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www.lansingcitypulse.com

February 11-17, 2015

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PUBLIC HEALTH OR
FREE CHOICE?

P. 9



DRISKELL SETS SIGHT ON WALBERG CONGRESSIONAL SEAT EARLY P. 5

FORMER VERVE PIPE DRUMMER FLYING SOLO P. 12

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CityPULSE

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March 11, 2015

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Feedback

Reporting on Register of Deeds candidate 'yellow journalism'

Regarding the Register of Deeds issue you covered last week ... Wow Talk about talk about character assassination and trial by media.

I didn't know City Pulse was into that. Carol Koenig won her last primary election by 86 percent of the vote and then you are going to ask her opponent what he thinks about things?

Look up the definition of "yellow journalism."

It should be obvious to anyone this was all politics as usual.

— Steve Frarey, Williamston

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.
 - E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
 - Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
 - Fax: (517) 371-5800

- 2.) Write a guest column:
 - Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

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

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Tim Barron defends criticism of murder victim



Lansing theater veterans take the stage in "The Best Brothers"



Comic book expert Scott McCloud comes to Lansing



"MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD" by NEVIN SPEERBRECKER

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-2-2015, 1107 E. Miller Road

Rezoning from "G-2" Wholesale & "J" Parking Districts to "D-1" Professional Office District

The Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., Neighborhood Empowerment Center Conference Room, 600 W. Maple Street (Corner of W. Maple and N. Pine Streets) to consider Z-2-2015. This is a request by Ivan E. Phillips on behalf of Paradise Funeral Chapel to rezone the property at 1107 E. Miller Road, legally described as:

South 148 Feet of Lot 47 & South 148 Feet of the East 54.75 Feet of Lot 48, Midway Industrial Center No 2, Lansing, MI

from "G-2" Wholesale and "J" Parking Districts to "D-1" Professional Office district. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit the building at this location to be used as a funeral home.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing, or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at the City of Lansing Planning Office, Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, Suite D-1, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933-1236. For more information concerning Z-2-2015, call Susan Stachowiak at 517-483-4085.

CP#15_026

ORDINANCE NO. 1341

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING USE DISTRICT MAP OF CHAPTER 50 – ZONING – OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1341 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at a regular meeting of the Council held on February 3, 2015 and will become effective 7 days after the publication of the following ordinance.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

The Zoning Use District Map is hereby amended to rezone the following described area from B-4, Restricted Office Business District, to B-5, Community Retail Sales Business District:

Tax Parcel No: 33-20-01-02-427-019

A part of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 2, T4N, R2W, City of East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan described as commencing at the Southeast corner of said Section 2; thence along the East line of said Section 2 N00°07'43"E 1325.94 feet to the South line of the Northeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of said Section 2; thence along said line N89°52'50"W 280.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing along said line N89°52'50"W 248.30 feet; thence N00°11'55"E 619.72 feet to the South line of Lake Lansing Road; thence N89°53'12"E 247.55 feet; thence S00°07'43"W 246.86 feet; thence S66°32'21"W 54.56 feet; thence N89°52'17"W 12.00 feet; thence S00°07'43"W 174.77 feet; thence Northeasterly 62.27 feet along the arc of a 197.50 foot radius curve to the left whose chord bears N89°01'51"E 62.01 feet; thence S00°07'43"W 178.45 feet to the point of beginning, containing 3.27 acres of land, more or less, and subject to any easements or rights-of-way of record.

More commonly known as 1595 West Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1341 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#15_028



THIS WEEK

- Former Ingham Co. Commissioner Mark Grebner
- Lansing City Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar
- Attorney Colin Macguire
- Lt. Gov. Brian Calley
- State Sen. Rick Jones
- Sam Inglot of Progress Michigan



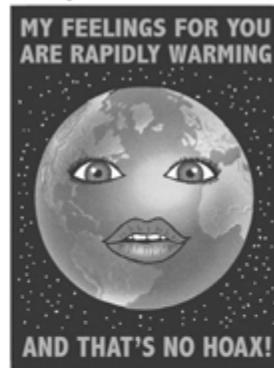
Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Congressional race

Walberg gets a 2016 opponent... already

State Rep. Gretchen Driskell's announcement that she'll run against U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg in 2016 wasn't lost this week in national Democratic circles.

David Nir, who covers campaigns for the highly read progressive blog "The Daily Kos," lead off his daily update Tuesday with, "Good news for Democrats. Team Blue has landed one of its first legitimate recruits in the arduous battle to reclaim the House."

With that high praise, Nir went on to talk up the Democrats' chances in the 7th Congressional seat, which includes Delta Township and Grand Ledge. Last year's Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Mark Schauer, held it for a term from 2009 to 2011, taking it away from Republican Walberg. But Walberg won it back and has held onto it.

"Given the Democrats' huge deficit, this is definitely the kind of district the party will need to win in order to take majority," Nir wrote. "Driskell may just have the chops to make it happen."

So who is Gretchen Driskell, D-Saline, and why are Democrats both in-state and out excited about the prospects of giving Walberg a race in this 53 percent GOP-base seat?

The two-term state House member served as the mayor of Saline for 14 years. She defeated an incumbent Republican in 2012 to win her first term and coasted to second term last year when the GOP failed to find anyone credible to run against her. In that '12 race, she raised \$662,109, which allowed her to go toe-to-toe with former Rep. Mark Ouimet.

"She has been winning tough elections in tough seats her whole career," said Schauer, who campaigned with Driskell during a couple of stops on Monday.

Because she's a minority member in the state House from a swing district, Driskell, 56, doesn't have any public acts to her credit during her first term. But the Long Island native sponsored legislation on the equal-pay-for-women issue and sought an opt-out for rape and incest in the new law that women must seek a rider if they want their private health insurance to cover elective abortions.

Conceivably, her work on these issues puts her in a position to cash in on any coattails Hillary Clinton would have if she wins the Democratic presidential nomination and has the success early polling is revealing she will have in Michigan.

For his part, Walberg is taking nothing for granted. The four-term congressman's campaign sent an email to supporters 24 hours after Driskell's announcement tour was launched that linked Driskell to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Schauer.

"While the Washington, D.C., Democrats are determined to make this a very long campaign season for the people of the 7th District, Tim is remaining focused on working for you," the email read. "He is working to encourage a stron-

ger economy, make health care and energy more affordable, defend our liberties and improve education by reducing the power of the federal government and promoting freedom."

Without question, Driskell is getting an enormous head start, but there are strong tactical reasons to do so.

For one, the Democrats' nominee in 2014, Pam Byrnes, is weighing a second run. The former speaker pro tem of the state House will be forced to accelerate her decision-making or risk losing support and potential donors. While Byrnes ran a credible campaign against Walberg last year, she still lost by 12 percentage points.

Also, Driskell will need the extra time to raise the money necessary for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to take her campaign seriously. Last year, the DCCC hardly played at all in Michigan, mostly because they were stuck playing defensive with their vulnerable incumbents. The coming 2016 cycle could turn out much different.

During a series of events across the district, Driskell said she wanted to get an early start on the campaign because of how large the 7th District is and because she's going to be balancing the campaign with her fulltime job as a member of the State House.

"I take my job really seriously," she said. "I have a lot of work to do there too."

The 7th District includes Eaton, Jackson, Hillsdale, Branch, Lenawee and Monroe counties and a portion of Washtenaw County.

Asked how important it is for Driskell to have a clear primary in her push to unseat Walberg, Schauer said it would help from a fundraising standpoint.

"I think it's beneficial," Schauer said. "I think Gretchen is getting in early because she believes in this race."

Driskell grew up on Long Island and worked in accounting in D.C. before moving with her family to Michigan in 1988.

She became heavily involved in the Saline community, including helping organize fundraising for the Saline Recreation Center. She was elected to the Saline City Council in 1993 and went on to become the city's longest-serving female mayor.

As Saline's mayor, Driskell pushed for downtown revitalization and worked on multiple capital improvement projects. She also helped start a farmers market, a youth council and a culture commission in Saline.

As a member of the State House, she has worked with the House's bipartisan caucus, has fought against education funding cuts and has introduced legislation to require equal pay for equal work.

"For those families that have seen their Michigan dream torn down, I think we need to help them rebuild it," Driskell said during her press conference. "For those families that have built their own Michigan dream through hard work and determination, let's help them protect it."

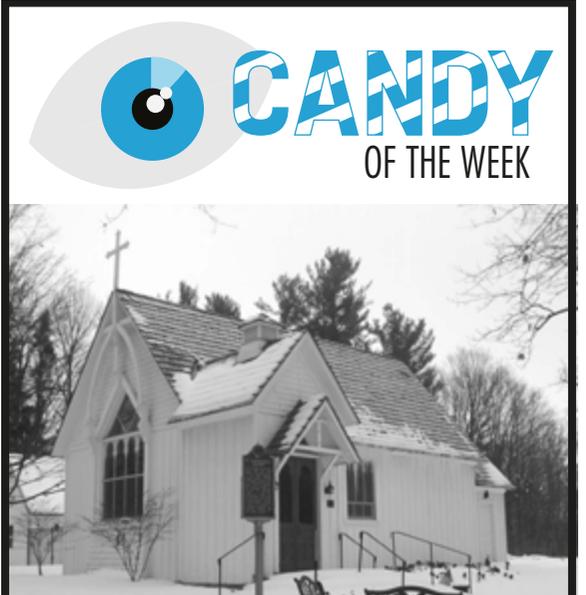
She noted that as mayor of Saline she was nonpartisan.

"I really work hard and I believe that most of our voters in this district are looking for people who are going to help try to fix things and look for solutions," Driskell said.

Driskell said she doesn't plan on comparing and contrasting herself with Walberg on the campaign trail.

"I think his record speaks for itself."

— Kyle Melinn of MIRS News



Property: 4650 Meridian Road, Saint Katherine's Chapel, Williamston

The State of Michigan historical marker for this structure suggests that it was "the work of an unsophisticated country builder." This blunt opinion notwithstanding, the building demonstrates the skill of a carpenter who made the most of the limited supplies and tools available in 1887. While the chapel is decidedly simple in plan, this "Carpenter's Gothic" building appropriately features decorative wood from top to bottom: roughly split shingles on the roof, ornamental scallops in the steeply pitched gables and vertical board and batten siding beneath.

Alexander Jackson Davis championed the Gothic Revival style in the United States, featuring it prominently in his 1837 book "Rural Residences." His work was the first in a series of pattern books that were intended to guide untrained designers, possibly including the builder of this chapel.

Lancet windows, which are the primary defining characteristic of Gothic architecture, are missing from this building. However, the builder has suggested this detail in trefoil arches applied to the rectangle windows and in triangle-shaped transoms, which may be easily fabricated without cutting glass into curved panes. Additionally, the street elevation features an oversized pointed arch, which supports the Christian cross and is in turn supported by carved wood brackets.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"Eye candy of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Belinda Thurston at 999-5065.

Shock and awe

Tim Barron attacks shooting victim in Facebook post

Progress Michigan is asking Lansing radio host Tim Barron to apologize for a post on his Facebook page Sunday that appears to blame the victim of a shooting in East Lansing last week for his own death.

Michael Smith, 22 of Lansing, was shot to death last Thursday in a parking lot in East Lansing. The shooting remains under investigation.

Barron, also the chairman of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities

Authority, wrote this on his Facebook wall Sunday at 9:44 p.m.:

“I dare the LSJ TO PUT THIS ON THE FRONT PAGE! As opposed to the cheery photos they did run....

“No wonder so many 20 somethings fall for the "Victim Narrative"... even the local paper seems amazed when horrible choices result in horrible consequences!

“I ask out loud again ... how many of you think it is within normal boundaries to have "friends" die in midnite drug related shootings?

“Its amazing to me i am criticized for pointing out the obvious.. THESE WERE NOT VICTIMS THEY WERE VOLUNTEERS... ”

Barron included a photo of a black man

hitting a bong and gesturing obscenely. It is unclear if the image is of Smith. Barron's post appears to be in response to a Lansing State Journal article Sunday about the victim, showing photos of Smith with his girlfriend and daughter.

The liberal advocacy group Progress Michigan reacted quickly.

“It's extremely disappointing to see a prominent Lansing figure like Tim Barron using racist tropes to justify the death of a young man while a murderer is still at-large,” Sam Ingot, a communications specialist wrote in a press release.

“Similar character assassinations were made during the investigations surrounding the deaths of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown and only served to fuel racism and victim blaming. Barron's post is an insult to the memory and family of Michael Smith and he needs to apologize immediately.”

Barron declined to share why he posted what he did.

He said his Facebook account “is something I do as a private person. It's a place where people can say what they want to say.”

He declined to comment when asked if he had a responsibility not only as a public figure as a radio show host but as the leader of a city agency.

He said he had been unaware that Progress Michigan had issued a statement.

“I'm the bad guy,” Barron said. “Hilarious.”

After reading the statement he sent an email to City Pulse:

“I did not identify this man as being black or white anywhere in my post--and the photo came from the FB page of the other man



Barron

in the car that survived.....it's fascinating that Progress Michigan seems fixated on the race of the murdered man ... not me ...I was simply giving my opinion on consequences. Interesting also that Progress Michigan omits the LSJ report that police say it WAS NOT A RANDOM

SHOOTING. You are reporters. You DO know what that means, right?? You may print this if you wish.”

Solo Brooks, 38, manager of All Of the Above Hip Hop Academy in Lansing, said Barron's comments don't help the community open positive and constructive conversation. The academy teaches urban youth hip-hop arts — rapping, grafitti, bboying — as a community building tool.

“It puts up a wall, it doesn't allow any room,” Brooks said. “It's a sad misunderstanding that has been tagged on urban youth, whether black or Hispanic, because you're from the slums you're deemed less than.”

Brooks said it's unfortunate young black males are stereotyped.

“If there's a chance to create open dialogue with someone who feels you're a thug,” he said. “The opportunity would be great. But at the same time people have their views and their opinions and a narrow set on things. It's the way it's always been. It's hard, it's all perspective. You try to get the perspectives to clash to create some kind of harmony. But clash can be bad. I don't know what kind of dialogue can be brought forth. We need to take action, create momentum to broaden people's views such as what we're doing with AOTA.”

“Race is an uncomfortable thing to talk about. It's time to be uncomfortable.”

— Belinda Thurston



PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

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

RATIO AND TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTORS FOR 2015

INGHAM COUNTY	RATIO	FACTOR
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00
EATON COUNTY		
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00
CLINTON COUNTY		
AGRICULTURAL	50.00	1.00
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
DEVELOPMENTAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

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

City Assessor's Office

CP#15_017

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On February 4, 2015, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

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

January 20, 2015 Regular Meeting

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#15_029

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, March 4, 2015**, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the 54 B District Court, Courtroom 1, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider a variance request from Gerald G. Kaplan for the property located at 831 Grand River Avenue, in the RM-32, City Center Multiple-Family Residential District, from the following requirement of Chapter 50 - Zoning Code of the City of East Lansing:

- a. *Article V. Sec. 50-443(2)(e) – Ground Coverage, to increase the ground coverage from 63.6 % to 66.5 % where 60% is allowed.*

The applicant is proposing a small addition to the existing building and a patio.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All persons interested in these appeals will be given an opportunity to be heard.

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#15_027

One party payback

Republican legislative agenda: Radical to ridiculous to rational

The consequence of one-party government — that is Republican — in Michigan can be found in the 78-point grab bag of “action items” release by House members last week.



MICKEY HIRTEN

As you would expect after years of inbreeding, what comes out of the Republican caucus can seem normal and reasonable ... until it isn't. Granted, it's a political document that's broad enough to cover the spectrum of Republican thinking. And there

are, in fact, initiatives that are some worthy for all of Michigan. But not too many.

The 78-point plan opens with the party congratulating itself for Michigan's economic recovery. That it isn't a real recovery — the state still has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation — and that the gains are largely due to a recovering auto industry with its unionized workers isn't mentioned.

But neither in any meaningful way are the issues that the Republican-controlled Legislature punted on in the last four years: roads and transportation, higher education funding, the \$2 billion corrections budget and health care.

None get serious treatment in the plan, which seeks to cut state income taxes just as Michigan discovers it has a \$325 million deficit this year and projects a \$532 deficit in 2016. It also seeks to “continue dedication of money” to the state's Rainy Day Fund. Corrections spending could offer some opportunities for savings, but expect the predictable outcry from the law-and-order constituency of police, prosecutors and unions to tamp down any real reforms.

What Republicans propose are prison nursing homes where they can off-load aging inmates and tap Medicaid funds to pay for their care. It's not necessarily a bad idea, but only nibbles around the astounding cost to the state of its draconian sentencing requirements. The proposed approach to judicial, criminal justice and correctional reforms seems awfully late in coming for a party that's controlled state government for the last four years. The 2015 plan states: “Prison reform ideas have been percolating for years and now is the time to advance cost savings reforms that balance the safety of Michigan's with the use of limited taxpayer resources.” Legislators know what to do, but tough-on-crime posturing wins elections.

If they can save money, it won't be going to higher education. None of the 78 points deal with helping Michigan's colleges or helping make college more affordable. Legislators want to review the

Michigan Education Trust, a 529 plan that allows for prepayment of college tuition and fees and the Michigan Education Savings Program, which allows savings to cover a wider range of education expenses. But there is no call for higher education investment by the state, which according to a report by Bloomberg.com ranks 36th in the nation for the percentage of college graduates, just ahead of New Mexico.

Another major initiative deals with grading. The platform states: “Michigan uses a confusing color-coded school accountability system. A change to letter grades while also adding a transparency dashboard for schools will be advanced.” Call this a solution for a problem you didn't know about. There are two substantive education initiatives in the offing. One would provide greater flexibility for qualified individuals who want to teach, relaxing what Republicans call the “overly cumbersome” certification process. The other would “develop a uniform, robust accreditation” for charter school authorizers to “clearly designate standards and exceptions.”

The Republican game plan, as expected, aims as scoring points at the expense of workers. It wants to eliminate the ability of localities to pass ordinances mandating wages and benefits, particularly sick pay. Of course, legislators aren't docked pay when they don't show up for work. But this isn't a “do-unto-others” crowd. It continues to target state workers with a proposal to “upgrade and advance employee accountability and performance,” both of which are governed by the Civil Service Commission. The party would like to meddle state-worker issues, but is blocked the Michigan Constitution, which enables the Civil Service Commission to protect workers them from politics.

There is lots of interest in alcohol. Claiming that regulatory measures are holding back the expansion of farm-

ers markets, Republicans want to allow beer and liquor sales. They call this an “economic growth” measure. Another initiative deals solely with beer. “Ensuring that the refilling of growlers at licensed establishments is permitted by regulators is paramount.” Remember, this priority: “paramount.”

Other proposals would allow utilities to use out-of-state renewable energy to meet state imposed standards, effectively keeping Michigan pollution in Michigan where it belongs. It wants to prohibit the state administrative departments from advancing “rules more stringent than the Feds.” The platform seeks to open more state lands to off-road vehicles, allow discrimination if it is based on “religious beliefs” and looser gun laws.

Backing off from its fringe issues, the Republicans want to reform the abusive Civil Asset Forfeiture Law that allows law enforcement agencies to seize personal

property without due process or criminal conviction. It also promises a hard look at tax incremental financing, which allows a community like Lansing Township to establish Eastwood Towne Center as a special district and essentially exclude other levels of government (the county, CATA, libraries) from collecting what would be their normal share of tax revenue.

And it promises a hard look at film tax credits. Sure it's fun to see Michigan in the movies, but credits are costly and as policy are unlikely to prove themselves as a solid investment and job creator.

Republicans, with overwhelming majorities in the House and Senate, can push through what ever legislation they like. The only check on their agenda is Governor Snyder, who in his final term is less shackled to the party's conservative wing and more free to pursue a more centrist approach. If that his “agenda,” let's hope he sticks with it.

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MY18TV!

10 A.M. EVERY SATURDAY

COMCAST CHANNEL 16 LANSING

7:30 P.M. EVERY FRIDAY

BRIEFS

Friedland Industries wins Outstanding Small Business Award

Friedland Industries received the Greater Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Small Business Award at the chamber's annual dinner Tuesday.

"For nearly 130 years, our family has been proud to call Lansing home," said Larry Bass, CEO of Friedland Industries. "We're honored to accept this award on behalf of our family and also the great people who work so hard at Friedland."

Friedland Industries processes metals, paper, plastics, and electronics for recycling, including an extensive confidential shredding service for paper, hard drives, and other media items.

"We are committed to being good neighbors and helping Lansing both economically and environmentally," said Mike Bass, a manager with Friedland.

Each year, Friedland Industries donates more than 10,000 pounds of metal to artists in support of Scrapfest, an outdoor metal art exhibition and contest held in Lansing's Old Town. Friedland also holds Confidential Document Destruction Day after tax day each year so that residents and business owners can confidentially shred and recycle confidential documents for free.

"We are honored that the Chamber has recognized not only our business, but also the importance of the scrap and commodity recycling industry to Mid-Michigan," said Randy Rifkin, co-owner of Friedland Industries. "We hope to take this positive momentum and continue our mission to benefit Lansing environmentally and economically."

Interim BWL general manager names new executive team

The deck continues to be shuffled at the Board of Water & Light.

Interim General Manager Dick Peffley announced his new executive team members this week.

"This team has the right kind of experience and professional leadership to assist me in delivering our core mission — to provide BWL customers with reliable and affordable electric and water service. This realignment of responsibilities is designed to place the right people in the right jobs in order to maximize service to our customers," said Peffley, in a written statement.

Stephen Sarkaian, executive director of public affairs, said four positions are promotions and will likely come with pay increases but they have not been determined. The reorganization plan was shared with the board of commissioners, he said.

The executive team members, who

will report to Peffley unless otherwise noted, include:

- Heather Shawa-DeCook - chief financial officer. Shawa-DeCook, whom Peffley announced as CFO last month, previously served Lansing's Demmer Corp. as vice president of operations and CFO.

- George Stojic - executive director, planning and development. Stojic, who has been with the BWL since 2007, will continue to be responsible for long-term planning, environmental compliance, energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, major customer projects, project engineering and market operations. Stojic previously worked at the Michigan Public Service Commission in various regulatory positions for 30 years.

- Dave Bolan - promoted to interim executive director, operations. Bolan, who served as director of electric transmission and distribution, has been with the BWL since 1987 and assumes Peffley's former position. Bolan will continue overseeing T&D and add electric generation and water production and distribution to his responsibilities. Before joining the BWL, Bolan worked at Houston Lighting and Power.

- Michael Flowers - promoted to executive director, Human Resources. Flowers most recently was director of water operations, but he had served as BWL director of human resources. Before that he worked in human resources for Accident Fund Insurance Co. of America and Sparrow Health System. Flowers has been with the BWL since 2008.

- Trent Atkins - promoted to director, emergency planning, security, safety and training. Atkins, who will report to Flowers and will be included in all of Peffley's executive team meetings, joined the BWL in 2014 as the BWL's first emergency operations manager. He will continue responsibilities for emergency preparedness and management and adds security, safety and training to his duties. Atkins was a 24-year veteran of the Lansing Fire Department who served as assistant chief and chief of the department's Emergency Management Division.

- Serkaian - promoted to executive director, public affairs. Serkaian, previously director of communications, has been with the BWL since 2012. Serkaian will continue responsibilities for internal and external communications, including media relations, and combine into one department added responsibilities for governmental and community relations. Serkaian previously worked for Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, the Lansing School District, Lansing Mayor David Hollister, the Michigan House of Representatives and U.S. Sen. Carl Levin.

- Brandie Ekren, special assistant city attorney and legal counsel to the BWL, remains on the executive team. Ekren has been with the BWL since 2004.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds
January 31, 2015

Lansing Housing Commission
419 Cherry Street, Lansing, MI 48933 - Telephone: (517) 487-6550
www.lanshc.org

On or about April 15, 2015, the above named entity will request the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") release Federal Comprehensive Grant funding under Title 1 of the Public Housing Act of 1937 as amended. In addition, HUD will be advised the City of Lansing ("CITY") issued a FONSI related to the proposed activities at the addresses included below.

The 2015-2019 Capital Fund Grants are for rehabilitating and renovating Lansing Housing Commission ("LHC") properties, staffing and resident programs. The following activities are proposed under this program: kitchen and bathroom renovations, roof, downspouts, gutter, furnaces, water heaters, ranges and refrigerator replacements, computer software, maintenance vehicles and equipment purchases, building/site improvements (electronic communication devices computer/telephone hardware, fees and costs, operations, administration, and management improvements). The total Entitlement Comprehensive Grant for 2015 will be approximately \$1.2M. The amount over a 5 year period will be approximately \$6 million based on current funding levels.

The aforementioned activities will occur at one or more of the following LHC properties:

1. Mt. Vernon Park, 3338 N. Waverly, Lansing, MI 48906
2. Hildebrandt Park, 3122 N. Turner Street, Lansing, MI 48906
3. LaRoy Froh, 2400 Reo Road, Lansing, MI 48910
4. Forest Arbor, 2133 Forest Road, Lansing, MI 48910
5. Hoyt Avenue, 1904 Hoyt, Lansing, MI 48910
6. 3200 S. Washington, Lansing, MI. 48911
7. Scattered Site Housing located within the City of Lansing MI

The funds as outlined above and a request for release of funds does not constitute an action significantly effecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly, the CITY has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969(PL91-190).

The reasons for this decision are as follows:

1. The scale and nature of the proposed activities will have a minimal impact upon the environment.
2. The proposed activities will provide long-term benefits to public housing residents and the CITY

An Environmental Review Record in reference to the 2011-2015 LHC Capital Fund Grant activities was made by the CITY and LHC. The Environmental Review Record described the 2011-15 Capital Fund Grant activities and detailed the reasons why EIS is not required. The Environmental Review Record is on file at LHC, 419 Cherry Street, Lansing, MI 48933 and may be examined by the public between the hours of 9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. No further environmental review of the named projects will be conducted prior to the request for release of federal funds.

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration to the LHC, 419 Cherry Street, Lansing, MI 48933. Such written comments must be received at the above address on or before March 23, 2015. All comments received will be considered. LHC will not request the release of federal funds or take any administrative action on the proposed activities prior to the date specified above.

LHC will finance the activities with Capital Fund Grant money provided by HUD under Title 1 of the Public Housing Act of 1937 and section 305 of the Multi-Family Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994. The CITY is certifying to HUD that the City and Virgil Bernero, in his official capacity, as Mayor, consent to accept jurisdiction of the federal courts if any action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decisions and actions and that upon its approval, the Lansing Housing Commission may use the Capital Fund Grant, and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. HUD will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following reasons:

- (a) The certification was not executed by the Chief Executive Officer or other officer of the Applicant approved by HUD.
- (b) An applicant's Environmental Review Record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding or step, applicable to the project in the Environmental Review Process.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24.CFR 58) and may be addressed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Public Housing, Patrick V. McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226-2592. HUD will not consider objections to the release of funds on any basis other than those stated above. HUD will consider no objection received after April 08, 2015.

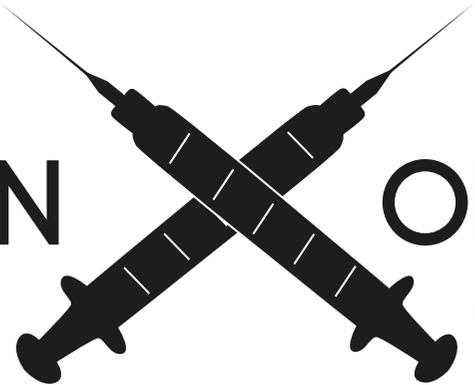
Virgil Bernero, Mayor
City of Lansing
124 W. Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Patricia Baines-Lake, Executive Director
Lansing Housing Commission
419 Cherry Street
Lansing, MI 48933

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 23, 2015, 5:30 P.M.
Lansing Housing Commission, 3338 N. Waverly, Lansing, MI 48906

IMMUNIZATION OBLIGATION?

DISEASE OUTBREAKS PIT PUBLIC HEALTH AGAINST PERSONAL CHOICE



By **BELINDA THURSTON**

The headlines stop you in your tracks.

“Spreading Measles Outbreak Also Takes Heavy Economic Toll,” Scientific American.

“Why the Next Outbreak Could Be Polio,” New York Observer.

“Measles outbreak spreads to three more states and Washington DC,” The Washington Post.

Since 2000 measles was a distant memory, banished like polio or smallpox. But the highly contagious airborne disease is making a comeback with more than 600 cases last year and 121 so far this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vaccinations provided a wall of protection, accepted as settled medical science. But it isn't for some.

With fear whipping to a froth and resentment and blame aimed at anti-vaxxers — those who decline to inoculate their children — the issue comes down to free choice. Should vaccinations be mandatory? Should we offer philosophical objection waivers at all?

“If I had it my way I probably wouldn't,” said Linda Vail, health officer of the Ingham County Health Department. “But we believe in civil liberties and freedoms in the U.S.”

Childhood diseases nearly forgotten in modern generational memory like measles and mumps have returned to public attention. And while today's cases of measles pale in comparison to before the vaccine in 1963 — three to four million cases a year with 400 to 500 deaths — officials today are sounding alarms that the unvaccinated will usher in waves of disease.

“We will see epidemics of diseases we haven't seen in years,” Vail said

The recent outbreak of measles started at Disneyland in California and reveals hot spots or leaks in the “herd immunity” chain that health officials seek for the general population. The concept is that if more than 95 percent of the population is inoculated such illnesses as pertussis (whooping cough), polio and measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) — even the weakest in the herd (infants, elderly, those with compromised immune systems) will be protected. But the more people in the “herd” who opt out of inoculation, the weaker the protection for all.

WEAK LINKS

Vail said the chain is weak in Michigan and Ingham County in particular, where the county ranks in the middle of the pack for waivers.

Indeed Michigan's MMR vaccination rate has barely moved the needle over the last 20 years. In 1995, 77 percent of the state was vaccinated for polio and 86 percent for MMR. In 2013, 90 percent were vaccinated for polio

and 89 percent for MMR.

Reasons for not vaccinating range from medical to religious to philosophical. Those who make it a personal choice cite side effects and adverse effects that even the CDC acknowledges, like fever, allergic reactions, bloody stool and on rare occasions seizures and brain damage.

Since 2000, when measles was declared eliminated in the U.S., the number of people each year reported to have measles ranged from a low of 37 in 2004 to a high of 644 in 2014.

An outbreak, according to Dr. Dean Sienko, associate dean for prevention and public health at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, is “one case more than you would expect to have.” So if there had been only 20 cases of a disease yearly and it went to 21 another year, it counts as an outbreak.

To curb the threat, Michigan tightened its rules effective this year to file for a philosophical waiver exempting a

tion. It's an “indoctrination course or video,” according to Skurnowicz.

Then parents must provide a written statement indicating their religious or philosophical objections and sign a form that says: “I acknowledge that I have been informed that I may be placing my child and others at risk of serious illness should he or she contract a disease that could have been prevented through proper vaccination.”

Vail said the change was needed to ensure that those opting out understand the risks to the health of their children and others. She said officials want those choosing not to vaccinate are not influenced by misinformation, myths or bad science.



Sienko

EDUCATION IS KEY

“I don't think the government has the right to tell people what they can and can't do with their bodies,” said Sybil Shelton Ford, lead toddler guide at Stepping Stones Montessori School in East Lansing. “However, I believe that parents should be well informed and look at all options to protect their children, such as not having multiple vaccinations at the same time. Many parents are talked into doing so and do not know that vaccinations can be broken up.”

“As far as school is concerned, I believe that parents have the right to refuse or delay vaccinations. They need to understand the risks involved.”

Ford agrees with having philosophical waivers and educating parents about the risks.

Skurnowicz feels the new waiver rules amount to browbeating or shaming parents into vaccinations.

She referred to her organization as “pro-informed consent, not anti-vaccine.”

It's an advocacy group that is trying to remove mandates that health care workers be vaccinated. She said her twin daughters, now 41, got sick from vaccinations as infants that resulted in fevers and respiratory problems. Skurnowicz never took them back for more.

“I grew up without any vaccinations,” she said. “Up until 100 years ago, there were no vaccinations. How did civilization survive to that point in time without having vaccinations?”

The measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine is “three live viruses at the same time — an assault” on a baby's new immune system, she said.



Courtesy Bennett family

Jillian Bennett of Clare has chosen not to vaccinate any of her six children (infant not shown here). She says they are healthy and happy. She wants parents to have the choice to immunize based on philosophical reasons.

child from inoculations

Barbara Skurnowicz, president of the HealthCare Professionals for Vaccine Choice in Franklin, Mich., calls the new rules “an obstacle course.” Parents have to go to their health department in person and arrange to speak to a health official to learn about the benefits of vaccina-

Immunization

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VACCINATION RATE

Ingham County ranks 46th out of 84 counties for vaccination waivers. Eaton is

MONICA PINO, HASLETT

I also am having my baby's vaccinations delayed/spread out. I chose not to have him get the Hep B vac in the hospital because I think with the way that is spread, it's not a concern for my newborn. I think it's a harsh thing to add to the first day or two of life. So he has actually not gotten any vacs so far.

My older kids go to public schools and are up to date on shots. We decline flu shots. It's interesting to me that people with an allergy to a certain ingredient in the shot can get one that is free of that ingredient, but if it's not a needed ingredient, why is it in the shot at all?

ALLISON SINGER, LANSING

I am supportive of holistic medicine but I also recognize the place of modern medicine. I advocate healthy, natural living and breastfeeding but I also think that vaccinations have their place. Of course I recognize the inherent problem and contradiction of the medical industry in that people need to be sick in order for the industry to prosper and make money. The pharmaceutical industry is one of the top money-making industries in the world so of course I am skeptical about all the drugs they push, especially when they are only treating the symptom instead of healing the root cause, something I think holistic medicine, diet, lifestyle etc. is better at in a lot of cases (not all- some diseases, conditions, etc. require drugs). However, I still respect science and the progress that medicine has made. Especially for vaccinations-stopping outbreaks and saving lives.

Now there is the question of what vaccines and when. I need to do more research but right now I'm thinking about a spaced out schedule with only the most pertinent vaccinations. There is a measles outbreak right now. I am not one to freak out about it or live in fear but I recognize that there are more vulnerable people in our society that this could seriously affect. I just read an article about a little girl with cancer who is unable to get vaccinated and got infected with measles by another child who's parents chose not to vaccinate. So I feel it is somewhat of a social responsibility to vaccinate if one is able in order to protect the most vulnerable who cannot- babies, cancer patients, older folks, etc.

36th and Clinton is 57th.

"There are medical reasons to waive them sometimes, and religious reasons," said Vail.

The third category is a philosophical exemption.

"We got kinda loose with this other category," she said.

Ingham County has had no cases of measles through 2013 and a few cases of pertussis (nine in 2013). Kalamazoo, where Vail worked before coming to Ingham County, had an outbreak of pertussis in 2006 affecting more than 300 people, she



Shown here are two "Official Rubella Fighter Membership Cards," featuring the "spotted rubella umbrella". During the late 1960s and early 1970s, these cards were given to children upon receiving a rubella vaccination.

said.

"Should our kids go through that if we can prevent them?"

Allison Singer, 34, of Lansing is expecting her first baby in April. Amid all the preparations with a midwife and obstetrician and planning a wedding, she's also fraught over whether she will vaccinate her new child.

She said she's leaning toward "a more conservative approach to the vaccination," spacing them out. She said she wants to do a lot more research about what the vaccines contain, their efficacy and the side effects or adverse effects.

"On one hand I believe in freedom of choice and individual liberty and making informed decisions," she said. "At the same time it is a public health issue. What people choose to do can affect the whole population."

"If somebody has a concern, if their child is physically unable to get the vaccination due to a health reason that's totally valid," she said. "But if they oppose it on other grounds they need to take some

social responsibility for the effects of their choice on everybody else. Society tends to be a bit too individual focused. Sometimes we need to be more community minded."

Vail said she recently had an "ah hah" moment with a simple way to look at why vaccinations are important.

"If you can't bring peanuts to school because you have allergies why can you bring your unvaccinated kid in? It's like hello. Every now and then you have to grab onto these simplistic things."

PERSONAL CHOICE

Jillian Bennett, 32 of Clare has chosen not to vaccinate her children six times over.

She believes she should be able to choose what's best for her six children, ages 10, 8, 6, 3, 2 and 6 months.

But the conversation about that choice has been hard, "hurtful and hateful" she said.

Social media posts are heated. She said anti-vaxxers are being blamed for "bringing back measles."

Bennett, who is training to be a midwife, said she used to work for her local health department.

She said she was judged by her co-workers "negatively for our life choices. It was not a very respected decision there for sure."

She said a nurse looked up her family's vaccination records through the Michigan Care Improvement Registry.

"It was just her being nosy," she said. "She was concerned I would tell my clients not to get vaccinations."

But Bennett said she's not an anti-vaccination evangelist.

"I am personally offended by trying to sway someone's opinion on either side," she said. "I don't think the government should have their nose in what we do and how we raise our kids

our kids

Bennett said her children are healthy. She home schools them. She won't teach them vaccines are bad. She will allow them to make their own choices, should they want to travel and need them.

But for now, as the guardian of their safety and health, she said she's making the best decisions she can.

"The biggest for me is accepting a risk," she said. "The efficacy (of some vaccines) is not that great. If I were to take that risk for my kids I want assurance it's actually protecting them."

An example of a vaccine with waning efficacy is for pertussis. Even the CDC acknowledges the vaccine loses effectiveness after a year. And while no vaccine offers 100 percent immunity, health officials say they are major weapons against some of the most contagious diseases we know.

Vaccinations have done more good than harm, Sienko said.

He said vaccinations "prevent 322 million cases of illness and 732,000 deaths a

CHERYL KNAPP OVERLEY, LANSING

I don't think "society" can talk rationally about this in this time of hysteria and scapegoating. The current climate reminds me of people freaking out about ebola in the US and post-9/11 when people were physically assaulting any men who looked vaguely brown and religious and some people in New Jersey were wrapping their houses.

I have had plenty of rational conversations with friends but wider than that, more often than not, the fear and coercion seems to override listening and nuance.

ANGELA CHELA ASHLEY, ONONDAGA

I never vaccinated my two children (in fact, I never took them to the hospital, they never had a physician). They have taken antibiotics once in their lives--for strep throat ... I think it is vitally important to have this discussion in mainstream and to advocate vaccination research. There is much to learn. I have always felt that our society practices health-care on the basis of fear and intolerance. I would like to see a shift to faith, local agriculture, and nurturing a more stress-free lifestyle. Our children deserve so much better!

ALLYSON GREEN, LANSING

We get our vaccinations but I'm a delayed schedule I wasn't okay with Orion getting bombarded all at once so we do things more spread out I also am in the position where he receives care primarily from me and my mom so we don't have to worry about day care and the rampant cesspool of germs there

year."

"We have eliminated a lot of human misery and death because of vaccinations," he said.

Just like covering our mouths when we cough, immunizations are a courtesy to our fellow man.

"We need to have a conversation about what is our social obligation to one another," argues Sienko, former medical director of the Ingham County Health Department who retired last month as commander of the U.S. Army Public Health Command. "What is our community responsibility here? I feel as a public health physician we have an obligation to one another. Not only to vaccinate to protect yourself but you vac-

Immunization

from page 10

ciate to protect others in your community.”

“Those with medical risks, we have to protect them. They have no choice. If we



Courtesy Monica Pino

Monica Pino and her 1-month-old baby, Evan Phoenix Pino. Pino is choosing to delay vaccinations and spread them out.

choose not to immunize we put others in the community at risk.”

TEMPERATURES RISING

Sienko said we need to strive for health in our conversations as well.

“I’ve read some of these new articles and you read the comments afterward,” said Sienko. “It is very heated. It is very emotional. I think we have to sit down and have a rational discussion about this. We as Americans need to understand science better. We need to understand how the scientific process works. So, for example, you have Rand Paul making comments like, ‘I’ve known a lot of people that have had sick kids after they’ve got their shots.’ Well that might be a temporal association, in other words two things happening at about the same point in time. But that doesn’t imply cause and effect. There are ways that we look at what demonstrates cause and effect versus two things just kind of happening at the same time. So for a guy who’s a physician, and he’s a U.S. senator, to make a statement like that, it boggles my mind.”

Agreeing and disagreeing is hard. Voices are sounding off across the country, including the White House, advocating to vaccinate. Those who are choosing different paths can feel assaulted.

It’s a slippery slope, Ford said, when everyone feels they’re doing the right thing.

“I think that if there is the consideration of refusing non-vaccinated children into a school, it could turn into a Scarlet letter thing,” she said. “The truth is the only children at risk are those who are not vacci-

nated. Sad but true.”

ACCEPTING THE RISKS

One Lansing mother said she’s accepted those risks.

Giving only her first name, Ashley, because she’s concerned her family and children will be judged, only her eldest child is vaccinated.

“Right now anti-vaccinators are in the spotlight,” she said. “Nobody supports the anti-vaccinators. Ultimately the government doesn’t support us.

When Ashley’s 7-year-old son was born, she said she didn’t ask questions and allowed the recommended vaccination schedule. Her son started to have health problems that she assigns to the vaccinations.

“Acid reflux, ear infections, constipation,” she said, were some of his ailments and they had all been listed on a risk pamphlet when her son got vaccinated. But she said she hadn’t read it

or been aware of.

Her son’s health problems didn’t surface immediately she said, so “all my concerns were poo poed away.”

“I got into an argument on Facebook with someone who said she was a vaccine scientist,” Ashley said. “I said, ‘I don’t think I would ever put my kid at that risk again.’ She said they were normal signs. I’ll take my 2 percent risk of getting polio to the 100 percent risk of my kid being sick for 7 days.”

Ashley remains skeptical of all sources of information.

“I don’t think there will ever be actual true information because everyone has an agenda,” she said. “The government has an agenda. My personal jaded belief is that vaccines don’t help you get better, they harm your immune system.”

Would she feel bad if her kids got sick or other kids got sick because of contracting it from her children?

“I wouldn’t actually feel bad,” she said. “I know that feels heartless. We have a responsibility as parents to make sure our immune systems are strong. When we see scary statistics, we need to take responsibility and take care of ourselves. They eat candy bars, pop tarts and McDonald’s. We’ve allowed them to not take care of themselves. We’ve allowed that to be normal.”

Empathy should go both ways, she added.

“Someone else isn’t going to feel bad if my unvaccinated kid gets measles from the person who got the vaccine,” she said. “My kid is the one that they blame.”

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Stepping out

Former Verve Pipe drummer releases his first solo EP

By TY FORQUER

“That drum fill, man, it’s just fuckin’ right.”

I’m sitting at the bar with Donny Brown, and Zakk Wylde and friends are ripping through a cover of “Mississippi Queen” on the TV behind us. Brown knows a few things about drums; the 52-year-old west Lansing resident spent 21 years behind the kit for the Verve Pipe.

Donny Brown Album Release Concert

7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14
\$10 advance/\$5 students/\$15 at the door
Grand Ledge Performing Arts Center
820 Spring St., Grand Ledge

A founding member of the group, Brown experienced firsthand the fickleness of the music industry. The band scored a huge hit with its first major label release, 1996’s “Villains,” driven largely by the success of the hit single “The Freshmen.”

Subsequent albums, however, never reached the same level of success, and the Verve Pipe was pushed to the fringes of pop relevance. Brown left the band in 2013 to pursue other opportunities.

Saturday, one of those opportunities will take center stage as Brown celebrates his first solo release, “Hess Street E.P.,” with a concert at the Grand Ledge Performing Arts Center.

“I’ve had these songs in the works for quite a while,” he says.

The EP features Brown front-and-center as singer and guitarist. (He also recorded most of his own drum tracks, of course.) While Brown has been working on these songs for years, this EP may not have seen the light of day without some friendly peer pressure.

Brown says he performed at a singer/songwriter even in Bay City in July.

“After the show, a friend of mine said, ‘We’re giving you a deadline and you have to release some music.’”

That friend, fellow Saginaw native J.J. Bamberger, booked a November gig for Brown at the Dow Event Center’s Red Room in Saginaw. He told Brown that he needed to have his release completed for the gig.

“I was bullied into making the EP,” Brown says with a laugh.

While the songwriting is the heart of this EP, the release’s production really makes the songs shine. Brown enlisted the help of several veterans of the Michigan music scene to fill out the sonic spectrum.

Longtime friend and musical collaborator Andy Reed (formerly of the Verve Pipe and Jedi Mind Trip) plays bass on the EP, and Jake Greenwood of Vandelay adds keyboards to the mix. Even Lansing recording guru Glenn Brown gets in on the act, playing ukulele on the EP’s closing track.

“The fact that I have all these people I respect and admire musically playing on this record, that is the best reason for making the record,” Brown says.

The record also features a very special cameo by Brown’s drum teacher, the late Bob “Bubba” Grudner. Lansing residents may remember Grudner as the drummer for the Zen Ponies, Acme Jam Co., or the Blue Avenue Delegates. He also recorded and toured with Mark Farner of Grand Funk



Donny Brown

Hess Street E.P.



Railroad and recorded two albums with Dolly Parton.

Grudner, who died of lung cancer in 2004, recorded the drum tracks for Brown’s “Call Me.” Grudner’s faux-tap-dancing woodblock part drives the Tin Pan Alley-influenced number.

“I played him the track and asked him if he wanted to play on it,” says Brown. “He brought his oxygen tank with him to the studio and recorded the drum part.”

Through the EP and through conversation, it becomes clear that Brown is engaged with the present, but always deeply aware of the past and those who came before him. The title of the EP alludes to a street on the east side of Saginaw, the cover photo is of the house on that street that he grew up in.

“That house — that part of Saginaw, really — has gotten a real ass-kicking,” Brown says. “People have broken in and stripped all the pipes and wiring for scrap. It’s a real mess.”

Despite its current state, the house still brings back hap-

py memories for Brown.

“My parents were the cool parents,” he says. “My brothers played in rock bands, they let them practice all night in our basement.”

Brown credits his parents with laying the foundation for his musical exploits.

“There was always music on in the house,” he remembers. “My parents instilled a love of music in me.”

Though the album was completed in November, Saturday’s performance will be the first chance to hear these songs live in the greater Lansing area. For Brown, the opportunity to perform live is a special opportunity.

“The process (of recording) was so fulfilling,” he says. “To do the live show takes it to another level.”

Concert-goers can expect to hear the songs from the EP, as well as reworked versions of Verve Pipe songs. Brown may even sprinkle in a few new songs.

“I’m already getting songs ready for another EP,” he says.

Courtesy photos

Top: Donny Brown performs songs from his new EP Saturday at the Grand Ledge Opera House.

Left: The cover of the “Hess Street E.P.” features Brown’s childhood home in Saginaw.

Local singer/songwriter Abbey Hoffman will open Saturday’s show. Hoffman sings with the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle, and recently released her own solo album, “This Too Shall Pass.” Hoffman recorded her album with Ryan Wert at Elm Street Studios in REO Town.

“I learned about Abbey through Ryan,” Brown says. “I just love her voice.”

Hoffman will also join Brown’s band as a back-up singer later in the evening.

While Brown has toured the world and experienced all the trappings of success with the Verve Pipe, he still remembers the humbling gigs that came before the success. One particular gig stands out in his memory.

“The Verve Pipe) was going to open for a band called the Dopes at Rubble’s in Mt. Pleasant,” he says. “They wouldn’t move any of their gear off of the stage, and they wouldn’t let me use their drums.”

The band mostly fit on the tiny stage, but Brown had to get creative.

“I set up my drums off-stage in front of the kitchen door,” he says with a laugh.

The drummer for the Dopes, the one who wouldn’t let Brown use his gear, was none other than Doug Corella, who would later join the Verve Pipe as keyboardist/percussionist.

Through the highs and the lows of success, simply being able to make music has always been the driving force in Brown’s life.

“It’s not the fantastic living or chance of fame that motivates me, it’s the process of making music that is so fulfilling,” he says. “The rest is just frosting.”

VALENTINE'S DAY

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VALENTINE'S DAY

A CITY PULSE SPECIAL SECTION

CLICHE NO MORE

UNCONVENTIONAL GIFTS FOR
YOUR UNCONVENTIONAL LOVER

By **TY FORQUER**

Shopping for Valentine's Day gifts is easy — as long as you don't mind indulging in clichés. You can't swing a cat inside a Rite Aid without knocking over a display of chocolates in heart-shaped boxes or pre-packaged roses. For weeks, every local jewelry store has been reminding us how much women love gold and diamonds.

But what if your lady doesn't go for champagne and roses? What do you give to a guy who isn't into chocolates and stuffed teddy bears? If your partner doesn't care for all of that mushy stuff, here are a couple ideas to create a Valentine's Day as unique as your significant other.

GET SOME INK

Diamonds are forever? No sir. Take it from someone who has already lost one wedding ring, those things can disappear quickly. Instead, take a real plunge and stop by Splash of Color in East Lansing. Pick out the perfect tattoo to represent your love. Maybe it's a flaming tiger, symbolizing your burning love. How about two intertwined dragons? Now we're talking. You can always get the stand-by heart-with-an-arrow-



Courtesy photo

Good ink is the key to your partner's heart. Tattoo by Splash of Color's Perry Stratton.

the beer snob in your life a growler of beer from one of Lansing's fine purveyors of pilsner. Fill the growler with a tasty Michigan brew and your beer-swilling guy or gal will be over the moon. These 64-ounce beer vessels are re-fillable; they can bring the growler in and get fresh brews as often as they like.

ROCK HER WORLD

Does your girl scream along when Paramore comes on the radio? Does your guy start mosh pits in inappropriate situations? (I know this string quartet is bangin' honey, but I think you broke that lady's hip.) Surprise them with tickets to see Flint Eastwood, the Devil's Cut or You Blew It. Lansing's burgeoning music scene has a line-up of bands sure to melt the face off of your music-loving lover. Who needs more stuff, anyways? Buy them an experience to remember.

HEY JEALOUSY

Are you still going to buy her flowers? Well, at least do it right. Are you going to have them waiting for her at home? Rookie mistake. Call up Smith Floral and have them deliver the flowers to her workplace. The only thing girls love more than a partner who sends flowers is the opportunity to rub it in their co-worker's faces. (Sorry Cheryl, maybe your deadbeat boyfriend will remember next year.) For added effect, hire a brass quintet to play a fanfare along with the delivery. Confetti and balloons are not out of the question. This approach ensures maximum jealousy among female

through-it, just don't get one of those silly "tribal" tattoos. What are you, MMA fighters? (Author's note: If you are MMA fighters, get whatever tattoos you want, it's cool.)

GROWL AT THE MOON

Does your guy prefer a saison over a syrah? Is your lady is more likely to throw down an IPA than a chardonnay? Get

co-workers, and sends a strong message to would-be girlfriend thieves: this is what you are up against.

WHAT WOULD BEAR GRYLLS DO?

A few last-minute survival tips: Have you been dating for a few years, but haven't popped the question? Don't do anything close to getting down on one knee. Untied shoelace? Leave it be. Dropped a \$20 bill? Not worth it. That's a Pandora's box of repressed emotions that you don't want to open. Same goes for gifts. May the Lord have mercy on your soul if you give them a gift in anything resembling a ring box. Put that necklace in a shoebox, just to be safe. Maybe wrap those vintage cuff links in a garbage bag, just to be safe.



IT'S THE GIFT THAT COUNTS

Of course, the important thing is that you're together, and all you really need is each other. Just kidding, we all know that's garbage. You need to get them a gift and it needs to be good. If you screw this up, Chad from accounting is going to swoop in and be your beloved's shoulder to cry on, and we all hate Chad, right?

So just relax and find a cool gift that matches your lover's personality. And next time you see Chad, slug him once in the stomach. He knows what he did.

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VALENTINE'S DAY

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February 11, 2015



Photo by Autumn Luciano/DecadanceDolls.com

Miss Audacious (left) and Suzy Starliner (right) will fight for your love at Tease-A-Gogo Valentine's Day Burlesque Variety Event.

FEBRUARY 14

LANSING EVENT GUIDE

All events occur Feb. 14, 2015 unless otherwise noted

LANSING AREA V-DAY FLASH MOB

The MSU production of "The Vagina Monologues" is counting down the days to its premiere with a slew of events. First up: storming the Meridian Mall with a V-Day flash mob dance in partnership with One Billion Rising Revolution, an organization that works to end violence against women. All individuals are welcome to participate. 1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. facebook.com/vmonsatmsu.

LANSING LUVS SKIING

Lansing Ski Party hosts a romantic outing on the slopes, including ski lessons, group ski tours, a bonfire and hot cocoa. Guests are encouraged to bring their own picnic. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Burchfield Park, 881 Grovenburg Road, Holt. lansingskiparty.wordpress.com.

TEASE-A-GOGO'S VALENTINE'S DAY VARIETY EVENT

Put all the freaky stuff you and your V-day date have planned for the evening on hold and watch it unfold on stage instead in Tease-A-Gogo's Valentine's Day Burlesque Variety Event. There'll be a free kissing booth plus performances by the Klaw Mark Kittens, Vivacious Miss Audacious and more. Contact the Avenue Café for table reservations. 9 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/teaseagogo.

See Event Guide, Page 5

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VALENTINE'S DAY

A CITY PULSE SPECIAL SECTION

Event Guide

from page 4

COLLECTION SHOW AND TELL AT THE BROAD

Keep your Valentine's Day sophisticated with a day the Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum. Michelle Word, director of education at the Broad, will discuss what she loves about a piece on exhibit, "An American Girl in Italy," by photographer Ruth Orkin. 2 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

RED DRESS RUN

Get your heart pumping for reasons other than love with the annual Red Dress Run. The event, starting at Midtown Brewing Co. and winding up at the REO Town Pub, encourages its participants, male and female alike, to wear their most flattering red dress. Any other red attire is also acceptable. Proceeds from the run will benefit the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Noon. \$10. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/LansingRedDressRun.

VALENTINE'S WEEKEND

SPECIAL (FEB. 13-15)

Instead of the traditional arrows, shoot lasers into your darling's heart this Valentine's Day weekend. This special will get you two games of laser tag as well as a large one-topping pizza, a pitcher of pop and a game card worth \$10. \$27.99. Spare Time Entertainment Center, 3101 Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 337-2695, sparetimelansing.com/valentines-day.

HEART THROB 5K

Make your heart happy and healthy with your sweetie by your side as you race a 5K course through MSU's campus. Enjoy post-race food, raffles, t-shirts, awards and a special appearance by Sparty. Whoever dresses up the most ridiculously for Valentine's Day will win the costume contest, so get your Cupid ensemble out of storage. Runners and walkers are welcome. 11 a.m. Single division \$25/ couples division \$50. MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (931) 334-4845.

A VALENTINE'S DAY SOIREE

Calling all line dancers, ballroomers, steppers and friends! Do the "Cupid Shuffle" to music by DJ Rob New at Old Town Marquee's Valentine's Day Soirée. Food, dancing and entertainment will have you tapping your toes all night. 8-11 p.m. \$25 in advance, \$30 at door. Old Town Marquee, 319 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-5880.

ALL YOU NEED IS BEER

Enjoy a lovely food and beer pairing at Midtown Brewing Co. this Valentine's Day. Go with your sweetie or save some money by going on a double date (groups of four or more save \$5 per person). Either way, all you need is beer. 6-10 p.m. \$40 advance/\$45 at the door. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. info@midtownbrewingco.com.



Courtesy photo

Dinner at Beggar's Banquet in East Lansing is a classy way to spend your evening.

ROMANCING IN LANSING

CHECKING IN ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO FIND LANSING'S HOTTEST V-DAY SPOTS

Where is the best place in Lansing to take a date for Valentine's Day? We asked our Twitter and Facebook followers, some of the responses are listed here (some responses were edited for length).

Some were looking for a nice dinner on the town:

@helloworldbethe (Twitter): Beggars' Banquet! That's where my husband and I had our first meal as man and wife! <3

Amanda Aimee (Facebook): MEAT

Barbecue

One person was looking for a simpler V-Day meal:

Benjamin Astro (Facebook): Quality Dairy – For their famous triple wedge

A few others were ready to skip dinner and move to later in the evening:

Richard Monroe (Facebook): To your bedroom

See Romancing, Page 6

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A CITY PULSE SPECIAL SECTION

February 11, 2015



Courtesy photo

These two lovebirds think you should stroll through Potter Park Zoo with your special someone.

Romancing

from page 5

Joel M. Krupa (Facebook): To the boudoir with scented candles, rose petal pathways and edible undies on the bed made of licorice

Some wanted to get out of town entirely:

Laura Farhat Bramson (Facebook): Lansing's international airport so they can get the heck out of this sleeper of a city and have some fun in another city that cares about offering its residents local entertainment

Joe Stiles (Facebook): Novi or Grand

Rapids

Some had ideas for a more cultured Valentine's Day:

Candice Wilmore (Facebook): During the day, check out the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at MSU and have dinner later at one of the many nice sushi places near Frandor.

Weston Lindberg (Facebook): It's always nice to hold hands and take a stroll through Potter Park Zoo!

Want to join the conversation? Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/lansingcitypulse](https://www.facebook.com/lansingcitypulse) or on Twitter at twitter.com/citypulse.

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CURTAIN CALL

Together at last

Two Lansing theater veterans share the stage in 'The Best Brothers'

By MARY C. CUSACK

Williamston Theatre is entering a new chapter with the purchase of the building it has inhabited since 2006. Its first production since the purchase is historic as well: pairing two respected theater professionals and friends on stage together for the first time. It's a small shame that the play, "The

'The Best Brothers'

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Best Brothers," isn't the best script to celebrate this monumental occasion.

"Brothers" is the tale of two brothers, Kyle (Tony Caselli) and Hamilton (John Lepard) Best, and how the death of their mother Bunny opens old wounds between them. As they work through the funeral and grief processes, they learn about the healing power

of unconditional love through their mother's



Photo by Chris Purchis

Tony Caselli (left) and John Lepard (right) share the stage for the first time in "The Best Brothers."

troublesome dog, Enzo.

Caselli and Lepard, co-founders and executive and artistic directors, respectively, of Williamston Theatre, are nothing less than pillars of the Greater Lansing-area theater community. Seeing them on stage together is a treat, and one can imagine they had fun playing brothers who seemingly have little in common.

The script is unimpressive, formulaic fare, a study in personalities that is pleasing but not intellectually challenging. The brothers are developed as stereotypical opposites. Kyle is exuberantly gay, in both senses of the word. He makes no apologies for his unorthodox relationship with a male escort and is seemingly happy all the time, even in the face of tragedy. Hamilton is dour, maintaining a mental tally of slights and resentments that keep him tightly wound.

The true tragedy of "Brothers" is not Bunny's strange, accidental death, but that the role of Hamilton is bland and underdeveloped. There isn't enough meat on the bone for an actor of Lepard's caliber to sink his teeth into. The source of Hamilton's anger and resentment is vague, and his behavior and the eventual outcomes are predictable.

Lepard digs in as best he can. His best moments occur when the unorthodox script allows him to take on the role of Bunny, a classically bold, stylish and wealthy broad. Bunny unapologetically unspools her back story of loves lost and found, and taking on her mischievous affectations allows Lepard to capitalize on his twinkly, not-quite smarmy charm. This, along with a fun diatribe delivered to a dog about Lego toys leading to the downfall of imagination, gives Lepard a little something to gnaw on.

Caselli embraces Kyle's gleeful joi de vivre, devil-may-care attitude wholeheartedly. Kyle might sometimes exhibit a questionable understanding of social etiquette, but his devotion to his loved ones is never in question.

"The Best Brothers" is not a great script, but under Lynn Lammers' direction, it does perhaps offer the best role for Caselli at this time in his life. After suffering a serious illness and recovery that waylaid him for much of 2014, this performance is a true comeback role and a public celebration of Caselli's triumph and talent. Watching Caselli devour the role with relish and abandon is a life-affirming experience.

The joint is jumpin'

'Ain't Misbehavin'' overcomes early difficulties to put on a rousing performance

By TOM HELMA

Kudos to the brave soul who climbed the precarious ladder up to Riverwalk Theatre's sound booth to let sound technician Leon Greene know that the first six musical numbers of the Fats Waller musical revue were at an excruciating volume — even for this reviewer who is 90 percent deaf in one ear.

Review

See Curtain Call, Page 14

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Curtain Call

from page 13

Three people in the third row got up and left after two decibel-blasting numbers. Others were seen holding their hands up to their ears, an entirely new twist on blowing the audience away.

"Ain't Misbehavin'"

7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12;
8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13 and
Saturday Feb. 14; 2 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 15
\$22/\$19 seniors and
students
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
(517) 482-5700, www.
riverwalktheatre.com

Despite this inglorious opening Saturday night, the show itself turned out to be not so bad.

This may sound like damning with faint praise — like comparing a vegan "hamburger" to the real deal — but a revue, by definition, has its work cut out for it. It is a sequence of musical numbers, solo and ensemble pieces, with

no real meaty plot. There is no progressive linear movement from song to song, despite this show's historical connection to one of America's most prolific songwriters.

The difficulty of this task was raised further when Marcus Herndon, one of the leads, fell ill just before opening night. Others in the cast jumped in, however, and performed impeccable renditions of songs originally set aside for him.

So, in this case, not so bad equates to somewhat praiseworthy.

Rebecca Lane contributed a raspy, Janis Joplin-like rendition of "Your Feet's Too Big," and Terence Gipson float-danced through a seemingly marijuana-dazed version of "Viper's Drag." Gipson was featured on several well-performed song and dance numbers, some of which had been designated for him while others were originally assigned to the absent Herndon.

Angel Taylor's contralto sultriness stirred the audience on "You're Mean To Me," while

Zakiya Williams delivered a powerful rendition of "I've Got a Feeling I'm Falling." Danielle Embry roused the house with "Keeping Out of Mischief Now."

Co-choreographer Chantelle Henry was a dazzling dynamo of energy, admirably substituting on several occasions for Herndon.

One particular dance sequence stood out: "Black and Blue," performed by director and co-choreographer Hope Rollins, was full of passionately performed, Martha Graham-like modern dance movements that paired well with the accompanying minor key harmonies from the ensemble choir.

A handful of Waller's most popular songs, including "I'm Gonna' Sit Right Down and Write Myself A Letter," "I Can't Give You Anything But Love" and "It's a Sin To tell A Lie," wrapped up the evening with powerful jazz accompaniment from the six-piece "pit band." The finale stirred the audience into hand-clapping and enthusiastic head bobbing. Not too bad, not so shabby. Hey, pretty good, after all.



Courtesy photo

Terrence Gipson sings and dances his way through Riverwalk Theatre's "Ain't Misbehavin'."

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Drawing on experience

Scott McCloud puts theory into practice in his first graphic novel

By BILL CASTANIER

Many comic book collectors, scholars and aficionados call Scott McCloud the “grandfather of comics,” but it may be more accurate to call him the “Yoda of comics” because of his singular ability to describe comics in terms of meaning, form and function.

The reason for these platitudes is McCloud’s 1993 book “Understanding Comics,” the first book to explain the theory of comics and how words and pictures work together to tell a story. He followed that with

Scott McCloud book signing and talk

7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16
Schuler Books (Eastwood Towne Center)
2820 Towne Center Blvd., Lansing
(517) 316-7495,
schulerbooks.com

“Reinventing Comics” (2000) and “Making Comics” (2006), creating a triptych that is used in virtually every comic book class taught in the world.

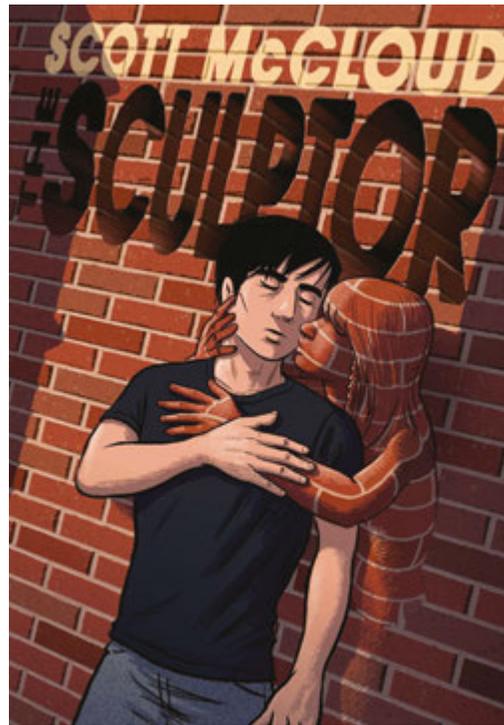
Among comic book readers he is better known for his textbooks than he is for his own comic books, which include “Zot” and the kid-friendly “Superman Adventures” series.

Randy Scott is curator of comic books in MSU Libraries’ Special Collection, which holds more than a quarter-million comic books. “No question about it, “Understanding Comics” is the default book,” he says. “I use it as a Rosetta Stone, looking up definitions.”

McCloud, 54, recently published his first adult fiction graphic novel “The Sculptor,” putting his principles and theories of what makes a comic work to the test.

“The Sculptor” is about a young artist who cuts a Faustian deal with Death; he will trade his life for artistic immortality.

“It explores a young man’s ideas about life, death, art and love,” McCloud says. “But



Courtesy photo

“The Sculptor” is the first graphic novel by comic book expert Scott McCloud.

with the broader perspective of an older me. I couldn’t have written this book as a younger man. I had to look through the lens of an older man.”

At first, everything seems to go well with the protagonist. After his contract with Death, the artist has the ability to sculpt anything he can dream of, but Death will return for his life in 200 days. As the deadline approaches, the artist finds himself in an unexpected dilemma: He falls in love at

the 11th hour.

The author-illustrator, speaking by phone from New York, where he is on a book tour, says he has been thinking about this graphic novel for decades, but “I still had one foot in the superhero world.”

McCloud calls his artistry “writing with pictures,” and he creates the graphic experience by drawing the story, panel by panel, even in the rough drafts. He says that process also helps his drawing.

“I’m not a naturally gifted draftsman. I have a good eye, and the revisions improve my drawing,” McCloud says.

Like many comic book artists, he began drawing in junior high school. He and a friend even created their own comic. McCloud went on to Syracuse University, where he majored in illustration.

“At the time there wasn’t a degree in comic illustration,” he says.

After college he worked in the production department at DC Comics, and soon after he began spending all of his free time drawing his own comics and studying how comics work on multiple levels.

“I was engaging with the challenges of writing for the very first time,” he says.

While McCloud learned to draw with ink and paper, he now uses a Wacom Cintiq pen & touch display. This combination monitor and tablet allows him to draw directly to a computer screen. While the technology has made the process easier, allowing

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the artist to control many layers at a time, it still took him five years to complete “The Sculptor.”

As McCloud’s approach to comics matured he began to appreciate Japanese comics and their unique style. He said he plans to visit the MSU Special Collections for the first time while he is in Lansing, where he will be able to peruse the approximately 7,000 Japanese comics in the collection.

Interest in Asian and African comics is “growing like crazy,” says Scott. “There is something universal about comics and drawn literature that works in all cultures.”

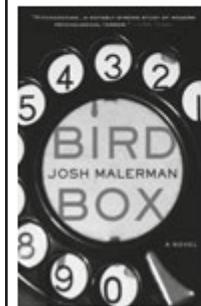
McCloud’s next project will take him back to a more theoretical assessment of visual communication. “This time,” he says, “I will be looking at the common principles and best practices of infographics.”

Anyone who has endured an impenetrable PowerPoint presentation knows that this book is long overdue.

Schuler Books & Music

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

Thursday, February 12. @7pm
Meridian Mall



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

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

Acclaimed Comics Guru SCOTT MCCLOUD

Monday, February 16. @7 p.m.
Eastwood Towne Center



We are so excited to be able to offer a talk and signing with a legend in the comics industry. Scott McCloud is the award-winning author of *Understanding Comics*, *Making Comics*, *Zot!*, and

many other fiction and non-fiction comics spanning 30 years. Now he’s touring for his new graphic novel *The Sculptor*.

For more information visit
www.SchulerBooks.com.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The City of Lansing Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking individuals who are interested in volunteering a few hours to assist with sorting and refurbishing American stick flags. Each year the City of Lansing Parks and Recreation Department places over 5,000 flags on gravesites within North, Evergreen, and Mount Hope cemeteries. Before the flags are placed in the cemeteries for the 2015 Memorial Day ceremony we want to sort through the flags and ensure they are all in excellent condition. Volunteers will be needed Feb. 23 through March 13 9 a.m.-4 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering time, please contact Yvette Morgan at (517) 483-4286.

Wednesday, February 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

See Out on the Town, Page 18



Cool hand uke

• • • Friday Feb. 13 • • •

Not so long ago the ukulele was thought of at best a novelty, and at worst the butt of a joke. (What's the difference between a ukulele and a trampoline? You take your shoes off to jump on a trampoline. Thank you, I'll be here all article.) In recent years, however, the ukulele has become hipster-chic, and everyone from Zooey Deschanel to Eddie Vedder can be seen plunking out tunes on the tiny instruments. This weekend the ukulelian invasion comes to Lansing.

Ukulele enthusiasts are in for a treat; Ten Pound Fiddle, the Lansing Area Ukulele Group and Elderly Instruments have teamed up for a weekend chock-full of four-stringed fun. From concerts to group strums to workshops, that signature Hawaiian sound will resonate throughout the city.

The weekend begins with James Hill (pictured top left) and Anne Janelle (bottom left) in concert at Ten Pound Fiddle. Hill is one of the finest ukulele players in the world, and cellist Janelle slides in underneath the treble sounds of his uke with her lush cello tone. Both are accomplished singers and songwriters in their own right. The duo is promoting their newest album, "The Old Silo," which mixes folk, roots rock, and Americana.

Ben Hassenger, Lansing's self-described "ambassador of the ukulele," is thrilled to have Hill in town.

"For me, bringing (Hill) is comparable to being a guitarist and bringing Eric Clapton to town," he says. "He's in a rarefied group in the ukulele world."

The fun continues Saturday, starting with a group strum hosted by the Lansing Area Ukulele Group. Ukesters of all ages and skill level are invited to bring their ukes to learn and play tunes together. The group hosts these events on the second Saturday of each month.

"We come up with 15 songs and post them ahead of time so people can learn them," says Hassenger. "The leader will usually talk about strumming patterns or difficult chords. There is a teaching element."

For Hassenger, it is a great opportunity to meet others in the community.

"You get a group of people playing and singing together, it's a social experience as much as a musical experience," he says

For serious ukelists, Hill is hosting two workshops at Elderly Instruments. In addition to being a virtuoso ukulele player, Hill is a passionate teacher. He is co-author of "Ukulele in the Classroom" with J. Chalmers Doane, the trail-blazing teacher who pioneered the use of ukuleles in Canadian

schools.

The first workshop, "Chord Twins," promises to show you a "ukulele loophole" that "lets you quickly and easily sound like a pro." The second, "Lyricism and Line," will help participants explore the lyrical side of the ukulele.

"When Hill does a workshop, he has a great way of connecting with students," says Hassenger.

James Hill and Anne Janelle at Ten Pound Fiddle

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13
Group ukulele strum at 7 p.m., concert at 8 p.m.
\$18/\$15 members/\$5 students
MSU Community Music School
4930 South Hagadorn Road,
East Lansing
tenpoundfiddle.org

Lansing Area Ukulele Group Strum

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14
FREE
Sir Pizza Grand Café
201E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
www.facebook.com/groups/lansingukes

Workshop: Chord Twins: Twice the Fun

1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14
\$40
Elderly Instruments
1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing
Call (517) 372-7880 for reservations

Workshop: Lyricism & Line: How to Make the Ukulele Sing

3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14
\$40
Elderly Instruments
1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing
Call (517) 372-7880 for reservations

—TY FORQUER

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA



THU. FEB 12TH

CHRIS BATHGATE RETURNS TO MAC'S BAR

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$8, \$7 adv., all ages, 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12

Pinckney-based indie-folk songwriter Chris Bathgate returns Thursday to Mac's Bar for an all-ages show. Openers are Streaking in Tongues, Midwest, Joshua Barton & Seerstones and Molly Sullivan. Bathgate has a distinct folk sound — NPR described it as “bruised-sounding beauty.” In 2005 he released his debut album, “Silence is for Suckers,” followed by a string of D.I.Y. EPs and singles. Bathgate was born in Iowa and raised in rural Illinois. After relocating to Ann Arbor and signing with Quite Scientific Records, Bathgate built a loyal Michigan following. In 2007, Bathgate released his third full-length LP, “A Cork Tale Wake.” The acclaimed disc allowed Bathgate to embark on several American tours and two European tours.

CHOKE CHAINS, FEATURING THOMAS POTTER OF BANTAM ROOSTER, AT THE AVENUE CAFE

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$8, 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13

Bantam Rooster, fronted by vocalist/guitarist Thomas J. Potter, was a raucous and primitive '90s Lansing rock 'n' roll duo. After Bantam Rooster disbanded, Potter played with the Dirtbombs and a string of other notable bands. Potter is back with a new band: Choke Chains. Fans of Hawkwind and the Pagans may want to check it out. Choke Chains, along with Smashing Blumkins and the Hat Madder, perform Friday at the Avenue Café. Potter formed Bantam Rooster in 1993 and earned a staunch underground following, thanks to releases on Crypt Records and Sympathy for the Record Industry. The duo went on to become a fixture in the late '90s Detroit garage-rock scene alongside the White Stripes. Bantam Rooster was on the 2001 “It Takes Two” split single with the White Stripes and also on Jack White's “Sympathetic Sounds of Detroit” compilation.



FRI. FEB 13TH

PROJECT ASPECT AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$15, \$10 adv., 9 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13

Project Aspect, a Denver-based “bass music conductor extraordinaire,” co-headlines Friday at The Loft. Sharing the stage are Unlimited Gravity, Slap Nevada, Gosh Pith and Trip. Jay Jaramillio has been performing under the Project Aspect moniker since 2008, creating everything from masterfully crafted electronic anthems to wall-pounding dance-floor bangers. Jaramillio's bio describes his signature sound as “a vast array of heavy bass tones, melodic ambiance, whomp-hyphy crunchy beats, and mashup acapellas.” Over the years he's performed alongside legends like EOTO, MartyParty and Nit Grit. Project Aspect has also appeared at noteworthy festivals, including Sonic Boom Festival, Wakarusa Music Festival and Global Dance Festival. Co-headliner Unlimited Gravity, aka Ronnie Weberg, is a Colorado-based freestyle/glitch hop DJ. Fans of Bassnector might want to check out his set.



FRI. FEB 13TH

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Sounds of Passion: R&B, 8 p.m.	Choke Chains, 8 p.m.	Tease-A-Gogo, 9 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Steve Elgas, 7 p.m.	Sarah Brunner, 7 p.m.
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Paullie O, 8:30 p.m.	Tola Lewis, 8:30 p.m.
Claddagh Irish Pub, 2900 Towne Centre Blvd.				Steve Cowles, 8:30 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.			Avon Bomb, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		Open Mic w/Pat Zelenka, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Stephen Schlaak, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies, 9:30 p.m.	Skoryoke live band karaoke, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddys, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddys, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke w/Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	DJ Dazzlin Dena, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Beats N' Angles, 9 p.m.	Star Farm, 9 p.m.
Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.			Karaoke	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Entransient, 6:30 p.m.	Project Aspect, 9 p.m.	Chocolate Ha Ha, 8 p.m.
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.				Mark Weeks, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Chrius Bathgate, 8 p.m.	The St. Invasion Massacre, 9 p.m.	S.O.P. & Lady Dice, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		Kathleen & the Bridge St. Band, 9 p.m.	Enemy Planes/MTVs, 9:30 p.m.	Zydecronch, 9:30 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			YGB, 8:30 p.m.	YGB, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Open Mic, 8 p.m.		Life Support, 8 p.m.	
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd.			Acme Jam, 7 p.m.	
Reno's West, 501 W. Saginaw Hwy.			The New Rule, 8 p.m.	Bobby Standai, 8 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.			
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Rotation, 8:30 p.m.	Rotation, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Watershed, 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Jake Stevens, 8 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.			DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.

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

Out on the town

from page 16

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

Healthy Food For All. Healthy eating discussion. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa, Lansing. (517) 999-2894, nwlansing.org.

EVENTS

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

Trending Now: Curator Caitlin Doherty. Public discussion. 7 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

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

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

Tuesday Toolmen at ANC. With guest Bruce Witwer. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC

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

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

THEATER

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

Shen Yun. 5,000 years of civilization. Live on

stage. 7:30 p.m. Tickets starting at \$50. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (888) 974-3698, shenyun.com/michigan.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

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

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

THURSDAY FEB. 12 >> OLD TOWN CHOCOLATE WALK

Explore Old Town's businesses, shops and restaurants while on the hunt for sweet, sweet chocolate. When you sign up for the Chocolate Walk, you will receive a box to fill with chocolates, a map of participating businesses and a punch card. Visit each participating business to get your card punched and receive a tasty chocolate treat to put in your box. With any luck, you'll even walk off all of the extra calories during your quest for cocoa. 5-8 p.m. \$15 advance/\$20 at the door. Old Town Commercial Association, 1232 Turner Street, Lansing. iloveoldtown.org/events/chocolate-walk.

THURSDAY FEB. 12 >> 'SHARKNADO' VIEWING AND DISCUSSION

Listen to an informative discussion about sharks and extreme weather after watching the hilariously improbable "Sharknado." In cooperation with MSU Museum's Darwin Discovery Day, Dr. Michael Gottfried from the MSU Department of Geological Sciences and Dr. Lifeng Luo from the MSU Department of Geography will host the viewing and lead the discussion. Shark teeth and skeletal material will be available to examine up close. "Sharknado" is gory, so leave the kids home for this one. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Main Library North Conference Room (W449), 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. lib.msu.edu.

FRIDAY, FEB. 13 >> MSU PROFESSORS OF JAZZ

MSU's jazz faculty takes the stage as the musical version of the Justice League, the MSU Professors of Jazz. The "Professors" are a seven-piece ensemble comprising Etienne Charles on trumpet, Randy Gelispie on drums, Diego Rivera on tenor saxophone, Xavier Davis on piano, Randy Napoleon on guitar, Michael Dease on trombone and Rodney Whitaker on bass. The hard-bop group will perform classic tunes from the jazz canon, as well as original tunes composed by its members. 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Cook Recital Hall, MSU Campus, 458 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

SUNDAY FEB. 15 >> ARIELLE DI PORTO TALK

Arielle Di Porto of the Jewish Agency for Israel will speak on "Saving Jews in Ukraine, France and Elsewhere." Di Porto's expertise is in aliyah, the immigration of Jews in the diaspora back to Israel. Within the agency, her responsibility is promoting aliyah in Europe and the Middle East, and she was responsible for the recent secret immigration of 10 Yemenite Jews. 2 p.m. FREE. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. shaareyzedek.com.

org.

Thursday, February 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

Current Events. On the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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

EVENTS

Evening Storytime. Stories, songs and crafts. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3, dtdl.org.

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

English Country Dance Lessons. Rm C20. Live music. No experience needed. 7-9:30 p.m. \$6/\$4 students/MSU students FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 321-3070, msu.edu.

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

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

Blind Date With a Book. Pick a mystery book from the library and check it out. All Day. FREE. MSU Library, MSU Campus, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-8700, lib.msu.edu.

Library Film Series: Sharknado. Movie showing with discussion. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, MSU Campus, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-8700, lib.msu.edu.

Chocolate Walk 2015. Chocolate, shopping and more. 5-8 p.m. \$15. Old Town Commercial Association, 1232 Turner St. Lansing. (517) 485-4283. iloveoldtown.org.

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club.

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC

Sounds of Passion R & B Showcase. Velvet Johnson, Ben Frank and more, 8 p.m.-2 a.m. \$10/\$8 adv. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, avenuelansing.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Nonfiction Book Club. Discuss Andrew Ward's "The Slaves' War." 11 a.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

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

Friday, February 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Palette to Palate. Learn to paint. Fellowship and fun. Bring refreshments. 7-9 p.m. \$28/\$50 for 2. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

EVENTS

One-on-One Business Counseling. Free Business counseling. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtdl.org.

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Out on the town

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Un-Valentine's Day Party. Ages 13-18. Crafts, music and snacks. 5:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3, dtdl.org.

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

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

Bare Minimum Fundraiser. Featuring life drawing sketches on sale for \$10. 6-9 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

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

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

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

Michigan Deer & Turkey Expo. Exhibit booths and more. 2-9 p.m. \$14. Summit Sport, 2650 East Grand River Ave. East Lansing. (262) 518-7013, deerinfo.com/michigan.

MUSIC

Grand River Band Concert. A unique blend of harmonies and music genres. 6-8:30 p.m. FREE. Fay's Evelyn Bay Coffee, 134 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. (517) 505-2809, grandriverband.net.

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

MSU Professors of Jazz. Faculty recital series sponsored by WKAR. 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

St. Invasion Massacre. Live music, great times. 9 p.m. \$10/\$5 adv. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com.

Saturday, February 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tai Chi in the Park. Free class for beginning and experienced tai chi players. Now at winter location. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E.

Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

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

Fruit Tree Care Workshop. 12:30-2 p.m. \$10 donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910, allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse.

Chinese-Language Tours of "Future Returns." Student led. 11 a.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Collection Show & Tell. "American Girl in Italy" by photographer Ruth Orkin. 2 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

EVENTS

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

Annual Red Dress Run. Fun run/walk. ALL participants wear red dress/garb. Noon, \$10 donation. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

Minecraft Party. Crafts and activities. 1 p.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble (Lansing), 5132 W Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437, bn.com.

Glass Etching. Personalize glass with etching. Ages 12 and up. 1-3 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

Black History Celebration. Featuring the Black History 101 Mobile Museum. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Grandhaven Manor Retirement Community, 3215 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-4499.

Second Saturday Supper. Baked chicken dinner. Takeout available. 5-6:15 p.m., \$8/\$4 children. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139, mayflowerchurch.com.

Dinner Dance. 5:30-11:30 p.m. Dinner \$10, dance \$6. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-6330, liederkrantzclub.org.

Tease-A-Gogo Valentines Day. A V-day like no other. Burlesque, sideshow, & more, 9 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. teaseagogo.com.

Lansing Luvs Skiing Burchfield. Free all-ages XC ski fun w/ lessons & BYO picnic. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Burchfield Park, 881 Grovenburg Road, Holt. lansingskiparty.wordpress.com.

MUSIC

Kathleen & the Bridge St. Band. Live music. 9 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Jackson Symphony Orchestra. With Viktor Uzun/Sunny Wilkinson. 7:30 p.m. \$18-\$32. Jackson College Potter Center, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. (517) 782-3221 ext. 118, jacksonsymphony.org.

Sunday, February 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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.

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

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons

See Out on the Town, Page 20

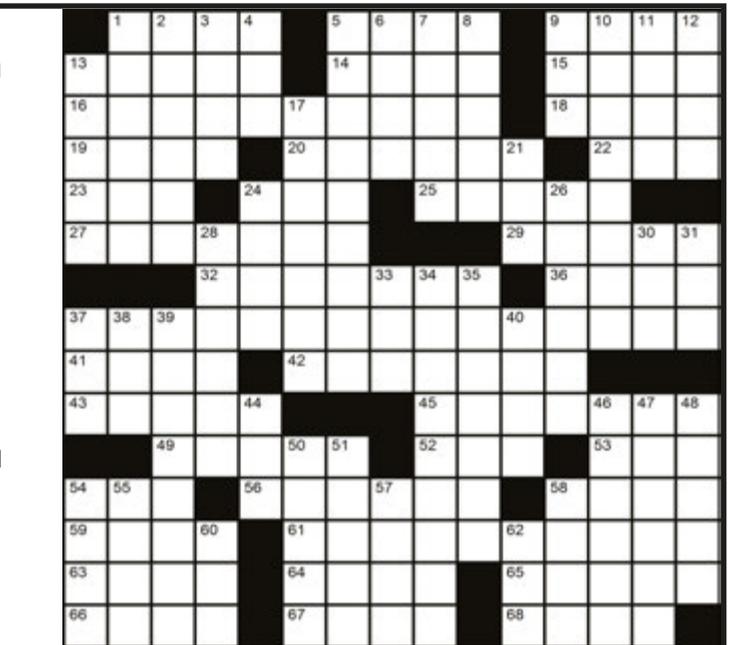
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"It's a Trap!"--this'll give you some warm fuzzies.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 It's a long story
- 5 With 6-Down, reality show "RuPaul's ____"
- 9 Inseparable pair, for short
- 13 More mentally there
- 14 Freedom from worry
- 15 Two-tone treat
- 16 Swindling of a UK football club?
- 18 Pinto or garbanzo
- 19 Jerome Bettis's team, during the move
- 20 Nissan SUV with an earthy name
- 22 Rowing machine unit
- 23 NPR's Shapiro
- 24 "I finally got it"
- 25 Quarterback known for kneeling
- 27 Ali of "Love Story"
- 29 Middle daughter on "Downton Abbey"
- 32 Raised sculptures
- 36 From ____ (at some distance)
- 37 Grade alongside the review "These Mick Jagger chewables are the worst"?
- 41 Used a Breathalyzer
- 42 Former Cabinet member Donna
- 43 One of the simple machines
- 45 "The pain reliever hospitals use most," its old ads said
- 49 Baseball great Ernie Banks's nickname
- 52 ____ polloi (commoners)
- 53 "I ____ real American..." (Hulk Hogan theme lyric)



- 54 Wise friend of Pooh
- 56 "Let's suppose that..."
- 58 Got 100% on
- 59 Jamaica's Ocho ____
- 61 Group including only elements number #13 and #2?
- 63 Criminal's alter egos, briefly
- 64 "Aloha Oe" instruments, for short
- 65 English horn relatives
- 66 Stuff in the trap
- 67 Stuff in the trap
- 68 Stuff in the trap

- 6 See 5-Across
- 7 Of ____ (so to speak)
- 8 Category
- 9 "Better Call Saul" star
- Odenkirk
- 10 Coffee shop connection
- 11 Phobia
- 12 Jukebox selection
- 13 "Hit the bricks!"
- 17 Lets out
- 21 1860s White House nickname
- 24 ____ lshii ("Kill Bill" character played by Lucy Liu)
- 26 Whoopi's Oscar-winning "Ghost" role
- 28 Marijuana producer
- 30 Leather color
- 31 "48 ____" (Eddie Murphy movie)
- 33 Gabor of "Green Acres"
- 34 Most in need of a bath
- 35 Keep from trespassing on
- 37 NFL ball carriers

- 38 " ____ Punk!" (movie about punk rock in Utah)
- 39 Debt repaid in regular payments over time
- 40 "That's ____ can stand!"
- 44 Sports entertainment gp. founded by Ted Turner (and defunct by 2001)
- 46 Los Estados Unidos, for example
- 47 Folded food
- 48 ____-slipper (orchid variety)
- 50 Company supplying vans and cardboard boxes
- 51 "Perfect Strangers" cousin
- 54 Like some vaccines and exams
- 55 Website anyone can edit
- 57 "That was ____, this is now"
- 58 Dextrous start
- 60 Concorde's letters
- 62 "You've Got Mail" ISP

SUDOKU

BEGINNER

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

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 21

Out on the town

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coffee roasters visit growers. 7 p.m. FREE. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 351-4081, uulansing.org.

Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing. Talk: Swedish genealogy. Potluck dinner follows. 2-5 p.m. \$2. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 402-6471.

PFLAG Greater Lansing Meeting. 3 p.m. FREE. First Congregational UCC Church, 210 W. Saginaw Highway,

career. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Support Group. For the divorced, separated and widowed. Room 9. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

Story Art Time. Preschoolers make art inspired by books. 10-11 a.m. \$5/adults FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

Anger Management for Teens. 7 week course. 6-7:30 p.m. \$55. Come as you are counseling and consulting. 3815 W. St. Joseph, Suite. B301, Lansing.

SATURDAY FEB. 14-22 >> 'SHIPWRECKED! AN ENTERTAINMENT'



This play follows the wild journeys of Louis de Rougemont, an actual historical figure who left home at the age of 16 to discover the world. His stories of adventure, published in Britain's Wide World Magazine, were exotic and spectacular — and mostly fictional. He claimed to have lived in the Australian Outback for 30 years with indigenous people, where he supposedly rode a turtle and witnessed flying wombats. The Wide World Magazine once said of de Rougemont, "Truth is stranger than fiction, but de Rougemont is stranger than both." Saturdays 8 p.m. and Sundays 7 p.m. \$15. AA Creative Corridor, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. ixiontheatre.com.

SUNDAY FEB. 17 >> A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN

Join cast members of the MSU Vagina Monologues for a night of poetry readings, monologues and other works celebrating women. Attendees will have a chance to win raffle prizes, including tickets to see this year's MSU Vagina Monologues, and Dublin Square has prepared a signature drink made just for the event. All proceeds benefit the Firecracker Foundation, a nonprofit organization working to honor the bravery of children who have survived sexual trauma. 7 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Dublin Square Irish Pub, 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. vmonsatmsu@gmail.com, poetry.rcah.msu.edu/calendar.html.

Grand Ledge. (517) 627-2336, greaterlansingpflag@gmail.com.

MUSIC

Woldumar Folk & Bluegrass Jam. 2-6 p.m. \$4/\$2 seniors/children FREE (suggested donation). Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 482-2382. re-news.net/mmb.

You Blew It! With guests Tiny Moving Parts, Rozwell Kid and more. 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$12. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, fusionshows.com.

Monday, February 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Karen Hanmer Book Arts. Discussion about experience in book arts. 7-9 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, MSU Campus, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

Learn to Meditate. Taught by Bob Teachout. Enter at rear of building. 8:15-9 p.m. Donations. C. Weaver Physical Therapy Exercise Studio, 1720 Abbey Road, East Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

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

Job Seekers Support Group. Finding the right

(517) 803-3215, cayalansing.com.

EVENTS

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

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

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

Peace & Justice Planning. Quarterly meeting: GLNAWI. 7 p.m. FREE, donations welcome. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 410-1243 or (517) 803-7813. ow.ly/ICCg.

MUSIC

Marshall Music Open Mic. Join us for open mic on our stage. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St. Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

Tuesday, February 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Apprentice Information Session. Learn about our 2015 Program. 6 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 999-3916,

HENRY'S ON THE SQUARE

Allan Ross/City Pulse
Tim Ellis is bringing Henry's on the Square, a hybrid restaurant/market, to downtown Lansing.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Before Carl Lewis, Jeff Bezos and President Barack Obama made it to the top of their respective fields, they all worked in fast food —

Olympic Gold medalist Lewis and Amazon founder Bezos worked at McDonald's; the POTUS' first job was scooping ice cream at Baskin-Robbins. "People like to make fun of fast workers, but it's an extremely challenging profession if you apply yourself," says Tim Ellis. Ellis is owner of WOW Hospitality, a consulting company specializing in launching new restaurants.

"If you can succeed in fast food, you can succeed in any career you can imagine," he says.

In downtown Lansing next week, Ellis will unveil his latest brainchild: **Henry's on the Square**, a blend of farm-to-table restaurant, nightclub and specialty goods market that will be opening in stages over the next month. It will take over the location of recently closed nightclub **the Firm**, which opened in 2006. (For 30 years before that, it was the home of the

Parthenon Restaurant.)

The origins of this new venture are firmly rooted in fast food. Ellis, 50, got his start working at the Lansing Burger King on Cedar Street in 1980. It was part of H&H Restaurants, owned and operated by the husband-and-wife team of Lois and LeRoy Henry.

"Mr. Henry became my mentor, teaching me his way of leading by example," Ellis said. "It was a very tight-knit group. Even after I left, I stayed in touch with my old coworkers and the Henry family. They still have Burger King reunions."

Ellis did more than just name the restaurant after the Henrys — one of their daughters, Jane Doty, is his business partner.

"I was going to do this myself," Ellis said. "I've always been close to Jane's family and would run decisions by them. So when I proposed this idea, (Jane) said, 'we'd love to do something like this with you, are you open?' And I was like, heck yeah!" Ellis and Doty will spend about \$75,000 to transform the building into a multi-use facility. Phase one opens next week: A retail space that will sell Michigan-made

produce, beer, wine and specialty food items. A few weeks later the restaurant should be up and running, and shortly after that the bar should be open for business.

Ellis graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in secondary education, but he never left the restaurant business. He started WOW Hospitality when he was living on the East Coast. He moved the company to Traverse City three years ago, and recently made the move to downtown Lansing. But he's never forgotten his roots — he often recruits servers and managers for his businesses from fast food workers he encounters.

"If I have an amazing (fast food) experience, I'll give them my card," Ellis said. "Some of my best employees come from that. There's a regional director at a hotel company I represent who got his start in the industry because he gave me exceptional service. And he still gives exceptional service."

So be nice to that teenager behind the counter — they may be bound for bigger things.

lansingurbanfarmproject.wordpress.com.

Hearing Screening. No appointment needed. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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

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

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

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S.

Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

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

Reflexology. Stress relief. Call for an appointment. 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$12/\$14 non-members. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Grey Wolves in Michigan. Discussion. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

Arm Knitting. Create an arm knitted scarf. Bring your own yarn. 6-8 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave. East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. To support you in your weight loss efforts. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian

Out on the town

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Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 290-5163.

EVENTS

DTDL Crafters. Work on your handcraft project. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Imaging Context by C. Foley. Mixed media exhibition. All Day. FREE. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square Suite 101, Lansing. (517) 374-6400, lansingartgallery.org.

Bible and Beer. Discussion of scripture in everyday settings. 6 p.m. FREE. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600, bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

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

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

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

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

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

A Celebration of Women. Poetry and monologues. 7 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Dublin Square Irish Pub, 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932, ow.ly/ICIIIB.

MUSIC

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

Wednesday, February 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

MiCafe. Information on financial assistance for seniors. 9:30 a.m.-noon, FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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

H.E.R.O.: Easy Drywall Repair. Call 372-5980 to register or email bruce@glhc.org. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St. Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

Walk-In Wednesdays. Drop-In Art Class. All ages welcome. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE (\$5 suggested donation). Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

EVENTS

DTDL Book Club. Discuss Jojo Moyes' "Me Before You", 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.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.

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

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

Bill Nelson from CADL at ANC. One Room School House. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

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

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

Death and Dying Discussion. Media images of death vs. ever-young emphasis. 6 p.m. Pilgrim Congregational UCC, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, pilgrimmucc.com.

MUSIC

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Feb. 11-17

ARIES (March 21-April 19): I hope you have someone in your life to whom you can send the following love note, and if you don't, I trust you will locate that someone no later than August 1: "I love you more than anyone loves you, or has loved you, or will love you, and also, I love you in a way that no one loves you, or has loved you, or will love you, and also, I love you in a way that I love no one else, and never have loved anyone else, and never will love anyone else." (This passage is borrowed from author Jonathan Safran Foer's book *Everything Is Illuminated*.)

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "We assume that others show their love in the same way that we do," writes psychologist Amy Przeworski, "and if they don't follow that equation, we worry that the love is not there." I think you're on track to overcome this fundamental problem, Taurus. Your struggles with intimacy have made you wise enough to surrender your expectations about how others should show you their love. You're almost ready to let them give you their affection and demonstrate their care for you in ways that come natural to them. In fact, maybe you're ready RIGHT NOW.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I'd like to bestow a blessing on you and your closest ally. My hope is that it will help you reduce the restlessness that on occasion undermines the dynamism of your relationship. Here's the benediction, inspired by a Robert Bly poem: As you sit or walk or lie next to each other, you share a mood of glad acceptance. You aren't itchy or fidgeting, wondering if there's something better to be or do. You don't wish you were talking about a different subject or feeling a different emotion or living in a different world. You are content to be exactly who you are, exactly where you are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Want to infuse your romantic interludes with wilder moods now and then? Want to cultivate a kind of intimacy that taps deeper into your animal intelligence? If so, try acting out each other's dreams or drawing magic symbols on each other's bodies. Whisper funny secrets into each other's ears or wrestle like good-natured drunks on the living room floor. Howl like coyotes. Caw like crows. Purr like cheetahs. Sing boisterous songs and recite feral poetry to each other. Murrur this riff, adapted from Pablo Neruda: "Our love was born in the wind, in the night, in the earth. That's why the clay and the flower, the mud and the roots know our names."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Is there any sense in which your closest alliance is a gift to the world? Does your relationship inspire anyone?

Do the two of you serve as activators and energizers, igniting fires in the imaginations of those whose lives you touch? If not, find out why. And if you are tapping into those potentials, it's time to raise your impact to the next level. Together the two of you now have extra power to synergize your collaboration in such a way that it sends out ripples of benevolence everywhere you go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The poet Rainer Marie Rilke said that people misunderstand the role of love. "They have made it into play and pleasure because they think that play and pleasure are more blissful than work," he wrote. "But there is nothing happier than work. And love, precisely because it is the supreme happiness, can be nothing other than work." I'm sharing this perspective with you for two reasons, Virgo. First, of all the signs in the zodiac, you're most likely to thrive on his approach. Second, you're in a phase of your astrological cycle when this capacity of yours is at a peak. Here's how Rilke finished his thought: "Lovers should act as if they had a great work to accomplish."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): About 2,600 years ago, the Greek poet Sappho wrote the following declaration: "You make me hot." In the next ten days, I'd love for you to feel motivated to say or think that on a regular basis. In fact, I predict that you will. The astrological omens

suggest you're in a phase when you are both more likely to be made hot and more likely to encounter phenomena that make you hot. Here are some other fragments from Sappho that might come in handy when you need to express your torrid feelings: 1. "This randy madness I joyfully proclaim." 2. "Eros makes me shiver again . . . Snake-sly, invincible." 3. "Desire has shaken my mind as wind in the mountain forests roars through trees." (Translations by Guy Davenport.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the TV science-fiction show *Doctor Who*, the title character lives in a time machine that is also a spaceship. It's called a Tardis. From the outside, it appears to be barely bigger than a phone booth. But once you venture inside, you find it's a spacious chateau with numerous rooms, including a greenhouse, library, observatory, swimming pool, and karaoke bar. This is an excellent metaphor for you, Scorpio. Anyone who wants your love or friendship must realize how much you resemble a Tardis. If they don't understand that you're far bigger on the inside than you seem on the outside, it's unlikely the two of you can have a productive relationship. This Valentine season, as a public service, make sure that everyone you're seriously involved with knows this fact.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Love and intimacy come in many forms. There are at least a billion different ways for you to be attracted to another person, and a trillion different ways to structure your relationship. Maybe your unique bond involves having sex, or maybe it doesn't. Maybe it's romantic or friendly or holy, or all three of those things. Do the two of you have something important to create together, or is your connection more about fueling each other's talents? Your task is to respect and revere the idiosyncratic ways you fit together, not force yourselves to conform to a prototype. To celebrate the Valentine season, I invite you and your closest ally to play around with these fun ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Anais Nin wrote the following passage in her novel *A Spy in the House of Love*: "As other girls prayed for handsomeness in a lover, or for wealth, or for power, or for poetry, she had prayed fervently: let him be kind." I recommend that approach for you right now, Capricorn. A quest for tender, compassionate attention doesn't always have to be at the top of your list of needs, but I think it should be for now. You will derive a surprisingly potent alchemical boost from basking in kindness. It will catalyze a breakthrough that can't be unleashed in any other way. Ask for it!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): How many desires do you have? Take a rough inventory. Identify the experiences you continually seek in your quest to feel relief and pleasure and salvation and love and a sense of meaning. You can also include fantasies that go unfulfilled and dreams that may or may not come true in the future. As you survey this lively array, don't censor yourself or feel any guilt. Simply give yourself to a sumptuous meditation on all the longings that fuel your journey. This is your prescription for the coming week. In ways you may not yet be able to imagine, it is the medicine you need most.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The German word *Nachkussen* refers to the kind of kiss that compensates for all the kissing that has not been happening, all the kissing that has been omitted or lost. If it has been too long since you've kissed anyone, you need *Nachkussen*. If your lover hasn't kissed you lately with the focused verve you long for, you need *Nachkussen*. If you yourself have been neglecting to employ your full artistry and passion as you bestow your kisses, you need *Nachkussen*. From what I can tell, Pisces, this Valentine season is a full-on "Nachkussen" holiday for you. Now please go get what you haven't been getting.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

S	A	G	A	D	R	A	G	B	F	F	S			
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BINNI'S PUB & GRILL

— Pool tables, darts and live entertainment. 820 W. Miller Road, Lansing. 11 a.m.-midnight Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Sunday. (517) 763-2275, FB, TO, WiFi, \$

THE BLACK ROSE

— Irish fare. 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 3 p.m.-midnight Sunday-Wednesday; 3 p.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday (517) 371-8700, facebook.com/theblackroselansing. FB, OM, P, TO, WiFi, \$\$-\$\$\$

BLUE GILL GRILL —

Seafood and traditional bar food. 1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-2 a.m. Sunday. (517) 339-4900, bluegillgrill.com. FB, TO, OM, RES (eight or more), WiFi, \$\$

BUDDIE'S GRILL —

Family, fun, and entertainment. Three locations: 2040 N. Aurelius Rd, Holt. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Saturday; 8

a.m.-midnight Sunday. (517) 699-3670. FB, TO, OM, RES, P, WiFi. Also: 3048 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. 11 a.m.-2

a.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-2 a.m. Sunday. (517) 333-9212. FB, TO, OM, RES, P, WiFi. Also: 1937 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-midnight Sunday. (517) 347-0443, bud-diespubandgrill.com. FB, TO, OM, RES, WiFi, \$-\$\$

CANCUN MEXICAN GRILL —

Authentic Mexican cuisine prepared daily. Three locations: 1754 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:45 Friday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 347-8114; 8741 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 622-0343; 300 S. Bridge St. # 100, Grand Ledge. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:45 p.m. Friday;

11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 627-6157, cancungl.com. FB, TO, OM, RES, WiFi, \$-\$\$

CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILLE —

Italian restaurant with seasonal specials. 6540 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday. (517) 323-8055, carrabbas.com. FB, OM, TO, P, \$\$\$

CENTER STAGE RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE —

Burgers, pizza and steaks. 1785 W. State Road, Lansing. Noon-8 p.m. Sunday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-midnight Thursday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday. (517) 482-2280, centerstagelansing.com. FB, TO, OM, RES, \$

CLARA'S LANSING STATION —

American comfort food; Sunday brunch. 637 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday for brunch. (517) 372-7120. claras.com, OM, TO, FB, WiFi, P, RES, \$-\$\$\$

CLADDAGH IRISH PUB —

2900 Towne Center Blvd., Lansing Twp. 11 a.m.-midnight Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Sunday. (517) 484-2523. claddaghirishpubs.com, FB, RES, WB, OM, P, TO, \$-\$\$\$

COACH'S PUB AND GRILL —

Pool tables, volleyball courts and weekly trivia contests. 6201 Bishop Road, Lansing. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. daily. (517) 882-2013, coachspubandgrill.com, FB, TO, OM, WiFi, P \$\$\$

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Meet Mr. Green

My unexpected journey from average Joe to medical marijuana advocate

Beginning today, *City Pulse* will publish a new medical marijuana review column, "The Green Report," by Steve Green, every other week. This week the author also introduces himself.

I'm a happily married, 36-year-old father of four amazing, healthy children. I'm also a medical marijuana user and activist who was unwittingly thrown into the public's eye.

My primary qualifying condition is epilepsy, but medical marijuana also helps with secondary ailments. I was working as a mechanic when, in 2006, I was struck with my first seizure. Over the next few years I experienced over 300 extreme grand mal seizures. I explored all traditional medications and methods — at one point I was taking over 28 pills a day — but a normal lifestyle was still out of reach as I continued to have seizures. My doctors presented me with three options, none of which were guaranteed to work: brain surgery to remove scar tissue, brain surgery to implant a vagus nerve stimulator or medical marijuana. It seemed obvious to me that medical marijuana was the safest option; I knew from a young age that marijuana couldn't kill me.

Starting this process was a very daunting task for me. Do I select a caregiver? Do I grow for myself? What about a marijuana shop?

Gardening is a dangerous hobby for someone who has seizures, so I elected to have a caregiver: my wife. We studied everything we could find on the topic, and I kept a journal with all the variables and effects. Joints led to edibles then to oils. Through trial and error, and with help from testing labs, we found what works best for me: a capsule of CBD (cannabidiol) oil in the morning and a capsule of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) oil at night. I went 18 full months without having a single seizure, while eliminating every prescription from my medicine cabinet. I felt blessed. Then the story took a turn.

In 2013, I was swept up in a hurricane of legal problems. First, my wife and I were arrested for manufacturing marijuana. Even though it was legal for her to grow for me, the prosecutor refused to acknowledge our registry cards and the case moved forward. In a second wave of legal assault, that criminal case was used as an opportunity for personal revenge. My wife's ex-husband called Child Protective Services with allegations against us relating to marijuana use. In a knee-jerk reaction based on the fear of "Reefer Madness," our 6-month-old Bree was removed from

our care in an emergency hearing before the allegations were even properly investigated. Following a large press conference and the overwhelming support of the "Free Bree" campaign, our daughter was returned after her six-week capture. The criminal charges were ultimately dismissed.

One thing that has come of my relentless research into cannabis treatment is that I have become an authority on marijuana, edibles, patients, caregivers and dispensaries. I co-founded one of Michigan's leading edible-producing companies. I've spent hours in courtrooms advocating for the Michigan Medical Marijuana Program, testifying about my knowledge and experiences. I've been lucky enough to sample some of the best marijuana in the world in every delivery form.

Now, I'm honored to bring this experience and knowledge to you in this column. If you've ever wondered what it's like in those pot shops, my thorough descriptions will help everyone from first-time visitors to seasoned shoppers know what to expect. My experiences can help you avoid the uncomfortable situations I had at the beginning. From accessories, to marijuana varieties, to technology, you will have a better idea of what will help from the start. The stories may be comical at times, but they will always be honest. My focus is to provide accountability so that shops can improve and meet the needs of the patients.



STEVE GREEN

THE GREEN REPORT

Limited options

Pure Options Dispensary delivers quality, but selection is limited

Having visited nearly every dispensary in Lansing since late 2011, I was thrilled to hear of the long-awaited reopening of Pure Options Dispensary. After a two-and-a-half year hiatus, they are back in business in the same location, tucked back into a small plaza on the corner of Miller Road

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and Pennsylvania Avenue. The store blends right in, two doors down from Sparrow Laboratories, without any huge pot leaves on the building or the sign. The plaza had plentiful parking that was well lit and handicap accessible.

As soon as I entered the front door I noticed a subtle distinction that set Pure Options apart from many other stores. The front door opens into a sizable lobby with a secondary door and a transaction window. It was immaculately clean, with a rare upscale feeling. In the waiting room, I quickly noticed a surprising smell: not of marijuana, but vanilla air freshener. At the window, I pressed the buzzer and a young man came over to check my medical marijuana card and state ID. He buzzed me through the door, which had a metal detector on the other side. I shuffled into the large, posh backroom where I waited my turn in a leather recliner, browsing through a marijuana-themed magazine.

The budtender called me up to a large counter with barstools. I saw pre-rolled joints from \$5 to \$8. The display samples of nearly 30 different varieties of marijuana were color coded by price, ranging from \$10 to \$20 per gram, with the majority being \$12 to \$15. Each one looked well-handled and of superior quality. The assortment of strains available ranged from high CBD (cannabidiol) strains like Cannatonic #4, which I use to curb my seizures, to high THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) strains with names like Green Crack and Gorilla Glue. After popping the tops of a few sample bottles and smelling the contents, my interest was piqued.

Some of the display jars were labeled with the potency of THC and CBD in the strain. Cannatonic #4 was labeled as being 17 percent CBD, which seemed curiously high despite its impressive scent. When I asked

to see the lab report to confirm the claim on the jar, I was disappointed to learn that the strain had not yet been sent to a lab.

A second disappointment came when I was informed that I wouldn't find any topicals, oils or edibles at Pure Options, despite the fact that the mission statement on their website states that they "(provide) the most effective cannabis products for patients in need." But not all patients, it would seem, since a large number of them, myself included, rely on the benefits of oils as a way to prevent disruptive seizures.

I decided to get two pre-rolled joints, one of the Monster Cookies strain and the other of the Bubblegum strain. My selection was paid for and delivered through a box built into the wall, another example of this store's truly unique structure. Both joints were prepared in a cone-shaped, premium quality paper with a cardboard tip on one end. The Monster Cookies joint burned evenly with a delightful flavor that reminded me of my favorite mango berry drink. The effect left me completely relaxed, exactly what I was looking for after experiencing some anxiety fits earlier in the day.

On the other hand, the Bubblegum strain burned unevenly (or "canoed," in marijuana terminology) and left a dark grayish-black ash. The taste left something to be desired as well. It could have used a better flush at the end of its flowering cycle. On the upside, I did experience an uplifting high that had me laughing and in overall good spirits.

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