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November 18-24, 2015



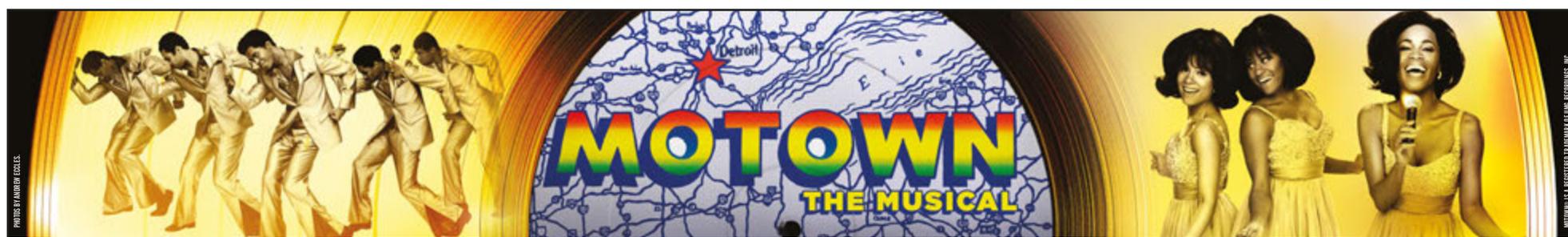
The 2015 City Pulse HOLIDAY EVENTS GUIDE

UP OR DOWN?

Neighbors seek answers, raise concerns about 2000 block project, p. 5

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MSU opera takes on Victorian-era sexuality, p. 13



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Feedback

Ingham County clerk finds board chair's column 'unsettling'

(Barb Byrum, a former state representative, is the clerk of Ingham County.)

After reading the attempt to comfort Ingham County taxpayers by County Commission Chairperson Brian McGrain, I am left with an unsettling feeling that things will not change in the county — even after the termination of the chief information officer for breaching the county's code of conduct.

As the City Pulse has reported, Michael Ashton was fired as the county's chief information officer for accepting improper gifts from vendors. The story doesn't end there, despite what the chairperson would like people to believe.

There are multiple layers to this onion that should be unpeeled. As such, the county's investigation needs to continue — and it shouldn't be limited to former employees, but instead should look at current staff as well.

County Commission Board Chairperson McGrain's recent column in the City Pulse distorted the facts. He claimed that county officials only learned of alleged misconduct within the county's IT department after the City Pulse filed a request for documents under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

That is untrue.

On numerous occasions, I expressed serious concerns about unethical activity. Anyone who claims they were surprised was not listening — or chose not to pay attention.

The county controller is the top administrator of the county government, and is appointed by the Board of Commissioners. This person is responsible for the activities of all county staff. Yet instead of holding the county controller accountable, it appears the chairperson found it much easier to

complain about my lengthy emails expressing my concerns about the IT department. These concerns were not taken seriously by the chairperson, and to this day, I have not received an explanation on why my initial concerns were never addressed.

While I am thankful that the City Pulse's FOIA request unraveled a web of deceit within the county's IT Department, it is sad

that it took a leak to the media for allegations to be taken seriously.

County Commission Board Chairperson McGrain is correct when he wrote that "no written policy can prevent unethical acts by a determined individual." However, it would be helpful if our county's board chair did a better job of listening to other elected officials' concerns, instead of standing idly by when the county's appointed administrator does nothing.

Fixing this problem will take much more than simply going over ethics policies with staff. It will take a full investigation, as well as intestinal fortitude from elected county commissioners — especially McGrain, as chairperson — to do the right thing and hold people accountable when they commit or cover up unethical acts.

The county controller asked me to stop speaking with the press about this issue. I do not answer to him, and I will not be honoring his request. County Commission Board Chairperson McGrain, meanwhile, has asked to put this issue behind us and move forward. But until we know the full scope of what happened — including who knew about these alleged ethics violations or even the possibility of violations and when — we owe it to county taxpayers to find the truth. Only then can we truly move forward.

Hispanic award flap 'Chavez also opposed illegal aliens'

(State Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, chairs the Judiciary Committee.)

In the last issue of City Pulse, a writer ranted about my receiving an appreciation award from the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan at a dinner sponsored by the commission, the Capital Area Cesar Chavez Commission and the Michigan Hispanic Legislative Caucus.

Instead of focusing on the positive contributions recognized during the evening, the writer used the article to advance his personal agenda. Part of it was untrue, and part of it twisted history.

He indicated that people at the annual dinner walked out because of the award and it was not in the "spirit of Cesar Chavez."

Some people left the event early, but they did so because it was too long. The speakers and presentation of scholarships and awards were held after everyone had finished dinner. It was slow and the hour got late. Many people said that they were tired. No one expressed any anger to me about the award.

In fact, a large group of people thanked me for attending the event.

We owe it to readers to be honest about history.



Jones

Guest Column

After reading the attempt to comfort Ingham County taxpayers by County Commission Chairperson Brian McGrain, I am left with an unsettling feeling that things will not change in the county — even after the termination of the chief information officer for breaching the county's code of conduct.



Byrum

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
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• 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.)

CityPULSE

VOL. 15
ISSUE 14

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



Hirten: Are detention camps next for Syrian refugees?

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Keys to Creativity brings art to the Lansing Mall

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Author David Maraniss deals with tough questioners

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"LOOK WHAT YOU DID, YOU LITTLE JERK" BY JONATHAN GRIFFITH

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ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-6705
CLASSIFIED AD INQUIRIES: (517) 999-6704
or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER • Mickey Hirten
mickey@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Ty Forquer
ty@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

PRODUCTION MANAGER • Allison Hammerly
adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066

CREATIVE DIRECTOR • Jonathan Griffith
jonathan@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5069

STAFF WRITERS • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com

Todd Heywood
todd@lansingcitypulse.com

ADVERTISING • Shelly Olson, Suzi Smith, Prince Spann
shelly@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6705
suzi@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704
prince@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6710

GRAPHIC DESIGNER • Nikki Nicolau

Contributors: Andy Balaskovitz, Justin Bilicki, Daniel E. Bollman, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Mary C. Cusack, Tom Helma, Gabrielle Johnson, Terry Link, Andy McGlashen, Kyle Melinn, Mark Nixon, Shawn Parker, Stefanie Pohl, Dennis Preston, Allan I. Ross, Belinda Thurston, Rich Tupica, Ute Von Der Heyden, Paul Wozniak

Delivery drivers: Dave Fisher, Ian Graham, Richard Simpson, Thomas Scott Jr., Kathy Tober

Interns: McKenzie Hagerstrom, Kevin McInerney

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THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

SIZZLING HOT TAKES

BECAUSE PARIS WAS ATTACKED BY TERRORISTS--
--AMERICAN COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT RACISM!

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP BAD GUYS WITH GUNS IS FOR EVERY SINGLE PERSON ON THE PLANET TO CARRY A GUN AT ALL TIMES.
A HEAVILY ARMED GLOBAL POPULATION IS A POLITE GLOBAL POPULATION!

WE HAVE TO KEEP GUANTANAMO OPEN--GIVE THE N.S.A. CARTE BLANCHE--AND SEND TROOPS TO IRAQ AND SYRIA AND KEEP THEM THERE!
IT WILL TOTALLY WORK OUT THIS TIME!

THIS TRAGEDY CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES WHY EVERYONE SHOULD EMBRACE MY OPINION ON AN ENTIRELY UNRELATED TOPIC!
OOH! MINE TOO!
AND MINE!

IN SUCH A DANGEROUS WORLD, AMERICA NEEDS THE STRONG, DECISIVE, LEVEL-HEADED LEADERSHIP...OF DONALD TRUMP!
OR PERHAPS BEN CARSON.
WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

GRIT YOUR TEETH AND ACT LIKE YOU BELIEVE IT.
DOING MY BEST.

TOM TOMORROW © 2015

Eyesore or progress?

Eastiders rip design of 2000 block development

More than 100 eastside residents gave developer Scott Gillespie an earful Tuesday night about his proposed apartment and retail building that would replace the iconic but worn-out 2000 block of Michigan Avenue.

"I'm surprised to see so many people here" at the Avenue Café, he told them. He promised repeatedly to take their views to heart, saying the plan is "not in stone. We're trying to get constructive feedback."

Gillespie, who owns the Gillespie Co., has proposed a \$5 million, four-story building with 11,500 square feet of retail space on the first floor and 39 studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments above renting from \$750 to \$1,250. Gillespie plans to save three buildings on the east end of the block but tear down the rest.

What he heard from some in the audience — supported by loud applause — was they didn't like the design.

"This building is not identified with the east side," said Joe Vitale, a Realtor and president of the nonprofit Preservation Lansing. "It could be anywhere."

He suggested redesigning the storefronts "to look like they've been here."

Vitale, who lives on the east side, asked if the facades could be saved. Gillespie said the city pressed him on the

same issue. He said they were bowed out and too far gone to be salvaged.

But he said some artifacts from inside the buildings could be rescued, such as signage and part of the bar from Emil's, the oldest restaurant by decades in Lansing and one with significant character if flawed cooking, which sold the building to Gillespie and not long after shut down altogether. He said they could be incorporated in a restaurant planned for the west end of the first floor.

Gillespie said space is being saved for a patio for the restaurant that he said "needs to be the living room for the neighborhood."

He also said the sidewalk will accommodate seating for Strange Matter, the popular year-old coffee shop across the street that intends to move into Gillespie's building.

Besides Strange Matter, he said a Realtor is interested in space and that he is seeking more dining.

An eastside businessman, Chuck Eallonardo from Young Bros. & Daley, applauded the plan.

"I don't think what we want is what is there right now," he said, referring to the dilapidated condition of most of the property.

"This looks like progress."

Eallonardo called the apartments "affordable for the kind of people we're hoping to bring into the area."

But others expressed concern about the \$750-to-\$1,250 rents and the need for more affordable housing on the east side.

Besides drawing residents, the meeting attracted a number of public officials, including Ingham County Board of Commissioners Chairman Brian McGrain; County Treasurer Eric Schertzing, who chairs the preservation-minded Ingham County Land Bank; eastside Lansing Councilwoman Jody Washington; Bob Johnson, director of the city Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development.

The meeting, which lasted over 90 minutes, was supposed to be moderated by Julie Powers, and eastside and director of the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition. But Powers departed from being neutral.

"This is what we said we wanted," she declared, pointing to a photo of the buildings' rendering. She said the city's master plan calls for density on the Michigan Avenue corridor. "This is our future," even though "it may not be to all of our taste."

Gillespie, who lives in Haslett, said he spent his first 24 years on the east side. He has already developed a mixed-use building at Michigan and Marshall Street.

"I rode my bike in the parking lot behind Emil's and Lindemann's meat market," which occupied the center of the block. "It feels good to be doing something where my roots are."

After the meeting, several residents praised Gillespie.

"I think it's important that he has been doing these things, and I commend him for that," Maggie Hackett said. "I don't like everything about the visual, and

I'm somewhat concerned about parking, but I think that's something that can be worked on."

"It's great to see a developer even look for input from the community," Jonathan Lum said. "I think that what comes out of it will be productive."

Lum said the building would add density "to create a vibrant area."

Former eastside Councilman Harold Leeman said that he hopes with some design changes he can get a majority of residents to support it. "But at the end of the day, it's his money. Hopefully, people understand that the east side needs new investment. You can't just live in the past."

Many residents raised concerns about parking. Gillespie said he plans to redo the city-owned lot behind the block. When finished, it will provide 100 to 125 spots, which he said will be a net increase in public parking. The lot will also get new landscaping, including replacing all the trees. He said the existing trees are in bad shape and that two have fallen on cars recently.

In an interview earlier in the day, Gillespie said most of the buildings are "functionally obsolete."

"They've suffered from neglect for the last decade," he said. He rattled off a list of problems — asbestos, mold, water damage, bulging masonry, "roofing membranes that have been flapping in the wind for who knows how long."

Since Gillespie unveiled the plan, residents set up a Facebook page called Lansing's Eastside Rejects East Town," the working title for the project. Over 300 people have become followers.

See Gillespie, Page 6



Courtesy Photo

Developer Scott Gillespie addressing over 100 people at the Avenue Café Tuesday evening about his proposed development to replace the 2000 block except for three buildings with a four-story retail and apartment building.

Name that block

What's in a name? Apparently a lot to developer Scott Gillespie.

He's got a working title for the 2000 block development: East Town Flats, which he said he came across in a 1930s or 1940s Lansing State Journal story on the east side. But he is asking people to vote on a list of options on the Gillespie Co. Facebook page.

- The other choices:
- Eastside Apartments
- The East Block
- Model E
- 200MI
- The Block on Michigan Corridor Apartments
- The Gateway

Closing in on legalization

Undeterred by Ohio vote, marijuana backers here are optimistic

Organizers for one of two full-fledged ballot initiatives to legalize recreational marijuana statewide hope to have the necessary 250,000 valid signatures in the next six weeks to make the November 2016 election.

The Michigan Comprehensive Cannabis Law Reform Committee, calling itself MILEgalize, is approaching its 180-day collection period around the Christmas holiday.

“We’ve been saying we want to give people the gift of freedom for Christmas,” said Jeff Hank, chairman of MILEgalize. Without disclosing the number of signatures gathered so far, Hank said the group is “on pace, within the capability” to make their goal.

MILEgalize is one of two active campaigns looking to legalize recreational marijuana among adults. Along with the Michigan Cannabis Coalition, the two groups have taken different approaches to designing a regulatory structure.

While MILEgalize is organized largely by longtime marijuana activists in the state, MCC’s leadership includes experienced conservative political operatives.

Matt Marsden, MCC’s spokesman and a Republican political consultant, could not be reached for comment.

However, The Detroit News reported late last month that the MCC abruptly stopped collecting signatures for its campaign. Marsden told the paper it was a “strategic pause” to analyze the 210,000 signatures it had already collected.

Marsden is the co-founder of RevSix Data Systems, a southeast Michigan voter data company that is largely funding the campaign.

In addition to the groups’ leadership, key details separate their regulatory models. MILEgalize would allow people 21 and older to grow up to 12 plants at home, while MCC calls for two to four flowering plants if a municipality allows it.

The MCC plan generally emphasizes growing cannabis at state-licensed commer-

cial operations, rather than in homes, that would later be sold at retail outlets.

“What we’re trying to do is create a new retail market, a new industry,” Marsden told City Pulse in July. “Two flowering plants could generate a lot (of usable cannabis) per household. I don’t know that it’s politically feasible to win a ballot proposal if the little old lady next door is afraid she’s going to have 12 flowering plants growing next door to her.”

Unlike MILEgalize, the Cannabis Coalition intentionally leaves out specifics on tax rates and protection from prosecution that would later be set by a paid, five-member Cannabis Control Board.

The MI Legalize proposal sets a maximum 10 percent excise tax rate for non-medical pot sold. That revenue would be directed to education, transportation and local units of government.

“We always say we don’t have a full solution, but we have a partial solution,” Hank said, referring to the concept of “pot for pot-holes,” or marijuana revenue helping fund roads.

The two groups have reportedly raised similar amount of money based on campaign finance reports filed in late October. Each had raised more than \$300,000 at the time.

“We’re definitely far down the line, much farther than people thought we would make it,” Hank said.

The Michigan Responsibility Council, which earlier this year was exploring a possible 2016 ballot initiative, has backed off of its legalization efforts to focus on medical marijuana policy, said Suzie Mitchell, the Council’s president and CEO.

‘Vindicated’ by Ohio vote

A variety of factors differentiate the situation in Michigan with a pot legalization referendum that was voted down by Ohio voters this month, 64 percent to 36 percent.

It was held in an off-election year and was criticized even by legalization advocates for giving exclusive commercial growing rights to 10 facilities.

“After seeing Responsible Ohio go down, we feel vindicated,” Hank said. “We took the exact opposite approach to legalization because we figured there would be a similar



attempt in Michigan. When we got going we tried to prevent that oligarchy model.”

Hank sees an advantage in attempting to get the question before Michigan voters during a presidential election year.

Mitchell, whose group is advocating state legislators to amend proposed medical marijuana dispensary regulations to limit the number of grow facilities (see related story), believes the Ohio vote won’t impact Michigan’s efforts.

“It’s a totally different set of circumstances,” she said. “All we know is voters did not want site-specific grows in Ohio in 2015.”

Meanwhile, public polling shows steadily increasing support nationwide for legalizing recreational marijuana.

According to a presentation from local polling firm EPIC-MRA in Lansing last week, a nationwide Gallup poll last month found 58 percent of respondents said marijuana should be legal for recreational use. That’s a roughly 30 percent swing over the past 20 years.

A December 2014 poll of Michigan voters showed 50 percent would be a “yes” vote on legalization.

While Hank is optimistic about the strong public support if the question reaches voters, there’s still one glaring hurdle.

“Until the signatures are in, it’s not over,” he said. “But we believe if we get on the ballot, we’ll win.”

—Andy Balaskovitz



Gillespie

from page 5

“The new building looks bland and it’s annoying that we made the east side cool by creating the culture that draws young people here, and some mega millionaires will be profiting from the culture we created,” wrote John Mapes Krohn. “Nothing much you can do about private developers developing on their own private property.”

Another, Heather Kendrick, said, “I probably wouldn’t hate this so-called gentrification as much if I saw any benefit from it as a resident, but it doesn’t

‘trickle down’ to the neighborhoods. The neighborhoods are still threatened. More and more vacant lots appear on my block as houses — great little houses that were once someone’s pride — are allowed to get so bad they end up torn down or just falling down. Neighborliness is waning.”

—Berl Schwartz, Todd Heywood and Brooke Kansier



Courtesy Photo

The interior of one of the buildings on the 2000 block that would fall if Gillespie’s project is approved. Gillespie says the buildings are too far gone to save, including the facades.

Anti-pot shop petition

Southsiders demand city crack down on dispensaries

With an explosion of new pot shops opening across south Lansing’s large commercial corridors, residents are demanding city officials take action to curb the businesses.

“We really want to make sure that we are controlling the numbers and making sure that these are safe establishments for people to get their medicine in,” Elaine Wolmboldt, facilitator for the community organization Rejuvenate South Lansing, said. “We don’t want south Lansing to become the epicenter of where all the shops are.”

There are more than 25 dispensaries between I496 and I96 on the south side, according to medical-marijuana expert Steve Green, who writes the Green Report for City Pulse biweekly.

Wolmboldt said she has circulated petitions that will be submitted to the City Council Monday. They ask the city to enforce the 2011 dispensary licensing law or come with a new ordinance to regulate them.

The Council approved regulations shortly before the state Appeals court ruled them illegal. As a result of the court ruling, which was upheld by the state Supreme court, Lansing’s city attorney issued a letter saying the dispensaries were illegal.

“Because this ruling renders illegal the activities occurring at most, if not all, medical marijuana establishments, my office has advised the City Clerk not to issue any licenses for the operation of medical marijuana establishments at this time,” Brigham Smith, then the city attorney, wrote. “Without a license, you are operating illegally under local law.”

City Clerk Chris Swope said Tuesday that he has not issued any licenses since he received the letter. On Oct. 6, 2011, Smith sent Swope another letter recommending that he refund in full any fees he had collected at that point. Smith noted a second ruling by the Court of Appeals that prohibited facilities from operating for the benefit of caregivers as well as the earlier decision which prohibited patient to patient programs.

With these letters the issue seemed resolved. “Together they substantially diminish and may effectively eliminate the economic feasibility — and, indeed, legality — of operations engaged in the nonresidential growing and distribution of medical marijuana,” Smith wrote.

The state legislature is working on a bill to legalize dispensaries. It passed the House overwhelmingly and has the support in the State of Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, who chairs the Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over the measure. It appears likely to be approved before the end of the year.

—Todd Heywood



Refusing the refugees

Barring Syrian resettlement not really about public safety

The horrific massacre in Paris last week has elicited the predictable response in the United States.

Gov. Rick Snyder on Sunday suspended efforts to bring Syrian refugees to Michigan. He was just the first. Recognizing political opportunity, Republican governors (and one Democrat), fell all over themselves proclaiming their state Syrian-refugee-free zones. Which governor — some of them presidential candidates — will be the first to call Japanese-style internment?

Snyder couched his closed-door proclamation, saying, “Michigan is a welcoming state and we are proud of our rich history of immigration. But our first priority is protecting the safety of our residents.” He wants the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to review its procedures for screening Syrian refugees. According to USA TODAY, the agency has helped resettle about 1,800 to 2,000 refugees in Michigan over the last year, about 200 from Syria. He clarified his position on Monday, saying that 20 Syrians recently approved for resettlement could come to Michigan. But aren't these poor souls vetted under the review he's questioning also a risk? And what about the 200 Syrians already here?

Snyder's “protecting the safety of our residents” rationale for slamming the door on Syrians might ring true if the goal of public safety was applied uniformly by the state's Republican power structure. But in this gun crazy state, where the Legislature is proposing to loosen restrictions on concealed weapons — it wants them in libraries, churches, colleges and taverns — immigrants aren't the problem. Guns are.

There were 535 murders in Michigan last year, most of them involving guns. It is among the top 10 states for homicides: 6.7 per 100,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

There are no easy answers to the refugee crisis, but is stranding victims of war and oppression in overcrowded camps the answer? And can any screening policy really guarantee safety against fanatics on a suicide mission?

Snyder may consider Michigan a “welcoming state,” and it sure needs to be. Population growth is flat. Immigrants are a way to replenish failing cities like Detroit and Flint, with people showing the energy and drive to leave their homeland and settle in a new and different nation.

But there is a definite xenophobic



MICKEY HIRTEN

streak at play in Michigan, notably a proposed law that would cripple the welcome extended by the state's sanctuary cities: Detroit and Ann Arbor.

There are more than 200 sanctuary cities in the U.S., a movement with roots in the 1980s efforts by churches to offer assistance to Central Americans' fleeing violence and warfare in their native countries. Sanctuary cities like Detroit and Ann Arbor believe that they improve public safety by working with immigrant communities — legal and illegal.

What Republican legislators want is a law that requires stricter police actions against illegal immigrants. The bill is pending in the Judiciary Committee, chaired by Grand Ledge Republican Rick Jones. Titled the “Sanctuary Policy Prohibition Act,” it has four notable provisions.

It would prohibit local governments from enacting or enforcing laws limiting cooperation with federal officials about a person's immigration status. It would require public bodies to notify its police and other employees of this requirement.

Peace officers who believe they have probable that someone they arrest is in the country illegally would be required to report that person to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office.

And finally, the bill requires the state to withhold revenue sharing payments for each year or portion of a year that a local government fails to comply with the act.

The measure comes with reporting requirements to the Legislature and to ICE that the Senate Fiscal Agency said would increase the costs to cities, villages, townships, and counties by a small but indeterminate amount and could reduce state revenue sharing payments to some local governments. The measure also would increase the administrative costs of the Michigan Legislature and the Treasury Department by a minimal amount.

It noted that there are 171,800 local government employees in the state, not counting those in education. All would require notification.

How serious is the illegal immigrant problem in Michigan? No one really knows.

While acknowledging that much of the criticism of illegal immigrants is anecdotal, Jones stressed that the country must regulate its borders. He said that he has had complaints from young people who said illegal immigrants were taking their jobs, and remarkably expressed sympathy for union carpenters union who claim unfair competition from illegal immigrants. Generally, Jones is not perceived as a staunch union supporter.

There are some easy points to score by talking tough about threats from Syrian refugees and illegal immigrants. Unfortunately, though predictably, they skirt the real problems and do little to make America safer or more economically secure.

PUBLIC NOTICES

RFQP/16/058 2016 JULY 4TH FIREWORKS DISPLAY as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. Proposals will be accepted at the CITY OF LANSING PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **3:00 PM** local time in effect on **NOV. 24, 2015** at which time proposals will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 702-6197, or email: slr@lbwl.com, or for content and purpose of this proposal contact Brett Kaschinske, at (517) 483-4042, or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#15_278

B/16/057 MDOT MOWING FOR THE CITY OF LANSING as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **DECEMBER 8, 2015** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or slr@lbwl.com or for content and purpose of this bid contact Paul Dykema at (517) 483-7674, email: paul.dykema@lansingmi.gov.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#15_279

B/16/049 MOWING FOR THE CITY OF LANSING as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **DECEMBER 8, 2015** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, or slr@lbwl.com or for content and purpose of this bid contact Paul Dykema at (517) 483-7674, email: paul.dykema@lansingmi.gov.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#15-282

RFQP/16/054 CREATE WEBSITE FOR MUNICIPAL STANDARDS as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. Proposals will be accepted at the CITY OF LANSING PURCHASING OFFICE, 1232 HACO DR, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **3:00 PM** local time in effect on **DEC. 10, 2015** at which time proposals will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 702-6197, or email: slr@lbwl.com, or for content and purpose of this proposal contact Bret Taylor, at (517) 483-4832, or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#15_280

NOTICE OF CITYWIDE PUBLIC HEARING COMMUNITY NEEDS HEARING

TO: Citizens of the City of Lansing
FROM: Virg Bernero, Mayor

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on community needs and priorities for housing, public facilities and economic development. As required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of Lansing is in the development stages of a five-year Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2016-2021 and Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. The Consolidated Plan outlines goals and priorities the City of Lansing will follow over the next five years. This process includes a Housing and Community Development Needs Assessment. The Consolidated Plan is carried out through Annual Action Plans, which provide a concise summary of the actions, activities, and the specific federal resources that will be used each year to address the priority needs and specific goals identified by the Consolidated Plan.

The consolidated planning process serves as the framework for a community-wide dialogue to identify housing and community development priorities that align and focus funding from the following block grant programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). These program funds have been historically used for such activities as: housing rehabilitation, weatherization, public services, economic development, public improvements, new construction, down payment assistance and programs/services to assist the homeless.

The City encourages participation at public hearings to allow citizens an opportunity to provide input and indicate needs, views and proposals for the use of CDBG, HOME, and ESG program funds, more specifically regarding housing and non-housing community development needs within the City of Lansing relevant to preparation of the plans.

Comments received will be considered in drafting the City's Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. The proposed use of CDBG, HOME and ESG program funds will be submitted to Lansing City Council for approval.

This is an opportunity for all citizens and neighborhood organizations to participate in the planning process and influence future programming and use of these federally funded programs.

PLACE: Lansing Planning Board Meeting
Neighborhood Empowerment Center
600 W. Maple
Lansing, Michigan 48915

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

DATE: Tuesday, December 1, 2015

If you cannot attend the hearing and wish to submit comments, or if you have questions about the public hearing, please contact Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner of the City of Lansing Planning/Development Office, 316 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI, doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov, (517) 483-4063.

Please note that identifying housing and community development needs in the Lansing area is a community effort and public participation is strongly encouraged.

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Ethics scandal fallout County may seek an outside auditor

Ingham County officials may seek an outside auditor to review contracts and payments to vendors throughout the county, it was revealed Tuesday night at a county services committee meeting.

The news came as commissioners discussed proposals to address the ongoing ethics scandal that has been rocking the county since the end of October. That scandal has resulted in the termination of two information technology staff for violating the county ethics policy. The terminations came after an investigation by City Pulse revealed that Michael Ashton, former chief information officer, and Frank Chain, former project manager in the IT department, had both accepted junkets and tickets to sporting events but county contractors footed the bill.

But as commissioners were reviewing the revelations two weeks ago, questions arose about how contracts were being issued, monitored and approved. At the time Tim Dolehanty, county controller, told commissioners he would oversee an inventory and review of recent contracts. That review, it was revealed by Teri Morton, budget director — who was standing in for Dolehanty — may end up being

farmed out.

“There is a possibility of hiring an outside vendor like Plante Moran to conduct an audit,” she said.

In the City Pulse investigation contracts and payments to various top IT vendors were reviewed. However, it was unclear if all current contracts had been released under the Freedom of Information Act request, but the payments and contracts that were released raised concerns and questions that Dolehanty was unable to address.

Apparently, county officials remain unable to address those questions, or determine the amounts or numbers of contracts currently in use at the county.

Commissioners had a lengthy conversation about the failure of employees to follow county policy requiring all contracts with the county be filed with the county clerk. That policy was reiterated by resolution as recently as September.

Also Tuesday night, commissioners reviewed a draft Whistle Blower policy and a potential standard of conduct which might be attached to all future contracts. That code specifically prohibits county employees from soliciting or accepting gifts, loans “or any thing of value” from contractors and vendors.

— Todd Heywood



Feedback

From page 4

Cesar Chavez was a third-generation American citizen and a Navy veteran who formed the United Farm Workers union and fought for legal migrant farm workers to get better pay, housing and treatment.

Chavez also opposed illegal aliens who came in and harmed his efforts. He considered illegal immigrants to be “strikebreakers” and did everything possible to stop illegal immigration.

In fact, Chavez led a march with Sen. Walter Mondale and Ralph Abernathy in 1969 to the Mexican border to protest illegal immigration.

I have always supported legal migrant farm workers and have toured migrant housing in my district. I support programs to assist the legal migrant workers who come to Michigan to provide valuable seasonal work for agriculture in our state.

However, I do not support illegal workers coming in to take work from union carpenters or taking restaurant jobs from Michigan residents. While in college, I worked at a restaurant mopping floors, cleaning toilets and washing dishes.

Concerning illegal aliens receiving driver's licenses in Michigan, in this time of terrorism and with attacks on both our country and France, giving out driver's licenses to illegal aliens is irresponsible. Why would we want to make it easier for a terrorist to get on an airplane, rent a truck or buy guns?

Also, to be clear, legal migrant workers who are attending college or have work permits are still eligible to get Michigan licenses.

The article expressed anger over Senate Bill 445, which would ban sanctuary cities in Michigan for illegal aliens. In the wake of recent terrorist attacks and domestic violence, I do not support sanctuary for people here illegally. However, I do not support the bill as currently written and have kept it in my committee until it is rewritten.

We should all oppose illegal workers for many reasons: They undercut the labor force and enrich the greedy people who hire them. They also take jobs from both Michigan families and legal immigrant workers.

In the “spirit of Cesar Chavez,” we should do everything possible to help the legal migrant farm workers.

We should celebrate the diversity of Michigan, and that is what I have done. It is shocking that African-Americans have no civil rights commission in Michigan, so I sponsored Senate Bill 90 to create one. I have helped Latinos get jobs and even run for office, and I invited a Sikh Indian holy man to open the Senate in prayer. I have traveled to Turkey and made friends with local Turkish residents here in Michigan.

Let's assist people with work permits and support legal immigration. We will have a more vibrant Michigan as more immigrants legally come here to work, contribute to our communities and eventually become American citizens.

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Yes, we know it's not even Thanksgiving yet. But before you know it, the holiday season will be in full swing. In-laws will invade your guest rooms and pull-out beds, children will be out of school, and you'll

need to find a way to entertain them. (Or maybe you just need a chance to get out of the house for some "you time." Just tell the family you need to run to the store. We won't judge.)

We've rounded up a listing of Greater Lansing's most popular holiday offerings. Whether you're into dancing nutcrackers, electrified parades or holiday-themed burlesque, there's a holiday event for you.

Thursday, Nov. 19-Dec. 20

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol' at Williamston Theatre

In a clever twist on Dickens' holiday classic, "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol" presents the story from the view of Ebenezer Scrooge's late business partner, Jacob Marley. Stuck in purgatorial limbo, Jacob returns to the land of the living to change miserly Ebenezer's heart in a last-ditch effort to redeem his own soul. See web for complete schedule and prices; discounted tickets available for seniors, veterans and students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.com.

Friday, Nov. 20

Silver Bells in the City

"The Voice" finalist and former Lansing resident Joshua Davis serves as Grand Marshal and headlining performer for this year's installment of Lansing's Silver Bells in the City. The popular downtown event also includes the Electric Light Parade, featuring floats, vehicles and individuals festooned with colorful lights, a fireworks show and the official lighting of the State Christmas

tree. This year also features the return of the community sing, with the Steiner Chorale leading participants in the singing of two community-chosen carols. See web for complete schedule and locations. 5 p.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing. silverbellsinthecity.org.



Photo by Jessica Cowles

Friday, Nov. 20-Dec. 27

Wonderland of Lights at Potter Park Zoo

The Potter Park Zoo staff is unspooling thousands of festive lights for its annual Wonderland of Lights event. In addition to the luminous animal and holiday displays, children can enjoy snacks, crafts and special animal encounters. On Dec. 5, visitors who bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots will be admitted for free. 5-8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday; closed Christmas Day. \$7/\$5 children 3-12/FREE for children under 3. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4222, potterparkzoo.org.

Friday, Nov. 27-29



Courtesy photos

'The Nutcracker' at Children's Ballet Theatre

Tchaikovsky's beloved ballet comes to the Wharton Center stage as the Children's Ballet Theatre of Michigan presents its 35th annual presentation of "The Nutcracker." The program, featuring local ballet dancers between the ages of 8 and 18, includes well known tunes like the delicate "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy." 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets start at \$14. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Enter to win free two tickets to Children's Ballet Theatre's production of "The Nutcracker" on Nov. 27th! Check out lansingcitypulse.com for details. Must enter by Nov. 23.

Friday, Nov. 27-29, Dec. 4-6

'A Christmas Carol' at Riverwalk Theatre

Riverwalk Theatre's own Tom Ferris injects music and humor into "A Christmas Carol" with his new adaptation of the classic tale. Audience members are

See Holiday Events Guide, Page 10

HOLIDAY EVENTS GUIDE

continued from page 9

encouraged to show up early for “Fezziwig’s holiday party” before each show, where attendees can mingle with Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and other characters before the performance. 7 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$7/\$5 children. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Winter Wine & Stein at Potter Park Zoo

Leave the kids at home and enjoy Potter Park Zoo’s Wonderland of Lights while sipping a chardonnay at the inaugural Winter Wine & Stein. This winter-time version of the zoo’s popular summer social event features beer and wine tasting, hors d’oeuvres from local restaurants and a chance to observe the nocturnal habits of the zoo’s animal inhabitants. Attendees must be 21 or older. 5-8 p.m. \$35/\$30 zoo members. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4222, potterparkzoo.org.

Saturday, Dec. 5-Jan. 3

Festival of Trees at Turner-Dodge House

The fourth annual arboreal invasion of Old Town’s historic Turner-Dodge House kicks off Dec. 5 as the Festival of Trees fills all three floors of the historic estate with festively decorated trees.

The event, which raises funds for maintenance and educational events at the Turner-Dodge House, features dozens of trees created or decorated by local businesses, nonprofits and individuals. The Friends of Turner-Dodge House are still looking for tree decorators; interested parties should contact Barbara Loyer at (517) 483-4220. 5-9 p.m. Friday; noon-8 p.m. Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday. \$5/\$10 per family of four. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220, lansingmi.gov/tdodge.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Old Town Scrooge Scramble 5K run/walk

The Old Town Commercial Association is looking for Greater Lansing’s crazy winter runners for its ninth annual Scrooge Scramble. The holiday-themed 5K run/walk will take runners through the streets of Old Town and along the Lansing River Trail. 10 a.m. (Packet pickup starting at 8:30 a.m.) \$25/\$20 OTCA members/\$30 day of race. Turner Street and Grand River Avenue, Lansing. (517) 485-4283, iloveoldtown.org.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Winter Glow

Ice carving, horse and carriage rides, marshmallow roasting and much more come to Ann Street Plaza for East Lansing’s Winter Glow festival. This year’s installment also includes a holiday farmers market and the Jingle Jam Music Tent, featuring performances by Deacon Earl, Ladies First and the Swift Brothers. Attendees can also check out special offers from local businesses that are par-

ticipating in that weekend’s Green Friday (and Saturday too!) event, East Lansing’s local alternative to Black Friday. 2-5 p.m. FREE. Albert and M.A.C. avenues, East Lansing. (517) 319-6888, cityofeastlansing.com/winterglow.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Phil Denny & Friends Christmas Collective



Courtesy photo

Swing into the holiday spirit at the fourth annual Phil Denny & Friends Christmas Collective concert. Denny, Lansing’s premier smooth jazz saxophonist, heads up a slate of nationally known smooth jazz artists to put a silky sheen on some holiday classics. This year’s roster includes saxophonist/vocalist Marqueal Ranae Jordan (Chicago),

vocalist Yolanda Rabun (Wake Forest, N.C.), guitarist Bryan Lubeck (Chicago), pianist Scott Allman (Chicago) and singer/songwriter Trey Simon (Rochester Hills), as well as talented students from Michigan high schools. 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$25, VIP package available. Pat-tengill Middle School Auditorium, 626 Marshall St., Lansing. phildenny.com.

Saturday, Dec. 5-6

Holiday Traditions Tour

Explore the historic homes of Grand Ledge at the Grand Ledge Area Historical Society’s annual Holiday Traditions Tour. Several residents will open up their historic and modern homes to the public, offering an inside look at some of the area’s most interesting abodes. The Grand Ledge Museum, Grand Ledge Opera House and Emmanuel Lutheran Church will also be open for tours, and Sanctuary Spirits will offer tours and samples of its wine and spirits. Grand Ledge residents who would like to include their house in the tour should contact Marie Brown at (517) 627-1352 or Marilyn Smith at (517) 896-4613. See web for participating homes. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday. FREE. Grand Ledge.

Saturday, Dec. 5-6

MSU Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

Get a jump on your holiday shopping with the 52nd annual MSU Holiday Arts & Crafts Show. This year’s show features over 130 vendors from across the U.S., including 25 vendors appearing at the show for the first time. There will be a

See Holiday Events Guide, Page 11

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www.LAHRonline.org



HOLIDAY EVENTS GUIDE

continued from page 10

wide range of handmade items for sale, including candles, furniture, jewelry, home and yard decor, toys, painting, pottery, and more.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday. FREE. MSU Union, 49 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-3354, uabevents.com.

Saturday, Dec. 5-6

Celebrate! A Holiday Festival

LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus presents an evening of holiday favorites and seasonal fare. This year's concert features a guest appearance by local actor/singer Joe Quick, a regular in the Greater Lansing musical theater circuit. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets start at \$10. Lansing First Presbyterian Church, 510 Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingout.org.

Friday, Dec. 6

Handel's 'Messiah' at the Wharton Center



MSU choral groups Choral Union, University Chorale and State Singers will join forces with MSU's Symphony Orchestra to present Handel's "Messiah." Composed 274 years ago, "Messiah" has become a staple of the holiday season and continues to be one of the world's most popular orchestral works. 7 p.m. \$20/\$10 students. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Friday, Dec. 11

Holiday Sing at the Ten Pound Fiddle

Local folk music promoter Ten Pound Fiddle puts the audience in the spotlight with its 12th annual Holiday Sing. The sing-along concert will be led by Sally Potter, veteran of the local music scene as well as booker for Ten Pound Fiddle and teacher at Williamston High School. She will be joined by a special guest, Lansing-based dulcimer player/builder Doug Berch, who will also provide pre- and post-show music. 8 p.m. \$15/\$12 members/\$5 students/\$35 family. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn

See Holiday Events Guide, Page 11

November 19 - December 20, 2015



Pay-What-You-Can Preview
Thursday, Nov. 19 @ 8PM
\$15 Previews
Nov. 20 @ 8PM, Nov. 21 @ 8PM
Nov. 22 @ 2PM, Nov. 27 @ 3PM

Williamston Theatre
122 S Putnam St., Williamston
517-655-7469
www.williamstontheatre.org



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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Music

TICKETS: WHARTONCENTER.COM | (517) 432-2000

HOLIDAY EVENTS GUIDE

continued from page 11

Road, East Lansing. (517) 337-7744, ten-poundfiddle.org.

Friday, Dec. 11-13

Holiday at Lebowsky with the Owosso Community Players

Join the cast and crew of the Owosso Community Players for an evening of holiday-themed song and dance. The historic Lebowsky Center, which hosts the holiday performance, was completely renovated after a 2007 fire nearly destroyed the building. The Owosso Community Players recently celebrated the renovations with a relighting of the theater's iconic marquee, retrofitted with energy efficient LED light bulbs. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday. \$20/\$18 students and seniors/\$10 children. The Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St, Owosso. (989) 723-4003, owosso-players.com.

Friday, Dec. 11-12

Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle Third Annual Holiday Show

The 15ish-piece musical group Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle — known as LUVS by its fans — hosts a yuletide-themed concert full of mischief and merrymaking. The 1920s-influenced

gypsy-jazz outfit invites audience members to sing along with their vaudeville-ified versions of classic Christmas tunes. The eccentric show will also feature dancers, puppets and comic relief provided by pseudo-scientists. 8 p.m. Friday; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday. \$15/\$10 advance. Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517luvs.com.

Thursday, Dec. 17-19

Cirque Dreams 'Holidaze' at the Wharton Center



Courtesy photo

Soaring snowmen and acrobatic angels hit the Wharton Center stage in Cirque Dreams' colorful holiday stage extravaganza, "Holidaze." The show celebrates the season with elaborate production numbers, extravagant costumes and live music, all performed in a winter wonderland setting. 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday. Tickets start at \$38. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Saturday, Dec. 19

A Jazzy Little Christmas



Courtesy photo

MSU jazz faculty supergroup, the Professors of Jazz, present a swinging take on classic yuletide tunes with a Jazzy Little Christmas. Last year's performance included jazz-infused renditions of festive favorites like "Jingle Bells," "Let It Snow" and "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer." 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$10 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

Saturday, Dec. 19

Tease-a-Gogo Holiday Burlesque Variety Show

Need a little help making Santa's naughty list? Tease-A-Gogo, Mid-Michigan's popular burlesque variety show series, makes a stop in Lansing on its annual Tease-A-HoHo tour. This holiday-themed burlesque bash will feature side-show, drag, and striptease performances sure to make even an abominable snowman blush. Guests are encouraged to join in on the fun and don their holiday apparel. Doors will open at 9 p.m. All adults over 18 are welcome, and reserved seating is available. 10 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. teaseagogo.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **December 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Next Generation Investment Properties, LLC for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the properties at 1301 and 1307 East Grand Avenue and 116-132 Spartan Avenue to construct a 6-story mixed-use building with commercial use on the first floor and five floors of residential above. Including street-level and underground parking to accommodate the entire proposal. The properties are located in the B2, Retail Sales Business 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_283

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Repression and expression

MSU Opera's 'A Room With a View' tackles Victorian-era sexuality

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A commanding voice called from the orchestra pit.

"It's very disconcerting when I can't hear you."

Two apparently naked MSU opera students — actually clad in flesh-colored Speedos, their bodies blurred by a watery looking scrim — instantly ceased cavorting on stage and milled around, waiting.

"A Room With a View"

MSU Opera Theatre
7:30 p.m. Wednesday,
Nov. 18; 8 p.m. Friday,
Nov. 20-Saturday, Nov.
21; 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov.
22
Fairchild Theatre
542 Auditorium Road,
East Lansing
\$20/\$18 seniors/\$5
students
(517) 353-5340, music.
msu.edu

With a View."

Everyone took an extra breath while Marcello Cormio, an athletic, live-wire guest conductor from Italy, ironed out the problem with director Melanie Helton, who was monitoring the action from the back of Fairchild Theatre.

"It's not your fault," Cormio assured the semi-nude singers.

Within seconds, the lush, lyrical music of Texas-based composer Robert Nelson rolled on, prodded and massaged with gymnastic grace by Cormio and an unseen, full-sized

orchestra in the pit.

Nelson himself sat in a bank of empty seats, chin on hand, listening.

"Cormio is just fantastic," Nelson enthused. "He works well with the orchestra and has a wonderful rapport with the singers. I am very impressed."

Students in Victorian garb, waiting in the wings, milled around a prop table, nervously hefting plastic fruit. One pretended to take a bite and drew a few suppressed laughs. In the hallway outside, bit player Matt Riutta stood patiently as artificial blood was squirted onto his already gory scalp.

"I'm the guy who gets killed," he explained. "It's a very small role."

In a dark aisle of the nearly empty theater, Helton chided a student singer in a maid's outfit.

"You're not flirting enough with Quentin," Helton told her. "That kiss has to be sexier."

The repressed Edwardian sexuality of Forster's novel, known to most Americans from the 1985 Merchant/Ivory film, made Nelson's opera version irresistible to Helton.

"There was a lot of hanky-panky going on, but it was all behind closed doors," Helton said.

Repressed emotion and grand opera might not seem like a good fit to some composers, but Nelson didn't see it that way when librettist Buck Ross came to him with the idea.

"What attracted us is that it's almost a real story," Nelson said. "The tension between repression and liberation gives the story a wonderful arc."

The MSU production of "A Room With a View" will only be the opera's fourth. It was premiered in 2007 at the University of Houston, where Nelson and Ross are on faculty. A performance at the University of Nebraska was followed by "major surgery," in Nelson's words — a lot of exposition was trimmed — before a second Houston production. Helton, a mentor to Helton, suggested "A Room With a View" to her last year.

"It's a real romantic comedy, and those are hard to come by," Helton said. "There are a ton of parts

and very little chorus. It gets a lot of people on stage in nice, significant roles."

Cormio, an Italian opera specialist, first came to MSU last year to conduct Mozart's "Così fan Tutte," but the chance to conduct a new opera with a "super-lush, post-Puccini" orchestral score drew him back.

"I'm in an enviable position," Cormio said. "I'm working on a piece that was written seven years ago, and the composer is here."

Cormio is as impressed with Nelson as the composer is with him.

"He is a master at using the music to describe those psychological nuances," Cormio said. "It's not the major, gigantic things you find with Verdi and Wagner. Puccini used to say that his operas are the big consequences of small things, and I find that very much in this score."

Nelson's harmonic tapestry changes like weather as the scene changes from hot-blooded Italy to repressed England.

"I'm from Italy, so this is very close to me," Cormio said. "Florence has a very specific flavor of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance. He really nails it right at the beginning with the bassoon solo and these chords with the modal harmonies."

When the scene switches to class-bound London, four stuffy, melancholy chords say it all: Somebody open a window, for God's sake.

Nelson delights in that kind of power. With a well-placed chord or carefully calibrated harmony, he can get across a fugitive feeling it might have taken Forster pages to describe.

"That's the beauty of opera," Nelson said. "You can communicate subtleties that people will absorb subconsciously. It gives you quite a sense of power knowing you can manipulate people's emotions so easily. We enjoy that."

MSU's production of "A Room With a View," like 2012's "The Grapes of Wrath" and 2010's "Florencia en el Amazonas," rides a major new trend in the world of opera. As recently as 15 or 20 years ago, new operas were almost impossible to bankroll, produce and sell to the public.

"Now most American companies are do-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Actors Katie Bethel, as Lucy Honeychurch, and Nick Kreider, as George Emerson, rehearse a scene from "A Room with a View."

ing wonderful premieres every single year," Helton said. "There is a return to beauty, an understanding that the human voice can bring something out that a violin cannot — no offense to violins."

Next year, Michigan Opera Theatre will present "Silent Night," the Pulitzer Prize-winning 2011 opera about a miraculous 1914 Christmas truce that took place during World War I.

For future productions at MSU, Helton is looking at "As One," the story of a transgender male played by a baritone and a mezzo-soprano, "Heart of a Soldier," about a security director who died in the 9/11 attacks, and "Glory Denied," the story of a Vietnam era prisoner of war who is thought dead but turns up at his home after his wife has remarried.

Another bonus of doing new operas is that the creator is around to be consulted. Working with Nelson, Helton said, has been a revelation to the students.

"I've heard stories about how the composer gets there and hates everything you're doing," Helton said. "I've seen composers throw hissy fits, but Bob and I respect each other's work and we've had a very happy collaboration."



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Guest conductor Marcello Cormio leads a full pit orchestra through one of the opera's final dress rehearsals.

Old mall, new gallery

Keys to Creativity brings artistic vision to Lansing Mall

By KEVIN McINERNEY

Most Greater Lansing residents know about the art galleries up in Old Town, and it's not surprising to stumble upon an art gallery in downtown East Lansing or Williamston. But tucked away inside a small storefront at the Lansing Mall is Lansing's newest member of the continuously growing arts scene: Keys To Creativity.

Keys to Creativity

10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; Noon-9 p.m. Thursday-Friday; 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday; Noon - 6 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday
(Inside the Lansing Mall)
5746 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing
(517) 657-2770,
facebook.com/
keystocreativity

Keys to Creativity is the brainchild of Lansing residents Larry and Beth Grudt and local artist Julian Van Dyke. Designed to be a community art center, Keys to Creativity will operate as a gallery, classroom and event space for members of the Lansing arts scene.

Many locals know Larry Grudt, 57, as a coordinator of Lansing Jazzfest and Old

Town BluesFest, but his most recent project, the "Keys in The Cities" art instillation, is where mall directors first took notice of his work.

"We had four pianos scattered throughout the mall," Grudt said. "They were really attracting a lot of attention from customers. People seemed really interested, really enthused. After mall executives attended a piano unveiling at the Detroit Institute of Arts, they approached me about a community art space inside the mall."

Needless to say, Grudt jumped at the opportunity and began laying the groundwork for what would become Keys to Creativity.

The purpose of Keys in the Cities was to show people what can be done when you take ordinary spaces and use them for something totally different," Grudt said. "That's what I want this community center to be: this raw space where ideas can develop and inspiration can flow. Art should never be a one-way relationship but rather a group process."

The shop's gallery features works by 24 different local artists, including paintings, photography, small sculptures and furniture. Keys to Creativity has been open for just over a month, but Grudt and his cohorts are already mapping the art center's future, especially the future events calendar.

"When we were discussing the parameters of the center with mall execs, I asked about event potential. How big could they be, what could they include," Grudt said. "For some reason, and I still don't know why, they're letting us use the entire mall. We even have permission to spill into the parking lot. I'm just so excited for the potential this place has."

In addition to art sales and events, Keys to Creativity plans to host drop-in classes



Kevin McInerney/City Pulse

An assortment of works by local tattoo artist Paul "Mexone" Vetne hangs on the wall of Keys to Creativity, a new art space in the Lansing Mall.

for children and adults led by local artists. With local schools cutting back on arts education, Grudt sees the center as a way to get art back into students' lives.

"There is always such a need for youth-focused arts programming," Grudt said. "It can't all be left to schools or part-time teachers. There is a void there, and I think eventually we will fill that gap."

Grudt added that the gallery is a sign that the community is looking for more arts opportunities.

"I don't want to force a certain culture on anyone or tell a community what I think they need," Grudt said. "But we were invited in and essentially told, 'We want this. Can you help us make this happen?'"

As a storefront in the Lansing Mall, Keys to Creativity is open during most of the mall's regular hours. This means some long hours for the center's small staff, but Grudt doesn't mind.

"I knew it was going to be a lot of work, and I wasn't sure about an-

other 9 to 5 job," he said. "This is usually 10 to 10, and I've never enjoyed something more."



Kevin McInerney/City Pulse

"I Feel Fine," a John Lennon portrait by artist Jennifer Medler, is one of the paintings for sale at Keys to Creativity.



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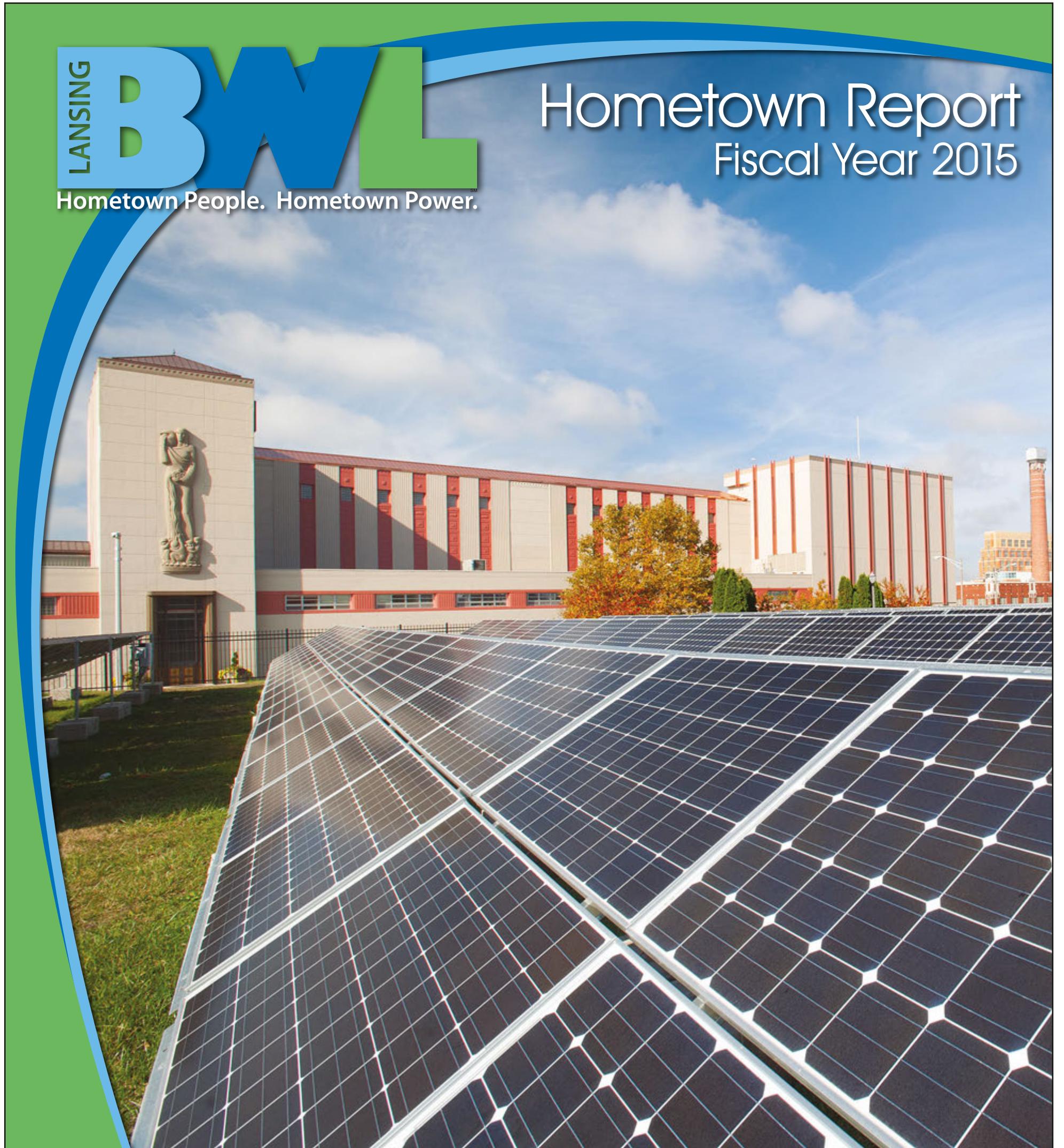
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LANSING **BWL**

Hometown People. Hometown Power.

Hometown Report

Fiscal Year 2015





A Message from Dick Peffley

General Manager, Lansing Board of Water & Light



The Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report spans July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, which we're required to report to the community by June 30, 2016.

It's with a very grateful heart that I take leadership of the Lansing Board of Water & Light. I am thankful to the community and the Board of Commissioners for having faith in me and naming me the general manager. This is the highpoint of my 40 year career at the BWL.

I've spent my entire life serving the BWL and our customers, and working at the BWL has allowed me to live in this community and raise my family. Becoming general manager now allows me to give back to the community at the highest level here at the BWL. It also means that for the first time in decades a general manager has been promoted from within, and hopefully will be able to retire from the BWL.

I'm very excited to be able to see through some of the projects I've begun, like the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) process to replace the Eckert Power Station, and our five year, \$100 million transmission and distribution improvement plan. Together these projects make up our Lansing Energy Tomorrow Plan, which will guide how we will meet our customers' energy needs for decades into the future.

The BWL is a leader in providing our customers with clean and green renewable energy, and energy savings programs. We were the first utility to adopt a renewable energy portfolio and will meet the state's renewable standards deadline for 2015. Joining our portfolio of solar, wind, hydroelectric and landfill gas is a new community solar program.

Thank you for being a Lansing Board of Water & Light customer. We are committed to being the best utility we can possibly be because you and our community deserve it.



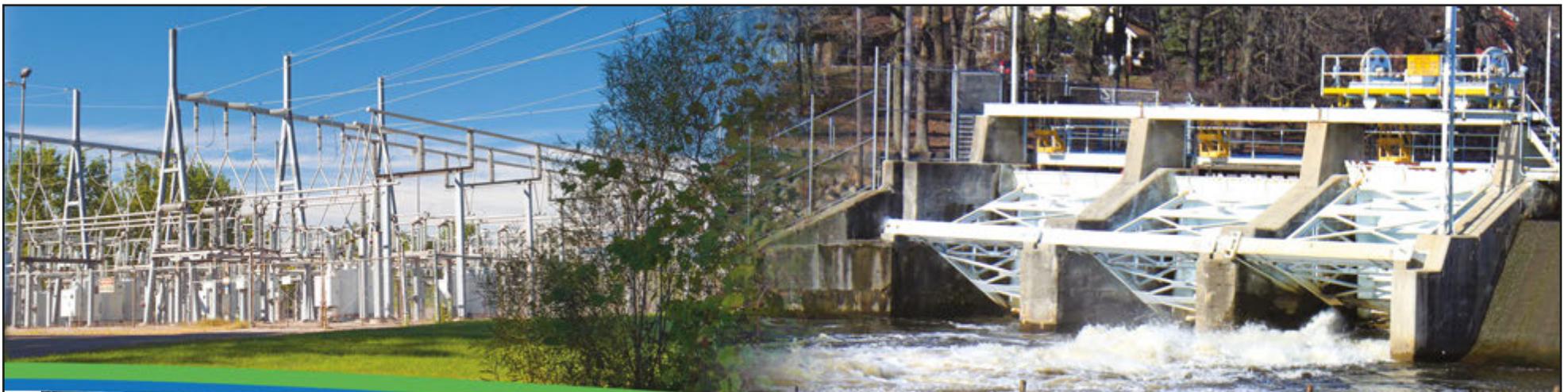
REO Cogeneration Plant is BWL's first natural gas-fired power plant – and first new plant in 40 years. The REO Town plant generates up to 300,000 pounds of steam per hour and 100 megawatts of electricity. The plant, winner of many industry awards, is among the most clean and efficient in the U.S.



Eckert Power Station is the BWL's oldest operating power plant. The 375-megawatt plant's coal-fired generation units were installed over several years, beginning in the mid-1950s. It includes six electric generating units, all of which are scheduled to close by 2020.



Erickson Power Station is located in Delta Township, was completed in 1973 and contains a single coal-fired generator capable of producing 160 megawatts of electricity. It was recently rated one of the most efficient plants of its size in the United States.



Roy E. Peffley Chilled Water Plant was completed in 2009. The \$20 million plant provides chilled water that is used for cooling buildings to State of Michigan office buildings, among other downtown Lansing customers. The state-of-the-art facility is so highly automated that it is operated remotely by computer.



John F. Dye Water Conditioning Plant, which recently underwent a \$10 million restoration, has the capacity to condition and distribute 40 million gallons of water per day. The Dye plant's architecture reflects the art deco style prevalent when it was built in 1939 as a project of the Works Project Administration (WPA). In the plant's lobby, large murals painted by artists Frank Cassara and Charles Pollock depict the beneficial and destructive forces of water.



Wise Road Water Conditioning Plant was built in 1966 and has a capacity to condition and distribute 10 million gallons of water per day. The Wise Road plant recently completed a \$30 million complete retrofit of the plant – which rebuilt or replaced most of the plant's equipment, including mechanical and electrical, following a chemical accident.

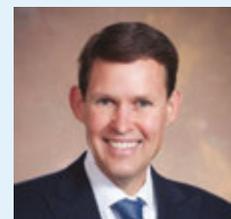
BWL Board of Commissioners



David Price
Chair



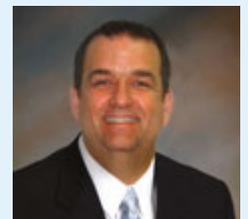
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Vice Chair



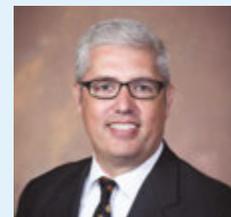
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Anthony McCloud



Anthony Mullen



Ken Ross



Tracy Thomas



Sandra Zerkle



Mike Froh
Non-Voting
Advisory Member



Rober Nelson
Non-Voting
Advisory Member



Bill Long
Non-Voting
Advisory Member



Lansing BWL



BWLComm



Lansing BWL

Fiscal Year 2015

Information as of June 30, 2015

Electric Utility

Customer Class	# Customers	*MWH Sales	Revenues
Residential	83,694	554,360	\$78,506,198
Commercial	12,720	1,140,878	\$136,104,421
Industrial	247	366,790	\$37,755,775
Sales for Resale		710,848	\$28,169,851
Other		35,610	\$14,511,660
Total	96,661	2,808,486	\$295,047,904

*MWH = megawatt hour (1,000 kilowatt hours)

Water Utility

Customer Class	# Customers	*CCF Sales	Revenues
Residential	48,696	2,757,917	\$15,224,539
Commercial	6,569	2,793,407	\$11,992,029
Industrial	98	590,018	\$1,886,307
Sales for Resale		2,173,650	\$3,151,972
Other		112,644	\$5,655,258
Total	55,363	8,427,636	\$37,910,106

*CCF = 100 cubic feet of water

Steam Utility

Customer Class	# Customers	*MLB Sales	Revenues
Residential	5	1,651	\$27,304
Commercial	170	464,651	\$8,851,858
Industrial	1	210,013	\$4,744,825
Other		58,918	\$1,335,225
Total	176	735,233	\$14,959,212

*MLB = 1,000 pounds

Chilled Water

Customer Class	# Customers	*Ton Hours	Revenues
Residential			
Commercial	18	10,153	\$5,568,287
Industrial			
Total	18	10,153	\$5,568,287

*Ton Hours = 1,000 ton hours

Statement of Net Assets

Assets	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014
Current Assets	269,764,205	262,202,726
Other Assets	43,815,099	51,803,121
Noncurrent Restricted Assets	24,263,950	46,828,045
Utility Plant	715,027,381	699,287,611
Deferred Outflows	1,032,273	1,228,706
Total Assets	1,053,902,908	1,061,350,209

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	65,196,247	69,522,668
Other Long Term Liabilities	21,603,200	21,866,848
Long Term Debt	347,044,294	361,310,213
Total Liabilities	433,843,741	452,699,729
Deferred Inflows	24,868,761	26,087,369
Net Assets (Equity)	595,190,406	582,563,111
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,053,902,908	1,061,350,209

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets

	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014
Operating Revenues	353,485,509	348,122,943
Operating Expense	(309,024,172)	(310,917,134)
Operating Income	44,461,337	37,205,809
Nonoperating Income (Expenses)	(31,834,042)	(38,512,212)
Change in Net Assets	12,627,295	(1,306,403)

CURTAIN CALL

Urban sprawl 'Stage Door' is expansive, but lacks focus

By TOM HELMA

MSU Department of Theatre's latest production, Edna Ferber and George S. Kaufman's "Stage Door," features what is probably the most elaborate and expansive set design ever put together for the Pasant Theatre stage. For this play, set in the mid-1930s, the crew built a sprawling boarding house for aspiring young female actors called the Footlights Club that houses some 20 aspiring actresses. Kudos to Elspeth Williams and her mentor,

Alex van Blommestein. The set dressing is an eclectic array of quaint and unusual period artifacts — additional kudos to Peter Verhaeghe.

The women of the house prance and dance, slink and slither, posture incessantly and espouse opinions on a variety of only vaguely interesting small-talk conversation topics: men, dating, parts on stage they have gotten or not gotten. Much detail of these conversations, unfortunately, is lost in the cavernous Pasant Theatre. Voices didn't project clearly, nor did one get much of the texture of conversation. Midway through the first

act, there is a pivotal moment in which two of the women finally articulate a big idea — discussing whether theater work on stage is a more worthy endeavor than Hollywood acting. The second act warms up somewhat, with a more extensive expository on this theme

Eventually, we figure out that the lead character is Terry, played by Madelayne Shammass. She shows some grit, spark and animation, but not nearly enough to fill up the room and captivate the audience.

There are too many small parts in this production, and it is sometimes difficult to keep track of who is who or what the focus and intent of the scene might be. Many actors adopt the staccato, rat-a-tat style of the Hollywood movies of the '30s. Charming, to be sure, but projecting neither authenticity nor unique characterizations. All actresses are dressed — and undressed — in astonishingly elaborate attire for starlets who have not made the big time. There are too many costume changes to count, including more than a few (hopefully fake) ermine furs.

As a historic piece, this play attempts to show some of the challenges for women in the '30s. A good intent, but it doesn't deliver. The few scenarios set up to highlight that dynamic do not sell well — they are too short and have too many throwaway lines. Billed as a comedy/drama, the Friday night performance was met with a small and very quiet audience. The one time there was laughter, it was an inappropriate response to a very serious statement.

MSU's talented theater students moved well on and off the stage, yet few projected qualities that would make them serious candidates for the Great White Way. A smaller, focused production with meatier roles might have given them a better chance to shine.



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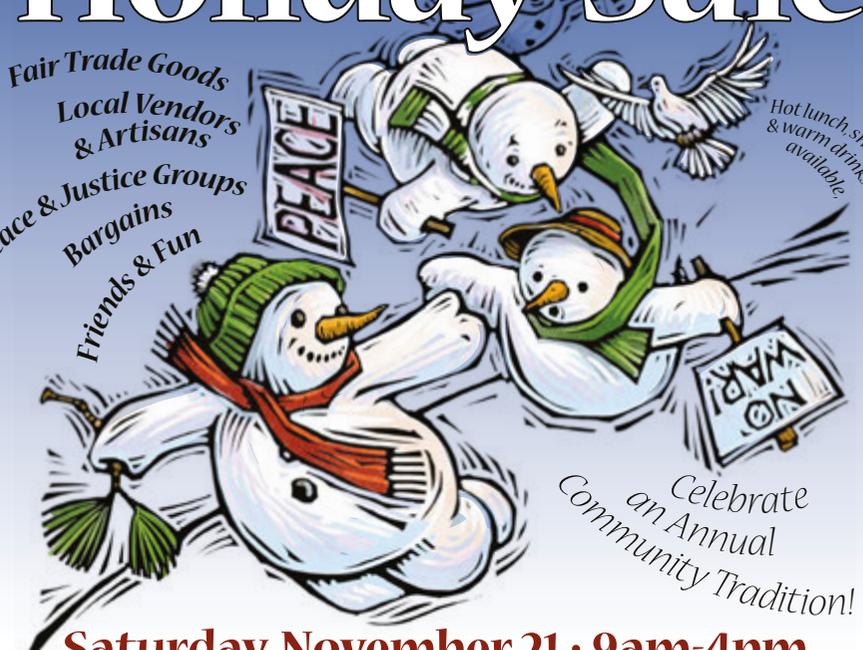
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Fighting words

David Maraniss deals with tough questioners at author event

By BILL CASTANIER

The late Rodney Dangerfield once quipped, "I went to a fight the other night, and a hockey game broke out."

You might expect some fisticuffs at a hockey game, sure, but you generally don't expect a fight to break out at a book signing. At Thursday's presentation by David Maraniss, author of the best-seller "Once In A Great City: A Detroit Story," Ma-

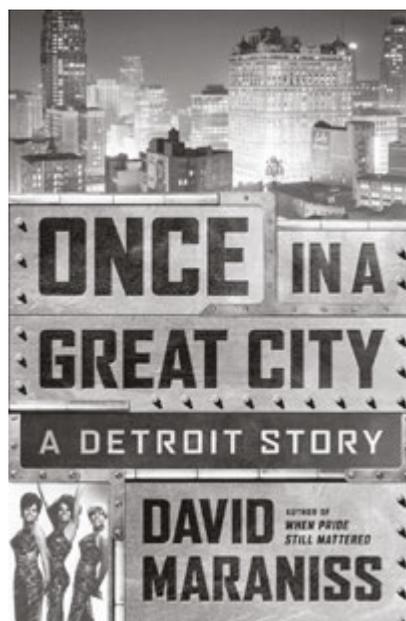
Author David Maraniss was a guest on the Nov. 13 episode of "City Pulse Newsmakers," which can be viewed online at lansingcitypulse.com.

raniss was verbally assaulted by at least three audience members who took issue with his new book. "Once in a Great City" details Detroit's history from October 1962 to May 1964, before its fall from grace.

Clearly, this wasn't Maraniss' first collision with audience members on a mission. One woman, who demanded a microphone to ask her question, was verbally abusive and challenged him on issues which weren't in the book. Despite her aggressive tone and demeanor, he was polite in asking, "Do you have a question?"

The woman was escorted from the auditorium but shoved Jim MacLean, Capital Area District Library's director of community outreach, on the way out. The police were called, but she left before they arrived.

A couple of questioners pushed Maraniss to answer questions about the role of unions in the fall of Detroit, and another questioner droned on about urban policy, pointing to examples from a book — not Maraniss' book, unfortunately. Maraniss politely but pointedly told the questioner that the book in question was actually Thomas Sugrue's landmark book, "The Origins of the Urban Crisis."



Courtesy photo

"Once In a Great City," by author David Maraniss, details Detroit's history from October 1962 to May 1964.

Book signings, especially by high profile or controversial authors, are more and more often turning into verbal slugfests between questioners — not necessarily readers — and the author. At a recent event in Ann Arbor, singer and memoirist Patti Smith, author of "M Train" and "Just Kids," got in a heated exchange with several questioners after they asked inappropriate questions. She told one poor kid to "get a job" and answered a vague statement about the passion Detroiters have for work with, "I'm from New Jersey, where we know how to fucking work."

A few years ago, at a book signing by Charlie LeDuff, journalist and author of "Detroit: An American Autopsy," several audience members made the mistake of getting into it with LeDuff. He rebuked them soundly.

This activity, although not new, has increased, and publicists at major publishing houses are now training authors on how to get a wandering or issue-driven questioner to sit down. To avoid this situation, many venues have gone to screening the questions by having audience members write their questions on index cards. A moderator, or sometimes the author, then looks

over the questions, tossing away inappropriate or off-topic questions.

Prior to the turbulent Q&A, Maraniss, a Pulitzer Prize winner, provided the 400-plus guests at the packed Kinawa Middle School Auditorium with one of the best presentations an author could give. His 45-minute multi-media presentation — which even featured the dramatic 2011 "Born of Fire" Chrysler Super Bowl commercial featuring rapper Eminem — captured the audience's attention. The author was born in Detroit and lived there a short time before his father, a writer for the defunct Detroit Times, moved for a job.

Maraniss, 66, said he was in tears when he saw the ad and at that moment decided he needed to write a book about his hometown.

"I have to be obsessed before I write a book," Maraniss told the audience.

His obsession began with that ad and the line Eminem delivers in front of the Fox Theatre: "This is the Motor City, and this is what we do."

Maraniss' book follows four themes and their interrelationship from October 1962 to May 1964. During his presentation, he discussed the importance of the four themes: creativity, civil rights, cars and unionized labor.

By taking this multi-pronged approach, he hoped to show "the tension between creativity and decay."

The music of Motown was the obvious choice for the creative role, while the automobile industry played the part of decay.

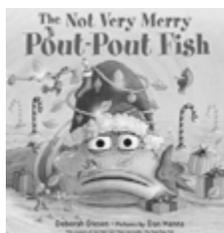
As he walked the audience through the stories in the book, Maraniss showed 1963 film clips of then Mayor Jerome Cavanaugh extolling the great city — while we all knew that a major problem, boiling just beneath the surface, would be ignited just a few years later.

The author said he has made 14 visits to the city, first for research and then for book promotion activities. Maraniss, who said he set out to write the book "to honor his own memories," is a great storyteller — both in person and print. While the book was not meant to be prescriptive or cheerlead for the city, a line in the Chrysler ad seems to resonate with his message: "It's the hottest fires that make the hardest steel."

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

NYT-Bestselling author DEB DIESEN presents *The Not Very Merry Pout Pout Fish*

Sat., Nov. 28 from 11am to 1pm
Eastwood Towne Center location



Join us at 11am for a story-time with our favorite picture book author (and former Schuler employee) Deb Diesen! She'll be reading from the newest book

in her bestselling Pout Pout Fish series, *The Not Very Merry Pout Pout Fish*, followed by a signing and meet and greet session lasting til 1pm.

NYT-bestselling authors AMIE KAUFMAN & MEAGAN SPOONER present *Their Fractured Light*

Wednesday, December 2 @7pm
Eastwood Towne Center location



Their Fractured Light is the final book in the NYT-bestselling *Starbound* trilogy, begun with 2013's *Their Broken Stars*, and 2014's *This Shattered World*. The *Starbound* trilogy is a thrilling, epic space opera featuring three worlds, three love stories, and one grand enemy.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, November 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 2. French immersion class for toddlers, ages 2-4. 5:15 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Aux Petits Soins-Travel bugs 2. French immersion class for kids, ages 6-9. 6:15 p.m. \$20/\$16 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Story Art Time. Art and story time for preschoolers. 10-10:45 a.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Walk-In Wednesdays. Art activities for ages 5 and up. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Dream Analysis Class. Second part of two-part class. 8:30-9 p.m. Unity of Greater Lansing, 240 Marshall St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010.

LOCUS: Visualizing and Narrating Space. 3-5 p.m. MSU Library, 100 Main Library Road, MSU Campus, East Lansing. lib.msu.edu.

Mid-MI Genealogical Society. "Building a Scottish Pedigree: Records and Tools." 7-9 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. mmgs.wordpress.com.

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

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

Line Dancing. All levels welcome. 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$10 drop-in/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Diversity Education Series. Diversity in the community discussion. Register online. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. REO Town Depot, 1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. purelansing.com/diversitylansing.

EVENTS

Teens After School. Programming for teens

See Out on the Town, Page 23

The holiday Bern



Courtesy Photo

Supporters of presidential candidate U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders packed the Avenue Café for an event last month. The venue will host Bernsgiving, a concert fundraiser for Sanders, this weekend.

Saturday, Nov. 21

Next week, families all over Greater Lansing will gather around a turkey dinner — or whatever the popular vegan, GMO-free alternative is this year — and reflect on what they are thankful for. Most will express thanks for things like friends, family, a good job or a nice place to hang their hat. But one local group is gathering this weekend to show its gratitude for a politician: U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Lansing For Bernie, a grassroots community organization supporting Sanders' presidential bid, hosts a fundraising concert, Bernsgiving, at the Avenue Cafe Saturday. The show features performances by local bands Immanuel Can't and Technically American.

The Avenue has even concocted some special cocktails for the evening, with names like "Feel the Bern" and "Fuel the Bern." The festivities will also feature trivia contests and a raffle to win prizes, and "Bernie merch" like buttons and bumper stickers will be available for purchase. Lansing for Bernie will also have informational literature and links for anyone interested in

supporting the cause.

"The donations will be going to Lansing For Bernie to help fund future events and be able to continue spreading awareness for Bernie, his issues (and) the importance of creating social and political change," said Sara Long, a Lansing for Bernie member and one of the event's organizers. "I thought the concert would be a cool way to get people excited about the cause and to enjoy a fun night."

Lansing for Bernie is one of hundreds of independently organized advocacy groups for Bernie Sanders. It works locally to coordinate volunteers and supporters, collect donations and assist Sanders' campaign. Long said the group hopes to inspire political reform with its efforts, pushing Lansing residents to "stand against corruption and get Bernie elected for President."

Planning the show was not an easy task, Long said. Many of bands that the group reached out to turned down the gig, not wanting to associate their names with a politically themed event. The Blue Effect, one of the bands that had

agreed to play, canceled due to a scheduling conflict.

"It's kind of ironic to see bands quick to affiliate with (large, for-profit promoters), but when it comes to community events like this, they don't want to participate because they don't want to be a 'political' band," said Samuel Sprague, guitarist for Immanuel Can't.

Despite the complications, the Facebook event page for Bernsgiving shows that 68 people are planning to attend and another 125 people are interested in going. Long said that the group's previous events, including monthly meetings and debate-watching parties, have consistently drawn crowds of over 75 people.

"Unlike many groups, (Lansing For Bernie) stresses the importance of getting off the internet to get active in our area," said Long. "Hopefully, we will inspire others to feel the Bern."

Bernsgiving

7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21
\$5-\$10 suggested donation
The Avenue Café
2021 E Michigan Ave., Lansing
facebook.com/lansingforbernie

— MCKENZIE HAGERSTROM

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICHTUPICA

BEACH SLANG AT MAC'S BAR



SUN. NOV 22ND

Sunday, Nov. 22 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$14, \$12 adv., 7 p.m.

Beach Slang has picked up some critical buzz since the October release of its debut LP, "The Things We Do to Find People Who Feel Like Us." NPR described the disc as "exhilarating pop-punk anthems," and Pitchfork said it's "the most passionate batch of love songs you're liable to hear in 2015." The Philadelphia-based indie rock band formed in 2013 and, without the help of a professional marketing team, earned a staunch underground fan base on the strength of two 7-inch singles, "Cheap Thrills On A Dead End Street" and "Who Would Ever Want Something So Broken?" Sunday the band headlines an Impact 89FM-hosted show at Mac's Bar; openers are Lithuania, Worriers and Worn Spirit.

RED TEETH AT MAC'S BAR



FRI. NOV. 20TH

Friday, Nov. 20 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$7, 8 p.m.

Red Teeth has been unloading colossally heavy progressive-sludge rock since the Bath-based duo formed in 2002. The two-member band, which recently reformed after an extended hiatus, is made up of two brothers: drummer/vocalist Rael Andrews and guitarist/vocalist Ryan Andrews. Over the years, the pair has issued over 15 DIY releases on its Madlantis Records label. They also have a new 7-inch coming soon from GTG Records. Aside from Red Teeth, the brothers were also the masterminds behind other local fixtures BerT and Dr.Device. Friday, the band opens for Cavalcade and the Revenant at Mac's Bar. Brown Company is also on the bill. To sample Red Teeth's lengthy and diverse discography, visit redteeth.bandcamp.com.

JOE BUCK YOURSELF AT THE AVENUE CAFE



FRI. NOV 20TH

Friday, Nov. 20 @ The Avenue Café, 2012 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, \$9, 8 p.m.

Jim Finkley, who goes by Joe Buck and performs as Joe Buck Yourself, is a hard-stomping one-man band. With a kick drum at his feet and a worn-out acoustic guitar in his hands, Buck savagely mixes classic hillbilly music with snarling gutter-punk vocals and distortion. Friday he headlines at the Avenue Café; openers are the Piss Poor Players, Nait Mainerd and Rent Strike. A native of Kentucky, Buck got his start in punk back in the '90s with his band, Gringo. Later he became the guitarist for the Legendary Shack Shakers, a Nashville-based blues-punk group. In 2003, Buck left the Shakers and joined up with Hank Williams III, playing even more amped-up, alternative country music. If you dig old Merle Haggard records but have soft spots for the Cramps or the Misfits, you might want to check out this show.

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

LIVE & LOCAL	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	City Mouse, 8 p.m.	Joe Buck, 8 p.m.	Bernsgiving, 7 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.				Chris Lasko, 8 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Darrin Larner Jr., 8 p.m.	Scott Seth, 8 p.m.
Brookshire, 205 W. Church St.			Kevin Shaffer, 7 p.m.	
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Grant Henderson, 8:30 p.m.	Paulie O., 8:30 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.		Blue Haired Bettys, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.
Copper, 2874 E. Lake Lansing Rd.		Rachel Curtis, 6 p.m.		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Fusion Shows Presents, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.		
Champion's, 2240 Cedar St.		Ladies' Night, 7 p.m.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Rd.			Tell Yo Mama, 10 p.m.	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke w/Jamie, 9 p.m.		DJ Fudgie, 9 p.m.	
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 7 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.	Tell Yo Mama, 9:30 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.			Steve Cowles, 5:30 p.m.	
Leroys, 1526 S. Cedar St.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.			Chip Christy, 9 p.m.	
Third Base Sports Bar, 13623 Main St.			Frog & Fragment of Soul, 9 p.m.	Frog & Fragment of Soul, 9 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Pigeons Playing Ping Pong, 8 p.m.	Earth Prison, 7 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Cavalcade & The Revenant, 8 p.m.	Less is More, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Cash O'Riley, 9 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9 p.m.	Jeff Shoup & the Eastside Swingers, 9 p.m.
R Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Life Support, 8:30 p.m.	Life Support, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			Tenants, 9 p.m.	Bill Slaght, 7:30 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.		New Rule, 9 p.m.	Bobby Standall, 7:30 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Bill Slaght, 9 p.m.	New Rule, 7:30 p.m.
Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Sq.	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.	DJ Don Black, 9:30 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.			Acme Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Acme Jam, 8:30 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Dan McLaughlin, 8 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsy

Nov. 18-24

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Urbandictionary.com defines the English word "balter" as follows: "to dance without particular skill or grace, but with extreme joy." It's related to the Danish term "baltre," which means "to romp, tumble, roll, cavort." I nominate this activity to be one of your ruling metaphors in the coming weeks. You have a mandate to explore the frontiers of amusement and bliss, but you have no mandate to be polite and polished as you do it. To generate optimal levels of righteous fun, your experiments may have to be more than a bit rowdy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You've arrived at a crossroads. From here, you could travel in one of four directions, including back towards where you came from. You shouldn't stay here indefinitely, but on the other hand you'll be wise to pause and linger for a while. Steep yourself in the mystery of the transition that looms. Pay special attention to the feelings that rise up as you visualize the experiences that may await you along each path. Are there any holy memories you can call on for guidance? Are you receptive to the tricky inspiration of the fertility spirits that are gathered here? Here's your motto: Trust, but verify.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): English model and TV personality Katie Price has been on the planet for just 37 years, but has already written four autobiographies. "You Only Live Once," for instance, covers the action-packed time between 2008 and 2010, when she got divorced and then remarried in a romantic Las Vegas ceremony. I propose that we choose this talkative, self-revealing Gemini to be your spirit animal and role model. In the coming weeks, you should go almost to extremes as you express the truth about who you have been, who you are, and who you will become.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A flyer on a telephone pole caught my eye. It showed a photo of a nine-year-old male cat named Bubby, whose face was contorted in pain. A message from Bubby's owner revealed that her beloved pet desperately needed expensive dental work. She had launched a campaign at gofundme.com to raise the cash. Of course I broke into tears, as I often do when confronted so viscerally with the suffering of sentient creatures. I longed to donate to Bubby's well-being. But I thought, "Shouldn't I funnel my limited funds to a bigger cause, like the World Wildlife Fund?" Back home an hour later, I sent \$25 to Bubby. After analyzing the astrological omens for my own sign, Cancer the Crab, I realized that now is a time to adhere to the principle "Think globally, act locally" in every way imaginable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): How well do you treat yourself? What do you do to ensure that you receive a steady flow of the nurturing you need? According to my reading of the astrological omens, you are now primed to expand and intensify your approach to self-care. If you're alert to the possibilities, you will learn an array of new life-enhancing strategies. Here are two ideas to get you started: 1. Imagine at least three acts of practical love you can bestow on yourself. 2. Give yourself three gifts that will promote your healing and stimulate your pleasure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): To activate your full potential in the coming weeks, you don't need to scuba-dive into an underwater canyon or spelunk into the pitch blackness of a remote cave or head out on an archaeological dig to uncover the lost artifacts of an ancient civilization. But I recommend that you consider trying the metaphorical equivalent of those activities. Explore the recesses of your own psyche, as well as those of the people you love. Ponder the riddles of the past and rummage around for lost treasure and hidden truths. Penetrate to the core, the gist, the roots. The abyss is much friendlier than usual! You have a talent for delving deep into any mystery that will be important for your future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Normally I charge \$270-an-hour for the kind of advice I'm about to offer, but I'm giving it to you at no cost. For now, at least, I think you should refrain from relying on experts. Be skeptical of professional opinions and highly paid authorities. The useful information you need will come your way via chance encounters, playful explorations, and gossipy spies. Folk wisdom and street smarts will provide better guidance than elite consultants. Trust curious amateurs; avoid somber careerists.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Some athletes think it's unwise to have sex before a big game. They believe it diminishes the raw physical power they need to excel. For them, abstinence is crucial for victory. But scientific studies contradict this theory. There's evidence that boinking increases testosterone levels for both men and women. Martial artist Ronda Rousey subscribes to this view. She says she has "as much sex as possible" before a match. Her approach must be working. She has won all but one of her professional fights, and "Sports Illustrated" calls her "the world's most dominant athlete." As you approach your equivalent of the "big game," Scorpio, I suggest you consider Rousey's strategy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you were embarking on a 100-mile hike, would you wear new boots that you purchased the day before your trip? Of course not. They wouldn't be broken in. They'd be so stiff and unyielding that your feet would soon be in agony. Instead, you would anchor your trek with supple footwear that had already adjusted to the idiosyncrasies of your gait and anatomy. Apply a similar principle as you prepare to launch a different long-term exploit. Make yourself as comfortable as possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Here's how Mark Twain's novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" begins: "Persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished; persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot." The preface I'd write for your upcoming adventures would be less extreme, but might have a similar tone. That's because I expect you to do a lot of meandering. At times your life may seem like a shaggy dog story with no punch line in sight. Your best strategy will be to cultivate an amused patience; to stay relaxed and unflappable as you navigate your way through the enigmas, and not demand easy answers or simple lessons. If you take that approach, intricate answers and many-faceted lessons will eventually arrive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The Confederation of African Football prohibits the use of magic by professional soccer teams. Witch doctors are forbidden to be on the field during a match, and they are not supposed to spray elixirs on the goals or bury consecrated talismans beneath the turf. But most teams work around the ban. Magic is viewed as an essential ingredient in developing a winning tradition. Given the current astrological omens, I invite you to experiment with your own personal equivalent of this approach. Don't scrimp on logical analysis, of course. Don't stint on your preparation and discipline. But also be mischievously wise enough to call on the help of some crafty mojo.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Slavery is illegal everywhere in the world. And yet there are more slaves now than at any other time in history: at least 29 million. A disproportionate percentage of them are women and children. After studying your astrological omens, I feel you are in a phase when you can bestow blessings on yourself by responding to this predicament. How? First, express gratitude for all the freedoms you have. Second, vow to take full advantage of those freedoms. Third, brainstorm about how to liberate any part of you that acts or thinks or feels like a slave. Fourth, lend your energy to an organization that helps free slaves. Start here: <http://bit.ly/liberateslaves>.

Oops! We've mistakenly published Rob Breznsy's Free Will Astrology column out of order. The column we published last week should not have run until this week. To make things right, we're running the same column again, this time when it should have originally been published. Free Will Astrology will be back on track next week.

Out on the town

from page 21

in 6th-12th grades. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

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

Senior Discovery @ ANC. Basics of Zentangle with Jane Reiter. FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 485-4279.

Family Storytime. Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. cadl.org.

Ancient World Feast for Homeschoolers. Potluck with ancient theme. Noon-2 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Mason, 145 West Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088, cadl.org.

Assembly of Yahweh Meeting. First meeting for spirituality and Bible discussions. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 231-3044, assemblyofyahweh.com.

Build an ArtBot Workshop. Simple robot workshop for ages 6 and up. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave., East Lansing.

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Preschool Thanksgiving Storytime. Ages 3-6. Craft and story. 9:30-10 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster, 200 North Foster St., Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

Toddler Thanksgiving Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster, 200 North Foster St., Lansing. (517) 485-5185, cadl.org.

Veteran Services. Advice on VA benefits and claims. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. American Legion HQ, 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Simeon Berry Poetry Reading. 7 p.m. FREE. RCAH Auditorium in Snyder-Phillips Hall, on the corner of Dormitory Road and Bogue St., MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690.

MUSIC

MSU Opera Theatre: A Room with A View. 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 220 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

Fusion Shows presents. FREE. Crunchy's Pizza and Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506.

ARTS

Courage Ablaze: The Women and Children of Congo in RCAH's LookOut! Art Gallery. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Lookout! Gallery, 362 Bogue St., MSU campus, East Lansing.

THEATER

Stage Door. Depression-era comedy/drama. 7:30 p.m. Pasant Theater, Wharton Center, MSU Campus,

East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

Thursday, November 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Cancer Prevention. Health workshop. 6:15 p.m. FREE. Rassel-Daigneault Family Chiropractic, 537 N. Clippert St., Lansing. (517) 336-8880, ow.ly/UlrzG.

Stress Management 101. Presentation and fun game. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 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.

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

Marketing Your Business. Course on marketing strategies. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Ste. 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

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.

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

Tarot Study Group. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

Genealogy Club. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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

H.E.R.O. Class- Painting Done Right. Home improvement class. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. glhc.org.

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

EVENTS

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

Junior League of Lansing New Member Reception. Women volunteer group welcomes new members. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Pedi-CURE, 4750 Okemos Road, Okemos. jlansing.org.

Project Boudoir Lansing. Lingerie fashion show featuring Michigan designers. 6-9 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. Knapps Building, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 881-8466, projectboudoir Lansing.com.

Gentle Yoga. Yoga basics. 9-10 a.m. \$10 drop-in/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Book and Craft Fundraiser Sale @ MSC. Holiday crafts and decorations. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road



Virg Bernero, Mayor

**An Important Notice
from The City of Lansing**
24 HOURS TO CLEAR YOUR SIDEWALK
Snow Ordinance 1020.06:

 Snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall (Subsection A)

 Ice and snow may not be put in the right-of-way (street or sidewalk) so as to impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic

 Violation notice may be left at property if sidewalk is not clear. Notice will act as reminder and give an additional 24 hours to clear snow and ice (Subsection B)

 If you do not clear your public sidewalk or if the snow/ice are in the right-of-way, the City may clear it at owner's expense (minimum \$149) (Subsection C)

**Please Keep Your Sidewalk
Passable**

Lansing Public Service Department

517-483-4455

www.lansingmi.gov/wintersidewalks

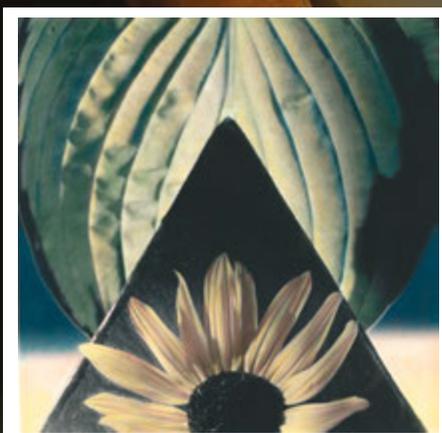
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MANY MANY THANKS
For the kind compliments and congratulations we have received
For Mackerel Sky's 25th Anniversary
Our joint celebration with the Kauffman Studio Open House was such fun!
We are grateful for your participation and enthusiasm.
Let the celebration continue!



211 M.A.C. Avenue, East Lansing | 517.351.2211 | mackerelsky.com



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Our Spirits
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Served in cocktails and neat, also sold by the bottle
Wine, snack plates and non-alcohol cocktails.

**November - Friday Night Movie
Planes, Trains and Automobiles**
a 1987 comedy classic
November 20 at 7 p.m.
free movie and popcorn and peanuts
Join us in the events room for laughs, and good company
reservations recommended

Book our Events Room for a Party
The events room is adjacent to the main bar with great cocktails. You can bring in your own food, order large snack trays from the bar, or we can arrange catering for you. Easy parking. Include a distillery tour! Call for details.

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
4 - 10+ p.m. ; closed Mondays; 517-908-9950

Out on the town

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Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Hunger Games After-hours Party. Ages 9 and up. Activities, refreshments and movie. Registration required. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Dansville Branch, 1379 East Mason Street Dansville. (517) 367-6355.

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

Lansing Soup Grant. Community votes for best community project. Bring a bowl and spoon. 6:30-8 p.m. \$5. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. soupgrantlansing.com.

Lunch @ MSC. Call ahead to reserve meal. Noon-1 p.m. \$5.75/\$3 suggested donation for ages

60+. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Mind Benders @ MSC. 11 a.m.-noon FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Money in Politics: A Community Forum. Forum on political campaigns and rights. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 947-2232.

One on One Life Coaching. Brief guidance session. 1-3 p.m. \$24. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

River City Holiday MRKT. Holiday pop-up shop. Noon-7 p.m. FREE. 1136 1/2 S. Washington Ave., 1136 1/2 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. rivercitymrkt.com.

Spanish Conversation Group. English and Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Trippler's Comedy Club. 9-10:30 p.m. \$5 Subject to change or cancellation. Trippler's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 336-0717.
8-Ball Tournament. Bring your pool game to the Avenue. Call to confirm. 7 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403.
Euchre. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Chipmunk Story Time: Animals Sleeping. Crafts, game and nature walk for preschoolers. 10-11 a.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

MUSIC

Bluegrass Jam. All are welcome to jam. 7-8:30

p.m. FREE. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-7890, ow.ly/UD9hg.
Karaoke. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing.
Drum Circle. All levels welcome. Instruments provided or bring your own. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

ARTS

Holt Village Sampler Craft Show. Craft show spread across 11 homes. See web for map. Noon-9 p.m. Various locations, Holt. holtcrafts.com.

THEATER

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic story

See Out on the Town, Page 26

THURSDAY, NOV. 19 >> 'THE THIRD DAY' MOVIE SCREENING

What would it be like to have a vampire roommate? Filmmakers Tara Alexander and Dan Kofoed set out to answer that question with their film, "The Third Day," which premieres at the Robin Theatre Thursday. The 20-minute film takes place over three days and centers around two roommates, one of whom was bitten by a vampire at a party. The event features a Q&A session with the producers, as well as snacks and other surprises. The film contains violence and adult language, so leave the kids at home for this one. 7:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

THURSDAY, NOV. 19-21 >> HOLT VILLAGE SAMPLER CRAFT SHOW

After 33 years, a Holt tradition is still going strong. The Holt Village Sampler Craft show is a town-wide event spread across eleven homes in the Holt area. Volunteers open their homes to vendors for three days to help shoppers get a head start on their holiday gift buying. Up for sale are hand-crafted jewelry, textiles, candles, totes, festive decorations and, of course, delicious treats. Participating homes will be marked with red heart signs, and a printable map is available at holtcrafts.com/map. Shoppers who find themselves getting a little hungry can stop at Grovenburg United Methodist Church's Old Country Bazaar, which features craft goods as well as lunch service. Proceeds from the church's bazaar go toward the its outreach and mission funds. Noon-9 p.m. Thursday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. FREE. See web for participating locations. holtcrafts.com.

AMERICAN FIFTH

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Out on the town

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from a new point of view. 8 p.m. Pay-what-you-can. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

The Third Day Movie Premiere. Vampire movie debuts. 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

Stage Door. Depression-era comedy/drama. 7:30 p.m. Pasant Theater, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

Friday, November 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Mud And Mug. Painting lesson for ages 21 and up. BYOB. \$25. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Lunch with a Doctor - Prostate Cancer: Know the Risks and Beat the Odds. 11 a.m. \$15/\$10 members. Kellogg Conference Center, 55 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing.

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1-3. French immersion for babies/toddlers. 9:30 a.m. (ages 2-4), 10:30 a.m. (0-2) & 5:15pm (ages 4-6). \$15/\$12

students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

EVENTS

Two Small Pieces of Glass. Program on the history of the telescope. 8-9 p.m. \$4. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

Teens After School. Programming for teens in 6th-12th grades. 3-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Howl at the Moon: Guided Night Walk. Nature walk with dogs. 7-8 p.m. \$3/\$7 per family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

RCS Movie Night. "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" with cocktails. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Red Cedar Spirits, 2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing. (517) 908-9950, redcedarspiritsdistillery.com.

Silver Bells Library Celebration. Face painting, button-making and more. 5-9 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing, 401 South Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

StoryTime. Ages 2-5 years enjoy stories and songs. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

MUSIC

MSU Opera Theatre: A Room With a View. Romantic comic opera. 8-11 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 220 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/UDeyV.

MSU Wind Symphony and Symphony Orchestra. 8-10 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students. FREE. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing.

All-Ages Rock Concert. Fundraiser for auditorium restoration. 7 p.m. \$5. Wilson Center Auditorium, 101 W. Cass St., St. Johns. (989) 224-8159, wilsoncenterauditorium.org.

ARTS

Fine Art Sale. Original art work by the artists of Mid Michigan Art Guild. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 347-7400.

Holt Village Sampler Craft Show. Craft show spread across 11 homes. See web for map. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Various locations, Holt. holtcrafts.com.

Broad Underground Film Series. Avant-garde film screening. 7 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

THEATER

Stage Door. Depression-era comedy/drama. 8 p.m. Pasant Theater, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic story from a new point of view. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

Saturday, November 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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.

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1. French immersion class for babies, ages 0-2. 9:30 a.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

C Division Advanced Speakers Open House. Public speaking open house. 9:30-11:45 a.m. FREE. Dart Bank, Grand Ledge, 1020 Charlevoix Drive, Grand Ledge. (517) 896-4091, ow.ly/UDePR.

Gymnastics for Kids. Ages 2 and up. 3-3:30 p.m. \$10. Mother and Earth Baby Boutique, 4601 W.

See Out on the Town, Page 27

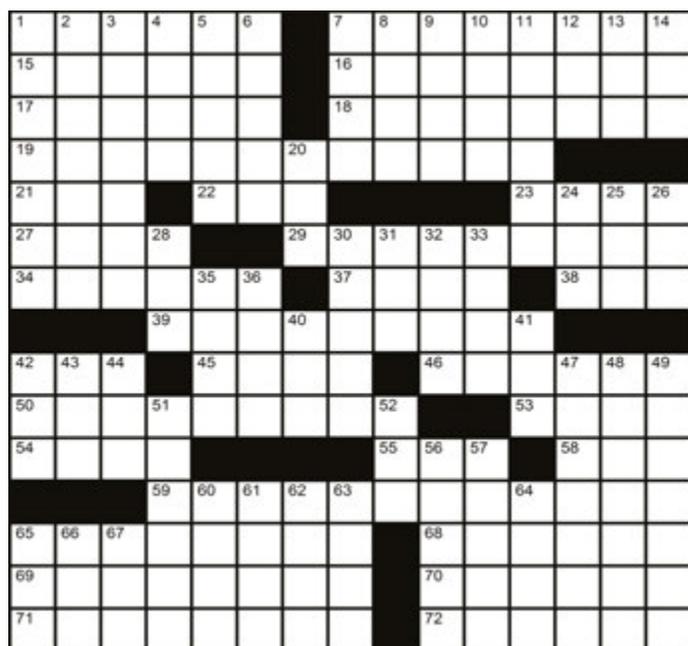
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Easy As Pie"—if you have the inside info.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Comedian dubbed "The Entertainer"
- 7 Label in a folder
- 15 Singer Grande
- 16 Better than usual
- 17 Meter reader of sorts
- 18 Makeover, perhaps
- 19 Houdini, notably
- 21 Hall & Oates, e.g.
- 22 Dodeca-, quartered
- 23 "In ___ of flowers ..."
- 27 "Ugly Betty" actor Michael
- 29 They go through a slicer
- 34 Bike turners
- 37 Lucy Lawless TV role
- 38 Apprehend, as a criminal
- 39 Jupiter and Mars, among others
- 42 Great respect
- 45 "___ Your Enthusiasm"
- 46 Required
- 50 Show sadness
- 53 Work with a meter
- 54 "Twin Peaks" actor MacLachlan
- 55 Easter candy shape
- 58 Body scan, for short
- 59 Pie feature, or feature of this puzzle's other four longest answers
- 65 Estate
- 68 More conceited
- 69 Tableware
- 70 Make public



- 71 Artists' boards
- 72 Riata loo

Down

- 1 Confined
- 2 "A Little Respect" band
- 3 Round and flat in shape
- 4 "Rendezvous With ___" (Arthur C. Clarke book)
- 5 Hardly fitting
- 6 Certain chair-maker
- 7 "M*A*S*H" actor Jamie
- 8 "Like that'll ever happen"
- 9 California city in a Creedence song
- 10 Two important ones are a week apart in December
- 11 Big name in chocolate

- 12 Bee-related prefix
- 13 Off-the-rack purchase, for short?
- 14 Suffix for north or south
- 20 Give help to
- 24 McKellen of the "Hobbit" films
- 25 Frat house H
- 26 Connector for a smart device
- 28 It may be pulled in charades
- 30 Adjective for Lamar Odom in recent headlines
- 31 Travel division
- 32 Privy to
- 33 Created
- 35 "Livin' La Vida ___" (1999 hit)
- 36 Adult material
- 40 "We ___ Queen Victoria"
- 41 Aug. follower
- 42 Besech
- 43 Word often seen near 42-Down
- 44 "Slippery" fish
- 47 Pizza Hut competitor
- 48 Mountain dog breed
- 49 Asylum seekers
- 51 Practice lexicography
- 52 Boxing arbiter
- 56 Like first names
- 57 ___ SmithKline
- 60 Lie down for a while
- 61 "SVU" part
- 62 Running in neutral
- 63 Cold War news agency
- 64 Cosmetic surgery, briefly
- 65 Drill sergeant's "one"
- 66 ___ moment's notice
- 67 "Dumbo" frame

SATURDAY, NOV. 21 >> FASHION AND JAZZ AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB

Against All Odds Inc., a Lansing-based nonprofit supporting breast cancer survivors and patients, hosts a night of cool music and hot trends to raise funds for their cause with its Fashion and Jazz event. Guests can enjoy hors d'oeuvres and drinks from a cash bar while taking in the smooth jazz sounds of Twyla Birdsong and Charles E. Anthony. The fashion part of the evening will be provided by Cato Fashions, presenting a show of designs by Tracy Porter of Malina Couture, QueenEsther Murrell of Gabra-Q Fashion and Clarisa Trevino of the Royal Queen of Fashion. 7 p.m. \$30/\$25 advance/\$15 students. University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 353-5113, againstalloddsinc.com.

SUDOKU

BEGINNER

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 28

Out on the town

from page 26

Saginaw Highway, Suite N, Lansing. (517) 977-7096.
Holiday Open House. Pet pictures with Santa. \$25 adoption fees. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370, ac.ingham.org.
Partner Massage. Massage class for couples. 2:30-5 p.m. \$80 per couple. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240, ow.ly/Ulhb0.
Tai Chi at Allen Market Place. Instruction in Qigong, meditation and Yang style tai chi forms. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-272-9379
Zumba for Kids. Ages 2 and up. 2-2:30 p.m. \$10. Mother and Earth Baby Boutique, 4601 W. Saginaw Highway, Suite N, Lansing. (517) 721-1868.

EVENTS

PEC Alternative Holiday Sale. Soaps, books, crafts and more. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 515-5634, peaceedcenter.org.
Dinner Dance. With pork roast dinner. \$10 dinner, \$6 dance. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-6330, liederkrantzclub.org.
Football Tailgate Fundraiser. Drinks, food and prizes. Proceeds to honor law enforcement officers who die in the line of duty. \$40. Country House Banquet Center, 3056 Okemos Road, Mason. (517) 349-9500.
Mobile Food Pantry. Food for those in need. 9-11 a.m. FREE. South Church of the Nazarene, 401 W. Holmes Road, Lansing.
Practice Your English For Kids. All levels welcome. 1-2 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave., East Lansing. elpl.org.

MUSIC

Matt LoRusso Trio at Troppo. FREE. Troppo, 101 S. Washington Sq. Lansing. (517) 371-4000.
Deacon Earl @ Lansing City Market. Live blues, reggae, Americana and more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.
Fashion and Jazz. Fundraiser for breast cancer

patients. 7 p.m. \$25/\$30 at door/\$15 students. University Club, 3435 Forest Road. Lansing. (517) 353-5113.
MSU Opera Theatre: A Room With a View. Romantic comic opera. 8-11 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 220 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/UDeyV.

ARTS

Holt Village Sampler Craft Show. Craft show spread across 11 homes. See web for map. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Various locations, Holt. holtcrafts.com.
Fine Art Sale. Original art work by the artists of Mid Michigan Art Guild. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 347-7400.

THEATER

Stage Door. Depression-era comedy/drama. 2 and 8 p.m. Pasant Theater, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.
Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic story from a new point of view. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

Sunday, November 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 371-5119.
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, cadl.org.
Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation and Silent Prayer. 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201, selfrealizationcentremichigan.org.
Crafts for Christmas. Gift drawings, samplers and more. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Country Creek Reception Hall, 5080 Michigan Road, Dimondale.

EVENTS

MSUFCU Family Discovery Day. Fun activities and games. 1-3 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum, MSU

See Out on the Town, Page 28

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

THY

Gay | Straight | Atheist | Jew
 Muslim | Christian | Homeless
 Rich | Democrat | Republican
 Black | White | Brown
 Male | Trans | Female

NEIGHBOR

We're willing to give it a try!

Pilgrim Congregational
 United Church of Christ
 Lansing, MI

125 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
 Sunday - 10 AM
 (517) 484-7434
 PilgrimUCC.com

CityPULSE

NEWSMAKERS

HOSTED BY BERL SCHWARTZ

STATE SEN., RICK JONES

R-Grand Ledge

DR. ABDALMAJID KATRANJI

of the East Lansing Islamic Center

DR. RUSSELL LUCAS

director of Global Studies at MSU

THIS WEEK

ISLAM & TERRORISM

MY18TV!

10 A.M. EVERY SATURDAY

COMCAST CHANNEL 16 LANSING

7:30 P.M. EVERY FRIDAY

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Out on the town

from page 27

Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-1472, museum.msu.edu.

Atheists and Humanists Meeting. 5 p.m. Old Great Wall Restaurant, 4832 W. Saginaw Hgwy, Lansing. (517) 914-2278, ow.ly/UlsLE.

Pokemon, Magic, & Heroclix Tournaments. Contests with prizes for youth of all ages. FREE. Everybody Reads, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Perfect Little Planet. Show on the planets. 2:30-3:30 p.m. \$4. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

Maker Workshop: Learn to Finger Knit. Ages 9 and up. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch, 401 South Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363, cadl.org.

"Soar," a Contemporary Dance Performance. DANCE Lansing performs. 1-2 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing.

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

MUSIC

MSU Opera Theatre: A Room With a View. Romantic comic opera. 3 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 220 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, ow.ly/UDeyV.

THEATER

Stage Door. Depression-era comedy/drama. 2 p.m. Pasant Theater, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.
Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol. Classic

story from a new point of view. 2 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theater, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.com.

Monday, November 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

Learn to Meditate. 8:15 p.m. Donations. C. Weaver Physical Therapy Exercise Studio, 1720 Abbey Road, East Lansing. (517) 272-9379, cweaverphysicaltherapy.com.

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Health. Weekly class. 1 and 5:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 323-0717.

EVENTS

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.

Scratch Coding Club. Learn how to use Scratch 2 and create animations. 7-8 p.m. FREE, registration required. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

MONDAY, NOV. 23 >> ELLISON BEER AND SOUP PAIRING AT REO TOWN PUB

I'm a Beer Hound is offering a little beer and soup to help stave off the November chill this week. The group brings its latest beer-and-food pairing event to the Reo Town Pub Monday. With beer provided by the new Ellison Brewery and soup from Good Truckin' Diner, the event promises to keep attendees feeling warm and toasty. Five different pairings are planned, including a beer cheese soup paired with Ellison's Gum Job wheat ale and broccoli and cheese soup with Big Toad's Imperial IPA. 7 p.m. \$30. Reo Town Pub, 1145 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. imabeerhound.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Out of This World Book Club. "Ancillary Mercy" by Ann Leckie. 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

MUSIC

MSU Guest Recital: Danilo Rossi, viola, and Janna Gandselman, piano. 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Cook Recital Hall, MSU Music Building, 333 West Circle Drive, East Lansing. ow.ly/UlghY.

Tuesday, November 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

Overeaters Anonymous. Support for weight loss efforts. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 290-5163.

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

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

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 1. French immersion class for babies, ages 0-2. 5:15 p.m. (0-2) \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

H.E.R.O. Class- Ceilings: Texturing and Un-texturing. Home improvement class. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. Weigh-in 6:30, meeting 7 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Terese Church, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. tops.org.

EVENTS

Bible and Beer. Discussion of scripture's power in daily events. 6 p.m. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600, bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

Sporcle Live! Trivia. Team based. Win Crunchy's gift certificates. 7 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's Pizza & Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

ARTS

Art and Ale. Art lesson and one beer covered. 6-8 p.m. \$30. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. lansingartgallery.org/artandale.

Wednesday, November 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Aux Petits Soins-Explorers 2. French immersion class for toddlers, ages 2-4. 5:15 p.m. \$15/\$12 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Aux Petits Soins-Travel bugs 2. French immersion class for kids, ages 6-9. 6:15 p.m. \$20/\$16 students. 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Ste. F, Lansing. (517) 643-8059, facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.

Story Art Time. Art and story time for preschoolers. 10-10:45 a.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Walk-In Wednesdays. Art activities for ages 5 and up. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Donations appreciated. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

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

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

Line Dancing. All levels welcome. 3:15-4:15 p.m. \$10 drop-in/\$7 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

EVENTS

Teens After School. Programming for teens in 6th-12th grades. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

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

Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Veteran Services. Advice on VA benefits and claims. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. American Legion HQ, 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing.

MUSIC

Fusion Shows presents. FREE. Crunchy's Pizza and Burgers, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506.

SUNDAY, NOV. 22 >> BREAKING BREAD WITH THE BLUES

Local blues enthusiasts have a chance to listen to some of the area's local blues greats and help those in need at the same time at this weekend's Breaking Bread with the Blues event. For a cover charge of \$10 and at least one non-perishable food item, attendees can take in six different blues acts. The event, co-hosted by the Capital Area Blues Society and the Greater Lansing Food Bank, is a fund- and food-raiser for the two nonprofits. The afternoon's slate of musicians includes Matchette & Frog, Deacon Earl and the Congregation, the Chris Canas Band and those Delta Rhythm Kings. 3:30-8 p.m. \$10 and one non-perishable food item/FREE for children under 16 with a food donation. Green Door Blues Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/UeLU2.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

C	E	D	R	I	C	F	I	L	E	N	A	M	E	
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P	A	L	E	T	T	E	S		N	O	O	S	E	S



HE ATE

SHE ATE



Olive me

The incredible, edible eggplant

By **MARK NIXON**

I've had a love-hate relationship with eggplant for more than half my life.

It was hate at first bite when, in the early 1970s, I popped a slice of fried eggplant into my gob. It was as slimy as a raw oyster but not nearly as tasty. The dominant flavor was cooking oil.

My next date with eggplant came a year later. I ordered the combo platter at a restaurant in Detroit's Greektown. It came with moussaka. Only after I had devoured the moussaka was I told I had just wolfed down baked eggplant.

"Impossible," I said. "This awful plant tastes this good?"

And so it went. I grew my own eggplant but threw out most of it. As I saw it, the one redeeming quality of eggplant is that it is drop-dead gorgeous — its purple skin practically glowing, its beckoning, voluptuous shape ...

Right about now, somebody is thinking, "Geez, what a pervert. This dude has an eggplant fetish."

As is customary in our age, my perversion will naturally spin throughout the social media universe, and I will be virally shamed and forced to go into hiding like that lion-killing dentist.

But not before I get a huge takeout order of baba ghanoush from Zaytoon Mediterranean. Exile will somehow be bearable with this culinary masterpiece at my side — courtesy of that sexy little thing called eggplant.

A fast-casual Mediterranean restaurant near the Lansing Mall, Zaytoon prides itself on scratch cooking with fresh ingredients. Two visits to Zaytoon convinced me that someone in the kitchen pays attention to quality — and quality control.

Let's start with object of my affection: The baba ghanoush (\$3.99 for a small portion) is died-and-gone-to-heaven delicious. Slather it on pita, or just eat it by the spoonful. It's silky on the tongue. There are hints of cumin and fresh garlic, pronounced but not overpowering. And did I taste smoked paprika? Perhaps. The overall effect is a happy mystery: How do they transform a slimy eggplant into food for the gods? I haven't a clue.

Zaytoon's house specialty is the chicken shawarma (\$8.99), and it does not disappoint. It's slow-roasted, lightly spiced, smoky, crisp and tender. When it lands on your table, an aromatic bouquet rises up to greet you. It's served with rice, hummus and slices of pita bread — generous portions all around.

On separate visits, we sampled grape leaves stuffed with ground lamb and rice (\$7.99) and a Traditional Combo Platter (\$9.99) that includes mujadara, a mix of rice, lentils and caramelized onions. The mujadara alone is worth the price of admission. The platter also comes with hummus and veggie-stuffed grape leaves. It's an excellent mix of flavors and textures, enough to satisfy the discerning vegetarian's palate.

On our final visit, we opted for a to-go order of baklava (\$2.49). At home, we shared this honey-and-walnut confection made with the traditional ultra-thin

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

Let's get the bad news out of the way — the hummus at Zaytoon Mediterranean isn't very good. An integral part of hummus is tahini, a paste made from ground sesame seeds. Unfortunately, the hummus at Zaytoon doesn't have the telltale depth of flavor that typically comes with tahini.

That is my complaint. My only one.

I have heard rumblings about the food at Zaytoon since it opened a few years back. But gone are the days when my allowance burned a hole in my pocket until I could get to Mervyn's. So, aside from my weekly trip to Horrocks, not much lures me to the west side anymore. With the tales of fantastic chicken shawarma ringing in my ears — and, of course, this assignment from my editor — I picked up takeout late one weeknight. I ordered the shawarma platter for two (\$19.99) with extra falafel (\$1.99), and the cashier handed me approximately one metric ton of food. Then, of course, the fiancé sent me a text saying

that he was going to have dinner with a friend. So I went home, put on my stretch pants and dove in.

The shawarma platter for two will definitely feed two people, even if those two people are Andre the Giant-sized eaters. Rice with vermicelli noodles is piled high with tender, fragrant pieces of chicken spiced with Middle Eastern flavors like cumin, garlic, turmeric and paprika. The aroma alone is enough to convince any hesitant eater to give shawarma a try.

I know you're out there, people who are intimidated by international food. Sure, it's confusing to see unfamiliar words on a menu and fear that you might pronounce them wrong and accidentally end up with a pig foot on your plate. (It happened to me. In France. Where I, allegedly, speak the language.) But chicken shawarma is entry-level Middle Eastern food, and the ingredients and flavors are familiar to American palates. If you are thinking about dipping a toe in, shawarma is a great place to start.

We returned the next week and ordered the Toon for Two (\$29.99), a veritable feast comprising kabobs of grilled chicken and beef, shish kafta, chicken shawarma, fried kibbe, rice, vegetables, grape leaves, hummus and a choice of soup or salad. The generous portions provided enough leftovers for two days' worth of lunches.

Shish kafta is another of my Mediterranean favorites. It is essentially a handful of ground lamb flattened into an oblong meatball and grilled. I know that there are some lamb haters in this world, and you have my sympathy for being cursed with underperforming taste buds. I love the taste of lamb, the grassiness and richness of it. Paired with char-grilled slices of bell pepper and wrapped in a piece of pita bread with a dollop of Zaytoon's knock-your-socks-off garlic sauce, it

melted in my mouth.

While everything else on the platter was fresh, hot and intensely flavorful, our other highlight of the meal was the lentil soup. I have never been able to come close

Zaytoon Mediterranean

11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday,
closed Sunday

940 Elmwood Drive, Lansing

(517) 203-5728, zaytoonlansing.com



Gabrielle Johnson/City Pulse

Zaytoon's Toon for Two combo piles chicken and beef kebabs, fried kibbe and more on a bed of rice and roasted vegetables.

He ate

from page 29

layers of phyllo pastry. Baklava must be tricky to make. I've never tried. But I've tasted a number of these pastries. My usual beef is that it is often too sweet and too dense. Zaytoon's baklava strikes a fine balance between the richness of the nuts and honey with the lightness of the phyllo.

Among the foods we sampled, the least stellar was crushed lentil soup (\$2.99). "Crushed" should be translated as pureed. I wanted more heft to this soup, in the form of chunks or bits.

To the Western ear, Zaytoon sounds like a made up word. Actually, it's the Arabic word for olive. (Two olives replace the two Os in Zaytoon on the restaurant's logo). Olives and olive oil-infused choices permeate the menu.

Ordering meals requires grabbing a menu and ordering at the L-shaped counter. For dine-in patrons, you find a seat and the servers bring the food out to your table. Zaytoon does a heckuva takeout business, based on our observations. The place clearly has a sizable following among those on their way home.

The service is impressive, both in the prompt delivery of meals and on

the friendliness scale. They don't fawn over customers but are polite and helpful. On our first visit, we asked the server to identify one item on the combo platter. It looked and tasted like a cabbage roll, but we figured it had an Arabic name.

He didn't know what it was, but dashed to the kitchen and returned with the answer.

"Cabbage roll," he said with a chuckle.

Zaytoon's decor is spare but inviting. Noteworthy are the lamps, adorned with metallic leaves and tendrils. With a little imagination, one can almost see an olive drooping from a vine. Or an eggplant.

She ate

from page 29

to replicating it at home, but lentil soup from good Middle Eastern restaurants is insanely, decadently creamy. Zaytoon's lentil soup comes with pillowy pieces of bread, like nothing I've had before. This soup is the unsung hero of the menu. The fiancé loved it so much that he texted me the next day and told me that he hadn't stopped thinking about it. A strange thing to crave, no doubt, especially coming from a man

who is obsessed with Oreos.

On our next visit — OK, our next two visits, because we have been going to Zaytoon weekly — we stuck with the Toon for Two. It's been a struggle for me, because I've gotten intel that the salmon is also delicious. But I simply can't get enough of that grilled lamb shish kafta.

We also sampled some of the drop-dead gorgeous baked goods. The carrot cake is moist and heavy on the cinnamon, which I dig, and the cream cheese frosting is sweeter than my cream cheese frosting, which the fiancé digs. I know that I can make a delicious car-

rot cake at home, so it's rare that a restaurant version blows me away. This one was no exception, so next time I'll just go straight for the baklava (\$2.49) — which I definitely cannot make at home. All those layers of phyllo dough, layered with chopped nuts and soaked in honey, crumbled in my hands. Zaytoon's baklava is delicate and rich and was even better the next day when the dough became a bit more firm.

If you haven't been to the west side since the days of two movie theatres within a mile of each other, it's time to go back. Go hungry — and don't make lunch plans for the rest of the week.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN
GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED
BY CITY PULSE READERS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2015 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to your favorite Lansing-area eateries. We'll run single categories in the paper periodically, but the complete dining guide is always available on our website or on our official mobile app, *The Pulse*. The app is available on iPhone and Android platforms; head over to facebook.com/lansingapp or text "pulse" to 77948 for links to download.

Bon appétit!

TOP 5 PIZZA

#1 DELUCA'S RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA

Family-owned Italian restaurant famous for its pizza
2006 W. Willow St., Lansing
(517) 487-6087
delucaspizza.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday; closed Sunday

#2 COSMOS

Old Town pizzeria known for its adventurous pizzas and duck fat fries
611 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
(517) 897-3563
thecosmoslansing.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-10 p.m. Sunday

#3 ART'S BAR AND GRILL

City Pulse readers love the pizza and bar fare at this classic Lansing dive bar
809 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
(517) 482-8328
7 a.m.-midnight Monday-Tuesday; 7 a.m.-2 a.m. Wednesday-Saturday; noon-midnight Sunday

#4 JET'S PIZZA

Pizza chain known for its deep dish pies (See web site for two more Greater Lansing locations)
3009 Vine St., Lansing
(517) 351-1100
jetspizza.com
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday; noon-11 p.m. Sunday

#5 CUGINO'S

Grand Ledge eatery known for its classic Italian cuisine and generous portions
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cuginosmenu.com
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NEW WILLIAMSTON BUSINESSES/RIVER CITY MRKT

Ty Forquan/City Pulse

River City Holiday MRKT, a pop-up gift shop in REO Town, features a variety of hand-crafted items like postcards, photos and home goods.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Three new businesses in Williamston celebrated ribbon cuttings last week — with “new” being a relatively loose term here. One of them, **Old Nation Brewing Co.**, 1500 W. Grand River Ave., has been knocking ‘em back since June, making it the oldest of the trio. Co-owners Travis Fritts (who grew up in Dimondale) and Rick Ghersi opened the 22,000-square-foot microbrewery inside a former police station. It has the capacity to pump out 30,000 barrels of beer per year once things get humming. Old Nation doubles as a restaurant, featuring pizza, pasties and bánh mì sandwiches.

“This is good beer-drinking food,” Fritts said.

Fresh out of the oven comes **Groovy Donuts**, 313 W. Grand River Ave., which celebrated its grand opening last week. The specialty doughnut shop actually opened in late summer, catering to pastry hounds with inventive varieties such as Glazed Sour Cream (a cake doughnut with crackle top), Maple Bacon Apple Fritter (smoked bacon crumbles and apples covered with a maple glaze) and the Orange Sunrise (orange blossom cake topped with a tangerine glaze). Those doughnuts join the typical offerings, such as sprinkles and Boston cream, with a little seasonal flair — like caramel apple cider and pumpkin cake — thrown in to keep things fresh.

And just down the street, **J&B Discount Boots USA** completed its move/name change. Earlier this year, Steven Goward bought the longstanding **J&B Discount Shoe Mart** from founder Jeff Byle, who opened the store in 1978.

“Jeff started from nothing, but he was dedicated to good service, and over the years created this great foundation with a loyal customer base,” Goward said. “I met him about four years ago, spent time with him, and somewhere along the way I started thinking of this as a potential business venture.”

Goward, 37, is a former Marine who had spent most of his non-military career working in the hospitality and retail industries. He said working for himself was always something he’d had in the back of his head. When the opportunity to buy Byle’s business came up, everything just clicked.

“It’s a great opportunity for Jeff to see something he started grow to the next level,” Goward said. “It’s hard for (entrepreneurs) to sell their businesses because the new owner doesn’t always see things the same way. But I’m very much of Jeff’s mindset. I’m streamlining the company a little, but I’m still going to try to keep that same feel that Jeff created.”

The main thrust of that streamlining effort is right there in the name. Goward said the focus will now be on boots — work, duty, motorcycle, hunting and Western — and all of his merchandise will be made in the U.S. He said it will be geared for about 70 percent male-centric audience, but will offer children’s and women’s selections as well as accommodating specialty orders.

“And I moved it about 30 feet away into a bigger (building), where it will have a lot more visibility,” Goward said. “The best thing about boots is that everyone needs them. And with men, they usually don’t think about them until they’re a priority.”

MRKT fresh

Amalia Boukos swears she and her business partner, Debbie Carlos, aren’t trying to coin any new nicknames for Lansing. Still, the founders of **River City Holiday MRKT** may have inadvertently done just that if their pop-up arts-and-crafts events strike a chord in the community.

“We just thought (the name ‘River City’) had a good ring to it,” Boukos said. She and Carlos opened the first iteration back in June, a one-day affair nestled into AA Creative Corridor in the heart of REO Town. This time it’s moved across the street into a vacant space next to new home of **Vintage Junkies**, easily discernible by the massive octagonal windows out front.

The store will feature items from about 30 artists and craftspeople, ranging from a \$2 handmade Lansing postcard made by Michelle Chow to a \$350 wool weaving by Bay Area artist Meghan Shimek. There will also be photography art by local shooter Khalid Ibrahim of

Eat Pomegranate Photography, floral design by Jennell Lehman and ceramic jewelry by Shape Shape, a duo working out of North Carolina. But it’s not all art: River City also has holiday gift staples like soaps, balms and bath salts from Little Flower Soap Co. out of Ann Arbor.

After an invitation-only preview on Thursday, River City will hold its grand opening event Friday during Silver Bells in the City and will be open every day except Thanksgiving until Dec. 20, when it will once again disappear into the ether. Although it may be back again, someday.

“We’re still sort of experimenting with the different forms that River City can take,” Carlos said. “The response we’ve gotten has been really amazing. Things are happening here, and we’re so grateful we can be a part of this burgeoning scene. Everyone seems to be excited and so are we.”

Groovy Donuts

313 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston
6:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday
(517) 996-6300

J&B Discount Boots USA

1053 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday; Sundays hours TBD
(517) 655-2090

River City Holiday MRKT

1136 ½ S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Noon-7 p.m. daily, Friday, Nov. 19-Sunday, Dec. 20
(closed Thanksgiving)
facebook.com/rivercitymrkt, rivercitymrkt.com



Photo by Julie A. Rudd

Andrew Gauthier (owner) and Monica Lucas (store manager) of Groovy Donuts in Williamston celebrated their ribbon-cutting with (what else?) coffee and doughnuts last week.



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