorney but there needs to be clarification that the BWL is the client. That way the advice that the attorney gives is not tainted by the interests of the City.”

— Todd Heywood



relationship by weakening the ties between BWL legal counsel and the City Attorney. Mayor Bernero’s proposal restores the proper relationship between the two offices, enhances the BWL’s accountability to the Mayor and City Council, and ensures that the legal positions of the City and BWL are consistent. The BWL is a key asset of the City of Lansing and more oversight of their legal matters by the City Attorney, including the review and approval of contracts for top executives, is both necessary and appropriate.

Haven’t we seen in the past where the city attorney has been in the position of serving the wishes of two different masters (City Council and the mayor) and that has caused serious issues?

No. In Mayor Bernero’s tenure, the City Attorney has appropriately balanced the legal needs of the Mayor and City Council. If and when conflicts arise, there is an established process for securing outside counsel to represent one or both parties. Again, the BWL is a key asset of the City of Lansing and more oversight of their legal matters by the City Attorney is both necessary and appropriate.

The mayor has consistently said the BWL commissioners are good people caught in a failed system. But former Commission Chairman Ron Callen said on the City Pulse TV this weekend “The system worked for 125 years.” What is broken about the BWL governance and when did it get broken?

The problems with BWL governance are long-standing and obvious. The last three general managers have been forced out. More recently, the debacle of the December 2013 ice storm laid bare the dysfunctional relationship between BWL management and the BWL Board of Commissioners. In addition, the award of a 5-year employment contract with excessive severance terms to the previous general manager makes clear that the BWL requires more oversight by and accountability to city leaders.

Register of deeds race

Koenig transferred tax debts two weeks before primary election

Carol Koenig, one of three finalists to be Ingham County register of deeds, was ramping up for the final two weeks of her primary campaign to retain her seat as a county commissioner last July when she transferred responsibility for overdue taxes through property transfers, records show.



Koenig

She did so by selling the properties to James Boucher, co-resident and co-owner with her of a home in East Lansing.

The situation may affect her candidacy for register of deeds. Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum, one of three members of the committee that will select and appoint the replacement register of deeds, said the situation “doesn’t pass the smell test.”

“We expect our elected officials and those running for office to be transparent and accountable,” she said. “While everything that happened sounds legal, it flies in the face of accountability.”

However, Byrum declined to say whether the controversy would impact her vote, expected today, when she and Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunning III and Chief Probate Judge Richard Garcia will decide on one of three finalists. The other candidates are City Council members Carol Wood and Derrick Quinney.

Records show Koenig transferred ownership of the six properties — 108 N. Magnolia Ave., 501 N. Clemens Ave., 1010 and 1008 Cleveland Street, 415 W. Frederick St. and 719 Johnson St. — to Boucher on July 23, 2014. At the time, according to County Treasurer Office records, Koenig was delinquent on property taxes on three of those properties: 1010 Cleveland St. (\$1,615); 1008 Cleveland St. (\$1,365); and 719 Johnson St. (\$1,816). The two used a legal process called quit claim deed. With this process, Boucher assumed the tax debt.

Records show that Boucher paid off those taxes on Friday, after City Pulse disclosed she had been tardy on paying

property taxes before she sold Boucher the properties.

Public records show Boucher and Koenig have a shared mortgage on a three-bedroom, two-bath house at 690 N. Hagadorn Road in East Lansing. Voting records from the city of East Lansing show both are registered to vote from that address. However, Boucher’s address on the quit claim deeds filed with the Ingham County of Register of Deeds office on July 24, 2014, is listed as a P.O. box in East Lansing. She listed the Hagadorn Road property as her address in the documents.

The records also show the properties with taxable value of \$130,900 were transferred for \$460, about a third of a percent of the taxable value of each property.

Koenig declined to answer any questions about the property transfers.

“The property has been Mr. Boucher’s for some time, the transfer a mere formality,” Koenig said via text on Friday night. “He assures me there are no taxes owed whatsoever at this time.”

Commenting on the situation, veteran Democratic political operative T.J. Bucholz said, “It certainly doesn’t pass the smell test.”

“Sometimes a property transfer is just a property transfer, but I hate political coincidences,” said Bulcholz, owner of Vanguard Public Affairs.

He noted the move could have been about the immediate political primary, the general election or even in preparation for the appointment to the register of deeds seat — since it was clear the register, Curtis Hertel Jr., was going to cruise to victory in November and become a state senator.

“I believe the entire transfer was completely politically motivated,” Bulcholz said.

Justin Hodge, Koenig’s Democratic primary opponent for county commissioner last year, said in an email that he was unaware of Koenig’s tax issues in 2014, but was aware of her 2009 troubles. He said he did not intend to bring those issues up during the primary.

But the tax issues do concern him as Koenig seeks to become the county’s new register of deeds.

“Her tax delinquency on multiple properties in different years demonstrates a disturbing pattern,” he wrote, “especially considering that the register of deeds is responsible for managing property information.”

— By **Todd Heywood**



Surveying the BWL political wreckage

For a politician, it’s self-inflicted wounds that hurt the most.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero surely feels the pain after his failed bid to take control of the Lansing Board of Water & Light, the city’s semi-autonomous public utility.

Bernero orchestrated the ouster of



MICKEY HIRTEN

BWL’s general manager, J. Peter Lark, who resisted the mayor’s push to treat the utility like other city departments. Prodded by Bernero and increasingly dissatisfied with the general manager’s performance and attitude, five BWL commissioners voted to fire Lark for still unspecified

causes. Bernero hinted — broadly — at changes in the City Charter to curtail BWL oversight by the board.

And then it all fell apart.

There was predictable opposition from BWL’s unionized workers — they have a sweet contract from a compliant employer — and public criticism by East Lansing Mayor Nathan Triplett and Delta Township Supervisor Ken Fletcher — “bitching and moaning” is what Bernero said he expected. More sobering were the warnings by city and regional business leaders about politicizing the utility. Two weeks after the coup, Bernero bailed on the “city department” plan. But the damage was done to the city, the utility, the mayor and Council.

Only BWL customers seem to have escaped the carnage, and from the start it was unclear how any of this was good for them. The lights are on. But they will pay for the failed power grab: perhaps \$900,000 in severance payments to Lark,

legal fees to untangle the firing, recruiting costs for a new general manager and what could be a higher than average salary for the new CEO’s services.

Bernero said in his State of the City address last week that he wants a charter measure to limit long-term contracts and generous severance agreements for city employees. Lark during his seven years as general manager had wrangled both from BWL’s commissioners.

But this proposed charter employment requirement, if approved by city voters in May, certainly will affect BWL’s ability to hire the top-flight talent it needs to oversee the utility. It won’t go unnoticed by job candidates that BWL has fired three general managers in the last 10 years. The utility is a CEO graveyard.

A talented executive considering the job will recognize that running BWL historically is a short-tenure assignment that could be even shorter with Bernero’s push for contract and severance limitations. In the end, the city will fill the position, but should expect to pay dearly to compensate for the risk of working in Lansing’s politically charged environment.

Reworking his plan to take control of BWL, Bernero has instead proposed that he appoint an inspector general with the power to conduct performance audits. Call it the mayor’s mole. Considering that the mayor appoints the commissioners and has political allies in key positions at BWL, it seems unnecessary, costly and without any obvious benefit to ratepayers, who, of course, will, pay for this political face saver.

But Bernero is adamant that the city needs expertise to keep track of BWL. “The inspector general will be there to give us information, so that the mayor and the Council can truly be informed. The system we have now doesn’t facilitate the accountability that the framers anticipated,” he told me.

He said that he hopes it works. “If it doesn’t, in a few years I may come back with the department plan.” For the

See Hirtten, Page 8

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-8-2014, 1100-1200 Blocks, South Side of E. Michigan Avenue
Rezoning from “F-1” Commercial, “DM-3” & “DM-4” Residential Districts to “G-1” Business District

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 23, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI, to consider Z-8-2014. This is a request by the Edward W. Sparrow Hospital Association to rezone the property bounded by E. Michigan Avenue to the north, Eureka Street to the south, Bingham Street to the west and S. Holmes Street to the east from “F-1” Commercial, “DM-3” & “DM-4” Residential Districts to “G-1” Business district. The purpose of the rezoning is to bring the existing Sparrow Professional building at 1200 E. Michigan Avenue into compliance with the Zoning Ordinance and to permit the construction of a new professional office building and parking ramp on the property to its west.

For more information about this case, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, February 23, 2015, at the City Council Offices, Tenth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 1696.

Chris Swope, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ingham County solicits proposals for countywide waste and recycling services for a period of three years with an option to renew for an additional two-year period. Info: <http://pu.ingham.org>, under Current Bids link, Packet 1-15.

CP#15_022

CP#15_023



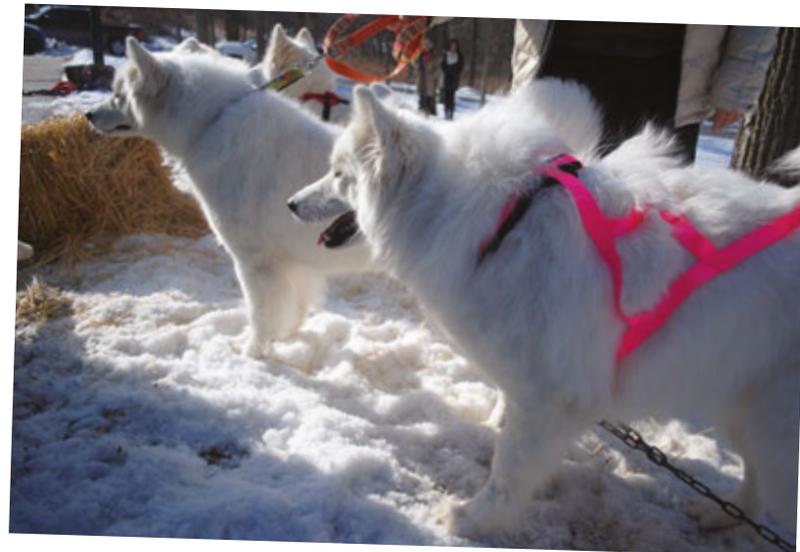
Photos by Ariel Rogers

WINTER WONDERLAND

HARRIS NATURE CENTER HOSTS EVENT SPOTLIGHTING FUN WINTER ACTIVITIES

Furry friends warmed hearts at Harris Nature Center's chilly Winter Wonderland event on Saturday. Several Samoyed dogs entertained the crowd with sledding demonstrations throughout the day, taking breaks between runs to receive petting and hugs from event-goers. A campfire thawed guests after a brisk morning of cross country skiing and snowshoeing on the nature trails. Scott Miller used a chisel and chainsaw to create an ice sculpture of a majestic eagle. Harris Nature Center coordinator Kit Rich said the free event, in its 16th year, drew about 600 attendees.

— ARIEL ROGERS



CityPULSE

NEWSMAKERS



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LANSING CITY COUNCILWOMAN



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Hirten

from page 7

moment, Bernero's comfortable with what he calls a "paid watchdog" who is a member of his cabinet.

But why does it have to be so complicated? Why can't BWL managers and city officials simply meet regularly to coordinate plans and policies? Why should they have different agendas? Aren't both working to serve the public?

One of the utility's problems is the political nature of the BWL board, which is composed of appointees from the city's voting wards as well as at-large members. In many ways the commissioners aren't up to the challenge of overseeing the utility, and they acknowledged as much after BWL ragged 2013 ice-storm performance.

Resolving to improve their oversight, they were swept up in Bernero's frenzy to rid himself of Lark. It was a messy business: private meeting with the mayor, side conversations, factions and personal slights. To what end? Since Bernero no longer wants to make BWL a city department, nothing has changed. But in the wreckage may be opportunity: a better board of commissioners and another look at the benefits of selling the BWL.

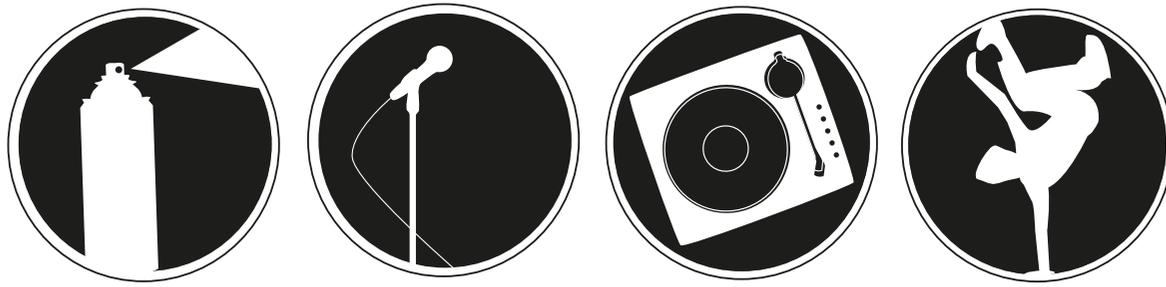
Within the communities served by the BWL, there is expertise to reform a board of commissioners with skills that strengthen the utility. East Lansing, which gets a

non-voting position on the BWL board starting July 1, has nominated Robert B. Nelson, a former Michigan Public Service commissioner and from 1987 to 1999 president of the Michigan Electric and Gas Association. This is a commissioner who can bring meaningful oversight to BWL.

Tim Daman, who heads the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, said his organization welcomes the opportunity to work with the city to fashion a board of commissioners with strong professional expertise. With 1,100 members, Daman is confident that this talent exists.

Then there is the larger question of whether it really makes sense for the city to own a utility. Certainly there is some measure of pride and politics at play, but does it still make financial sense? The gap between the rates charged by providers like Consumers Electric and BWL is shrinking. For my electric bill in January, the difference between a bill from BWL and what I received from Consumers is just \$3.88 — about 4 percent.

Rates from a commercial utility might be slightly higher than BWL's right now, but money from the sale of the utility, which last year had net assets in excess of \$600 million, could transform Lansing. The city could invest in education, health care, job creation, the arts and more. If ever there was a time to consider shedding this property, it's now, during what might charitably be called a transition period. Considering the last 10 years, Lansing may have better luck selling BWL that it's had running it.



STREET SMART

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM HARNESSSES THE ENERGY OF HIP HOP TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

By **TY FORQUER**

It's a cold January evening, and nearly a dozen junior high students and parents have braved the icy roads to make it to a classroom at the Oak Park YMCA. Classes at Lansing Public Schools were canceled that day, but class is in session at All of the Above Hip Hop Academy (AOTA).



#RaceMatters

Electronic beats are pumping from computer speakers in the corner as Tyson Pumphrey, a.k.a Ozay Moore, lays down the ground rules.

"Within these walls, hip hop is not about tearing people down. Hip hop is a beautiful culture, we respect the culture and we respect each other."

Pumphrey, artistic director of AOTA, uses the history of hip hop to combat the negative themes that young people are hearing everyday in mainstream hip hop. An art form that began as the unifying voice of oppressed black communities in New York has spawned a mainstream music that glorifies violence, misogyny and drug culture. Teaching skills opens the door, but teaching the history gives students a chance to use those skills in positive ways.

Tonight's students are here to learn about Bboying (break dancing) and style writing. While most of the class breaks off to learn about freezes and back spins, Pumphrey hands out sketchbooks to the remaining students.

"The original writers called it style writing," he begins. "Graffiti was a name applied to it later by the news media."

Pumphrey's teaching style is fluid and improvised, but rooted in history and experience. Within the first 15 minutes of class, Pumphrey quotes Nietzsche ("One cannot fly into flying") and draws parallels between graffiti and ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics ("It's human nature to see a blank surface and want to draw on it").

"Hip hop is the dominant cultural voice of this generation," explains Pumphrey. "We're leveraging hip-hop

culture to invest in kids' lives and in their communities."

WHAT'S MY NAME?

Pumphrey, a 33-year-old native of Seattle, built a career for himself as a hip-hop artist on the West Coast, performing under the name Othello both as a solo artist and with his group Lightheaded. He moved to Lansing in 2006; his wife, Rebekah, grew up in Lansing and wanted to be closer to her family.

"I had never lived in the Midwest before. I thought I would give it a shot," he says.

He found himself facing new challenges as an artist as his family grew.

"When my son was born, one month later, I was on Warped Tour for three months," he remembers. "Touring was how I made my money. Something had to change."

So Pumphrey began a transition. He got a full-time job, but continued to write and record music on evenings and weekends. He used vacation days at work to go on tour.

This new approach meant a new moniker, and Othello became Ozay Moore.

"I needed to start fresh, I wasn't that guy anymore."

This change also led a refocusing of energy. As his life became more local, he began to look for ways to give back

to the community. In early 2011, he began to dream about using hip hop to strengthen community. Later that year, AOTA was born.

IT TAKES TWO

Pumphrey is joined in this venture by long time friend and veteran rapper Sharron Solo Brooks, academy manager and emcee instructor. Brooks, 38, is known as Solo to his friends but performs under the name Sareem Poems.

Brooks and Pumphrey's lives have been intertwined since the two met on the West Coast hip-hop circuit. Raised in Los Angeles, Brooks is a member of the hip-hop group L.A. Symphony, which often shared the stage with Lightheaded. Brooks and Pumphrey became fast friends.

"We were both very enthusiastic about the culture of hip hop," Brooks says.

In 2007, both artists released solo records on the Hip Hop is Music label, and the two set out on a national tour together in support of the albums. This tour included a stop in Pumphrey's new hometown, Lansing. During their time in Lansing, Brooks hit it off with Rebekah's sister, Carla. Not long after, the brothers in music became brothers-in-law, and Brooks moved to Lansing in October 2009.

Both Brooks and Pumphrey continue to tour and record music. Pumphrey released the album "Taking L's" in June 2014. Brooks released "You Still on Earth?" with L.A. Symphony in December 2014 and is working on a solo release entitled "Beautiful Noise," which is tentatively slated for a release this month. The album, which will be released on iLLECT Recordings, is produced by fellow AOTA instructor Ess Be (Shondell Brandon).

While they have both made the transition from full-time musicians to family men with day jobs, they are quick to tell you that they are not done making relevant art.

"The dream isn't changing, the approach is changing," says Brooks.

The rest of AOTA's roster is a formidable mix of industry veterans and rising talents, including Rafael Downes (formerly Rafael de la Ghetto) and Matthew Duncan (aka Choppy Blades).



PUMPHREY



BROOKS



Tyson Pumphrey teaches style writing — graffiti — to a student at the All Of The Above Hip Hop Academy.

Photo by Darryl Evans



"Within these walls, hip hop is not about tearing people down."

TYSON PUMPHREY

See HIP HOP, Page 10

HIP HOP

from page 9

LET KNOWLEDGE DROP

While the classes are structured, much of the learning at AOTA happens as a result of these artists' being together in one place.

"It's like osmosis," explains academy alumnus Evan Dunbar. "The exposure you get to people with so much experience is invaluable."

Dunbar, 18, grew up in south Lansing but lives in East Lansing, where he is a freshman at Michigan State University.

He understands the value of communication. His mother is Lansing City Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar, and this proximity to politics has taught him the importance of clear and effective communication.

Dunbar's time at AOTA gave him a chance to find his own voice.

A poet, Dunbar had little musical experience when he began working with AOTA.

"I didn't even know how to count a bar," he says.

AOTA taught him how to turn his poetry into lines, his lines into verses and his verses into complete songs. There is an emphasis on self-expression and honesty.

"This was a tough year for me," he says. "My parents got a divorce and I started college. Music gave me a way to deal with these feelings and speak out about them."

Although Dunbar has "graduated" from the academy, he is still involved as both an unofficial mentor for younger students and a continuing learner.

On Tuesday he released a project he views as a capstone of his experiences at AOTA: a six-song EP entitled *Training Day*.

Nearly all aspects of this release, including production, recording and album art, were done by AOTA students.

STARTED FROM THE BOTTOM NOW WE'RE HERE

By investing in the next generation of artists, Pumphrey is using AOTA to bolster



Lansing's hip-hop scene from the bottom up.

"There is such a huge turnover rate here, artists get burned out trying to make something happen here," he explains. "Great artists come through here but end up moving to another city to pursue better opportunities."

The academy began with pop-up programs at the Edgewood Village apartment complex in East Lansing and Building Twentyone in Mason before settling into the Oak Park YMCA. From this location, AOTA offers classes for students 13 to 18 years old in the four foundational arts of hip-hop culture: emceeing (rapping), Bboying, beat making (music production) and style writing.

While the art itself is important, the message of AOTA goes deeper. Pumphrey takes a three-pronged approach to teaching hip-hop culture: community, education and artistry.

"(Music and art) play a big part in creating momentum in communities," he said. "Artists can play a part in how youth process and understand the community they live in."

The program meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and averages three to eight students per class according to Pumphrey.

"We definitely have room to grow," he says.

Their classroom space features a dozen

computer stations that are used in their beat making and emcee classes, and a teaching station with a projector and speakers for showing videos or teacher demonstrations. The Y also financially supports the academy. Students attend for free, and the Y picks up the tab from their scholarship fund.

YOUNG MAN, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

AOTA's relationship with the Y began in 2012. Jason Helman, senior program director, was looking for a better way to engage youth in the community.

"We had been looking for a long time for programming that would reach junior high and high school students," Helman says.

At the time, Brooks was helping to the coordinate the Leader's Club at the Y, and told Helman about the pop-up programs Pumphrey was running. Helman saw an opportunity to reach out to youth in the area who are underserved by arts programming in school and after-school programming.

"(Pumphrey and I) went out for coffee and hashed out what that might look like," remembers Helman.

While these programs have an immediate benefit in giving youth a positive outlet for their time and energy, Helman has the long game in mind.

"It's what these kids will have the tools to do five years from now that is the goal," he says

As students are learning how to write and perform rap verses, they are also learning vocabulary and how to speak in public. While they are learning about Bboying, they are also learning the importance of community and teamwork. While they are learning about style writing, they are also learning about self-expression and bringing art to a community.

Even in the short time that AOTA has been in residence at the Y, Helman has seen the academy change perceptions of hip hop in the community. As the academy engaged the community through public murals and events, opinions on hip hop have shifted.

"To some, especially adults, there was a



Tabor "FlavaVits" Vits helps teach a bboy or breakdancing move. All Of The Above Hip Hop Academy teaches bboying, emceeing, style writing and other hip hop arts.

Photo by Darryl Evans

negative connotation to (hip hop)," he says. "They've begun to see it as an artistic movement in our community."

In addition to providing space, funding and administrative help, working through the Y also gives a natural rhythm to the academy's schedule. The academy offers after-school classes in the fall and spring while students are in school, and then changes focus to community outreach in the summer months. In 2014, AOTA participated in Common Ground Music Festival and Lansing Jazzfest and teamed up with the Downtown Neighborhood Association to organize community block parties.

THE MESSAGE

With the tragedies of Michael Brown and Eric Garner still fresh in our cultural memory, Pumphrey sees a chance for hip hop to lead the discussion.

"I think hip hop should always be a platform to comment on and discuss what is happening in our world and our community. When you lose that, you lose what makes the music special."

Brooks sees hip hop as a way for communities that are underrepresented in the media to get a message out.

"Hip hop started among communities stricken by poverty," he explains. "Hip hop gave them a voice."



"Hip hop started among communities stricken by poverty. Hip hop gave them a voice."

SHARRON SOLO BROOKS

Brooks sees the discussion surrounding Brown and Garner as an area where hip hop can address a cultural disconnect.

"When I talk to my white friends, they evaluate these events on a case-by-case basis. But when I talk to my black friends, they see it as the latest example of an unfair system they have been dealing with their whole lives."

For him, hip hop is one way to present a different perspective.

"Music is not the answer, but it can be a tool."

This cultural understanding of hip hop is an important part of Brook's message because young people are hearing so many superficial messages in mainstream music.

"Due to the success of hip hop, the culture today has been taken over by commercialism. The message of much of the music out there today is get rich as quick as you can and stay as high as you can."

Pumphrey stresses the importance of using education to confront issues of violence, misogyny and homophobia that are prevalent in mainstream hip hop.

"It's important that the community stands up and takes responsibility for the messages they are putting out."

See HIP HOP, Page 11

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www.thereadingpeople.org

HIP HOP

from page 10

KICKIN' IT NEW SCHOOL

The power of AOTA's programming lies in its willingness to engage youth culture, says Erik Skogsberg, assistant secondary coordinator for MSU's Department of Teacher Education.

"It's the difference in deficit-based education versus asset-based education," he explains. "Instead of viewing students as

in (activities like this) outside of the class," says Skogsberg. "What if the classroom looked more like their lives?"

Skogsberg acknowledges that there are problematic themes in hip hop, especially in mainstream hip hop. Instead of ducking the tough questions, he encourages teachers to use hip hop to confront those issues.

"There are many problematic elements in our society that should be taken up in the classroom," he says. "It's important to set up an environment in which we can critique those elements."

By connecting students to the history of hip hop and providing a space to cri-



Grffiti mural designed by Tyson Pumphrey reinforces the message of the All Of The Above Hip Hop Academy.

Photo by Darryl Evans

having deficits to be remedied, it values the students' experiences as assets which can be tapped into."

Skogsberg, who is also a doctoral student in MSU's Curriculum, Instruction and Teacher Education program, is researching educational approaches that directly engage the culture of a community.

"I'm interested in taking what students are doing outside of the classroom and connecting it to the discipline."

For example, he says, Pumphrey often begins emcee classes with a cypher. In hip hop culture, a cypher is an informal gathering of emcees who take turns rapping over a beat.

"We know that students are engaging

the problems in mainstream hip hop, AOTA empowers students to shape the future of the genre.

"It allows students to start making decisions of what they want hip hop to be," says Skogsberg.

CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP

The vision for AOTA is bigger than an after-school program. It is out to prove that hip hop has a role to play in shaping the future of local communities. Despite its lofty goals, Brooks believes the concept is simple.

"We're artists giving freely of our time to build a generation of students who pursue art."

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ARTS & CULTURE

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In a mellow tone

Betty Joplin puts life into every syllable

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

To grasp the vocal genius of Betty Joplin, start with the smallest word you can find. Joplin's indigo-sky voice, with dusky vibrato at the edges, is too generous to take in all at once. When she sings the word "is" in "You Don't Know

Betty Joplin Tribute

Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan (JAMM)
6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8
Performers: Betty Joplin, Betty Baxter, Twyla Birdsong, Randy Gelispie, Ramona Collins, Mardra Thomas, Sunny Wilkinson and more
SOLD OUT
Tropo
111 E. Michigan Ave.
facebook.com/jazzjamm

What Love Is," the "i" gutters like a candle, for two or three warm seconds, until the "s" softly pinches it cold. It's a life lesson — a love affair, a breakup and burned fingers — in one syllable.

"I prefer singing songs I can identify with in real life," Joplin said. "Otherwise, you don't really have it down on the inside of you."

Joplin, 72, is a popular choice for this year's Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan honors. She's a singer's singer who counts Aretha Franklin among her fans. Nearly every jazz singer of note in the mid-Michigan area will be on hand to pay tribute at Sunday's award party.

Veteran drummer Randy Gelispie has worked with jazz legends Dinah Washington, Nancy Wilson and Etta Jones. He puts Joplin "right there at the top of the list."

Gelispie and Joplin worked countless gigs together, going back to the 1970s. "She has a gospel way of doing it," Gelispie said. "She is a very soulful singer."

They've been through a few rough spots together. On one date, Detroit organ player Lyman Woodard showed up the worse for drink. "Betty was singing 'When I Fall in Love' and Lyman was playing 'Misty,'" Gelispie said, laughing. "She just kept singing on and singing on." On another date, when Woodard was too impaired to play the organ, Joplin took over the keyboard and did double duty.

Joplin grew up in Jackson listening to church music, singing and playing piano with the choir from age 7. She started drumming on flat surfaces, with vocal accompaniment, at age 3 or 4. There were no musicians in the family.



Courtesy photo

Betty Joplin will be honored by the Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan for a lifetime of musical accomplishments.

"I give God credit for it," she said.

"She's self-taught," Gelispie said. "She has her own way of presenting a tune."

Although her mother considered jazz "the devil's music" and banned it from the house, Joplin listened to jazz and pop LPs at her older sister's place. She found that she could sit down at the piano and play almost anything she heard.

She dreamed of singing in nightclubs, but "a lot of life" got in the way. She was married at 17. Two years later, she was divorced, with three kids to take care of. Another child came along 11 years later.

"I didn't want to roam around singing," she said. "I threw that completely out of my mind." It's a decision she never regretted. In 1982, her oldest son, Robert, was killed

in a car accident at 20.

"It would have been horrible if I'd been away from home and lost that precious time with him," she said.

Her singing career started in 1972, when two longtime friends, drummer Rueben Upchurch and saxophonist Bob Cotton, talked her into going with them to a gig at the Beachcomber nightclub on the shore of Lake James, Indiana.

Despite stage fright and a total lack of club experience, she was an instant hit with the audience. The owner offered her a weekend gig through the summer. It was a nice supplement to Joplin's job at the telephone company.

"I was hooked on the crowd and the music," she said. "It was a great feeling."

Gigs in Hillsdale, Coldwater and other towns followed. Joplin bought a cheap stand-up organ and added her keyboard skills to the newly christened Betty Joplin Trio.

With no formal education and limited exposure to jazz, Joplin learned the standards on stage by picking up the tunes from her bandmates. When she protested at an unfamiliar tune, they would tell her, "You can do it, girl, you've got big ears."

"I'd lay back some, listen, and get through it," she said. "I didn't have a clue what I was playing but I was able to follow them."

After Aretha Franklin heard Joplin at a Detroit club, she hired Joplin several times to sing at her home for birthday parties and other celebrations. "It was scary at first," Joplin said. "I thought, 'Oh, my God, how do I sing in front of the Queen of Soul?'"

Joplin marvels at the string of unexpected turns in her life.

"Whenever I tried to get somewhere in my career, it never came about," Joplin said. "It only happened when I wasn't looking for it."

At one of Franklin's parties, Joplin met Duke Ellington's son, Mercer Ellington, who had assumed the leadership of his late father's legendary orchestra. He hired Joplin for a gig in Cincinnati, her first in front of a big band.

"It was like they were going to blow me off the stage," she said. She asked Ellington if she could stand next to the piano, on the dance floor. "No, you go up on the stage," he

See Joplin, Page 13



Photos by Ty Forquer/City Pulse

LEFT: Local band Lights and Caves treated listeners to a mix of originals and covers in the heated tent behind the REO Town Pub. ABOVE: Lansing residents Mark Proctor, 54, and Suzi Novakowski, 47, pour beers provided by Traverse City's Right Brain Brewery

Tangled up in brew

REO Town became a beer-lover's dream this weekend as I'm a Beer Hound and Right Brain Brewery took over South Washington Avenue with the Art and Craft BeerFest. The two-night, multi-venue festival offered live music, art, locally made food, and of course, plenty of beer.

Beer connoisseurs were treated to rare offerings like Cool Hand Cuke, a saison aged over fresh cucumbers, basil and coriander, and Mangalitsa Pig Porter, a porter actually brewed with smoked pigs heads. For the less daring, favorites like their Spinal Tapper and Naughty Girl Stout meant nearly everyone found a brew they could enjoy.

— TY FORQUER

CURTAIN CALL

No drama

Inspired acting can't save the aimless 'Theatre2Film' project

By PAUL WOZNAK

Undoubtedly, MSU's "Theatre2Film Project" is an invaluable experience, giving students the freedom to write and perform their own work on stage and eventually on film. Audiences get an opportunity to see the "Theatre" part of the creative process, but unfortunately the production gives little insight into what the "2Film" process might be.

"Theatre2Film Project"

Studio 60 Theatre
(basement of the MSU Auditorium)
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4 & Thursday, Feb. 5;
8:00pm Friday, Feb. 6 & Saturday, Feb. 7;
2:00pm Saturday, Feb. 7 & Sunday, Feb. 8.
\$10
(517) 353-1982,
whartoncenter.com

follows over a dozen characters through mini-dramas that crosscut in real time. There's a guy turning down financial help from his brother, feuding sisters, a guy in a dark dream world, etc. Things happen and people talk in "Theatre2Film" but, like "Seinfeld," this is "a show about nothing." Unlike "Seinfeld," this play has no clear sense of tone, genre or defined story arcs. That is not to say "Theatre2Film" needs to follow conventional Hollywood framing devices like a "romantic comedy" or "melo-

drama," but a two-and-a-half hour story without any frame at all leaves the audience feeling lost.

Part of the problem may be the sheer number of writers. CJ Valle and Mark Colson are credited with writing the "themes and basic storylines," but 17 other names all have at least some credit in the writing process. Actors speak in dialogue that barely moves the plot and tells audiences little about characters, as if no one could agree on what the show should be about.

It's a shame, because "Theatre2Film" employs really fine actors who perform excellent naturalistic acting. Kirill Sheynerman and Kate Maggart shine as a feuding coffee shop customer and hostess, and Dan Inglese and Beau Bielski give standout performances as feuding brothers. The actors provide their select scenes with honest, interpersonal chemistry. You want to root for these characters so badly, but chemistry alone does not give audiences a way to connect to their story. The characters are never put in peril or given moral decisions to navigate, save for a few exceptions. They're just there, talking to other people. It's so naturalistic that it's downright dull.

To their credit, the writers stick with realistic, local situations instead of trying to fabricate a mafia plot into a small-town setting. But the mish-mash of different voices turns into a muddled din instead of an intricate harmonic chorus. Sure it's all original and local, but it's not very interesting.

CROWDSOURCING

A GUIDE TO LANSING-AREA ONLINE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS

Crowdsourcing is an occasional feature that will highlight local crowdsourcing campaigns. To find the events, go to the designated website and search by title.

Annie's new life

Donors rally to save a sick Siberian Husky (www.giveforward.com)

By ARIEL ROGERS

Most of us go the extra mile for our pets, but Elissa "Dogbyte" Patterson, of Fowlerville, went an extra 1,500 miles for a dog that she isn't even sure will be hers.

Through the crowdsourcing website GiveForward.com, Patterson was able to raise \$1,000 to pay for the 24-hour round-trip to St. Pauls, N.C. to save Annie (previously Snowflake) from being euthanized at a seven-day kill shelter. And now the site is helping save Annie's life again, attempting to raise \$4,500 to pay for medical treatment at the Michigan State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital for parvovirus.

Patterson was browsing a Siberian Husky Facebook group on Jan. 22 when she came across a picture of Annie, with a caption explaining that she would be euthanized



Annie

at 5 p.m. the next day. Patterson called the shelter and told them she was on her way. Accompanied by her friend Cheryl Janke, Patterson began the journey to Robeson County Animal Control to save Annie.

"We got there two hours before they were going to euthanize Annie," Patterson said.

Patterson believes the dog contracted the disease in the shelter. Parvovirus is an extremely contagious and potentially life-threatening disease that affects a dog's intestinal tract and white blood cell count.

Annie is in isolation at the MSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital emergency room, and will be released when she is able to eat by herself. She is currently being fed by feeding tube. It costs around \$650 a day for Annie to stay at the clinic.

"Unfortunately, money is the issue," Patterson said. "I couldn't expect anything from anyone and I'm grateful for the people (who) have contributed what they can. It has been an amazing process this far."

GiveForward charges a fee of 7.9 percent of donations plus 50 cents per transaction. To avoid these fees, Patterson said that donations can also be given directly to the MSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Emergency & Critical Care Medicine Services. To donate, call (517) 353-5420 and ask to make a payment toward Annie Patterson-Dikeou.

To learn more about the campaign or to contribute, go to: <http://bit.ly/1KoYU5l>

If you have a crowdsourcing event to promote, send a link and short description to ty@lansingcitypulse.com.

Joplin

from page 12

told her.

She conquered her fear and was rewarded with dozens of gigs with Ellington's big band, including a tour of Japan in the early 1980s.

Joplin didn't know it, but she was headed for her career high when a friend of New York-based R&B crooner Arthur Prysock heard her sing at a political fundraiser at Jimmy's Place in Detroit in the mid-80s.

Some time later, Prysock sang a gig at a Detroit jazz club, Mrs. Morgan's Boarding House, with Joplin in the audience. Toward the end of the evening, he pulled Joplin onto the stage and introduced her. She sang two songs.

"My knees were knocking," she said. Before she could head back to her seat, Prysock came back and announced a duet: "When I Fall in Love." She could hardly believe she was singing with one of her idols.

After that, Prysock and Joplin worked



Courtesy photo

Arthur Prysock and Betty Joplin, pictured together here, were nominated for a Grammy in 1987 for their duet, "Teach Me Tonight."

together whenever he was in the area. By then, Joplin had moved to Lansing and was working for the state government.

Joplin's longstanding engagement at the Garage, a nightclub in downtown

Lansing, was an after-work ritual throughout the 1980s.

"Talk about some fun times," Joplin said.

In 1986, Joplin invited Prysock to do a show at the Wayside on Kalamazoo Street in Lansing. At the end of the gig, Prysock dropped another bomb. "I am taking Betty into the studio to record with me this summer," he announced.

A year later, Joplin strolled to the Quality Dairy from her south Lansing home, picked up a Detroit Free Press and scanned a list of Grammy nominations. She was stunned to see the names "Arthur Prysock and Betty Joplin" nominated for "Jazz Vocal Performance, Duet or Group." (The track was "Teach Me Tonight" from the album "A

Rockin' Good Way.) She made a phone call to Prysock's office, confirmed that it was real, and then went back to Quality Dairy and bought the rest of the newspapers.

"I wasn't trying for anything," she said.

"I had never been in the studio and it was the farthest thing from my mind."

The same goes for Sunday's lifetime achievement award from JAMM. She is

Past honorees

2010: Sandy Izenson

2011: Patty Richards

2012: Gene and Sue Rebeck

2013: Randy Gelispie

2014: Sunny Wilkinson and Ron Newman

Every March, JAMM solicits nominations from its 100 members to honor a "person or persons who have made a significant impact and/or contribution to jazz in mid-Michigan." A seven-member board narrows the nominees to three and the entire membership votes for the honoree by email.

delighted about the tribute, and she'll happily join the all-star lineup of singers at Troppo Sunday, but she has one caveat.

"Don't get it twisted," she said. "I'm not retiring. No way am I ready to quit."

Take a back road

'Ride Michigan' offers motorcycle tours off the beaten path

By **BILL CASTANIER**

About this time of year, as the snow piles up outside their windows, motorcyclists start to get antsy. Bill Murphy, who has written five books on motorcycle excursions, is already planning his next road trip on his Harley-Davidson Road King.

In his most recent book, "Ride Michigan," Murphy takes motorcycle enthusiasts on a tour of Michigan's back roads, weaving through small towns and skirting the Great Lakes. The book is divided into four sections: the north woods, the lakeshores, the southern farmlands and the Great Lakes, and offers more than 30 tour suggestions. These tours range from excursions that only take a few hours to tours that require

several days.

Each of the tours is unique, but what ties them together is Murphy's keen eye for things that most people don't see, or rather, don't notice. Murphy, who worked for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality until he retired in 1998, uses the skills he developed in his job to point out everything from geological formations to unusual sites.

Where other riders may see a hill, he sees a moraine formed eons ago by glaciers. Where most see and appreciate the great sand dunes, he knows how and when they were developed. When it comes to motorcycle tours, Murphy is a combination of Bill Nye the Science Guy and a Michigan history teacher.

Murphy has been riding for more than four decades, registering over 300,000 miles on his odometers. He calls his bike adventures "exploratory wandering."

"I think it is more important to be curious and flexible on the road than to adhere to a rigid agenda and travel itinerary," he writes.

Murphy likes to include things that don't make most tour guides, even if they are out of the way. "I have a love affair with Michigan and when I'm on my motorcycle. I'm in no hurry at all," he says.

One journey, which he calls "Path to Perdition," starts out in East Lansing and follows the paths of old Indian foot rails

to Hell, Mich. In his trip details, Murphy makes sure riders know when turns are necessary and alerts riders to some difficult navigating since the road to Hell can be confusing. Along the way he also highlights stops for refueling, both for the bike and the rider.

"Personally, I don't recommend that motorcyclists drink, so I get a Coke," he says.

His routes always include popular places along the way where motorcyclists are known to gather. A stop at the Dam Site Inn in Hell is recommended for friendly talk, souvenirs and what Murphy calls "obligatory pictures."

One of Murphy's favorite trips is entitled "Where Eagles Soar and Waters Roar." This tour starts near the Upper Peninsula's Lake Gogebic and goes to the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula and back. This tour includes dramatic views as it skirts Lake Superior and then winds through Porcupine Mountains State Park.

Along the way, riders will begin to appreciate the hardness of Michigan's copper and iron ore miners. On the way back, Murphy tantalizes you with a tale of the otherworldly Paulding light, a mysterious light seen in the woods at night in the region. According to local legends, the light is the spirit of a railroad man swinging his lantern.

Although he does enjoy going on group rides, Murphy mostly tours alone so if



Courtesy photo

Author Bill Murphy with his Harley-Davidson Road King.

he sees something in the distance he can turn left or right and check it out. He also enjoys the little things on a bike ride, like the smells and temperature changes you can feel on a motorcycle.

"You become immersed in nature and you notice more things on a bike," he says.

Murphy likes to chat with locals and other travelers while he is on the road, and his motorcycle is a natural ice-breaker. "People see the bike and come over and talk to me," he says.

A nice feature of this guidebook is it can easily be adapted for people who would rather make their trip on four wheels. With its detailed turns and tips, the book is in many ways reminiscent of the collectible guide books of the early 20th century that were handed out by local tourist councils.

While it may seem odd to think about motorcycle tours while there is still snow on the ground, now is the perfect time to cozy up with a hot cocoa and a copy of "Ride Michigan." Riding season will be here before you know it.

Schuler Books & Music

Zombie Baby Shower with KELLY DIPUCCHIO

Saturday, February 7. @11 am
Eastwood Towne Center



Join us for a special story-time with bestselling Michigan author Kelly DiPucchio for the sequel to her awfully adorable *Zombie In Love* picture book! DiPucchio and illustrator Scott Campbell have

teamed up once again to bring their lovable zombies the family they always wanted in *Zombie in Love, 2 + 1*.

MI Notable Book Award Winner JOSH MALERMAN presents *Bird Box*

Thursday, February 12. @7pm
Meridian Mall



Written with the narrative tension of *The Road* and the exquisite terror of classic Stephen King, *Bird Box* was just named one of the Library of Michigan's 2015 Michigan Notable Books, and had already been

optioned for film adaptation by Universal Studios before it hit shelves.

For more information visit
www.SchulerBooks.com.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Thursdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Jonathan at (517) 999-5069.

Wednesday, February 4

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Photography Class. With Ron St. Germain. 6:30 p.m. \$55. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866.

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$5/\$3 students. Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170, artmuseum.msu.edu.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

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

Docent Group Training Begins. Lead tours and present education programs. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 241-6852, michigan.gov/mhcvolunteers.

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

EVENTS

Lansing Catholic Community Day. Learn more about Lansing Catholic High School. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing Catholic High School, 501 Marshall St., Lansing. (517) 267-2102, lansingcatholic.org.

Farmers Market at Allen Market Place. Live music by DJ Clarinet. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Kindergarten Visit Day. Visit classrooms, meet teachers and more. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779 ext. 107, lansingchristianschool.org.

Comedy Night. Stand-up comedy. 9 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

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.

Wednesday Senior Discovery. Chinese New Year. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood

See Out on the Town, Page 17



Courtesy photo
Terrence Gipson in
Riverwalk's "Ain't
Misbehavin'"

Stairway to Harlem

• • • Thursday Feb. 5 • • •

At his peak in the 1920s, Fats Waller was so popular that Al Capone arranged to have him kidnapped and he was forced to perform at gunpoint for Capone's birthday celebration. (Waller emerged safely from the party three days later, flush with cash from the well-tipping gangsters.)

Thomas "Fats" Waller was one of the early 20th century's most prolific composers and penned some of the era's most popular songs. A skilled musician, his virtuosic piano playing led one contemporary to describe him as a "black Horowitz." Waller was also an important figure in the Harlem Renaissance, when black artists and authors worked to establish a refined black culture in the aftermath of slavery.

Riverwalk Theatre evoke 1930s Harlem this weekend as they present "Ain't Misbehavin'," a musical revue based on the life and music of Waller.

Along with the captivating music, this production will give audiences a glimpse into this historic era in black culture.

"It's important to us (at Riverwalk Theatre) to give audiences opportunities to see different genres of music and types of cultures," explains director Hope Rollins.

Waller's ebullient playing style and songwriting savvy earned him popularity across racial lines.

"He provided joy to people because he was so passionate about his music," says Rollins.

Bringing "Ain't Misbehavin'" to the Riverwalk Theatre is something Rollins has wanted to do for a long time.

"I jotted down a vision for the show two or three years ago," she says.

This vision, which included a set built around a grand spiral staircase, is brought to life in this production with the help of Alvin Holloway, the show's scenographer. Holloway built a majestic staircase that dissolves into piano key walkways painted on the stage. Music notes dapple the set.

"Just looking at the set, it's magnificent," says Rollins. "There's music on stage before you even hear a note."

The music will be provided by a live, six-piece band under the

capable leadership of James Geer. Geer doubles as piano player for the production, giving him the considerable task of imitating Waller's distinctive "Harlem stride" style of piano playing.

"Ain't Misbehavin'"
7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5;
8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6 and
Saturday Feb. 7; 2 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 8; 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 12; 8 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday
Feb. 14; 2 p.m. Sunday,
Feb. 15
\$22/\$19 seniors and students
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
(517) 482-5700, www.riverwalktheatre.com

Rollins has also beefed up the cast, expanding from the usual five cast members to eight.

"We try to engage as many talented people as possible," says Rollins.

The expanded cast is beneficial for the actors, as the workload is divided among the larger group.

"All of the singers also dance in this production, and it can be very taxing on our performers," explains Rollins. "These are people with day jobs, they're not used to singing and dancing all day."

Earlier this month, one of the lead singers fell ill and the rest of the cast was able to fill in the gaps in rehearsals.

"The other singers have been covering for him while he recovers," says Rollins. "I'm proud of how they carried on without missing a beat."

This celebration of music and culture comes at an appropriate time for the Riverwalk Theatre; the company was just awarded two substantial grants from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. A technology improvement grant of \$16,250 will allow the group to upgrade its sound and lighting systems, and a \$18,750 operational support grant will go towards publicity and administration costs.

For Rollins, "Ain't Misbehavin'" is a great chance for audiences to learn about a musician who broke down racial barriers.

"This is a great chance for us to unify around the music."

—TY FORQUER

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



FRI.FEB
6TH

JOHN GORKA AT THE TEN POUND FIDDLE

Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove Street, East Lansing. \$18, \$15 members, \$5 students. 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 6

After cutting his teeth in the 1980s Greenwich Village music scene, John Gorka became a preeminent figure in the new folk movement. Friday he performs at the Ten Pound Fiddle. The New Jersey native, known for his sharp wit and poignant baritone vocals, debuted in 1987 with his "I Know" LP on Red House Records. In the '90s he switched to the Windham Hill label and released the acclaimed "Land of the Bottom Line." His 1993 "Temporary Road" LP earned national radio attention with the single "When She Kisses Me," and Gorka opened tours for Mary Chapin Carpenter and Nanci Griffith. In the years following, Gorka has collaborated with an array of artists, including Kathy Mattea and Leo Kottke. After a four-year hiatus, he released the earnest and wistful "The Bright Side of Down" LP last year.

SQUIRREL SHAPED FISH AT THE AVENUE CAFE

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. 18+, \$5, 9 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7

The self-proclaimed "lounge pop/groove rock" band Squirrel Shaped Fish plays a unique brand of smooth R&B-inspired indie-rock. The Lansing-based group headlines Saturday at the Avenue Café. Openers are the Vonneguts (Detroit), mtvghosts (Chicago), and local punk-rock band the Fiction Junkies. Squirrel Shaped Fish formed during the summer of 2013 and within months played its first show. In 2014 the band played the Common Ground Music Festival alongside 311 and the Violent Femmes. Beyond Lansing, the group has gigged in Chicago, Minneapolis, and Iowa City. Last year the band released its debut EP, "Learn to Love," and is currently writing tracks for a debut full length, due out this year.



SAT.FEB
7TH

THE MAIN SQUEEZE AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$15, \$10 adv. 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 7

The enormous funky sound of the Main Squeeze has been heard everywhere from China to the Bonna-roo Music Festival to Electric Forest. Saturday the band headlines the Loft, openers are Desmond Jones and Everyday Junior. The Main Squeeze shifts between classic funk and rock, while interspersing jazzy melodies. Its signature sound is a concoction of soulful vocals, intricate jams, tight grooves, and vigorous guitar solos. The band formed in late 2009 and began gigging around its hometown of Chicago. In 2012 the Main Squeeze released its self-titled debut LP and was picked by Rolling Stone Magazine to open for the Roots and Jane's Addiction at the official Superbowl XLVI tailgate party in Indianapolis.



SAT.FEB
7TH

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Open Mic, 9 p.m.	Cash Kid, 10 p.m.	Squirrel Shaped Fish, 9 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Scott Seth, 7 p.m.	Karle Delo, 7 p.m.
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Grant Hendrickson, 8:30 p.m.	Sarah Brunner, 8:30 p.m.
Claddagh Irish Pub, 2900 Towne Centre Blvd.				Well Enough Alone, 8:30 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.			5 x 5, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		Open Mic w/Pat Zelenka, 9 p.m.	Yo Momma, 9 p.m.	Yo Momma, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Nick Krzywonos, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Skoryoke live band karaoke, 8 p.m.	The Blue Haired Bettys, 8 p.m.	Summer of Sol, 8 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke w/Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Oh Buddy Band, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Soulstice, 9 p.m.	The Rotations, 9 p.m.
Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.			Karaoke	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Homegrown Throwdown, 6:30 p.m.	The Main Squeeze, 8 p.m.
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.				Darin Lerner, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			The Old Adage, 9 p.m.	Cradle the Fall, 5 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Comedy Night, 9 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9 p.m.	Cash O' Reilly, 9:30 p.m.	Fat Boy & Jive Turkey, 9:30 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Lady Luck, 8:30 p.m.	Jimmy Likes Pie, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27			Well Enough Alone, 8 p.m.	Kathy Ford, 8 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd.			Life Support, 7 p.m.	The Tennants, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 501 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Acme Jam, 8 p.m.	Rush Clement, 8 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.			
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	The Wise Worsa, 8:30 p.m.	Time to Play, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Watershed, 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Dan MacLaughlin, 8 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.			DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.

LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

To get listed just email us at liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-5069. Only submit information for the following week's paper.

Out on the town

from page 15

Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Zen Buddhist Meditation. Instructions upon request. 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Donation. Garden of Mind, 122 N. Clemens Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-0469.

Annual Meeting/Winter Mixer. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Old Town Marquee, 319 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. iloveoldtown.org.

Lies, Damned Lies & Statistics. Art exhibit at Lookout! Gallery. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-6290, rcch.msu.edu.

Burning Desires Art Exhibit. Exploration of love, desire and romance. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Teen Crafternoon. Teens create a Watercolor Wonder craft. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Drop-In Writer's Workshop. 30 minutes of writing followed by discussion. 6-9 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

"A Creed for Atheists?" Values atheists subscribe to. 6 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, PilgrimUCC.com.

MUSIC

Fusion Shows presents. Live music. 21-up. 10 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

THEATER

Theatre2Film Project. Presented by MSU theatre. 7:30 p.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu/theatre2film.

Thursday, February 5 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lansing Area Codependent Anonymous. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, Room 214G, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. 5:15 p.m. \$5. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 349-9183, newhopehaslett.com.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh-in 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080, stdavidslansing.org.

Tarot Study Group. With Dawne Botke. 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3619, triplegoddessbookstore.net.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675, quanamtemple.org.

Mind Benders. Interactive trivia game. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363, cadl.org.

Preschool Science Exploration. Hands on science. This month's theme is owls. 1-2:30 p.m. \$4. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Orientation to Memory Loss. Alzheimer's Assoc

Education. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

HERO: Window Treatment Options. Call 372-5980 to register or email bruce@glhc.org. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St. Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

EVENTS

Euchre. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

Spanish Conversation. Practice listening to and speaking Spanish. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Capital Area Audubon Society. EMU's Dr. Allen Kurta: Hibernating Bats of Michigan. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224, fofnc.org.

Zen Buddhist Meditation. Instructions upon request. 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Donation. Garden of Mind, 122 N. Clemens Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-0469.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. Lessons, exercise and practice for adults. All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 574-4380.

8-Ball Tournament. Bring your pool game to the Avenue. Call to confirm because it is cancelled occasionally. 7 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403.

Community Conversation. "Genetically Modified Organisms." 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos. (517) 349-0250, cadl.org.

Lies, Damned Lies & Statistics. Art exhibit at Lookout! Gallery. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-6290, rcch.msu.edu.

Burning Desires Art Exhibit. Exploration of love, desire and romance. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Teen Game Haven. Play a variety of games; board, cards and video. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Lincoln County Process. Live music. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

MSU Wind Symphony. Kevin L. Sedatole, conductor. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"SchoolHouse Rock Live Jr." Fast-paced, family friendly musical from the TV show. 7 p.m. \$10/\$8 adv. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. (517) 541-5691, CPACpresents.com.

"Ain't Misbehavin'." Musical tribute to the Black Harlem Renaissance. 7 p.m. \$22/\$19 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Theatre2Film Project. (For details, see Feb. 4.) 7:30 p.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu/theatre2film.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Thursday Morning Storytime. Stories and crafts. 10 a.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble (Lansing), 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437, bn.com.

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See Out on the Town, Page 18

Out on the town

from page 17

Friday, February 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Weekday Science. Science education. This month: Michigan owls. 1-2:30 p.m. \$4. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Developing a Farm Safety Plan. Learn to make a food safety plan for your farm. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 999-3923, allenmarketplace.org/happenings.

EVENTS

Mid-Michigan Women's Expo. Over 250 exhibits and seminars tailored to women. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. \$9. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (616) 532-8833, kohlerexpo.com.

Habitat House Party 2015. Proceeds benefit Habitat Lansing. 6:30 p.m.-midnight, \$75. University Club MSU,

3435 Forest Road, Lansing, habitatlansing.org.
Howl at the Moon Guided Walk. Enjoy a guided walk through the nighttime woods. 7-8 p.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Zen Buddhist Meditation. Instructions upon request. 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Donation. Garden of Mind, 122 N. Clemens Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-0469.

Buddhist/Christian Study Group. Discussion. 7 p.m. Donation. Garden of Mind, 122 N. Clemens Ave., Lansing. (417) 999-0469.

StoryTime. Ages 3-6 years enjoy stories, songs and crafts. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Lies, Damned Lies & Statistics. Art exhibit at Lookout! Gallery. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-6290, rcach.msu.edu.

Burning Desires Art Exhibit. Exploration of love, desire and romance. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Teen Tech Time. Teens have access to a cluster of laptops. 3-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Sonic Salon: Drums & Drones. With Brian Chase and video artist Ursula Scherrer, 7:30 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

MUSIC

MSU Faculty Recital. Peter Lightfoot, dramatic baritone. 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

Fat Boy & Jive Turkey. Live performance. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Singles TGIF Party & Dance. Weekly singles party with fun, food and dancing. 7:30 p.m.-midnight, \$13. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 281-6272, SinglesTGIF.com.

THEATER

Theatre2Film Project. (For details, see Feb. 4.) 8 p.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton, theatre.msu.edu/theatre2film.

Sunset Ave., Ste 203, Lansing. (517) 282-9850, facebook.com/sunsetclaystudio.

College and Career Conference. Free FAFSA help. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham Intermediate School District Career Center, 611 Hagadorn Road, Mason. (517) 203-5011, capitalareacan.org.

Burning Desires Art Exhibit. Exploration of love, desire and romance. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Family Day at the Broad. Crafts, presentations and live music. Noon-4 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

MUSIC

MSU Symphony Orchestra. Mahler's Symphony No. 3. 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

Cash O'Riley. Live performance. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

EL Children's Concert Series. Featuring Tim the Music Man. 11 a.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 319-6929, cityofeastlansing.com/childrensconcert.

THEATER

"The 48-Hour Living Museum." Students portray real-life revolutionaries. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

Theatre2Film Project. (For details, see Feb. 4.) 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton, theatre.msu.edu.

"Ain't Misbehavin'." (For details, see Feb. 5.) 8 p.m. \$22/\$19 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Sunday, February 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Third floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

Creative Lampshades. Vintage lampshade alteration workshop. 10 a.m. \$35. SmittenDust Studio, 257 Bridge St., Dimondale. smittendust.blogspot.com.

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation and Silent Prayer. 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517)

See Out on the Town, Page 19

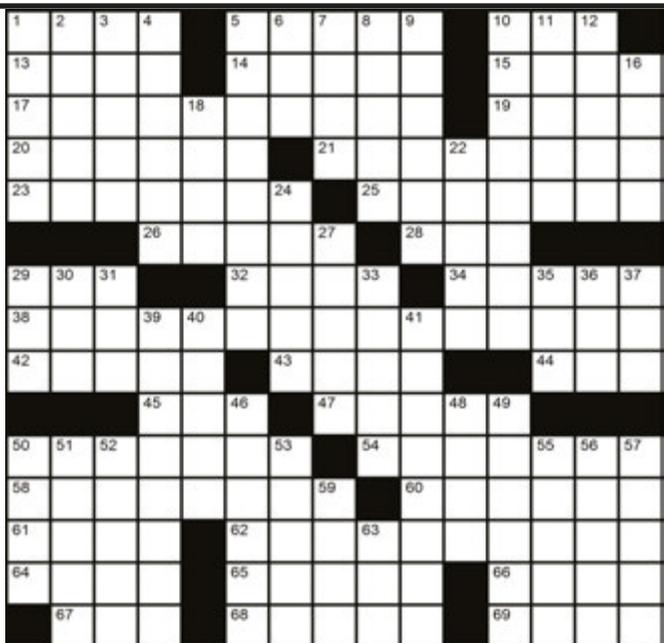
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Mew Coup"--didn't see that one coming.
 Matt Jones

Across

- 1 "American Horror Story" actress Lily
- 5 Outdo by a little
- 10 Get droopy
- 13 Just slightly
- 14 Vice ____
- 15 Gunfight at the O.K. Corral name
- 17 Quip, Part 1
- 19 2003/2005/2007 AL MVP, familiarly
- 20 Feller's warning
- 21 Quip, Part 2
- 23 Do master
- 25 "Game of ____"
- 26 Get in
- 28 "____ Can Cook"
- 29 Dog's foot
- 32 Floor space
- 34 Metamorphic stage
- 38 Quip, Part 3
- 42 Bat maker's tool
- 43 "I'll take 'Cartoons' for \$200, ____"
- 44 Control
- 45 Elusive swimmer
- 47 3/17 honoree, for short
- 50 "Nuts!"
- 54 Actress Mira
- 58 Quip, Part 4
- 60 Of a pelvic bone
- 61 Affleck flick
- 62 Quip, Part 5
- 64 Bit of sarcasm
- 65 Cinema seater



- 66 "____ perpetua" (Idaho's motto)
- 67 Beats by ____ (brand of audio equipment)
- 68 Add fuel to the fire
- 69 Explanations
- Down**
- 1 Flat floaters
- 2 Took the hit, financially
- 3 Tropical
- 4 OK to ingest
- 5 Wear out your welcome
- 6 Leftorium proprietor on "The Simpsons"
- 7 Estrada of "CHiPs"
- 8 Half a fitness motto
- 9 Like some fog
- 10 Like berries and oysters
- 11 "Fanfare for the Com-
 mon Man" composer Copland
- 12 "Grand Canyon Suite" composer Ferde ____
- 16 Adobe creations?
- 18 Dusseldorf denial
- 22 Jazz pianist-singer Diana
- 24 ____ firma
- 27 Cassette parts
- 29 Good buddy
- 30 Abbr. on a rap sheet
- 31 Feature of Algonquin Round Table discussions
- 33 Acts as accomplice
- 35 City in 2016 sports news
- 36 Solemn words
- 37 Mitt Romney's wife
- 39 Words after "know" or "settle"
- 40 Pearly whites
- 41 Excuse given by those who hire artists and pay nothing
- 46 ____ test
- 48 Get ____ on the knuckles
- 49 Reporters and their entourage
- 50 Key using all the black keys, for short
- 51 Drew in
- 52 Deadly sin
- 53 Citrus peel in a mixed drink
- 55 Like Joyce
- 56 More than mean
- 57 Non-dairy spreads
- 59 Cuatro y cuatro
- 63 "A spider!"

Saturday, February 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tai Chi in the Park. Free class for beginning and experienced tai chi players. Now at winter location. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Domestic Violence Support Group. Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Cross Country Ski Class. Tips and practice on the park trails. 9:30-11:30 a.m. \$15/\$20 using our equipment. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Snowshoe Class. Tips and practice on the park trails. 1-3 p.m. \$15/\$20 using our equipment. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

EVENTS

Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

Moonlight Ski and Shoe. Trails open late for skiing and snowshoeing. 6-9 p.m. \$3/\$9 using our equipment. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Grown and Sexy Winter Blast. Admission prices valid before 11:30 p.m. 10 p.m. Men \$7/women FREE. Secrets Night Club, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (313) 218-9685.

Sunset Clay Studio Art Market. Mid-Winter Art Market. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Sunset Clay Studio, 1820

SUDOKU

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

ADVANCED

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 21

Out on the town

from page 18

641-6201, selfrealizationcentremichigan.org.

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 371-5119, ruetenik@gmail.com.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons 6-6:30 p.m., dance 7-10 p.m. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson/FREE for students. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

Greater Lansing Vegan Meetup. All are welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Clerical Technical Union of MSU, 2990 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 332-7898, owl@le85c.org.

Formal Zen Service. Traditional Zen service and Dharma talk or reading. 10 a.m. Donations. Garden of Mind, 122 N. Clemens Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-0469, gardenofmind.org.

Burning Desires Art Exhibit. Exploration of love, desire and romance. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Sunday's Avenue Cafe All. Make your own Bloody Marys. Breakfast all day. 3-9 p.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

Comedy Night. No cover. \$1 off everything. 7 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

Pokemon/Magic the Gathering Card Games.

Tutorials for kids. Starter decks provided. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900, facebook.com/everybodyreads.

MUSIC

Rodney Lamar Page. Musical performance by Rodney Lamar Page. 2-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Thornetta Sings the Blues. With the LCC Faculty Jazz Quartet. 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. FREE. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

The Hot Sardines. 'Hot Jazz' live performance. 7 p.m. \$38. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-1982, whartoncenter.com.

R. Nathaniel Dett. Learn about Dett's choral compositions, 3 p.m. FREE. Emanuel First Lutheran Church, 1001 N Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-0109, emanuelfirst.org.

THEATER

Theatre2Film Project. (For details, see Feb. 4.) 2 p.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton, theatre.msu.edu.

"Ain't Misbehavin'." (For details, see Feb. 5.) 2 p.m. \$22/\$19 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Burning Desires: Poetry Reading. Annual poetry reading event celebrating love. 2-4 p.m. \$5 donation. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Monday, February 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Saints, Sinners & Cynics. Lively conversation, variety of topics, no judgment. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Coral Gables, 2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 882-9733, saintmichaellansing.org.

Learn to Meditate. Taught by Bob Teachout. Enter at rear of building. 8:15-9 p.m. Donations. C. Weaver

Physical Therapy Exercise Studio, 1720 Abbey Road, East Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

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. Room 9. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

EVENTS

Lies, Damned Lies & Statistics. Art exhibit at Lookout! Gallery. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-6290, rcsh.msu.edu.

Monday Morning Movie. Popcorn and a movie. Call for title. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtldl.org.

Recipe Club. Showcase your best world cuisine. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtldl.org.

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

Mac's Monday Comedy Night. Hosted by Mark Roebuck and Dan Currie. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com.

Club Shakespeare. 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, cadl.org.

Daddy/Daughter and Mother/Son dance. Formal evening with dancing and refreshments. 6:30-8 p.m. \$8. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4311, lansingmi.gov/parks.

Zen Buddhist Meditation. Instructions upon request. 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Donation. Garden of Mind, 122 N. Clemens Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-0469.

Homework Help. Free drop-in tutoring provided by MSU's SMEA. K-8. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

BabyTime. Intended for ages 1-18 months with adult. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Teen Movie Mania. Watch a blockbuster hit on the library big screen. 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

French Club. Practice listening to and speaking French. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Monday Movie Mania. Movies intended for an adult audience. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

The Living History Project. The documentary of five MI residents age 85 and up. 6:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

Karaoke. Hosted by DJ Lipgloss. 9 p.m. FREE. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

Spoonful. Live performance. 9 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

Tuesday, February 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

THURSDAY, FEB. 5-8 >> FUN ON THE ROCKS WINTERFEST

Grand Ledge's Fun on the Rocks Winterfest will keep you busy all weekend with various events for the whole family. The Grand Ledge Voice singing competition kicks off the event on Thursday and features singers from age 8 to 18 competing for cash prizes. The Mad Dog Chili Cook-Off and Craft Beer Tasting is in store for Friday night, offering all-you-can-eat chili for \$10 and craft beer tasting for \$15, or both for \$20. All proceeds go toward the Grand Ledge Masonic scholarship fund. In case you didn't stuff yourself with chili the night before, an all-you-can-eat "flying pancake" breakfast will be served on Saturday morning at the Opera House. After breakfast, you can enter a cardboard sled race at the Boy Scout building and win prizes for the fastest sled and best decorated sled. For full event details, visit grandledgechamber.com/winter.

SUNDAY, FEB. 8 >> LANSING SPARTAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION BOWLING FUNDRAISER

Don't be a turkey! Strike out childhood obesity by supporting the Lansing Spartan Youth Organization (LSYO) bowling fundraiser. Get two slices of pizza, pop, bowling shoe rental and unlimited bowling for \$15. Proceeds will go toward LSYO's youth fitness, nutrition and weight-loss programs. The deadline to register for the event is Friday, Feb. 6. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$15. Spare Time Entertainment Center, 3101 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 894-8429, lsyo@lsyo.org.

SUNDAY, FEB. 8 >> DARWIN DISCOVERY DAY

The eleventh annual Darwin Discovery Day crawls back to the MSU Museum for an afternoon full of scientific fun. This year's theme is "Teeth, Horns, Claws, Thorns: Nature's Weapons." Have you ever wanted to touch a tarantula? The MSU Bug House will provide an eight-legged creepy crawly you can touch, if you're brave enough. Slither around with a snake from the MSU Herpetology Club, become a junior scientist, tour the museum's Hall of Evolution and Habitat Hall and, most fun of all, eat a piece of cake for Charles Darwin's 206th birthday. 1-5 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

FRIDAY, FEB. 6-7 & FEB. 13-14 >> 'THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS' AT ALL-OF-US-EXPRESS CHILDREN'S THEATRE

The inimitable Mr. Toad and all his furry friends come to life in All-Of-US-Express Children's Theatre's production of Kenneth Graham's "The Wind in the Willows." In this loose adaptation of Graham's seminal book, Mr. Toad has an intense passion for motorcars but lacks the skill to drive well, a combination that eventually lands him in jail. While Mr. Toad is incarcerated, the dastardly weasels appropriate his elegant mansion. The events culminate in an epic struggle to not only to save Mr. Toad's home, but also to save Mr. Toad from himself. 7 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturday. \$7/\$5 ages 17 and under. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 319-6957. allofousexpress.org.



Serving Greater Lansing's LGBT Community

**Lansing Association
for Human Rights**

LAHR • LGBT News • Coming Out Group • Film Awards
Breakfast Club • Downtown Lunch • Cafe Night

An advocate by and for
lesbian, gay, bisexual and
transgender people and
their allies in the greater
Lansing community since 1979.

www.LAHRonline.org

Meditation

Quan Am Buddhist Temple
Every Thursday 7-8:30 p.m.
1840 N. College Rd., Mason, MI 48854
Everyone welcome - For information:
Call: (517) 347-1655 or (517) 853-1675
quanamtemple.org

SHANGRI-LA SPA & WELLNESS STUDIO

Allan Ross/City Pulse
Tabetha Cross,
owner/operator
of Shangri-La Spa
& Wellness Studio
next to Colonial
Village in Lansing.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

In the 1933 novel "Lost Horizon," author James Hilton dreamed up Shangri-La, a utopian society populated with a citizenry that doesn't



age. Last fall, a new Lansing business opened that references

Hilton's utopia and provides personal pampering and skin-care services designed to slow the effects of weather and age.

"It's easy to think of a trip to a day spa as a luxury, but taking good care of your skin should be part of your regular care," says Tabetha Cross, owner/operator of **Shangri-La Spa & Wellness Studio**. "If it's not, and you live long enough, you're going to wish you had done something sooner. I'm here to start people on that journey."

Cross opened Shangri-La late last year in a three-floor commercial building next to the **Colonial Village Shopping Center** on Mt. Hope Avenue. Over the last few months, she's been working to attract a steady clientele to her tiny studio.

"I only have about 400 square feet, but I've done a lot with the space," Cross says. "That's what's unique about Shangri-La — its versatility. It's designed for you to get in and get out if you're in a rush, or you can take your sweet time. It's up to you."

In addition to deep tissue, hot stone and Swedish massages, Shangri-La offers a full roster of skin care, makeup and waxing services. Cross also offers customized makeup tutorials — she's a licensed cosmetologist — and will soon begin offering yoga and fitness classes three days a week.

"My main goals in doing this were to stay as affordable and be as attainable as possible," Cross says. "I spent a long time narrowing down the materials I use to the ones that offer the best results for the least amount of money. You can have a nice spa day here for less than \$100."

Cross uses all-natural, organic materials for her scrubs and chemical peels. She also does full body wraps and airbrush tanning, and has contracted a doctor to do cold laser therapy.

"As I got further into my cosmetology career, I started working with a doctor at a spa who showed me the value of medical skin care treatment," Cross says. "I had been focusing on the fashion end, but I came to realize that effective skin care can improve someone's life."

Cross employs two massage therapists in addition to the doctor. She's not opposed to moving into a bigger space, but for now, she's happy keeping busy.

"The universe has been very kind to me," Cross said. "I feel like this studio found me. It's still almost surreal that we're doing it, and have been successful so far. But I think there's a lot to be said for people who know what they want and how to take care of themselves. Just because you get older doesn't mean you have to look older."

Shangri-La Spa & Wellness Studio
1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave.,
Lansing
10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily
(appointment only)
(517) 253-0308, facebook.com/shangrilaspaandwellness

Out on the town

from page 19

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.

Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn, grow and heal

Overeaters Anonymous. To support you in your weight loss efforts. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 290-5163.

EVENTS

Giant Tissue Paper Flowers. Learn to make big, bright tissue paper flowers. 6-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Bible and Beer. Discussion of scripture in everyday

SUNDAY, FEB. 8 >> #LOVELANSING PARTY

The Green Door Bar & Grill will be filled with local art and music as JiveOne5even hosts the first ever #LoveLansing Party. You'll be crossing your fingers hoping that you score great prizes from a silent auction featuring local products and services. Bid on cool art pieces created the day of the event by live artists while you listen to a variety of music from bands, including Scratch Pilots, Mix Pack, Lansing's Cool District and Understanding SOUL. Topping the night off will be a fun-filled comedy show. Proceeds from the event will help keep art in Lansing Public Schools' elementary programs. 2 p.m. \$10. Green Door Blues Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. greendoorlive.com.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11-12 >> 'A LIFE IN THE THEATRE' AT WHARTON



Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre is bringing the cynical and street-edged dialogue style known as "Mamet speak" to Wharton Center with David Mamet's "A Life in the Theatre." The play, featuring two actors at opposite points in their career, takes you through all the ins and outs of the theater business as the two battle for the spotlight. Based on Mamet's own experiences working in theater, the narrative provides a comedic, behind-the-scenes look into the complexities of passing the torch from one generation to the next. 7:30 p.m. Wed-Thu. \$40. Pasant Theatre, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11-12 >> SHEN YUN

You've seen the posters on nearly every storefront and bulletin board for the past six months and now it's finally here. The unique musical performers and classically trained dancers of the traveling Shen Yun company bring their eclectic stage show to Wharton Center. The performance boasts a journey through 5,000 years of Chinese culture, featuring classical Chinese dance, live music performed by an "east-meets-west" style orchestra and lavish production values. The traveling performance troupe formed in 2006 with a goal of reviving, preserving and sharing the forgotten aspects of China's ancient culture. 7:30 p.m. Wed-Thu. Tickets starting at \$50. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (877) 328-7469, shenyun.com.

together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, cadl.org.

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

Business Plan Basics. First steps for creating a business plan draft. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

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

Valentines Day Craft. Making Valentines Day wreaths. 3-4 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridiancenter.weebly.com.

Translation Conversation. How language can change our worldview. Snyder C202. 7 p.m. FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-1932, poetry.rcah.msu.edu.

settings. 6 p.m. FREE. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600, bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

"Sporec Live!" Trivia. Win Crunchy's gift certificates. 7 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

Zen Buddhist Meditation. Instructions upon request. 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Donation. Garden of Mind, 122 N. Clemens Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-0469.

Rugby Practice. 7-8:15 p.m. \$5. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. (517) 483-4313, crisisrfc.com.

ToddlerTime. Ages 18-36 months listen to stories and music. 10:15-10:45 a.m. and 11-11:30 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Burning Desires Art Exhibit. Exploration of love, desire and romance. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Lies, Damned Lies & Statistics. Art exhibit at Lookout! Gallery. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-6290, rcach.msu.edu.

Teen Game Haven. Play a variety of games; board, cards and video. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public

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Out on the town

from page 20

Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Books on Tap. "10:04" by Ben Lerner, 6:30 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Future Returns Film Series. Featuring "The Lost River." 7 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

MUSIC

Jazz Night. Live jazz. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Wednesday, February 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$5/\$3 students. Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170, artmuseum.msu.edu.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

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

Computer Club. Digital Photography, 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Ask a Business Librarian. Market research and more. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, Suite 110, 309 N. Washinton Square, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

P.A.T.H. Personal Action Towards Health. 2-4:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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

Installing Snap-Lock Flooring. Call 372-5980 to register or email bruce@glhc.org. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St. Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

EVENTS

Strategy Game Night. Learn and share favorite games. 5-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtld.org.

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

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.

Wednesday Senior Discovery. With guest Bruce Witwer. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Zen Buddhist Meditation. Instructions upon request. 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Donation. Garden of Mind, 122 N. Clemens Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-0469.

Knitting and Crochet Group. All ages and levels welcome. Some supplies on hand, 5-7 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Burning Desires Art Exhibit. Exploration of love, desire and romance. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Lies, Damned Lies & Statistics. Art exhibit at Lookout! Gallery. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-6290, rcch.msu.edu.

Teen Crafternoon. Teens create a candy sushi craft. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MSU Creative Writing Center. All types of writers are encouraged to attend. 7:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Valentines Day for Singles? Discussion. 6 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, Pilgrimucc.com.

MUSIC

Fusion Shows presents. Live music. 21-up. 10 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

Voicing Poetry Showcase. Original music pieces inspired by poems. 7:30 p.m. FREE. RCAF Auditorium, Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue Street, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932. poetry.rcch.msu.edu.

THEATER

"Walnut Street Theatre: A Life in the Theatre." David Mamet penned drama. 7:30 p.m. \$40. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Shen Yun. 5,000 years of civilization. Live on stage. 7:30 p.m. Tickets starting at \$50. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (888) 974-3698, shenyun.com/michigan.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Tween Book Club. Ages 9-12. Call to register. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3, dtld.org.

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsky

Feb. 4-10

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In 1979, Monty Python comedian John Cleese helped direct a four-night extravaganza, *The Secret Policeman's Ball*. It was a benefit to raise money for the human rights organization Amnesty International. The musicians known as Sting, Bono, and Peter Gabriel later testified that the show was a key factor in igniting their social activism. I see the potential of a comparable stimulus in your near future, Aries. Imminent developments could amp up your passion for a good cause that transcends your immediate self-interests.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In the film *Kill Bill: Volume 1*, Taurus actress Uma Thurman plays a martial artist who has exceptional skill at wielding a Samurai sword. At one point, her swordmaker evaluates her reflexes by hurling a baseball in her direction. With a masterful swoop, she slices the ball in half before it reaches her. I suggest you seek out similar tests in the coming days, Taurus. Check up on the current status of your top skills. Are any of them rusty? Should you update them? Are they still of maximum practical use to you? Do whatever's necessary to ensure they are as strong and sharp as ever.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): French Impressionist painter Claude Monet loved to paint the rock formations near the beach at Étretat, a village in Normandy. During the summer of 1886, he worked serially on six separate canvases, moving from one to another throughout his work day to capture the light and shadow as they changed with the weather and the position of the sun. He focused intently on one painting at a time. He didn't have a brush in each hand and one in his mouth, simultaneously applying paint to various canvases. His specific approach to multitasking would generate good results for you in the coming weeks, Gemini. (P.S. The other kind of multitasking -- where you do several different things at the same time -- will yield mostly mediocre results.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In 1849, author Edgar Allan Poe died in his hometown of Baltimore. A century later, a mysterious admirer began a new tradition. Every January 19, on the anniversary of Poe's birth, this cloaked visitor appeared at his grave in the early morning hours, and left behind three roses and a bottle of cognac. I invite you, Cancerian, to initiate a comparable ritual. Can you imagine paying periodic tribute to an important influence in your own life -- someone who has given you much and touched you deeply? Don't do it for nostalgia's sake, but rather as a way to affirm that the gifts you've received from this evocative influence will continue to evolve within you. Keep them ever-fresh.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "What happens to a dream deferred?" asked Langston Hughes in his poem "Harlem." "Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore -- And then run? Does it stink like rotten meat? Or crust and sugar over -- like a syrupy sweet?" As your soul's cheerleader and coach, Leo, I hope you won't explore the answer to Hughes' questions. If you have a dream, don't defer it. If you have been deferring your dream, take at least one dramatic step to stop deferring it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo author John Creasey struggled in his early efforts at getting published. For a time he had to support himself with jobs as a salesman and clerk. Before his first book was published, he had gathered 743 rejection slips. Eventually, though, he broke through and achieved monumental success. He wrote more than 550 novels, several of which were made into movies. He won two prestigious awards and sold 80 million books. I'm not promising that your own frustrations will ultimately pave the way for a prodigious triumph like his. But in the coming months, I do expect significant progress toward a gritty accomplishment. For best results, work for your own satisfaction more than for the approval of others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Hall-of-Fame basketball

player Hakeem Olajuwon had a signature set of fancy moves that were collectively known as the Dream Shake. It consisted of numerous spins and fakes and moves that could be combined in various ways to outfox his opponents and score points. The coming weeks would be an excellent time for you to work on your equivalent of the Dream Shake, Libra. You're at the peak of your ability to figure out how to coordinate and synergize your several talents.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In 1837, Victoria became Queen of England following the death of her uncle, King William IV. She was 18 years old. Her first royal act was to move her bed out of the room she had long shared with her meddling, overbearing mother. I propose that you use this as one of your guiding metaphors in the immediate future. Even if your parents are saints, and even if you haven't lived with them for years, I suspect you would benefit by upgrading your independence from their influence. Are you still a bit inhibited by the nagging of their voices in your head? Does your desire to avoid hurting them thwart you from rising to a higher level of authority and authenticity? Be a good-natured rebel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The crookedest street in the world is a one-way, block-long span of San Francisco's Lombard Street. It consists of eight hairpin turns down a very steep hill. The recommended top speed for a car is five miles per hour. So on the one hand, you've got to proceed with caution. On the other hand, the quaint, brick-paved road is lined with flower beds, and creeping along its wacky route is a whimsical amusement. I suspect you will soon encounter experiences that have metaphorical resemblances to Lombard Street, Sagittarius. In fact, I urge you to seek them out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In the baseball film *The Natural*, the hero Roy Hobbs has a special bat he calls "Wonderboy." Carved out of a tree that was split by a lightning bolt, it seems to give Hobbs an extraordinary skill at hitting a baseball. There's a similar theme at work in the Australian musical instrument known as the didgeridoo. It's created from a eucalyptus tree whose inner wood has been eaten away by termites. Both Wonderboy and the didgeridoo are the results of natural forces that could be seen as adverse but that are actually useful. Is there a comparable situation in your own life, Capricorn? I'm guessing there is. If you have not yet discovered what it is, now is a good time to do so.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In 1753, Benjamin Franklin published helpful instructions on how to avoid being struck by lightning during stormy weather. Wear a lightning rod in your hat, he said, and attach it to a long, thin metal ribbon that trails behind you as you walk. In response to his article, a fashion fad erupted. Taking his advice, fancy ladies in Europe actually wore such hats. From a metaphorical perspective, it would make sense for you Aquarians to don similar headwear in the coming weeks. Bolts of inspiration will be arriving on a regular basis. To ensure you are able to integrate and use them -- not just be titillated and agitated -- you will have to be well-grounded.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): According to the Bible, Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Author David Foster Wallace added a caveat. "The truth will set you free," he wrote, "but not until it is finished with you." All this is apropos for the current phase of your journey, Pisces. By my estimation, you will soon discover an important truth that you have never before been ready to grasp. Once that magic transpires, however, you will have to wait a while until the truth is fully finished with you. Only then will it set you free. But it will set you free. And I suspect that you will ultimately be grateful that it took its sweet time.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 18

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CONTRA AND SQUARE DANCE
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AND ANNE JANELLE (CELLO)
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Feb. 14 10 a.m.

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Feb. 20 8 p.m.



DIRK POWELL AND
RILEY BAUGUS
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Grape expectations

Picking the right wine for your relationship

By JUSTIN KING

February sucks.

This is irrefutable; the pounding winter sucks your life away. Ronnie James Dio once sang, “The vision never dies, life’s a never ending wheel.” February is the coldest, most depressing wheel you’re ever going to encounter, so it makes good sense to put a romantic holiday right in the middle of it.

On Valentine’s Day, last-minute decision-making abounds across all relationship archetypes. Do you cook her a meal? Do you book a reservation? Does he want anything? What does she like to do that’s romantic? You have to follow your inner Dio and “ride the tiger.” But you are not alone, Lansingites, this guide will help you at least find the right wine for whatever type of night you’re in for.

For the college daters: It’s senior year

and you’re having a real treat of a time figuring out adult life and adult problems. Kudos. Before college debt crushes your soul, share a bottle of 2013 Airfield Sauvignon Blanc from Yakima Valley, Wash., with your lover. It’s \$15 and has great fresh lemon and ripe apple flavors that pair nicely with clichéd aphrodisiacs like oysters. It’s dry, but don’t worry. There’s a friendly, fruity quality to this wine that’s not exceptionally dominating.

Beverages for the unintentionally vacant: So you love your spouse more than anything. Your dreams are still laser focused on achieving things together. But work hours are long, and there’s not enough time to get excited. No worries. Terlan’s 2013 Pinot Grigio is a new favorite for under \$20. For roughly the same price, it blows the omnipresent Santa Margherita out of the proverbial water. Terlan is in Alto Adige, a northern region in Italy whose natives speak primarily German. The wine is dry and pretty, with a brioche-like nose and rich white peach and light herbal notes.

It pairs quite easily with chicken, pasta and fish, three mainstays of Valentine’s Day procrastinators.

For the meat-eating souls who deserve something special: Wanna blow someone’s mind? Find some Brunello di Montalcino. It’s a Tuscan wine not for the faint of heart. Backstory: Brunello is the Sangiovese grape, but producers in Montalcino will be quick to point out the differences from Sangiovese grown elsewhere. Brunello from Montalcino is more aggressively tannic, full-bodied and somewhat obvious in comparison to the Sangiovese grown for Chianti Classico about 50 miles north.

Palazzo’s 2007 Brunello di Montalcino is a true game changer for meat lovers: Complex dark fruits, baking spices, sour cherry, and the common “citrus peel” aroma that lands so commonly in Italian reds. This will cost you about \$60, but Brunello is expensive like that. The wines are required to age in oak for two years, plus three more in bottle before they are released to the public. If you can’t find Palazzo, don’t fret. Cabernet Sauvignon from Howell Mountain offers an analogous journey into the tannic abyss.

For the couple who touch each other too much: You start with harmless kisses in public, but inevitably you cross the line and make everyone uncomfortable. There’s one grape that springs to mind to represent your habits: Pinot Noir. Look for an Oregon Pinot Noir here, as the variably rainy and cool climate produces wines that show earthy qualities reminiscent of Burgundian Pinot, but with lush, fruity strawberry and cherry characteristics that show a bit like California Pinot.

Look for these producers for year-to-year dependability: Aberrant, Le Cadeau, Adelsheim, Cristom, Beaux Freres and



Justin King / City Pulse

Palazzo’s 2007 Brunello di Montalcino is a perfect choice for romantic carnivores.

Patricia Green. Expect to spend \$25 to \$50 per bottle, and don’t skimp on the budget here. Bad Oregon Pinot tastes like flat cherry cola left out at a party. A great one tastes like making out with your boyfriend at Electric Forest.

For the couple who have only been on two dates and don’t know what to do: Listen, this could be a tough night for you. Don’t beat yourself up about it, though. You don’t want to commit to too much because that sends a message. (But what kind of message? Are you too eager? Does she expect you to ask her out for the night? Should you make plans?)

Here’s what you should do: Go sit at the bar together at a fine dining establishment around town; Red Haven, Soup Spoon, Tannin, Dusty’s Cellar and The State Room all come to mind, but everyone has favorites. Take the pressure off of each other by incorporating a third element: crack jokes with the bartender. And for the love of Dio, don’t worry if you don’t know the wines. Look for red grapes like Barbera or Gamay and white grapes like (an unoaked) Chardonnay, Albariño or Gruner Veltliner. You’re likely to find some easy pairings that feel effortless. Trust the bartender’s suggestions, relax and enjoy your company.

For the loving grandparents: On behalf of everyone, thank you for being you. Tell your kids or grandkids to buy you a drink, because unless they want to turn out like their uncle Rick, they’ll pay for a glass of wine every now and then.

Justin King is the sommelier at the Stand Gastro Bistro in Birmingham, a Williamston resident, a certified sommelier and is married to a saint of a woman who is probably tired of hearing him talk about wine. Tweet your favorite bottles to him @plonkadvocate.

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Food Finder listings are rotated periodically. If you have an update for the listings, please e-mail food@lansingcitypulse.com.

UPSCALE CUISINE

KNIGHT CAP — Steaks, seasonal seafood and gourmet items. 320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 5-11 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 484-7676, theknightcap.com. FB, TO, OM, RES, P, \$\$\$

MITCHELL'S FISH MARKET — Fresh seafood and bar. 2975 Preyde Blvd., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday. (517) 482-3474, mitchellsfishmarket.com. FB, P, TO, OM, RES, WiFi, \$\$\$

PF CHANG'S — Pan-Asian cuisine. 2425 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday. (517) 267-3833. pfchangs.com, OM, TO, RES, \$\$\$

RED CEDAR GRILL — Assorted American cuisine. 150 E Grand River Ave, Williamston. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday; (517) 655-3766. redcedargrill.com. FB, TO, OM, RES, WiFi, \$\$\$

RED HAVEN — Eclectic

organic and local tapas. 4480 S. Hagadorn Road, Okemos. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 5-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday 5-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 5-8:30 p.m. Sunday. (517) 679-6309. eatredhaven.com, FB, OM, TO, RES, \$\$\$

THE STATE ROOM — Upscale cuisine, extensive wine list inside the Kellogg Center. 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. 6:30 a.m.-2 p.m. & 4-9 p.m. Sunday; 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday. (517) 432-5049. state-room-restaurant.com, OM, TO, FB, RES, WiFi, \$\$\$

STILLWATER GRILL — Surf and turf. 3544 Meridian Crossings Drive, Okemos. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, 3-10 p.m. Saturday, 3-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 349-1500. stillwatergrill.com, FB, TO, OM, RES, P, WiFi, \$\$\$

TANNIN — Scratch Italian. 5100 Marsh Road, Okemos. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday; Closed Mondays. (517) 575-6840, tanninofokemos.com, OM, FB, TO, WiFi, \$\$\$

TAVERN 109 — Old-fashioned tavern with a bistro flare. 115 E. Grand

River Ave., Williamston. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 655-2100. tavern109.com OM, FB, RES, TO, WiFi \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

TAVERN AND TAP — American gastropub. 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-2 a.m. Saturday-Sunday (517) 374-5555, tavernandtap.com. FB, TO, RES, P, OM, WiFi, \$\$\$

TROPPO — American supper club. 111 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.-midnight Monday-Friday, 4 p.m.-11 a.m. Saturday, Dinner served beginning at 4

p.m. each day. Noon-8 p.m. Sunday. (517) 371-4000, troppo.org. FB, TO, OM, RES, P, WiFi, \$\$\$

WROUGHT IRON GRILL — From classic New York strip to coconut lobster. 317 S. Elm St. #201, Owosso. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-midnight Friday, Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. Closed on Monday. (989) 472-9025, wroughtirongrill.com. TO, OM, RES, FB, \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

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ALDACO'S AUTHENTIC MEXICO RESTAURANT — 6724 S. Cedar St., Lansing. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday; 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Wednesday-

Saturday. (517) 272-4600, aldacosauthentic-mexican.com, TO, OM, D, RES, WiFi, \$\$

ALDACO'S TACO 911 — Late night tacos. 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday; 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Thursday & Friday; 6 p.m.-3 a.m. Saturday, Closed Sunday-Tuesday. (517) 482-7911, WB, TO, P, \$\$\$

ALTU'S ETHIOPIAN CUISINE — Featuring many vegetarian options. 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday. (517) 333-6295. eataltus.com, OM, TO, D, \$.

ART'S BAR & GRILL — Award-winning pizza, homemade soups. 809 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 7 p.m.-midnight Sunday-Tuesday; 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Wednesday-Saturday. (517) 482-8328. FB, WiFi, TO, P, \$

THE AVENUE CAFE — American cuisine, hand-

crafted cocktails and a game room. 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 3 p.m.-2 a.m. daily. (517) 853-0550, facebook.com/avenuecafe2021. TO, FB, WiFi, \$

BAGGER DAVE'S — Burger tavern for families and friends. 1351 Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday & Monday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. 11 a.m.-midnight Friday & Saturday. (517) 492-5052. FB, TO, OM, P, WiFi, \$\$\$

BEGGAR'S BANQUET — American cuisine. 218 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday & Saturday; 10 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Sunday. (517) 351-4540, beggarsbanquet.com. FB, WB, \$\$\$.

BELL'S GREEK PIZZA — Offers gluten-free pizza. 1135 E. Grand River, East Lansing. 9 a.m.-4 a.m. Monday-Sunday. (517) 332-0858, thebellspizza.com. D, TO, OM, P, WiFi, \$

BIG JOHN STEAK & ONION — Sub sandwiches at multiple locations. 748 N. Clippert St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday. (517) 203-0761; 4021 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday, 10

a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday. (517) 327-5109; 6541 S. Cedar Street, Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday. (517) 993-5128; 3490 S. Okemos Road, Okemos. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 381-2465. bigjohnsteakandonion.net. TO, \$-\$\$\$

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