

CityPULSE

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A newspaper for the rest of us

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March 25-31, 2015



IN SEARCH OF THE

TOP OF

THE TOWN

COMMON THEME FOR COMMON GROUND: FINANCIAL INFO MAKES NO SENSE. HIRTEN • PAGE 5

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'SOARS TO INCREDIBLE HEIGHTS'
MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
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By Tracy Letts

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CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS



HOSTED BY **BERL SCHWARTZ**

THIS WEEK:
TRANSGENDER DISCRIMINATION

my 18 **MY18TV!**
LANSING JACKSON
10 A.M. EVERY SATURDAY

COMCAST
CHANNEL 16
LANSING



AMY HUNTER
LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANT ON TRANSGENDER ISSUES/
ACLU MICHIGAN & EQUALITY MICHIGAN

DIANE
TRANSGENDER WOMAN

URBAN AGRICULTURE Can you dig it?

You can with the Ingham County Land Bank

GARDEN PROGRAM!

The program has vacant parcels throughout Ingham County that will offer you the opportunity to grow food for your family.

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Feedback

Old oil pipes risk our water

It was a crazy idea 62+ years ago for Michigan to let an oil company put pipelines through the water of the Straits of Mackinaw, across Michigan and across the St. Clair River at Port Huron. Those old pipes are moving 500,000 barrels daily of heated, heavy tar sands crude oil from Western Canada to China and Europe.

The Enbridge Company operating those old pipes has offered no believable engineering evidence that those pipes are safe. Of course, the company says the pipes are safe. What else would you expect? You remember the Enbridge pipes with the huge oil spill in the Kalamazoo River four years ago. Oil companies should be required to pay the complete cost for cleaning up the damage from breaks in their pipes.

The public interest demands constant checking on those old pipes, and the equipment for immediate shut off. None of this is going on now, and it is time this kind of surveillance is installed in the public health interest.

Governor Snyder needs to use his authority to push plans to get those pipes out of the water before disaster ruins life in those waters. It is impossible anyway to clean up all that tar. Marine life including fish is being risked to help Enbridge sell oil to the world.

Concerned people ought to ask Governor Snyder at P.O. Box 30013, Lansing 48909 to do something soon about this disaster waiting to happen.

— **George C. Williston Hastings**

Right 'facts' on the N word

Niger is a family SUR NAME & proper names should not be used improperly or in a derogatory manor ...c heck the family-trees & most if not all such names are very improperly, ignorantly used or stupidly used...

Over 1/2 million people were named nigar (any way you spell it).

We are suppose to educate people in the use (not miss-use) of English.

— **Kenneth E Fry Potterville**

STATE OF MICHIGAN, PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF INGHAM, PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF HEARING. FILE 15-214-GA. In the matter of Johnnie Ballard, DOB 6/19/1951. To Johnnie Ballard Jr., Christopher Ballard and Sharron Ballard, whose interest in this matter may be affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE: On 4/16/2015 (Thursday) at 10:00 AM in Probate Court, Lansing MI before Hon Richard Garcia, Judge of Probate court, a hearing will be held on the guardianship petition concerning Johnnie Ballard. If you need an accommodation to participate in this hearing, please contact Probate Court at 571-483-6300 ext. 8. For further information, please contact petitioner Steve Marchlewicz, Adult Protective Services-DHS at 517-575-5926. CP-13670-3/25/15

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.)

Correction

Because of editing errors, a story in the March 18 issue of City Pulse incorrectly stated information about Terry Terry's role in the ownership of 1210 Turner St. It should have said it is owned by the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art, of which Terry is president. It also should have said the property was registered in a timely fashion. City Pulse regrets the errors.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, April 21, 2015**, at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Gateway of East Lansing, LLC, for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the property at 300 West Grand River Avenue to construct a four-story, mixed-use building with approximately 6,434 square feet of non-residential space including a bank with a drive-through. Also included in the proposal are 39 two-bedroom apartments and structured parking to accommodate the entire proposal. The property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business District.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1344, a request from Phipps Robert J. (Trust), to rezone the property at 3200 West Road from RA, Residential Agriculture to B-4, Restricted Office Business District. The property is 1.55 acres in size.

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

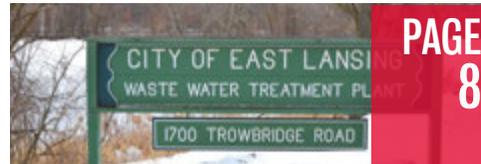
Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#15_067

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PAGE 8

State fines East Lansing \$22,500 more for water treatment plant



PAGE 14

"Xerxes" a rare treat for opera buffs



PAGE 15

Local artist mixes Baroque style and contemporary influences



COVER ART

"CITY PULSE'S HOLISTIC DETECTIVE AGENCY" by ANGUS McNAIR

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CITY PULSE THIS WEEK

7 p.m. Wednesdays



- Lansing City Councilwoman Jody Washington
- Singer Ben Caplan
- State Democratic Party Chairman Lon Johnson
- Arts Council's Debbie Mikula



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEXT TWO YEARS
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TELL ME MORE!

ENDLESS DISCUSSION OF HILLARY CLINTON'S EMAIL ACCOUNT AND/OR OTHER MICROSCANDALS
A NIGERIAN PRINCE OFFERED HER A FORTUNE--BUT THERE'S NO RECORD OF HER REPLY!
WE MUST GET TO THE BOTTOM OF NIGERIAN-PRINCEGATE!
OR SHOULD WE SAY--NIGERIAN-PRINCEHAZI?

MORE MISOGYNY THAN THE HUMAN MIND CAN COMPREHEND
A FEMALE DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE PRESIDENT!
BY WHICH WE MEAN, A PENIS!

THE NOMINEES AND THE LONG SLOG TO THE FINISH LINE*
WILL IT BE JEB OR HILLARY?
HILLARY OR JEB?
JEB OR HILLARY?
HILLARY OR JEB?
ETC.
ETC.
ETC.

A HEALTHY PERSPECTIVE MAINTAINED BY ALL
YOU WROTE A CARTOON ABOUT HILLARY? DO YOU WANT THE REPUBLICANS TO WIN AND IMPOSE A THEOCRATIC DICTATORSHIP?
THAT'S CLEARLY THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION.

*DUE TO THE RELATIVE NATURE OF TIME, THIS PART LASTS ABOUT 53,000 YEARS

ALSO: CARTOONISTS CONTEMPLATE SHORT-TERM CRYOGENIC SUSPENSION

Flawed festival financials

Common-Ground-related revenues and expenses differ in LEPFA reports

Lansing's Common Ground Festival is a self-promotion machine. We already know that Jane's Addiction (soon to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame), Here Come The Mummies and Grammy-nominated Alien Ant Farm will headline this summer's showcase. Festival organizers promote what they compute as the annual economic impact to the city — nearly \$4 million.

But what the Lansing Public Facilities & Entertainment Authority doesn't and won't release are detailed financial documents that lay out exactly what it all costs. And the information that the city grudgingly releases reflects either sloppy accounting or worse: two sets of books.

A financial statement summarizing Common Ground-related revenues and expenses, provided to City Pulse by LEPFA following a series of negotiations and rejected Freedom of Information Act requests, differs significantly from what the authority reports to the Internal Revenue Service. And it understates how much money Common Ground loses each year.

From 2011 through 2013, Center Park Productions, the nonprofit formed by LEPFA to manage the festival, reported losses of \$124,000, according to a financial summary given City Pulse. But this contrasts with \$196,280 in losses it reported in its filings with the IRS. An independent review of the differences is not possible.

LEPFA established Center Park Productions, a 501(c)3 subsidiary, to transfer money to the Meridian Entertainment Group, which really runs the festival. Meridian books the acts, manages the grounds, hires the staff and handles most of the details that make Common Ground such a success. But it's a private company in a sensitive business, particularly when it comes to negotiations with artists. Understandably, it expects and requires some measure of confidentiality, as do most businesses.

However, Common Ground has for years received about \$130,000 a year in subsidies from Lansing. And LEPFA is



MICKEY HIRTEN



Staff photo

a public body. What happens with tax money and government agencies by state law should be subject to full disclosure. But as a 501(c)3 corporation, Center Park Productions is not subject to the disclosures that Michigan's Freedom of Information Act requires of most public bodies. Details about the festival are for the most part hidden.

More troubling is the fact that LEPFA and Center Park Productions are really the same organization. LEPFA President and CEO Scott Keith is president of Center Park Productions and all members of its board of directors are all LEPFA employees. The difference between the two organizations is legalistic and artificial.

Keith is aware of the hundreds of thousands of dollars in discrepancy between the financial numbers Center Park Productions provided to City Pulse and what it reported to the IRS. But he could not explain them when first asked about the differences last year and did not respond to telephone queries this week and last week about the differences.

Financial information provided to the IRS on Center Park Productions' 2013 Form 990 lists its total annual revenue at \$1.62 million. The figure released to City Pulse put revenue at \$1.86 million — a \$240,000 difference, which is hardly a rounding error. For 2012, the nonprofit reported revenue of \$1.49 million to the IRS compared with \$1.76 million to City Pulse, a \$270,000 difference; in 2011 the IRS number was \$1.27 million versus \$1.58 million, a \$310,000 difference.

The reported expenses also differ. For 2013, Center Park Productions listed total expenses of \$1.68 million in its IRS filing. It told City Pulse they were \$1.93 million. For 2012, its IRS report showed expenses of \$1.54 million versus \$1.83 million to City Pulse. In 2011, the difference was \$1.32 million to the IRS compared with \$1.64 million to City Pulse.

"Logic would dictate that these numbers would match," said Tim Barron, chairman of LEPFA. But he said he was not familiar with the financial document prepared by Keith. What to make of all of this? Hard to tell.

More likely than not the difference in the numbers reflect accounting errors for the numbers given to City Pulse. But certainly it raises serious questions about oversight of an organization that proclaims itself an "independent agency of the City of Lansing responsible for the management of Lansing Center, Cooley Law School Stadium and Lansing City Market, as well as the production and management of a variety of community events."

LEPFA may be independent, but Center Park Productions is invisible, virtually free from citizen oversight and with only minimal accountability to the city. Keith's role, shuffling between LEPFA and Center Park Productions,

See Hirten, Page 6



Property: 6109 S. Cedar St., Lansing
Owner: Abraham Cedar Miller LLC

Traveling north from Holt or I-96 along Cedar Street, motorists will be greeted by this neglected building at the corner of Miller Road. Although the canopy and pumps are gone, it still displays all the characteristics of a gas station. In those limited places where the paint is not flaked away, the building bears the corporate colors of its former tenant.

Yet, while the building is likely the stock product of an international corporation, it carries the details of cold climate regionalism, including a pitched roof and deep overhangs. The latter are undoubtedly appreciated by the occasional visitors, who — if the collection of discarded containers is any indication — have a preference for lite beer.

While it is difficult to know exactly why the station failed, it seems to be just far enough from the highway to be inconvenient for travelers who need a quick fill up. Presumably, the station was not easy to manage, which is particularly unfortunate for this site. The building's exclusive typology complicates any effort to convert it to an alternate use. Unless a new attempt is made to open the filling station or the building is demolished, this site may remain in its deteriorated state for some time.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

UPDATE: Developer Chuck Abraham said the property will be torn down to make room for a low-income dental clinic once the city approves the plans. "We prefer not to tear down existing buildings or renovate until we have a concrete tenant or planned development to move forward," he said.

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

Hirten

from page 5

isn't good for either organization. And the Center Park Productions "board of directors" is an even bigger problem.

Whereas, most nonprofits seek out directors who are independent of the organization, Center Park Productions' directors work at LEPPA. They work for Keith. How likely are they to challenge their boss or the organization's policies?

Common Ground is great for Lansing. LEPPA and Meridian Entertainment deserve credit for making it happen. But the secrecy surrounding Center Park Productions is a serious problem, especially when financial numbers don't add up.

Transportation and transition

Transgender questions lead to CATA policy change

Diane was returning from window shopping at the Meridian Mall on Feb. 27. As she settled into her seat on the CATA bus to downtown Lansing, she realized in horror the unthinkable had happened.

"I looked down and it looked like one of my breasts was gone," the 52-year-old said in a phone interview. "I was scared and I was panicked."

For Diane, her missing breast form felt

as if a piece of her was missing. She's transgender, and the simple prosthetic device is a key tool as she transitions from male to female. They assist her in achieving a physical look of a woman that comports with her sense of self.

Worried about her breast form, and how others might respond should they find it on the bus, she approached the CATA station customer service staff. When she explained her predicament, customer

court," Diane said.

City Pulse is only identifying Diane by her first name because she fears retribution from a cadre of radical anti-transgender activists, including lesbians, who target transgender women for public ridicule.

National, state and local transgender activists say Diane's experiences are not uncommon, but they are befuddled that her calls for her help did not trigger the City of Lansing's 2006 human rights ordi-



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

An incident at the CATA transportation center in downtown Lansing led the bus company to issue a directive on its policy regarding transgender people's use of restrooms.

service staff laughed at her, she said.

And things took a turn for the worse when she asked for a private area where she could check to make sure the breast form hadn't just slid into her clothing. CATA staff told her they would have to clear the men's bathroom, close it down and let her use it alone. She said she tried to explain that was discrimination, but to no avail. Ultimately, she left the station and called her spouse, who came and picked her up.

A week later, Diane was in the station again and needed to use the bathroom. After her last run-in with CATA support staffers, she thought it was important to ask what bathroom she was supposed to use. A supervisor, she said, told her to "do what you gotta do." She used the women's room without incident, but when she exited the same supervisor approached her and informed her in the future, staff would have to close off and shut down a bathroom for her.

Incensed, she called the CATA customer service line. She was told the same thing: CATA staff would have to close off the bathroom for her.

Further incensed, she called Mayor Virg Bernero's office. Staff there referred to her to the City Attorney's Office. A member of the City Attorney's Office called her back and referred her to the county prosecutor. The prosecutor's advice?

"She told me I could hire a lawyer and sue, or I could get arrested and fight it in

nance, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity in public accommodations, such as bathrooms.

"The transgender community depends on our municipal officials to protect human rights. In fact, they are the first line of protection when conflicts arise," says Madeleine Townsend, a transwoman from Lansing who serves on the Lansing Association for Human Rights board of directors. The group is a local LGBT equality organization. "When they don't, or don't realize that transgender people are included in the ordinance, they put us in a potentially dangerous position, to say nothing of becoming agents of misinformation."

Randy Hannan, spokesman for Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, said the City Attorney's Office should have handled it better.

"The incident at CATA is a quintessential legal matter since it concerns a potential violation of our Human Rights Ordinance, so the referral to the City Attorney's Office was proper," Hannan wrote in an email to City Pulse. "Interns are trained in basic office procedures, but they are not expected to have a working knowledge of city ordinances and the circumstances to which they should be applied.

"That said, the City Attorney's representative who was contacted certainly should

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE

**LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION IS MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015
FOR THE TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015 SPECIAL ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the **CITY OF EAST LANSING**,
Counties of INGHAM and CLINTON, State of Michigan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTIES OF INGHAM AND CLINTON, WILL HOLD A SPECIAL ELECTION ON MAY 5, 2015

To vote on the following proposals:

STATE - PROPOSAL 15-1

A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

CITY - PROPOSAL 1 EXPLANATION CAPTION:

The proposed charter amendment below, which was initiated by petition, would limit the City of East Lansing from having or enforcing certain local ordinances regulating marijuana. The charter amendment, if approved, would not change current federal and/or state prohibitions regarding the possession, use, transfer, or transportation of marijuana in East Lansing or on the campus of Michigan State University that may be enforced by the East Lansing Police Department or any other law enforcement agency.

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall Chapter 6 of the Charter of the City of East Lansing be amended to add a new Section 6.12, entitled "Marijuana", to state that: "Nothing in the code of Ordinances shall apply to the use, possession or transfer of less than 1 ounce of marijuana, on private property, or transportation of less than 1 ounce of marijuana, by a person who has attained the age of 21 years"?

CITY - PROPOSAL 2 BALLOT QUESTION

Shall Section 4.8 of the East Lansing Charter be amended to change the requirement for voter approval to sell certain real property from a three fifths (3/5) majority vote of the electors to simple majority vote of the electors and add an annual inflation adjustment, tied to the consumer price index, to the current four dollar (\$4.00) per capita dollar limitation to sell real property?

Monday, April 6, 2015 is the last day to register or change your address for the May 5, 2015 Special Election.

To register to vote, visit any Secretary of State Branch Office, your County or City Clerk during regular business hours.

Clerk's offices with qualified electors in East Lansing are at the following locations:

East Lansing City Clerk, 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, 48823	(517) 319-6914
Ingham County Clerk, 341 S. Jefferson, Mason, 48854	(517) 676-7201
Ingham County Clerk, 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, 48933	(517) 483-6101

The East Lansing City Clerk's Office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For complete ballot wording, contact the East Lansing City Clerk at (517) 319-6914 or log on to the Ingham County Clerk's website at www.ingham.org or Clinton County Clerk's website at www.clinton-county.org

Marie E. Wicks
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#15_063

See CATA, Page 7

CATA

from page 6

have identified the matter as a potential violation of the HRO and made the appropriate referral to the HRCS Department so the complaint could be investigated in accord with the provisions of the ordinance,” Hannan continued. “The City Attorney has been apprised of this situation and will be taking corrective action to ensure that her staff is familiar with the ordinance and will make appropriate referrals in the future.”

Lansing City Councilmember Carol Wood, who chairs the Council’s Ad Hoc

Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, which is reviewing the implementation of the ordinance, said even though the city has a law on the books to address various forms of discrimination, the city’s clear knowledge about the law is “weak.”

Last week during a meeting of the ad hoc committee, Joan Jackson Johnson, the director of the city’s Human Relations Department, which is tasked with investigating complaints under the ordinance, reported that since the law went into effect, only three complaints have been filed. Two of them were from the late activist John Pollard.

Wood also noted that the committee, which comprises three Council members and a range of community representatives,

was ill-informed. She says only 25 percent of the community representatives were aware of the ordinance.

“The answer is education,” Wood says. “All departments in the city of Lansing should have training on the human rights ordinance and filing a complaint.”

And she wants to extend that training to local agencies and other government leaders — like the prosecutor’s office, state representatives and CATA.

For its part, CATA took quick corrective action.

Laurie Robison, marketing director for CATA, said staff received the following directive Monday.

“Should an individual request to use one bathroom or the other, please know

that you should not question or engage in any conversation that relates to the individual’s gender,” the new directive reads. “Additionally, individuals should be allowed to use the restroom that conforms with their gender identity. At no point should a CATA supervisor or DK security officer restrict access to, clear others from or stand outside any restroom.” DK Security is a private company.

“That’s exactly what I expected CATA to do,” Townsend said. “I’m impressed. I think they’re going in the right direction.”

— Todd Heywood



PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER NOTICE OF DAY OF REVIEW OF DRAINAGE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

Notice is Hereby Given that on Thursday, April 16, 2015, the Ingham County Drain Commissioner will hold a Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner, 707 Buhl, Mason, Michigan 48854. At that time and place, the Drain Commissioner will hear the proofs and allegations and carefully reconsider and review the description of lands comprising the Drainage Districts for the Drains listed below, and determine whether the addition or deletion of lands will more accurately define the boundaries of the land benefitted by the Drains and is just and equitable pursuant to Section 197 of 1956 PA 40, as amended. The Drains are located and established in the following municipalities, and a general description by section number of the lands proposed to be added or deleted in whole or in part include the following:

DRAIN NAME	DRAIN #	MUNICIPALITY	SECTION NUMBERS
ALLCHIN DRAIN	A 05-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP VILLAGE OF WEBBERVILLE	9, 10, 15, 16 10
ANDERSON DRAIN	A 07-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	22, 23, 26, 27
ASQUITH DRAIN	A 11-00	STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	2, 3, 10, 11, 15
BASHFORD DRAIN	B 62-00	INGHAM TOWNSHIP	20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 33
BATDORFF DRAIN	B 03-00	BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP	23, 25, 26, 35
BATES DRAIN	B 05-00	ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP INGHAM TOWNSHIP VEVAY TOWNSHIP WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	36 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 1 31, 32
BIRD DRAIN	B 12-00	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	3-5, 8-10, 14-16, 21-22
BRAY DRAIN	B 17-00	INGHAM TOWNSHIP WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	2, 3, 4 33, 34
BUNKER DRAIN	B 23-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	32, 33 4, 5
CARL DRAIN	C 04-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 29
CHULA VISTA DRAIN	C 62-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	5, 6
CLEMENTS DRAIN	C 15-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	22, 27, 28, 33, 34
COLE DRAIN	C 19-00	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	8-9, 16-17, 19-22, 27-29, 32-34
COOL DRAIN	C 54-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP VILLAGE OF WEBBERVILLE	10, 15 10, 15
COSGRAY DRAIN	C 28-00	STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE	14, 15, 22, 23 22, 23
COULSON DRAIN	C 30-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	4, 5, 8, 9
DANA AND STARKS DRAIN	D 01-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	4, 5, 8, 9
DEER CREEK DRAIN	D 06-00	ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP CITY OF WILLIAMSTON INGHAM TOWNSHIP VEVAY TOWNSHIP WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP VILLAGE OF DANSVILLE	25, 36 1, 2, 11, 12, 35, 36 2-11, 14-22, 27-30 1, 12, 13, 24 1-3, 10-16, 21-29, 31-36 15, 22
DENNIS DRAIN	D 09-00	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	14, 23, 24, 25, 26
DONAL DRAIN	D 16-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	22, 23, 26, 27
DOUGLASS DRAIN	D 17-00	BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	1, 2, 12 5, 6, 7, 8, 18
DUBOIS DRAIN AND MITCHELL BRANCH	D 20-00	BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP	7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
FEAR DRAIN	F 02-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	23, 24, 25, 26
FROST DRAIN	F 21-00	CITY OF WILLIAMSTON WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	11 2, 10-11, 14-16, 21-23, 27-28
FRY DRAIN	F 13-00	BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP INGHAM TOWNSHIP	1, 2, 3, 11, 12 26, 34, 35, 36
GILLAM DRAIN	G 04-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30
GOULD DRAIN	G 24-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	18, 19 13, 14, 24
GRANDY DRAIN	G 22-00	STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	7, 8, 17, 18

HAYHOE DRAIN	H 13-00	INGHAM TOWNSHIP	13-14, 22-27, 34-36
HAYNER DRAIN	H 15-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	10, 14, 15, 16, 22
HAYWOOD DRAIN	H 16-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16
HUDSON DRAIN	H 29-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	14, 15, 22, 23
HUMMEL DRAIN	H 52-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	15, 16, 20, 21, 22
JOHNSON #1 DRAIN	J 06-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 17
LANTIS DRAIN	L 28-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	3, 4, 9, 10
LAWRENCE DRAIN	L 05-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	26, 27, 33, 34, 35
LERROY NO. 2 DRAIN	L 07-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	13, 14, 23, 24
LINDSAY DRAIN	L 29-00	STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP VILLAGE OF STOCKBRIDGE	23, 24, 25, 26, 35 23, 26
LINN DRAIN	L 30-00	CITY OF WILLIAMSTON WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	2 2, 3, 10, 11
MARSHALL AND WILCOX DRAIN	M 05-00	INGHAM TOWNSHIP LERROY TOWNSHIP WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	1, 12 31, 32 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18
MCCLUSKEY NO. 2 DRAIN	M 54-00	BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP	25, 26, 35, 36
MCCREERY DRAIN	M 51-00	BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP	22, 26, 27, 34, 35
MEAD DRAIN	M 06-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	28, 29, 32, 33
MILLIS DRAIN	M 39-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP VILLAGE OF WEBBERVILLE	14, 15, 22, 23 14, 15
MORRISSEY DRAIN	M 15-00	BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP	25, 26, 35, 36
MULLEN DRAIN	M 19-00	INGHAM TOWNSHIP WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	1, 2, 3, 10-15 35
PATRICK DRAIN	P 02-00	BUNKER HILL TOWNSHIP INGHAM TOWNSHIP STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	1 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, 36 5, 6 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32
PATRICK COUNTY DRAIN	P 25-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	15-16, 21-23, 27-28, 33-34
PUTMAN DRAIN	P 21-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	16
REEVES DRAIN	R 05-00	ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	12, 13, 14, 24 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30
REINHART DRAIN	R 06-00	INGHAM TOWNSHIP WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	13, 24 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20
SEARLS DRAIN	S 06-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	11-14, 23-26
SHEPARD DRAIN	S 10-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	29, 30, 31, 32 25, 36
SMITH AND CONKLIN DRAIN	S 18-00	WHITE OAK TOWNSHIP	23, 24, 25, 26
SMITH AND OESTERLE DRAIN	S 20-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	20, 21, 28, 29
SWEENEY DRAIN	S 64-00	INGHAM TOWNSHIP WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	2, 3, 4, 10, 11 33, 34, 35
TURNER DRAIN	T 07-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21
USHER DRAIN	U 03-00	STOCKBRIDGE TOWNSHIP	4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 17
VANDERHOOF AND ROBINSON DRAIN	V 01-00	ALAIEDON TOWNSHIP INGHAM TOWNSHIP VEVAY TOWNSHIP WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	36 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20 1, 12, 13, 24 31, 32
WILCOX DRAIN	W 16-00	WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP	11, 12, 13, 14
WOLTER DRAIN	W 27-00	LERROY TOWNSHIP	23, 24, 25, 26, 35
WYGANT EXTENSION DRAIN	W 29-01	LERROY TOWNSHIP	16, 17, 20, 21, 28, 29

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at (517) 676-8395 or the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. **You are Further Notified** that persons aggrieved by the decision of the Drain Commissioner to add or delete property to or from a Drainage District may seek judicial review in the Ingham County Circuit Court within ten (10) days of the decision.

March 10, 2015

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

PUBLIC NOTICES**PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
IN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
FOR THE MAY 5, 2015 SPECIAL ELECTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the May 5, 2015 Special Election has been scheduled for Tuesday April 28, 2015 at 2:00pm at the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the computer program used to record and count the votes cast at the election meets the requirements of law.

Brett Dreyfus
Meridian Township Clerk

CP#15_064

**NOTICE OF ELECTION
TO BE HELD MAY 5, 2015 IN
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

Please take notice that the Charter Township of Meridian will hold an election on Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

TO VOTE ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

STATE: A proposal to amend the State Constitution to increase the sales/use tax from 6% to 7% to replace and supplement reduced revenue to the School Aid Fund and local units of government caused by the elimination of the sales/use tax on gasoline and diesel fuel for vehicles operating on public roads, and to give effect to laws that provide additional money for roads and other transportation purposes by increasing the gas tax and vehicle registration fees.

LOCAL: WILLIAMSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (Pct. 7 only)

NON-HOMESTEAD MILLAGE REAUTHORIZATION PROPOSAL

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the Office of the Meridian Township Clerk, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864, telephone 517-853-4300 or by viewing your ballot at www.michigan.gov/vote.

Write-in candidates must file a Declaration of Intent on or before 4 p.m. Friday, April 24, 2015.

THE POLLS OF ELECTION WILL OPEN AT 7:00A.M. AND CLOSE AT 8:00P.M.

THE VOTING PLACES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PCT 1 St. Luke Lutheran Church, 5589 Van Atta Rd., Haslett, MI 48840
 PCT 2 Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett, MI 48840
 PCT 3 Haslett High School, 5450 Marsh Rd., Haslett, MI 48840
 PCT 4 Murphy Elementary School, 1875 Lake Lansing Rd., Haslett, MI 48840
 PCT 5 Haslett Community Church, 1427 Haslett Rd., Haslett, MI 48840
 PCT 6 Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
 PCT 7 Kinawa Middle School, 1900 Kinawa Dr., Okemos, MI 48864
 PCT 8 Cornell School, 4371 Cornell Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
 PCT 9 Edgewood School, 1826 Osage Dr., Okemos, MI 48864
 PCT 10 Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, MI 48840
 PCT 11 Meridian Christian Church, 2600 Bennett Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
 PCT 12 Wardcliff School, 5150 Wardcliff Dr., East Lansing, MI 48823
 PCT 13 Central School, 4406 Okemos Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
 PCT 14 Hiawatha School, 1900 Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
 PCT 15 Meridian Senior Ctr., 4000 Okemos Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
 PCT 16 consolidated with Pct. 17
 PCT 17 Bennett Woods School, 2650 Bennett Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
 PCT 18 Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Ave., East Lansing, MI 48823
 PCT 19 United Church of Christ MI Conference, 5945 Park Lake Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823
 PCT 20 Lansing Korean United Methodist Church, 2400 E. Lake Lansing Rd., E.L., MI 48823

All polling place locations are accessible and voting instructions are available in alternative formats of audio and Braille. An accessible voting device is also available.
 The Meridian Township Clerk's office will be open on Saturday May 2, 2015 from 8:00am to 2:00pm to issue and accept absentee ballots for qualified electors. Monday May 4 at 4:00pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot and the ballot must be voted in person at the Meridian Township Clerk's office.

To see if you are registered or to find your polling location, check the Secretary of State Voter Information web site at www.michigan.gov/vote

Brett Dreyfus
Meridian Township Clerk

CP#15_065

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**

On March 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.

**February 24, 2015 Special Meeting
 March 3, 2015 Regular Meeting**

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#15_066

Mercury fines rising

East Lansing hit with \$22,500 more in water plant workplace fines

The East Lansing Waste Water Treatment Plant, the site of a 2014 mercury spill, has been hit again with violations and fines by state safety regulators. The bill this time? \$22,500.

The new fines raise the total in penalties to \$26,900 and the total cost stemming from the incident, including cleanup, to \$66,538.76.

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued 14 new citations on March 12 for violations of workplace safety laws, said Tanya Baker, a spokeswoman for the state Department for Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. The largest fines were levied for the city's failure to develop hazard response and hazard communications plans.

Both plans were required to settle citations issued against the city following a 2014 investigation into the mercury spill. That spill was not reported until four months after it occurred. As a result of MIOSHA's investigation, regulators levied \$11,000 in fines for safety law violations. They were reduced to \$4,400 by a consent agreement in August.

The total cost of the mercury spill clean up and MIOSHA violations remedies was \$44,038.76, according to public documents obtained by City Pulse in February.

In addition to its failure to develop hazard plans, East Lansing was cited anew with 10 violations related to confined spaces training. Confined spaces are areas where a worker can be trapped or hazardous atmosphere — such as falling asbestos, something the city was also cited for in 2014.

Among the failures identified in the MIOSHA citation were “no evaluation, employees not informed of the hazards of permit spaces, no written permit-space program, required equipment not provided, conditions not-evaluated prior to entry, entry permit deficiencies, rescue services not provided, entry employees were not trained as required, rescue services designated by employer and not evaluated or trained as required, and the employer did not consult with affected employees,” Baker said. Those citations have an initial fine of \$5,000, she said.

The facility was also cited again for failing to keep areas “as free as practicable” of asbestos-containing materials. That citation carries a \$5,000 fine as well. The city was cited last year for violating this safety regulation.

Neither East Lansing Mayor Nathan Triplett nor City Manager George Lahanas returned messages seeking comment on the MIOSHA fines and violations. The city is facing a lawsuit from eight current employees and one former employee of the Waste Water Treatment Plant over safety conditions — including exposure to asbestos. Asbestos is a mineral used for many years

as a fire-proofing agent has been linked to cancer in humans.

City officials did not complete their own internal investigation on the mercury spill and the subsequent failures. Instead, the city relied on MIOSHA's reports — something the agency said was improper.

TJ Bulcholz, who runs the PR firm Vanguard and who helped develop the state's first crisis response plans, criticized the city earlier this month for relying on the MIOSHA report.

“I think it is clear-cut that the city has to do more to make sure they have a hazard plan and communications plan in place, and that it's trained on, and that staff know when it's needed,” he said. “That's the challenge in crisis response: to know when a crisis is a crisis.”

The facility, off Trowbridge Road, is near the Red Cedar River, which concerns Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann.

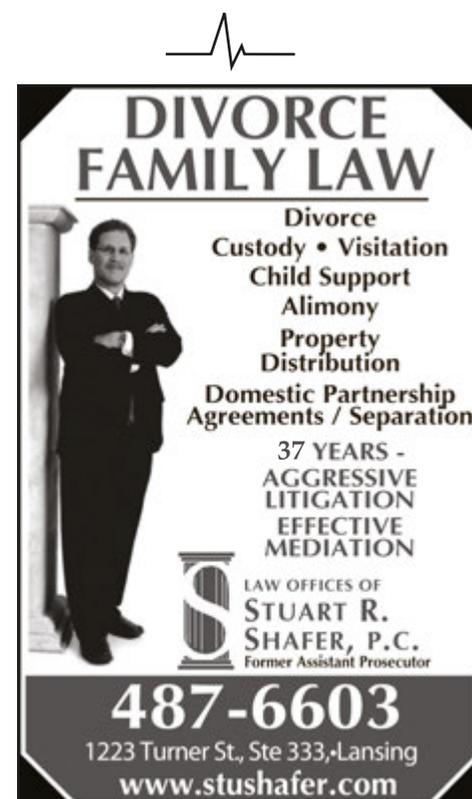
Lindemann said the failure to have the hazards response communications plans was a serious issue.

“Look, accidents happen. The way to mitigate their impact is to have a plan and protocols in place, and make sure that you have trained staff who know how to respond if an accident happens,” he said. “The easiest thing to do is to prevent it from happening in the first place.”

Without a plan and protocols in place, as the MIOSHA citation indicates, staffers are likely to be unprepared to respond to a situation and the river is at risk, he said.

“I've got to take water into other areas and projects,” Lindemann said. “It does me no good to work to eliminate non-point source pollution, only to have someone else releasing stuff into the river. Everyone has to do their part to prevent pollution input.”

— Todd Heywood



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A CATEGORY FOR EVERYONE

2015 TOP OF THE TOWN VOTING IS UNDERWAY

The great American poet Walt Whitman once wrote:

“Ever-returning spring,
trinity sure to me you bring,
Lilac blooming perennial
and drooping star in the west,
And thought of City Pulse’s
Top of the Town Awards.”

OK, maybe I added that last part. But the time has indeed arrived for that Lansing springtime ritual, the Top of the Town Awards. Greater Lansing businesses, public figures, landmarks and entertainers will face off for the chance to be voted Lansing’s best. This year’s ballot features a whopping 115 categories.

We know, we know, that’s a lot of categories. We tried to cut down the number of categories this year — we really did. But as we surveyed the Greater Lansing landscape, we saw so many folks who de-

served a chance to win.

So we added new food categories (welcome to our Greek and Thai friends) and added more services (everyone needs a good tailor). We tipped our cap to Michigan’s growing beverage scene with new categories for Lansing area distillery, brewery and beer shop.

We even tried to have a little fun. Where is the best place to walk your dog? Who in Lansing has the best vanity plate?

We’re also debuting Best Eye Candy and Worst Eyesore categories. No, we’re not talking about that cute guy or girl next door — but it could be their house. The category is based on City Pulse’s popular weekly feature about the best- and worst-looking buildings in Mid-Michigan.

As a concession for the growing number of categories, we are lowering the burden on voting. You can vote for as few as 15 and we’ll still accept your ballot.

Can you nominate/vote for yourself? Sure. But you only get one vote per email address, so you will need to rally your friends, customers, relatives and coworkers to attain Top of the Town glory.

See 2015 Categories, page 10 and 2014 Winners, page 11



Welcome to the 2015 City Pulse and News 6 Top of the Town Awards, where you get to vote for your favorite people and businesses in Greater Lansing.

This year we have **seven topics and 115 categories**. You must vote online in at least 15 of them to have your votes count. Voting will take place in two rounds. After the first round of voting ends on April 14, the final five contenders will battle it out for the top spot during a second voting round from April 22 to May 12. Then on May 20, we’ll announce first, second and third places.

In the first round, you can select one of the choices someone else has nominated or you can nominate your own by entering them on the ballot — but please check the list and make sure it’s not already listed. **IMPORTANT: If the business you are nominating has more than one location, be sure to indicate as specifically as possible which location, such as “Cedar Street” or “West Lansing.”**

Visit lansingcitypulse.com/tott2015 to vote!

CityPULSE



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2015 TOP OF THE TOWN CATEGORIES

BEST DINING

Asian Cuisine
 Bakery
 BBQ
 Breakfast
 Burger
 Cocktails
 Craft Beer
 Selection
 Dessert
 Diner
 Fries
 Gourmet
 Restaurant
 Greek
 Indian
 Italian
 Mediterranean
 Mexican
 New Restaurant
 Pizza
 Sandwich/Deli
 Seafood

Steak
 Sushi
 Thai

BEST HANGOUTS

Church
 Coffee Shop
 Dance Bar
 Gay/Lesbian Bar
 Happy Hour
 Karaoke
 Lansing-area
 Brewery
 Lansing-area
 Distillery
 Movie Theater
 Music Venue
 Open-Mic Night
 Patio
 Place to Take Kids
 Place to Walk Dog
 Pub/Tavern

Spartan Sports
 Hangout
 Sports Bar
 Vacation Spot in Michigan

BEST LOCAL MUSIC

Cover Band
 Original Band
 Club DJ
 Radio Station

BEST PEOPLE

Audiologist/
 Hearing
 Bartender
 CATA Bus Driver
 Local Advocate/
 Activist
 Local/State
 Politician
 Local Comedian

Local FM/AM Radio
 Personality
 Local TV News
 Personality
 Massage Therapist
 Restaurant Wait
 Staff
 Seamstress/Tailor
 Travel Agent
 Worst Local/State
 Politician

BEST SERVICES

Accountant/CPA
 Auto Repair
 Bank/Credit Union
 Bicycle Shop
 Car Wash/
 Detailing
 Chiropractor
 Electrical

See 2015, Page 11



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2015

from page 10

Gym/Fitness Studio
 Heating/Cooling Co.
 Hotel/Bed & Breakfast
 Laundromat/Dry Cleaners
 Lawyer
 Library for Programming
 Maid Service
 Movers
 Nail Salon
 Pet Care/Services
 Photographer
 Plumber
 Salon/Spa/Barbershop
 Tanning Salon
 Tattoo Parlor
 Vet Services
 Yoga Studio

BEST SHOPPING

Antique Shop
 Art Gallery
 Beer Shop
 Bookstore
 Butcher
 Candy Shop
 Consignment/Thrift Shop
 Convenience/Liquor Store
 Florist
 Gardening Center

Gift Shop
 Indoor Grow Shop
 Jewelry Store
 Local Clothing Store
 Local Grocery Store
 Michigan Made Wine
 Michigan Products
 Musical Instruments Store
 Organic/natural market
 Pawn/Second-hand Shop
 Pet Store
 Produce/Farmers Market
 Record Store
 Wedding Vendor
 Wine Shop

BEST WHATEVER

Annual Event/Festival
 First Date Place
 Local Outing with Friends
 Local Theatre Group
 Marijuana Dispensary
 Best Eye Candy
 Worst Eyesore
 Best Vanity Plate

2014 WINNERS

BEST DINING

ASIAN CUISINE

1. Ukai Japanese Hibachi and Sushi

2. P.F. Chang's China Bistro
 3. Sansu

BAKERY

1. Roma Bakery

2. Bake 'N Cakes
 3. Great Harvest Bread Co.

BBQ

1. Meat. Southern BBQ & Carnivore Cuisine

2. Famous Dave's
 3. Smokey Bones

BREAKFAST

1. Golden Harvest

2. Soup Spoon Café
 3. Fleetwood Diner

BURGER

1. Crunchy's

2. Five Guys Burgers and Fries
 3. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill

CHILI

1. Wendy's

2. Soup Spoon Café
 3. Meat. Southern BBQ & Carnivore Cuisine

COCKTAILS

1. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern

2. The Exchange
 3. Soup Spoon Café

CRAFT BEER SELECTION

1. Hopcat

2. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern
 3. Crunchy's

DESSERT

1. MSU Dairy Store

2. Grand Traverse Pie Co.
 3. Bake 'N Cakes

DINER

1. Fleetwood Diner

2. Golden Harvest
 3. Fork in the Road

FARM TO TABLE (LOCAL PRODUCTS)

1. Horrock's Farm Market

2. Fork in the Road
 3. Red Haven

FRIES

1. Hopcat

2. Five Guys Burgers & Fries
 3. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill

GOURMET RESTAURANT

1. Dusty's Cellar

2. Soup Spoon Café
 3. English Inn

INDIAN

1. Sindhu Indian Cuisine

2. Swagath Indian Cuisine
 3. Jerusalem Bakery

ITALIAN

1. Deluca's Restaurant

2. Bravo!
 3. Cugino's

LANSING-AREA BREWERY

1. Eagle Monk Brewery

2. Midtown Brewing Co.
 3. BAD Brewing Company

MEDITERRANEAN

1. Woody's Oasis

2. Aladdin's
 3. Sultan's Place

MEXICAN

1. El Azteco

2. Cancun Mexican Grill
 3. Los Tres Amigos

NEW RESTAURANT

1. Hopcat

See 2014, Page 12



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2015
TOP OF THE TOWN
CONTEST

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2014

from page 11

2. Capital Prime Steaks and Seafood

3. Famous Dave's
PIZZA

1. **Deluca's Restaurant**

2. Art's Bar and Grill

3. Jet's Pizza
RESTAURANT WAIT STAFF

1. **Soup Spoon Café**

2. Golden Harvest

3. Texas Roadhouse
SANDWICH/DELI

1. **Jersey Giant**

2. Soup Spoon Café

3. Jimmy John's
SEAFOOD

1. **Mitchell's Fish Market**

2. Red Lobster

3. Maru Sushi
STEAK

1. **Texas Roadhouse**

2. Capital Prime Steaks and Seafood

3. Knight Cap
SUSHI

1. **SanSu Sushi**

2. Ukai Japanese Steakhouse

3. Al Fusion Sushi & Grill
VEGETARIAN/VEGAN/ GLUTEN FREE

1. **Fork in the Road**

2. LEAF

3. Soup Spoon Café
BEST HANGOUTS

BEST SPARTAN SPORTS HANGOUT

1. **Crunchy's**

2. Spartan Hall of Fame Café

3. Buffalo Wild Wings – East Lansing
CHURCH

1. **Riverview Church – Holt**

2. St. John Student Parish

3. Trinity Church
COFFEE SHOP

1. **Biggby – Okemos**

2. Grand River Coffee Café

3. Biggby – Holt
DANCE BAR

1. **Green Door**

2. Spiral Dance Bar

3. Whiskey Barrel
GAY/LESBIAN BAR

1. **Spiral Dance Bar**

2. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern

3. Esquire Bar
KARAOKE

1. **Crunchy's**

2. Sir Pizza Grand Café

3. Buddie's Pub & Grill – Okemos
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1. **NCG Cinemas**

2. Celebration Cinema!

3. Studio C!
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1. **The Loft**

2. Green Door

3. Breslin Center
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1. **Connxtions Comedy Club**

2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill

3. Sir Pizza Grand Cafe
PATIO

1. **Peanut Barrel**

2. El Azteco – East Lansing

3. Waterfront Bar & Grill
PUB/TAVERN

1. **Zoobie's Old Town Tavern**

2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill

3. Claddagh Irish Pub
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1. **Reno's East**

2. Buffalo Wild Wings – East Lansing

3. Champps
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2. Soulstice

3. Kathy Ford Band
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2. Frog & the Beeftones

3. Steppin' in It
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2. Craig Doepker

3. Skitzo
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2. 97.5 NOW FM

3. 88.9 The Impact
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3. Sami Hutting – Watershed Bar & Grill
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2. Virg Bernero

3. Barbara Byrum
CAR SALESPERSON

1. **Dorene Fuller – Grand Ledge Ford**

2. Dennis Lemon – Shaheen Chevrolet

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3. Julie Powers
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1. **Evan Pinsonnault**

2. Melik Brown

3. Dwayne Gill
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2. Banana Don &

Stephanie – 100.7 WITL

3. Josh Strickland – 97.5 NOWFM
LOCAL TV NEWS PERSONALITY

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2. Evan Pinsonnault – WLNS

3. Andy Provenzano – WILX
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2014

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- 1. **Mason Antique District**
- 2. Mega Mall
- 3. Love, Betti

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- 2. Creole Gallery
- 3. Lansing Art Gallery

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- 1. **Schuler Books & Music - Eastwood**
- 2. Barnes & Noble - Lansing Mall
- 3. Curious Book Shop

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- 2. Horrocks Farm Market
- 3. Merindorf Meats - Williamston

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- 2. Grace Boutique
- 3. Younker's

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- 1. **Kellie's Consignments**
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- 2. Oades Big Ten Party Store - Clippert
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- 1. **Horrock's Farm Market**
- 2. Smith Floral
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- 1. **H2O Hydroponics - Okemos**
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- 2. H&H Jewelry Design
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- 3. MSU Campus

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- 2. Lugnuts Game
- 3. Zoobies Old Town Tavern

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- 2. MSU Theatre Department
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Lazy Sunday

Lansing galleries eyeing Friday nights to lure new patrons

By TY FORQUER

With some galleries noting flagging attendance and an aging crowd for First Sunday Gallery Walk, a movement has begun to create a new event to reinvigorate Lansing's gallery scene. The idea, spearheaded by the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, is to create a monthly, neighborhood-based Friday evening art event. This event, tentatively called Art Walk, would engage local galleries, but also seek to involve local businesses and restaurants.

Debbie Mikula, Arts Council of Greater Lansing executive director, stresses that this event is not meant to supplant Lansing's long standing First Sunday Gallery Walk.

"There are several galleries who do really

well on First Sunday," she said. "We don't want to mess with the galleries that are having success."

The First Sunday Gallery Walk has several challenges. First of all, it has no central organizing body. Gallery participation is voluntary, and there is no umbrella organization to provide marketing and publicity.

Another significant challenge is the geographically segmented Lansing art scene.

"We have three distinct downtowns: Old Town, REO Town and downtown Lansing," explained Mikula. "And a lot of art happening in East Lansing."

An event like the First Sunday Gallery Walk works best when, as the name implies, participants can walk from gallery to gallery. Geographically isolated galleries, like downtown Lansing's La Fille Gallery and REACH Studio Art Center's brand new youth art gallery in REO Town, are a tough sell for walkers trying to take in several galleries in one afternoon.

Even spaces in gallery-dense areas such

as Old Town have felt a loss of momentum in the First Sunday Gallery Walk.

"Every month, they seemed to be getting slower," said Katrina Daniels, program director at Old Town's MICA Gallery. "We were putting a lot of resources into First Sunday but only getting a handful of people."

When gallery owners and the Greater Lansing Arts Council began to look around for an example of a successful evening event, they didn't have to look far. Kalamazoo's Art Hop, held on the first Friday evening of each month, draws an estimated 100,000 people to downtown Kalamazoo annually. While no formal economic studies have been done, Beth McCann, deputy director of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, said the economic impact of Art Hop could be as high as \$2.43 million per year.

Mikula has met with leaders of the Art Council of Greater Kalamazoo to tap into their experience.

"They have 20 years' experience building their event," said Mikula. "The question we

ask is: How do we replicate their success, but in a way that fits Lansing?"

McCann, in meetings with Mikula, laid out five principles that have let to Art Hop's success: coordination, timing, mapping, marketing materials, and resources.

In the proposed new event, the Arts Council of Greater Lansing would provide the over-arching coordination for the event. This arrangement would allow for consistency of branding and publicity.

As for timing, a move to Friday nights is an attempt to reach a younger audience on an evening when they would already be planning on going out.

The Art Hop model also sidesteps some of the geographical difficulties of the existing gallery walk. Rather than being gallery-driven, Art Hop is neighborhood-driven. The arts council chooses a neighborhood, and then works to place art in retail spaces and restaurants. Detailed maps direct attendees

See Gallery Walk, Page 15

Barge of slow ravishment

'Xerxes' brings delicate Baroque opera to MSU

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It's a heady week for music wins. For the first time in MSU Opera Theatre's history, director Melanie Helton is going all the way to the back of the cellar and uncorking the really good stuff — from 1738.

"Xerxes"

MSU Opera Theatre
7:30 p.m. Wednesday,
March 25; 8 p.m. Friday,
March 27 & Saturday March
28; 3 p.m. Sunday, March 29
\$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students
Fairchild Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East
Lansing
(517) 353-5340, music.
msu.edu

Baroque opera is about 30 years into a worldwide resurgence at places like Cooperstown's Glimmerglass Festival. Finally, the barge of slow ravishment is penetrating the wilds of the Red

Cedar River in the form of George Frederic Handel's "Xerxes," the "Messiah" composer's last operatic masterpiece.

Incredibly, after decades of nothing, mid-Michigan connoisseurs are getting a chance that will almost surely never come again: a Baroque opera crawl. By coincidence, the University of Michigan School of Music is performing Handel's magnum opus, "Julius Caesar," the same weekend.

"Thirty years ago, this would have been unheard of," MSU guest conductor Daniel Beckwith said.

But beware. After a pure draught of Handel arias, cruder brews like "Carmen"



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

MSU's production of "Xerxes" features period Baroque costumes and instruments.

and "La Bohème" may henceforth taste like Ripple.

"The music is so vital, so rhythmic," Beckwith said. "It has drive — and beautiful tunes. Not that Puccini or Massenet doesn't have them, but this music goes deep to the core of one's soul."

One of the world's top baroque opera conductors, Beckwith cut his teeth with no less a mentor than Metropolitan Opera conductor James Levine for six years, until Levine gave him his first maestro gig with Mozart's "Don Giovanni" at the Met in 1995. Since then, Beckwith has conducted all over the world and conquered the entire Baroque repertoire.

Helton's decision to mount the first pre-Mozart opera in the program's history was prompted partly by the chance to snag Beckwith, a friend since 1982, and partly by this year's bumper crop of mezzo-sopranos.

Listeners will enter a delicate new sonic world. Beckwith will conduct from a harpsichord, and the light orchestral texture will be graced by period touches like recorders (rustic flutes) and a theorbo (a deeply resonant Baroque lute). There are no show-stoppers from Puccini's playbook. The entire opera has only two duets and no ensembles. Vibrato is used sparingly; belting is right out.

"Not everything is a ball-buster, Helton said.

"You don't always have to sing full tilt," Beckwith genteelly agreed. "It's so much more than the notes. It's the inner expression of the lines."

Helton found the gimmicks and "bits" suggested by many opera arias useless when painting so subtle a canvas. Even the stage lighting is a delicate wash. "The music is so pure, it doesn't stand tricking it up," she said. "You're mesmerized by the sound of

the voice and these beautiful melodies."

Schylar Sheltroun, a mezzo-soprano and first-year Master's student, said the experience is "very different" from the other operas she's sung.

"It's a lot more textured," Sheltroun said. "It's constantly running, like running water. It takes a lot of control. You have to concentrate to keep a gorgeous sound throughout the phrase."

Beckwith worked with the MSU cast for three weeks in January and returned two weeks ago for the run-up to curtain time.

"I find it a joy to share my love of this repertoire with young singers," he said. "It's all new to them."

The same goes for the orchestra. Beckwith schooled the pit musicians in a variety of baroque-era practices, paying special attention to the bowing hands of the string players. "How much weight they use, the speed of the bow, it all gives a different clarity or brilliance to the sound," Beckwith said. "It's a whole new sonic world for the orchestra, too."

Helton said this weekend's Spartan-Wolverine Handel smackdown wasn't planned. She attributes the advent of "Julius Caesar" in Ann Arbor to another Baroque maven, U of M's new vocal coach and conductor, Kathleen Kelly (who used to sublet Helton's New York apartment when Kelly sang at the Met).

Helton plans to sneak off to Ann Arbor to catch "Julius Caesar" on Thursday, when "Xerxes" has the day off at MSU — but not to steal any ideas. MSU's "Xerxes" is in period dress, while the smart-alecky U of M "Caesar" transposes the action to — ahem — a contemporary art museum.

Wonder where they got that idea?

Gallery Walk

from page 14

to participating locations. This is one concept Mikula is particularly eager to employ.

"We want to connect retailers with artists," said Mikula. "How do we place artist in stores? How do we place artists in restaurants? We want to put art in every nook and cranny."

Marketing materials are another key aspect of Art Hop's success. The arts council provides participating locations with large banners that identify them as Art Hop stops.

The final component, resources, is no small hurdle. Marketing and promotional materials takes money, and locating that money is a significant part of the Art Council of Greater Lansing's planning. Mikula said that the group is in the early stages of seeking out sponsors and grant opportunities to fund the event.

Of course, lining up funding and planning an event of this scope will take some time, and Mikula is setting a cautious timeline. She doesn't expect to roll out the new event until spring 2016.

"It's not an overnight thing," she said. "We're going to take time to plan and do it correctly. We want to come out with a big splash."

Not all galleries are on board with a Friday evening event. Roy Saper, owner of East Lansing's Saper Gallery, plans to continue with First Sunday Gallery Walk as his first priority.

"We've been in operation for 36 years because we do what our clients want," said Saper via email. "They clearly like the First Sunday Gallery Walk. That is why we will stay with it."

Saper, one of the originators of First Sunday Gallery Walk some 20 years ago, has seen continued success where other galleries have experienced lagging attendance.

"We have some First Sundays with several hundred people visiting in three to four hours," he said. "We have had at least two with more than 1,000 visitors."

For his part, Saper fully supports galleries who choose to participate in a Friday event — provided they don't try to replace First Sunday Gallery Walk.

"If someone wants a change, make it an addition for those who want to participate," he said. "But don't get rid of what's been created that works."

While the Friday Night Art Walk is still in its gestational period, Daniels is already shifting her emphasis at MICA Gallery to evening events. She recently hosted her first Friday evening reception and is planning more evening events to kick off new exhibits. Daniels hopes to tap into — and help bolster — Lansing's vital nightlife.

"People might pair (a reception) with dinner," she said. "We're trying to get people to stay in Lansing, to make it a night out."

"There's a lot to offer here. We'd like to promote arts and culture on a broader scale."

Mythical journey

Brandon Badeau's art uses mythology to tap into the universal

By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

Mythologist, writer and lecturer Joseph Campbell spent a fair amount of time convincing people of the timeless qualities found in myths and what our inter-

"Modern Mythos" Opening Reception

Thursday April 2, 6-9 p.m.

FREE

MICA Gallery

1210 Turner St., Lansing

(517) 371-4600

micagallery.org

pretations of their meaning can mean to us. He described an archetype, referred to as the Monomyth, that sees all mythic narratives as variations of one great story.

He came to this conclusion based on the observation that there is a striking similarity of thematic elements found in the narratives of myths, regardless of their origin or time of creation.

"Modern Mythos," MICA Gallery's new exhibit by local artist Bradon Badeau, hopes to tap into the universal and timeless qualities of storytelling. The show brings a unique recipe to the gallery's exhibition space, including generous portions of Campbell's ideas, a noticeable Baroque influence and, most important, the memory and emotion you take away after viewing it.

"I really want it to be about what people get out of it, not what I am saying," Badeau said. "I try to use symbols we all know, but that don't necessarily have a definitive meaning."

"Modern Mythos" features a variety of paintings that are stylistically steeped in the traditions of artists like the 17th century painter Caravaggio. Colors shift dramatically from light to dark, favoring the subject with the lighter end of the tonal spectrum and bringing them emphatically to the viewer's attention.

As far as the subject matter is concerned, Badeau favors the human figure. But this is where the similarities between Badeau and the famed Baroque painters end. He also infuses his work with a variety of other influences, creating a refreshing harmony between the classic and the contemporary — even evoking a touch of the surreal.

"I do try to make my works a little more surreal than life," Badeau said. "Not like Dali or anything, but enough to where it is imaginative."

Along with Badeau's paintings, the exhibit will also feature a number of sketches and drawings by the artist that give guests insight into his creative process — a process in which Badeau wastes no time. Badeau said that even a large work will take, at maximum, about 36 hours. All preparation for a work is done before a brush ever hits the canvas, allowing the prolific artist the focus he requires.

"I have a strict set of guidelines to get it down to such a short time," said Badeau. "Lots of preparation goes in before the actual work so the painting can just be the painting."

This will be the first public exhibition for Badeau, 27, who moved to Michigan in 2007 from his native Oregon. Badeau had been casually interested in art for most of his life, but he didn't start taking it seriously until the untimely death of his brother. He found comfort from his grief in art. He first enlisted in drawing classes, which led to painting classes, and eventually his interest evolved into studying art at Lansing Community College and Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids. And while this institutional training proved useful in some ways, Badeau said it was everything he studied outside the walls of academia that were the most educational.

"I learned a lot from books, YouTube and



Courtesy photo

"Cosmos," by Brandon Badeau, infuses Baroque-style painting with contemporary influences.

just studying how old paintings were put together," Badeau said. "You've got to do a lot of the legwork on your own."

Don't let any reference to Campbell's influence on the work persuade you into thinking that this show is specifically meant for those who subscribe to his ideas. This show, like so much other art, is all about what you take away from it. Whether you believe or not, storytelling is a vital component of art that shapes our perception of works that have come before and works that have yet to be. It's not hard to imagine that Badeau would second that statement.

"If there is no story, it's not really good art," said Badeau. "You're not reaching anyone and you're not questioning anything."

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CURTAIN CALL

Beauty in simplicity

Nathan Dome and Sally Hecksel deliver pitch-perfect performances

By TOM HELMA

Less is, indeed, sometimes more.

In the canon of theater, there are large, block-buster mega-musicals, and then there are small mini-musicals.

Review

"They're Playing Our Song" is one of the latter. A mini-musical of a mere 11 songs, peppered, however, with some of the most witty dialogue that playwright Neil Simon has to offer.

"They're Playing Our Song"

8 p.m. Friday, March 27 & Saturday, March 28
\$10/\$5 students
LCC Black Box Theatre
Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
(517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo

The play is a condensed-in-time, fictional version of the actual conflicted

love story of musical collaborators Marvin Hamlisch and Carole Bayer-Sager. The late Hamlisch was a composer extraordinaire who won an Emmy, an Oscar, a Tony, two Golden Globes and a Pulitzer. Lyricist Bayer-Sager is no slouch either, having also won an

Oscar, a Grammy and two Golden Globes.

While Simon wrote the book for this play, Hamlisch wrote the music and Bayer-Sager wrote the lyrics.

This production is directed by Lansing Community College treasure Connie Curran-Oesterle, who has a knack for tweaking stage-plays, making them fresh and entertaining.

In this case, for Saturday night's packed house, Curran-Oesterle transformed a simple announcement of where the bathrooms were into stand-up comedy. Then, throughout the play, she choreographed six back-up singers wearing white suits — à la Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever" — as a lively, disco-dancing running crew.

The leads in this play, Nathan Dome as Vernon and Sally Hecksel as Sonia, are completing their final semesters at LCC. With any luck, the two will soon be off to successful theatrical careers elsewhere. In this production, they bring the sweetest of soft and gentle singing voices. They bring some good acting as well, nailing most of the many Simon one-liners with perfect timing.

The real-life characters represented in this play are native New Yorkers with a strong sense of sophistication. Neither Hecksel nor Dome could entirely pull off that level of neurotic angst, and yet their fresh-countenanced, blushing faces and earnest innocence sold the show.

Bob Fernholz's set design was exceedingly simple, but his use of a mirrored glass



Photo by LukeAnthony Photography

Tanya Canaday Burnham (left) and Devin Faught play narcissistic lovers Masha and Spike in Riverwalk Theatre's latest production.

ball sent dancing lights exploding all over the room during scene changes. This, combined with softly played recorded versions of the hits of Hamlisch and Bayer-Sager, added an additional nuance of quality to the overall production.

Soviet kitsch

Riverwalk Theatre brings a comedic take on a Chekhov classic

By PAUL WOZNIAK

One does not need to be a Chekhov scholar to enjoy "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike," playing at Riverwalk Theatre, but a stomach for playwright Christopher Durang's broad humor is essential. Fortunately, director Mary Job and much of the cast work hard to ground Durang's dialogue in honest emotions and make the best of the inconsistently funny material.

The premise of Durang's play feels optimized for laughs: an aging, narcissistic film star, Masha (Tanya Canaday Burnham), returns home to visit her "less successful" siblings Vanya and Sonia (Doak Bloss and Gini Larson, respectively) with a young — but equally vain — actor/lover named Spike (Devin Faught) in tow. Situational comedy

through extreme dissonance ensues. Despite a thorough blend of snarky pop-culture references, past and present, as well as commentary on aging and fear of change, "Vanya" often struggles to maintain its momentum.

Bloss and Larson, as brother and adopted sister, shine in their scenes, delivering dry wit and perfectly timed staged chemistry. This is not the first time these two fine actors have graced the stage as a hilariously dysfunctional couple (and hopefully this won't be their last).

Some of their best moments, however, come when they are completely alone. Larson's one-sided telephone conversation with a potential date is charming and mesmerizing. You feel Sonia's pent up longing to connect with someone, and Larson's physical transformation from cynicism to joy is infectious.

Similarly, Bloss, as Vanya, powers through a lengthy rant recalling a litany of Baby-Boomer-generation memories. The monologue sounds like Durang unloading his frustrations on a petulant youngster after several glasses of wine, but Friday's audience applauded in appreciation.

Unlike Vanya and Sonia, the characters Masha and Cassandra seem written as melodramatic caricatures: Masha, an aging actress petrified of diminishing sex appeal and Cassandra, the housekeeper, a self-described psychic and voodoo witch who spouts obvious or unhelpful prophecies like, "Beware of chicken with salmonella." Burnham and Bethea chew the scenery with zest, but their jokes often fall flat.

Overall, Faught sells his meat-headed macho actor role — even if he doesn't quite have the body to match. His "reverse striptease" near the beginning is a comic highlight.

Supporting theatrical elements such as lights and costumes are superb. Tim Fox contributes one of the play's strongest elements: a stunningly realistic hard-wood cabin interior complete with windows and dark beams hanging from the rafters. The space and ambiance give the cast plenty of space and levels to preen.

The ugly truth

'Dogfight' explore ugliness, inside and out

By MARY C. CUSACK

Peppermint Creek's latest production, "Dogfight," is a play about unattractive women and crass human behavior, set against the backdrop of a violent global conflict on the eve of a presidential assassination. Yet

"Dogfight"

8 p.m. Thursday, March 26, Friday, March 27 & Saturday, March 28; 2 p.m. Sunday, March 29
\$20/\$15 students and seniors
Peppermint Creek Theatre
6025 Curry Lane, Lansing
(517) 372-0945
peppermintcreek.org

despite — or perhaps in spite of — all of that ugliness, it is an entertaining and beautiful masterpiece of love and compassion.

The musical is a 2013 adaptation of the 1991 movie about a group of U.S. Marines who, on the eve of their departure for Vietnam, arrange a "dogfight" contest. The jackpot goes to the jarhead who brings the



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Shuto Con invades Lansing

This weekend, over 6,000 anime fans and cosplay enthusiasts took over the Lansing Center for Shuto Con 2015. In its fifth year, this annual, three-day festival featured panel discussions, vendors, games, interactive cosplay and more. Attendees are encouraged to dress up as their favorite characters from the world of anime, comic books, sci-fi movies or whatever else inspires them.

Photos by NICOLE RICO



Curtain Call

from page 16

ugliest girl to a party, while hiding that goal from their unsuspecting dates. The script is faithful to the film, and the addition of the musical numbers links the story more closely to the turbulent period of the late 1960s.

Buddies Eddie (Patrick Harney), Boland (Matthew Bill) and Bernstein (Joe Quick) hit the streets of San Francisco to find prize-winning bow-wows. Eddie is about to give up when meets Rose (Jayna Katz), a mousy waitress and aspiring folk singer. He turns on his magnetic charm and convinces the dubious girl to accompany him.

Rose is no competition compared to Boland's date, Marcy. Amanda Harvey plays the toothless hooker with panache, portraying a woman who turns winning a loser's game into a personal triumph.

Eddie and his buddies are young, dumb and full of cockiness, but are taken down a peg when Rose lashes back at the men's cruelty. Shaken by her reminder of their mortality, Eddie struggles to sort out his very complex feelings. He follows Rose home and spends the rest of the evening trying to make a real connection with her. Their mutual awkwardness is deeply touching, as they forge a bond that may or may not hold when Eddie heads off to war.

Harney is perfect in the role. Resembling a young Leonardo DiCaprio, he is handsome and charismatic, yet also imbues Eddie with a conflicted, thoughtful quality. He is the kind of guy that an average girl like Rose would dream about, but never think she could attain.

Like Boland bringing in a ringer to win the contest, director Badgero has brought in his own ringer to win the audience. Even when frumped up a bit, Katz shines as she channels Rose's awkward innocence. And when she sings, Rose is the most beautiful girl in the world.

Badgero maximizes the minimal space of Peppermint Creek's venue. Through an amazingly coordinated effort by Badgero, scenic designer Jeff Boerger and music director Edric Haleen, the stage accommo-

dates a six-person orchestra, a two-story recreation of the Golden Gate Bridge and at times a full-size bed, and still allows choreographer Karyn Perry adequate space to design full dance sequences featuring up to a dozen characters.

As big as the production can seem, the intimate space becomes the perfect backdrop to experience the intense moments of trust being built and broken. Facades are stripped away, and insecurities are exposed. The changing of clothes symbolizes changing attitudes, and in the close atmosphere of the venue, these moments of change are achingly raw and touching.

Spring Poetry Festival



April 1
DENNIS HINRICHSEN



April 15
TERRY BLACKHAWK



April 22-23
CAROLYN FORCHÉ

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CENTER for POETRY
at Michigan State University
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Details at poetry.rcah.msu.edu.

March 26 - April 26, 2015



Sirens

by Deborah Zoe Laufer

Pay-What-You-Can Preview
Thursday, March 26 @ 8PM
\$15 Previews
Mar. 27 @ 8PM, Mar. 28 @ 8PM
Mar. 29 @ 2PM, Apr. 2 @ 8PM

Williamston Theatre
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517-655-7469
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MSU Music



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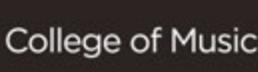
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<p>4/6, 7:30 p.m. Schubert and Dvořák Prize-winning pianist Boris Slutsky joins College of Music faculty artists to perform famous works written for piano trio and piano quartet.</p> <p>4/8, 7:30 p.m. The French Connection Piano quartets by Gabriel Fauré. Guest artists Ruggero Alliffranchini, violin, and Hsin-Yun Huang, viola, join College of Music faculty artists.</p>	<p>4/10, 8:00 p.m. Bach Plus Annual tribute to one of the greatest composers of all time—Johann Sebastian Bach—featuring soloists, chamber ensembles, and the University Chorale.</p> <p>4/12, 3:00 p.m. The Silent Movie Virtuoso pianist and composer Stephen Prutsman takes Cello Plus to the movies with a silent film accompanied by piano and strings.</p>
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Tickets & info: music.msu.edu/cello-plus | 517-353-5340

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In memoriam

Harry Thomas, 69, who went simply by "D.," died Saturday. Thomas wore many hats throughout his career, including dancer, choreographer, theater manager and chef. The latter occupation brought him to the Lansing area when he accepted a job at Nickerson Farms (now known as Fowlerville Farms).

Beginning in the 70s and into the 90s, Thomas was the go-to choreographer for musical theater in Lansing. He choreographed and performed in numerous shows for the Okemos Barn Theatre (which eventually became Riverwalk Theatre) and the now defunct Lansing Civic Players. He also taught dance at Lansing Community College.

"D. was a fantastic choreographer," said Jane Falion, who has directed productions for the Okemos Barn Theatre and Riverwalk Theatre. "He choreographed many of my shows."

Thomas is remembered by his friends for his friendliness and outgoing personality.

"He was very free spirited, and he threw great parties," said Falion. "He was so much fun to be around."

No service is planned, but a digital memorial has sprung up on Riverwalk Theatre's Facebook page, where Falion has shared photos of Thomas and invited the community to share their memories.

"I never thought of myself as a dancer," Tim Lewis commented. "But when he cho-



Courtesy photo

D. Thomas, who died Saturday, was a prolific dancer and choreographer in the Lansing theater scene.

reographed my dance number in 'Barnum,' he worked and worked with me until we got it right. His patience, understanding and his never-ending enthusiasm and energy will forever be etched in my mind."

Thomas' patience and skill working with untrained dancers comes up again and again in stories from those who had worked with him.

"He took people who didn't have a strong background in dance and made them look good on stage," said Falion. "He turned ugly ducklings into swans."

— TY FORQUER



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Easter Service Directory

A guide to Easter services in Greater Lansing

**Pilgrim Congregational
United Church of Christ**
Lansing, MI



Easter Services

April 2 - Maundy Thursday - 7 p.m.

April 3 - Good Friday - 7 p.m.

April 5 - Easter Cantata - 10 a.m.

125 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

(517) 484-7434

PilgrimUCC.com



Palm Sunday, March 29:
8 a.m. - Palm Sunday Worship
10 a.m. - Palm Sunday Worship

Good Friday, April 3:

Noon - Good Friday Service

7 p.m. - Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday, April 2:

6 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Friendship Meal

7 p.m. - Holy Communion-Stripping of the Altar

Easter Sunday, April 5:

8 a.m. - Worship & Holy Communion

10 a.m. - Worship & Holy Communion



Northern Michigan on two wheels

Traverse City author gives tips for exploring Northern Michigan by bicycle

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Robert Downes, author of "Biking Northern Michigan," had two requirements for the more than 35 bike routes he details in his book.

"They had to be safe and scenic," he said in a phone conversation from his Traverse City-area home.

"Biking Up North"

Presentation by Robert Downes
7 p.m. Thursday, March 26
FREE
Foster Community Center
200 N. Foster St., Lansing
(517) 882-3700, biketcba.org

Out of the many bicycling routes Downes writes about, he said that the M-22 Frankfort to Glen Arbor tour and the

Glen Lake tour are a couple of his favorites.

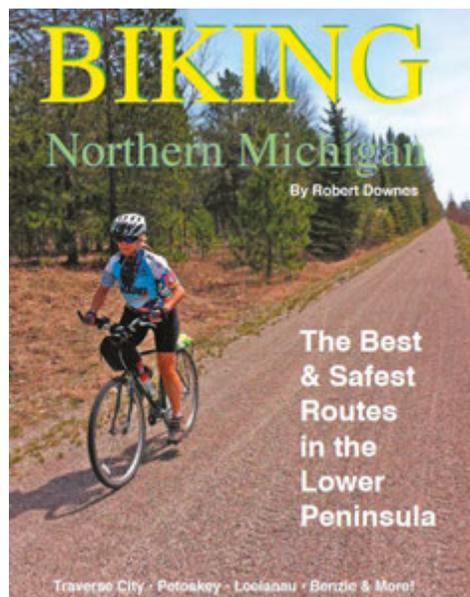
The M-22 route is a little over 30 miles one way. He said the route has a wide bike path, and its course takes you through the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to Glen Arbor.

"The Sleeping Bear route alone counted 350,000 cycling trips last year, and it's estimated that tens of thousands of bicyclists head (to Northern Michigan) each year for a biking adventure," he said.

The Glen Lake tour, which is 17 miles long, circumnavigates both Big and Little Glen Lakes. "Glen Lake," he writes, "Like Torch Lake to the northeast, claims the sobriquet of being one of the top 10 most beautiful lakes in the world."

He writes that along the way "there are spectacular views of the lakes, Manitou Island and Alligator Hill." (Who knew Michigan had alligators?)

Hemingway buffs will enjoy the 43-mile tour around Walloon Lake. This route takes you through the center of Hemingway coun-



Courtesy image

"Biking Northern Michigan" features over 35 bicycle routes, including detailed maps and food recommendations.

try, with stops at Horton Bay, Bay Harbor, Petoskey, Walloon Lake and Boyne City. A stop at Petoskey's Little Traverse Historical Museum is a must for Hemingway fans.

Downes doesn't just send you out without directions; each tour is accompanied with easy to read maps and written instructions. He is also quick to suggest dining places where hungry bicyclists can refuel.

The author also takes you to two of Michigan's most popular islands: Beaver and Mackinac. Mackinac Island's flat, eight-mile course around the island is scenic and great for families with young children. For those more adventurous, head up the steep climbs to the center of the island where the views are incredible.

The Beaver Island tour comes with a caution: Beware of poor road conditions. The Beaver Island and Mackinac Island trips both require a ferry crossing. Historic

Mackinac Island, of course, has absolutely zero automobile traffic, and Beaver Island traffic is extremely light. You are more likely to see a deer than a car on Beaver Island.

Downes' cycling experience began more than 30 years ago, when he began training for triathlons. Even though he has logged innumerable miles on bikes across the world, he still prefers Northern Michigan for his cycling. Most of the cycling has been uneventful, he said, except for a time he writes about in the book when he rolled up on a brown bear 30 yards away. (By the way, the bear sighting was not in Michigan.)

He writes that "Michigan arguably holds the title of America's Trail State," citing figures about rail-to-trail conversions and noting that Michigan is one of only two states to require funding for non-motorized transportation.

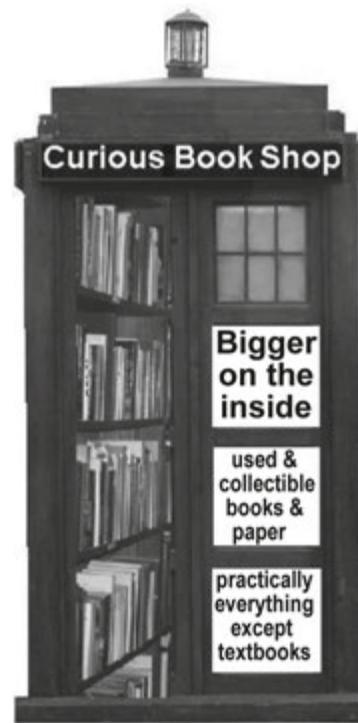
The book is well written and filled with humorous asides, reflecting Downes' previous career as editor, co-publisher and founder of Traverse City's Northern Express weekly newspaper.

In addition to the beautiful rides around Michigan's largest inland lakes, Downes has several rides which he classifies as "epic."

One is the "Tunnel of Trees," which stretches from Petoskey to Good Hart to Cross Village and dead-ends in Mackinaw City, some 51 miles from the start.

This epic ride, depending on the season, will showcase "carpets of trilliums" and spectacular fall color as the cathedral-like covering of trees seems to envelop riders.

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In the food suggestions for this route, he recommends a stop at the historic Legs Inn in Cross Village for some of the best Polish food in Michigan and the unusual wood sculptures which grace this diner. The interior is filled not only with the aroma of kielbasa, but also with driftwood and twisted branches formed into one-of-a-kind sculptures.

The route culminates in a spectacular finish which gives riders an unparalleled view of the Mackinac Bridge.

Downes also provides tips of what to take on a ride, such as sunscreen, clothing, salve for bee stings and of course plenty of water. He stresses the importance of taking care of yourself while biking.

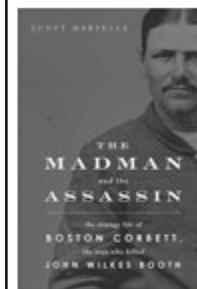
"The most important thing for any bike ride is the engine powering the bicycle," he said.

No matter what length of trip you feel is right for you as a rider, in Northern Michigan, Downes said, "You will experience some of the best cycling trips in whole country, if not the world."

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

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SCOTT MARTELLE

Friday, April 3 @ 7 p.m.
Meridian Mall location



April 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's assassination and John Wilkes Booth's death. Scott Martelle's new book, *The Madman and the Assassin*, reveals for the first time the odd and intriguing story of the man who killed Booth.

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

Wednesday, March 25

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.

Story Art Time. Make art inspired by storybooks. Ages 2-5. 10-11 a.m. \$5/adults FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org/events/storytime.

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

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

Life Reimagined. Get help from AARP in achieving your goals. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtdl.org.

Knit & Knot So Much. Knitting and Crochet Group. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE, donations accepted. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.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.

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.

"In the Shadow of Cortes." Talk by K. Myers; gallery walk and opening reception. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. LookOut Gallery!, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 353-1690, cal.msu.edu/cortes/agenda.

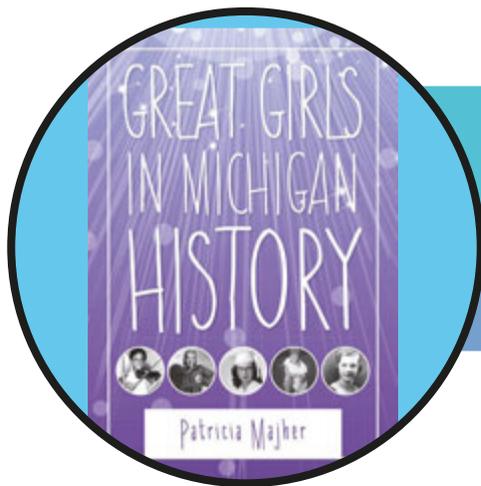
Practice Your English. Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elp.org.

See Out on the Town, Page 22



Twenty-five years of marriage can take a toll on a relationship, but leave it to mythological Greek temptresses to spice things up.

The play "Sirens" begins when Sam first falls in love with Rose. He writes her a song that up becomes a huge hit, covered by every major recording artist and translated into nearly every language. Fast-forward 25 years, Sam has been trying to write his next song for his Rose, who is now his wife, but to no avail. The couple decides to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary with a cruise on the Mediterranean Sea. While on the cruise, Sam hears the most beautiful music and decides to jump overboard and swim to its source — a siren from Greek mythology.



Unless you are a student of Michigan history, most of the 20 girls profiled in the new young adult book "Great Girls in Michigan History," by Patricia Majher, will be unknown to you.

Certainly some, like Diana Ross and Serena Williams, are household names, but most will not have heard of the likes of Geraldine Hoff or Nancy Harkness.

In her new book, Majher, who is also editor of Michigan History magazine, set out to tell the stories

Siren song

Thursday, March 26

Tony Caselli, Williamston Theatre artistic director, said that "Sirens" is a relatable story, despite its somewhat far-fetched storyline.

"I love the blending of real life with the fantastical elements," Caselli said. "I think anyone who's ever been in a relationship will relate very strongly."

John Seibert and Terry Heck, real-life husband and wife, are cast as "Sirens" husband and wife Sam and Rose, adding a genuine element to the show.

"Their chemistry is still strong and fun, and they work so well together," Caselli said.

"Sirens" will kick off with five preview performances starting on Thursday at 8 p.m. Tickets for Thursday's preview will be pay-what-you-can, and the remaining four previews will be \$15. For the first four previews, audience members will take part in the process of creating a show by participating in a talkback session with the director after each

performance.

A ticket to the official opening night performance on April 3 will run you \$35, but also includes an afterglow party with cast and crew.

Caselli is excited for audiences to see the show and hopes they can take away a greater appreciation for life after viewing "Sirens."

"Sometimes we all get down and forget that this gift of life is an amazing thing," Caselli said. "All around us are reasons to fall in love with our life over and over."

"Sirens"
Thursday, March 26-Sunday, April 26
(preview shows Thursday, March 26-Thursday, April 2)
8 p.m. Thursday & Friday; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday (no 3 p.m. show March 28); 2 p.m. Sunday
\$22-\$27/\$10 students/\$2 discount for seniors and military
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
(517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org

—ARIEL ROGERS

Double vision

Saturday, March 28

of the amazing accomplishments of 20 young girls in Michigan, but the key was all had to be performed by the age of 20.

"The idea of the book is to serve as an inspiration for young girls," Majher said.

And who couldn't be inspired by someone like Nancy Harkness? At the age of 16, she was the youngest female to earn a pilot's license in the United States. Harkness later helped found the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron, a crew of 1,000 women pilots that delivered over 12,000 planes during World War II, freeing up men to fly combat missions.

Lansing's own Geraldine Hoff had

her moment in the sun at 17 while working at a war factory in Ann Arbor. She was wearing men's coveralls and a red bandana when a photographer dropped by to snap some photographs. It wasn't until 1984, when Hoff saw Modern Maturity magazine which carried a profile of Rosie the Riveter, that she realized that she was the model for the iconic image.

"Great Girls in Michigan History"
Book signing and author talk
2 P.M. Saturday, March 28
FREE
Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame
213 W. Malcolm X. St., Lansing
(517) 484-1880, michiganwomenshalloffame.org

—BILL CASTANIER

Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



THE REAL MCKENZIES AT THE AVENUE CAFE

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12, \$10 adv., 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 1

Since 1992, the Real McKenzies have been banging out high-energy Celtic punk from their home base of Vancouver, British Columbia. The Fat Wreck Chords-signed outfit has released nine hard-folk LPs and shared stages with Rancid, NOFX, Flogging Molly and Metallica. April 1 the band headlines the Avenue Café — its only Michigan date on this tour. This gig also serves as a record release show for the Devil's Cut; the Lansing-based Americana-punk band will release its anticipated new album, "Antium." This disc, like the band's 2014 release "No Salvation," is released via East Grand Record Company. Also performing is Hex Bombs, a rowdy fixture in the Southwest Michigan punk scene for nearly a decade. Fans of Dropkick Murphys, Against Me! or Social Distortion may want to check out this show.

WED. APR 1ST

BEAR CREEK BROTHERS EP RELEASE AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12, \$10, 7 p.m., Friday, March 27

The township of Bear Creek may be in the Petoskey area of the mitten, but it has inspired the name of an acoustic-driven, country-rock outfit led by a pair of local songwriters. Lansing's own Bear Creek Brothers releases its debut EP Friday at the Loft. The down-home flavored band was formed in early 2014 by Dylan Wright (vocals) and Kevin Vermillion (guitar/vocals). Opening the all-ages show are Shelby Ann-Marie and Brian Lorente and the Usual Suspects. Lorente, a Lansing-based songwriter, has been churning out rock-tinged country since 2004. Over the years, he's warmed up stages for the likes of Luke Bryan and Gretchen Wilson. Fans of Eric Church, Kid Rock or the Zac Brown Band might want to give Lorente a listen.



FRI. MAR 27TH

MICHIGAN FIDDLERS AT THE FIDDLE

Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St, East Lansing. \$12, \$10 members, \$5 students, 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 27

Michigan is stocked with gifted fiddlers, and the Ten Pound Fiddle is the place to see them live. Performing at the "Michigan Fiddlers" concert are Peter Knupfer, Brian Bishop, Linnea Jimison and Marty Somberg. In the first set, each fiddler will perform a couple of tunes with help from back-up players. The second half will feature all four fiddlers at once, playing in a round-robin format. Knupfer is a member of the bluegrass band Detour and teaches U.S. history at Michigan State University. For 30 years, he's kept busy playing folk, swing and jazz fiddle. Meanwhile, Jimison was fiddler/vocalist in defunct local folk group the Bard Owls. Her set is inspired by American, Canadian, and Irish folk music. On the side, she also performs as a duo with mandolin and bouzouki player Chris Foster.



FRI. MAR 27TH

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.	Van Damn Cannibals, 8 p.m.	Studio Sessions, 7 p.m.	V-Day Lansing, 2 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Darrin Lariner, 6 p.m.	Trevor Compton, 8 p.m.
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.				Alex & Rachel, 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.		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Fusion Shows Presents, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Darb's (Mason), 117 S. Cedar St.		Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.		Billy Joe Hunt, 9:30 p.m.
Dublin Square, 327 Abbot Rd.				Cheap Dates, 10 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies, 9:30 p.m.	Skoryoke live band karaoke, 9:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke w/Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johhny D Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Global Village, 9 p.m.	Glamhammer, 9 p.m.
Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.			Karaoke	
Henry's on the Square, 229 S. Washington Sq.		Joe Wright, 6 p.m.		
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Ultimate Painting, 7 p.m.	Lil Dicky, 7 p.m.	Bear Creek Brothers, 7 p.m.	
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.				Chip Christy, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	The Whoopi Goldblum Xperience, 8 p.m.	Chris Bathgate, 9 p.m.	Cap1 & Project Born, 8 p.m.	Dreamers, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		From Big Sur, 9 p.m.	Electocats, 9 p.m.	Second Nature, 9 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Hippie Stu, 8:30 p.m.	Hippie Stu, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kathy Ford Band Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	Chris Lasko, 8 p.m.		Kathy Ford Band, 8 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd.		Mark Sala, 7 p.m.		The Tenants, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 501 W. Saginaw Hwy.		Steve Cowels, 8 p.m.		Bobby Standel, 8 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.			
Uncorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Watershed, 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Dan MacLachlan, 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 20

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.

RCS Blues Brothers Movie Night. Movie and popcorn. Serving The Orange Whip. 7 p.m. FREE. Red Cedar Spirits, 2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing.

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

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

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26 >> ART@WORK REVEAL

Back in 2013, MSU and Peckham, Inc. endeavored to create a 40-foot-by-200-foot mosaic in Peckham's Northwest Lansing factory. After countless hours of work, the massive installation, entitled "Art@Work," is ready to be unveiled. The public is invited to enjoy a presentation followed by the installation's final reveal. RSVPs are requested, but not required. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Peckham, Inc., 3510 Capital City Blvd., Lansing. (517) 884-6290, rcah.msu.edu.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26-29 & APRIL 1-4 >> 'BUG' BY MSU THEATRE



MSU's Department of Theatre takes on you on a descent into insanity with its production of "Bug." In the play, a waitress named Agnes strikes up a relationship with a Gulf War Veteran named Peter. As the two hole up in a seedy motel room, Peter starts to slowly drag Agnes into his deluded world of paranoia and conspiracy theories. See website for full schedule of show times. \$10. Arena Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 >> AUTHOR READING WITH JULIAN VAN DYKE

Author and artist Julian Van Dyke will visit Barnes & Noble bookstore to read from his two children's books, "The Things We Do At My School" and "The Music We Call Jazz." Van Dyke's books are inspired by his advocacy for keeping art and music in children's education. Along with the reading, Van Dyke will show some of his artwork from outside the world of children's literature. 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. FREE. Barnes & Noble, 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437.

SUNDAY, MAR 29 >> BEN CAPLAN AT MAC'S BAR

Ben Caplan is bearded and soulful. The Halifax-based vocalist/guitarist plays a blend of smoky jazz, rustic roots, and poetic folk. Sunday Caplan headlines at Mac's Bar. Openers are Less Is More, Greater Alexander and Stefanie Haapala. Caplan has rigorously toured since the release of his 2011 debut album, "In the Time of the Great Remembering." He's clocked in over 1,000 shows, with tour schedules spanning the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe. His second album, "Bird With Broken Wings," is set for an early summer release. 7 p.m. \$10/\$8 advance. All ages. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. macsbar.com.

(517) 908-9950, redcedarspiritsdistillery.com.

Guest Speaker at ANC. Presentation and coffee. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3912, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Trevor Paglen: Landscapes. Photography and sculpture. 7 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Knitting and Crochet Group. All ages and levels welcome. Now at the library. 5-7 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.

MUSIC

Uke Play-A-Long. Learn how to play chords and songs on the ukulele. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

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.

Handel's Xerxes. Presented by MSU Opera Theatre. 7:30 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

THE CRAFTY PALATE RESTAURANT AND DELI

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse
(From left)
Paul, Peggy and
Tim Pinter will
open their new
restaurant, the
Crafty Palate,
next month on
South Washington
Square.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Last month I told you about **Henry's on the Square**, a new specialty goods market on downtown Lansing's South Washington

Square that was designed to slowly incorporate elements of restaurant, bar and nightclub into its identity. Evolution seems to be a theme on that street — next month **the Crafty Palate**, a new diner/deli serving breakfast and lunch will open, and it will also undergo a rapid transformation into something more.

"We hope to have a liquor license by June, and hopefully by this summer we can open for dinner as well," said co-owner/operator Peggy Pinter. "There are a lot of choices for dining out downtown, and we want to be stand out and offer a little something more."

The Crafty Palate takes over the former digs of **Restaurant Mediteran**, which recently underwent a conversion of its own when owner Igor Jurkovic

spun it off into **Mediteran Café & Catering**, an open-air nohosing spot nearby. But downtown has limited sit-down breakfast options, with **Kewpee's Sandwich Shop** being the only other choice. So having breakfast, lunch AND dinner AND a deli AND a full bar will make the Crafty Palate the only one of its kind.

"We're connoisseurs of Michigan craft beer and wine, and we love to eat different kinds of food," Pinter said. "The Crafty Palate fits what we are."

Pinter and her husband/business partner Tim are recently retired and had been looking for something to do. ("I'm too young to be retired," Tim Pinter quipped.) This will be the first restaurant venture for them. "The idea was to run it for two years, then turn it over to our son and his friends," Peggy Pinter said. "They've got all the restaurant experience."

Her son leads a managerial staff of hospitality professionals who have worked at **Applebee's**, **Olga's Kitchen** and **the State Room**. Colleen Dick,

a former service trainer at Applebee's, designed the menu — and has an egg white omelet named after her (with turkey sausage, mushrooms and spinach). The breakfast menu will also feature eggs Benedict, biscuits and gravy, pancakes and French toast.

The Pinters inherited Mediteran's rotisserie oven, which they'll use to roast chicken and other meat for Crafty Palate's lunch menu. Offerings will include the Juliet (smoked turkey and spinach dip on grilled sourdough) and the grilled Veggie (roasted artichoke hearts, pesto cream cheese and roasted red peppers on French bread). There will also be salads, French onion soup and a soup of the day.

When it opens next month, hours will be 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday, with a Sunday brunch from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. A fenced-in patio is also planned.

"This corner gets a lot of sunshine, so I'm sure a lot of people will be using that," Pinter said. "And after the winter we just had, they need it."

THEATER

"The Wiz." (For details see March 20.) 7 p.m. \$10/\$5 Children. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, elps.us/theater.

Thursday, March 26

CLASSES- AND SEMINARS

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.

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

Ballot Proposal: Sale City Land. Should simple

majority approve public land sales? 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 332-3106.

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.

Current Events. Coffee and discussion of current events. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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

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

Farm-To-Table Dining. Panel discussion by

Out on the town

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sustainable restaurants. 12:10-12:50 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, MSU Campus, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-8700, lib.msu.edu.

Shamanic Healing Clinic. Education and group sessions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE, donations accepted. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave. Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

Celebrate Recovery. For all types of habits, hurts and hang-ups. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing. (517) 492-1866.

NAMI Family-to-Family Classes. Help for loved ones of persons with mental illness. 6:30 p.m. FREE. McLaren-Greater Lansing Education Building, 401 W. Greenlawn Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3404, namilansing.org.

H.E.R.O. Electrical Basics. Call 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.

Life Reimagined. Personal reflection. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

EVENTS

March Magic Hoopfest. An interactive basketball playground for all ages. 2-7 p.m. \$2. Jenison Fieldhouse, 223 E. Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. (888) 326-5590, marchmagichoopfest.com.

Blood Pressure Checks. No appointment needed. 11:15 a.m.-noon. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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.

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

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

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.

Downtown Neighborhood Association. Information session with refreshments. 6 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, dnalansing.org.

Humanitarian Awards. Awards, dinner

and silent/live auctions. 6-9 p.m. \$50. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 242-7440. ac.ingham.org .

Cancer Film Preview/Discussion. TV cancer series preview, discussion, Q&A. 7 p.m. FREE. advance registration required. WKAR television studios, 404 Wilson Road. #212, East Lansing. (517) 432-9527. wkar.org.

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

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Objectified Reasoning. BFA Solo Exhibition for Sarah Allen. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Kresge Art Center, MSU campus, 600 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-9834, ow.ly/KARH0.

Averill Woods Neighborhood Meeting. Plan neighborhood projects and meet other neighbors. 7 p.m. FREE. Averill Elementary School, 3201 Averill Drive, Lansing. (517) 755-1220, averillwoods.org.

Art@Work Final Reveal. Reveal of the 200 x 40 ft. installation. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Peckham Industries, 3510 Capital City Blvd., Lansing. (517) 884-6290. rcach.msu.edu.

MUSIC

Open Jam at Onondaga Tavern. In-the-round style. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Onondaga Tavern, 5576 Oak St., Onondaga.

Lil Dicky. With guest Marzek. 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$20. The Loft, (At Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. fusionshows.com/event/03-26-15/lil-dicky-the-loft-lansing-mi.

THEATER

"Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike." Comedy about a reunion of siblings. 7 p.m. \$15/\$12 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

"Sirens." A contemporary love story about finding love again. 8 p.m. Pay-What-You-Can. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

"Bug." Disturbing psychological drama. 7:30 p.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton, theatre.msu.edu/strange-interlude.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Writers Roundtable. Get feedback on your writing. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District

Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014. dtld.org.

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

Friday, March 27

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

March Magic Hoopfest. An interactive basketball playground for all ages. 2-7 p.m. \$2. Jenison Fieldhouse, 223 E. Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. (888) 326-5590, marchmagichoopfest.com.

Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives. "Labor, Livelihoods and Brazilian Black Gold." 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing.

Salsa Dancing & Lessons. Lessons and open dancing. Snacks provided. 8 p.m.-midnight, \$5. 1133 S. Washington Ave., Reo Town, Lansing. (517) 230-9018.

Choosing a Farm Certification. Learn what farm certifications can benefit you. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 999-

3923, allenmarketplace.org/happenings.

Radicalism Symposium. For Radicalism and Digital Scholarship. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, MSU Campus, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-8700, lib.msu.edu.

EVENTS

Teen Advisory Group. Teens plan programs and more. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

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

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.

Teen Tech Time. Teens have access to a cluster of laptops. 3-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library,

See Out on the Town, Page 24

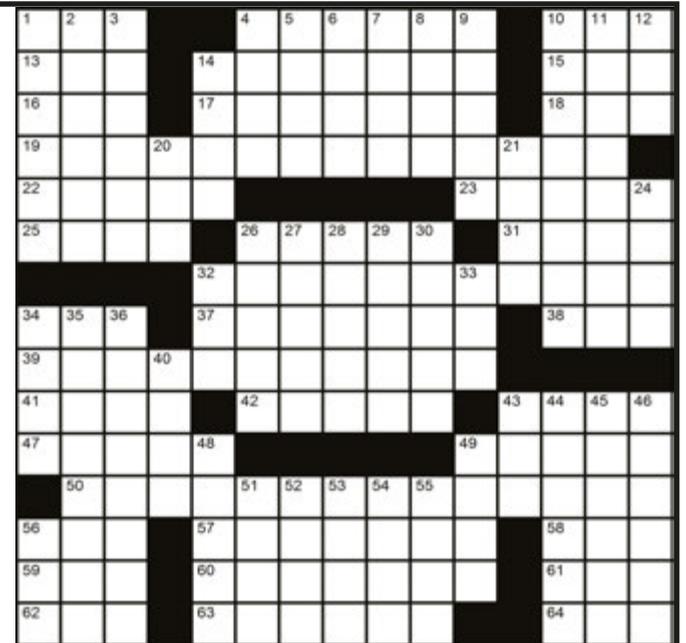
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Ah Yes!"-open wide and you know the rest.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Wednesday stuff
- 4 Rehearsed ahead of time
- 10 Second addendum to a letter, briefly
- 13 Siegfried's colleague
- 14 Quasi-eco-themed Pauly Shore movie
- 15 Cry of recognition
- 16 Rock guitarist's accessory
- 17 Deviating off-course
- 18 "Danny and the Dinosaur" author ___ Hoff
- 19 Stores owned by the guy who played Frasier's dad?
- 22 Like xenon or krypton
- 23 Landing place
- 25 In ___ (working in harmony)
- 26 Just ___ (a little under)
- 31 Hand-held fare
- 32 Irish-Caribbean island chain?
- 34 Blackjack component
- 37 Ready-to-hug position
- 38 ___ de la Cite (Notre Dame's locale)
- 39 Showy birds at the dance?
- 41 Creamy cracker spread
- 42 John Denver Band bassist Dick (anagram of SINKS)
- 43 Laments loudly
- 47 Carpentry tools
- 49 Ab-developing exercise
- 50 Make a circular trip starting between California and Nevada?
- 56 Columnist Savage
- 57 It goes up and down while you eat
- 58 Stare at
- 59 L squared, in Roman numerals
- 60 High flier
- 61 Raymond's nickname on "The Blacklist"
- 62 Big boss
- 63 "Capote" costar Catherine
- 64 '60s campus gp.
- 8 Abu Dhabi VIP
- 9 Cruise ship levels
- 10 Rye topper
- 11 Yearly exam
- 12 Hangdog
- 14 Hell-___ (determined)
- 20 "Lord of the Rings" beast
- 21 "Let's Roll" jazz singer James
- 24 Throw out, as a question
- 26 Ogre in love with Princess Fiona
- 27 "Masters of the Universe" protagonist
- 28 Dinosaur in Mario-themed Nintendo games
- 29 Bassoons' smaller relatives
- 30 Goat-legged deities
- 32 Savion Glover's specialty
- 33 Cleveland ___, OH
- 34 "Dancing Queen" music group
- 35 Uno, e.g.
- 36 Actor Hector of "Chicago Hope" and "Monk"
- 40 Like "haxored" and "pwn'd"
- 43 "Chandelier" chanteuse
- 44 They may be significant
- 45 Encouraged, with "up"
- 46 Does 80 in a 40, perhaps
- 48 He'll tell you there's no "I" in "TEAM"
- 49 Part attached at the hip?
- 51 Well-off person, so to speak
- 52 Stuffed piggy toe, e.g.
- 53 "Israel Through My Eyes" author
- 54 Pledge drive bag
- 55 ___ about (roughly)
- 56 Hip-hop's Run-___



SUDOKU

INTERMEDIATE

		3		7	4			1
		5				2		7
		4	1				9	3
	6		2	8				
					1	4	3	
	3							
9	1		8	3	7		5	4
	4		9	5		1	2	
	5				2		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 26

Out on the town

from page 23

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

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

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

MUSIC

The Bear Creek Brothers. With guests Shelby Ann-Marie and more. 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$10. The Loft, (At Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. fusionshows.com.

Spring Peepers Party. The music of Jonathan Stars and refreshments. 12:30-2 p.m. FREE. Grandhaven Manor Retirement Community, 3215 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-4499.

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

Handle's Xerxes. Presented by MSU Opera Theatre. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

THEATRE

"They're Playing Our Song." Rom-com musical. 8 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

"Sirens." A contemporary love story about finding love again. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

"Bug." (See March 26 for details.) 8 p.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu.

"Chess: A Staged Musical." Tony-nominated cult rock musical 7:30 p.m. \$15/\$10 MSU students. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 353-1982. whartoncenter.com/events/detail/chess.

"The Wiz." Based on the 1975 musical reimagining of "The Wizard of Oz." 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$5 children. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. elps.us/theater.

"The Wizard of Oz (RSC)." L. Frank Baum's classic tale. 7:30 p.m. \$8. Eastern High School, 220 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 755-1050, lansingschools.net.

Saturday, March 28

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.

Garden Soil Care Workshop. Create healthy soil for your garden. 12:30-2 p.m. \$10 donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse.

EVENTS

Family Movie Matinee. Popcorn and a family movie. 1-3 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.

Pickle Palooza. Free Samplings of MI made pickles, beer and ciders. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. Old Town General Store, 408 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 487-6847. Oldtown-generalstore.com.

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Fidget with the Material Girls. Help make aprons and hand muffs. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Heartland Hospice, 865 S. Cedar St., Mason. (517) 244-0404. Hcr-manorcare.com.

March Magic Hoopfest. An interactive basketball playground for all ages. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$2. Jenison Fieldhouse, 223 E. Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. (888) 326-5590, marchmagichoopfest.com.

MUSIC

Dreamers. With guests The Kickback and Trace of Lime. 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-6795. fusionshows.com/event/03-28-15/dreamers-macs-bar-lansing-mi.

See Out on the Town, Page 25

BEYOND THE NAKED EYE:
EXPERIMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY
A lecture presentation by
Photographer Vincent Brady
Sunday, March 29 | 7pm
Dart Auditorium
Free Event

LANSING
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

US TOUR
**BEN
CAPLAN**

SUNDAY, 03/29/2015
LANSING, MICHIGAN
Mac's Bar
MACSBAR.COM

Tickets available at www.BenCaplan.ca

michigan state university
whartoncenter
for performing arts

Ira Glass, host of NPR's *This American Life*, joins up with two extraordinary dancers for a lively, funny, "talky" evening of stories and dance about love, loss, and being a performer. Don't miss out - this show brought down the house at Carnegie Hall!

"Equal parts heart and humor."
-Washington Post

THREE ACTS,
TWO DANCERS, ONE RADIO HOST:
IRA GLASS, MONICA BILL BARNES & ANNA BASS
Saturday, April 18 at 8PM

Variety Series Sponsor THE DOCTORS COMPANY
Media Sponsor MICHIGAN RADIO

1-800-WHARTON
WHARTONCENTER.COM

Out on the town

from page 24

Handel's Xerxes. Presented by MSU Opera Theatre. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Hale & Hearty album release. Canadian/American cello duo bridges folk and jazz. 7:30 p.m. \$15/\$10 student. 423 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (906) 241-3145, haleandheartymusic.com.

THEATER

"They're Playing Our Song." (For details see March 27.) 8 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

"Sirens." (For details see March 26.) 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

"Bug." (See March 26 for details.) 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu.

"The Wiz." (For details see March 27.) 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$5 children. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, elps.us/theater.

"The Wizard of Oz (RSC)." (For details see March 27.) Noon and 6 p.m. \$8. Eastern High School, 220 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 755-1050, lansingschools.net.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Poetry Conference for Teachers. For writers and educators. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. RCAH Auditorium, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-1932. poetry.rcah.msu.edu/conference.html.

Great Girls in MI History. Book lecture. 2 p.m. FREE. Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame, 213 W. Main St., Lansing. (517) 484-1880, michiganwomenshalloffame.org.

Sunday, March 29

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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.

Parents of LGBTQ kids. Weekly support group. All faiths are welcome. 3-4:30 p.m. FREE. Diversity Psychological Services, 1310 Turner St., Lansing. (720) 401-4214.

EVENTS

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

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Catalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Beyond the Naked Eye. Experimental Photography, 7 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1705.

lcc.edu/showinfo.

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

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

Pokemon/Magic the Gathering Card Games.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 >> BEYOND THE NAKED EYE: EXPERIMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Former LCC photography student Vincent Brady is returning to his alma mater for a presentation/workshop on experimental photography. Brady has garnered acclaim for his work since graduating in 2013, having his photos featured by NASA and in TIME magazine's online journal. Opening the same day is a month-long exhibit of Brady's photos on the first floor of the Gannon Building on LCC's campus. 7 p.m. FREE. (517) 483-1705, lcc.edu/showinfo.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 >> READING & CONVERSATION WITH DENNIS HINRICHSEN

The Center for Poetry at MSU's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities begins its Spring Poetry Festival with a reading and conversation with local poet Dennis Hinrichsen. Hinrichsen is a multi-award winning poet whose decorations span multiple collections of his poetry. His most recent work, "Skin Music," landed him the 2014 Michael Waters Poetry Prize from Southern Indiana Review Press. During the day, Hinrichsen will give a talk at Snyder-Phillips Hall C204 entitled "Teaching and the Mind of the Poet: Moving from Incandescence to Laser," and will return later in the evening to the RCAH Auditorium to read some his works. Talk 3 p.m., reading 7 p.m. FREE. Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St., MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932, poetry.rcah.msu.edu.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 >> EDIBLE BOOK CONTEST

What meal does James Joyce's "Ulysses" make you crave each time you read it? The Center for Poetry at MSU's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities invites you to answer that question with its Edible Book Contest. Inspired by the International Edible Book Festival, the contest challenges competitors to come up with the most creative edible representation of a book or literary concept. Prizes will be awarded for best in show, most literate, most edible, most creative and most humorous. 12:30-1:30 p.m. FREE. LookOut! Gallery, Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-1932, poetry.rcah.msu.edu.

MUSIC

Deacon Earl & The Congregation. Live blues, reggae and more. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 487-4464, stobersbar.com.

Ben Caplan & The Casual Smokers. With guests Less is more and Greater Alexander. 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$8. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-6795. fusionshows.com.

Handel's Xerxes. Presented by MSU Opera Theatre. 3 p.m. \$20/\$18 seniors/\$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"Sirens." (For details see March 26.) 2 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

"Bug." (See March 26 for details.) 2 p.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu.

"The Wiz." (For details see March 27.) 2 p.m. \$10/\$5 children. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, elps.us/theater.

"The Wizard of Oz (RSC)." (For details see March 27.) 2 p.m. \$8. Eastern High School, 220 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 755-1050, lansingschools.net.

Auditions for Mothers Nature. Roles for women of all ages and men in 20s. 1:30-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-4246, ixiontheatre.com.

families. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

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

Bauhaus in a Barrel. Talk with Luis Delgado-Qualtrough. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, MSU Campus, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-8700, lib.msu.edu.

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.

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

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

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTCA. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Catalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

Sharper Focus/Wider Lens. Join Spartan faculty for a community talk. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Union, 49 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-2326, facebook.com/events/417162888461560/.

Tuesday, March 31

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Gardening with Native Plants. Garden with native plants to attract birds and more. 7 p.m. \$15. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

HERO: Wall Insulation Basics. 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.

Cross Cultural Presentation. By MSU international students. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

EVENTS

DTDLD Book Club. Discuss "The Tower, the Zoo, and the Tortoise." 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District

EVENTS

Homeschool Connect. Activities for homeschooling

See Out on the Town, Page 26

Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky

Mar. 25-31

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The term "jumped the shark" often refers to a TV show that was once great but gradually grew stale, and then resorted to implausible plot twists in a desperate attempt to revive its creative verve. I'm a little worried that you may do the equivalent of jumping the shark in your own sphere. APRIL FOOL! I lied. I'm not at all worried that you'll jump the shark. It's true that you did go through a stagnant, meandering phase there for a short time. But you responded by getting fierce and fertile rather than stuck and contrived. Am I right? And now you're on the verge of breaking out in a surge of just-the-right-kind-of-craziness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you happen to be singing lead vocals in an Ozzy Osbourne cover band, and someone in the audience throws what you think is a toy rubber animal up on stage, DO NOT rambunctiously bite its head off to entertain everyone. It most likely won't be a toy, but rather an actual critter. APRIL FOOL! In fact, it's not likely you'll be fronting an Ozzy Osbourne cover band any time soon. But I hope you will avoid having to learn a lesson similar to the one that Ozzy did during a show back in 1982, when he bit into a real bat -- a small flying mammal with webbed wings -- thinking it was a toy. Don't make a mistake like that. What you think is fake or pretend may turn out to be authentic.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the spring of 1754, Benjamin Franklin visited friends in Maryland. While out riding horses, they spied a small tornado whirling through a meadow. Although Franklin had written about this weather phenomenon, he had never seen it. With boyish curiosity, he sped toward it. At one point, he caught up to it and lashed it with his whip to see if it would dissipate. This is the kind of adventure I advise you to seek out, Gemini. APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. I don't really believe you should endanger your safety by engaging in stunts like chasing tornadoes. But I do think that now is a favorable time to seek out daring exploits that quench your urge to learn.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Novelist L. Frank Baum created the make-believe realm known as Oz. Lewis Carroll conjured up Wonderland and C. S. Lewis invented Narnia. Now you are primed to dream up your own fantasy land and live there full-time, forever protected from the confusion and malaise of the profane world. Have fun in your imaginary utopia, Cancerian! APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. It's true that now would be a good time to give extra attention to cultivating vivid visions of your perfect life. But I wouldn't recommend that you live there full-time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "The national anthem of Hell must be the old Frank Sinatra song 'I Did It My Way,'" declares Richard Wagner, author of the book *Christianity for Dummies*. "Selfish pride is Hell's most common trait," he adds. "Hell's inhabitants have a sense of satisfaction that they can at least say 'they've been true to themselves.'" Heed this warning, Leo. Tame your lust for self-expression. APRIL FOOL! I was making a little joke. The truth is not as simplistic as I implied. I actually think it's important for you to be able to declare "I did it my way" and "I've been true to myself." But for best results, do it in ways that aren't selfish, insensitive, or arrogant.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): No matter what gender you are, it's an excellent time to get a gig as a stripper. Your instinct for removing your clothes in entertaining ways is at a peak. Even if you have never been trained in the art, I bet you'll have an instinctive knack. APRIL FOOL! I lied. I don't really think you should be a stripper. But I do recommend you experiment with a more metaphorical version of that art. For instance, you could expose hidden agendas that are causing distortions and confusion. You could peel away the layers of deception and propaganda that hide the naked facts and the beautiful truth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Give yourself obsessively to your most intimate relationships. Don't bother clean-

ing your house. Call in sick to your job. Ignore all your nagging little errands. Now is a time for one task only: paying maximum attention to those you care about most. Heal any rifts between you. Work harder to give them what they need. Listen to them with more empathy than ever before. APRIL FOOL! I went a bit overboard there. It's true that you're in a phase when big rewards can come from cultivating and enhancing togetherness. But if you want to serve your best relationships, you must also take very good care of yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's after midnight. You're half-wasted, cruising around town looking for wicked fun. You stumble upon a warehouse laboratory where zombie bankers and military scientists are creating genetically engineered monsters from the DNA of scorpions, Venus flytraps, and Monsanto executives. You try to get everyone in a party mood, but all they want to do is extract your DNA and add it to the monster. APRIL FOOL! Everything I just said was a lie. I doubt you'll encounter any scenario *that* extreme. But you are at risk for falling into weird situations that could compromise your mental hygiene. To minimize that possibility, make sure that the wicked fun you pursue is healthy, sane wicked fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you were a ladybug beetle, you might be ready and eager to have sex for nine hours straight. If you were a pig, you'd be capable of enjoying 30-minute orgasms. If you were a dolphin, you'd seek out erotic encounters not just with other dolphins of both genders, but also with turtles, seals, and sharks. Since you are merely human, however, your urges will probably be milder and more containable. APRIL FOOL! In truth, Sagittarius, I'm not so sure your urges will be milder and more containable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "The past is not only another country where they do things differently," says writer Theodore Dalrymple, "but also where one was oneself a different person." With this as your theme, Capricorn, I invite you to spend a lot of time visiting the Old You in the Old World. Immerse yourself in that person and that place. Get lost there. And don't come back until you've relived at least a thousand memories. APRIL FOOL! I was exaggerating. While it is a good time to get reacquainted with the old days and old ways, I don't recommend that you get utterly consumed by the past.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some Aquarian readers have been complaining. They want me to use more celebrity references in my horoscopes. They demand fewer metaphors drawn from literature, art, and science, and more metaphors rooted in gossip events reported on by tabloids. "Tell me how Kanye West's recent travails relate to my personal destiny," wrote one Aquarius. So here's a sop to you kvetchers: The current planetary omens say it's in your interest to be more like Taylor Swift and less like Miley Cyrus. Be peppy, shimmering, and breezy, not earthy, salty, and raucous. APRIL FOOL! In truth, I wouldn't write about celebrities' antics if you paid me. Besides, for the time being, Miley Cyrus is a better role model for you than Taylor Swift.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Annie Edson Taylor needed money. She was 63 years old, and didn't have any savings. She came up with a plan: to be the first person to tuck herself inside a barrel and ride over Niagara Falls. (This was back in 1901.) She reasoned that her stunt would make her wealthy as she toured the country speaking about it. I recommend that you consider out-of-the-box ideas like hers, Pisces. It's an excellent time to get extra creative in your approach to raising revenue. APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. It's true that now is a favorable time to be imaginative about your financial life. But don't try outlandish escapades like hers.

Out on the town

from page 25

Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Easter Bunny Meet & Greet. Bring cameras. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 323-8555, deltami.gov.

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.

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

"CITY ART" by Mark Hahn. Art exhibit. 25% of sales go to the OTC. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Katalyst Gallery, 1214 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 708-8916.

"What We All Come To Need" Art Exhibit. By Daniel Finks and Matthew M. Maher. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600, micagallery.org.

MUSIC

MSU Faculty Recital. Joseph Luloff, saxophone, James Forger, saxophone. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Tuesday Morning Book Club. Discuss "The Life List" by Lori Nelson Spielman. 10:15-11:15 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Wednesday, April 1

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.

Story Art Time. Make art inspired by storybooks. Ages 2-5. 10-11 a.m. \$5/adults FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org/events/storytime.

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

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

Knit & Knot So Much. Knitting and Crochet Group. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE, donations accepted. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

EVENTS

Atheists & Theists Together. Getting specific on social justice projects. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, pilgrimucc.com.

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.

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.

Guest Speaker at ANC. Presentation and coffee. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3912, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

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.

MSU Faculty Recital. Guy Yehuda, clarinet. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 Seniors/students FREE. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"Bug." (See March 26 for details.) 7:30 p.m. \$10. MSU Auditorium, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton, theatre.msu.edu.

"The Phantom of the Opera." A new production by Cameron Mackintosh. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$32; students \$25. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 353-1982, whartoncenter.com

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Edible Book Contest. Bring in an edible representation of a book. 12:30-1:30 p.m. FREE. Lookout! Gallery, 362 Bogue St. MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932. poetry.rcac.msu.edu.

Poetry Reading & Conversation. With poet Dennis Hinrichsen. Talk 3 p.m., reading 7 p.m. FREE. Snyder-Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St., MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-1932, poetry.rcac.msu.edu.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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A	D	Z	E	S				S	I	T	U	P		
G	O	T	A	H	O	E	T	O	T	A	H	O	E	
D	A	N		J	A	W	B	O	N	E		E	Y	E
M	M	D		A	V	I	A	T	O	R		R	E	D
C	E	O		K	E	E	N	E	R		S	D	S	

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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

How sweet it is

The Sweet Leaf takes a farmers market approach to its dispensary

In August, Flint's City Council voted to approve an ordinance regulating dispensaries. As I approached the Sweet Leaf's location on Dort Highway, I could already see the positive impact. It was easy to notice a large sign with the words "The Sweet Leaf" and a picture of a leaf on it, but it is not a marijuana leaf — let's call it a sweet leaf. Directly beneath the main Sweet Leaf sign was a smaller, secondary sign that read "Florida Bob," the nickname of the man who created the dispensary.

THE GREEN REPORT



STEVE GREEN

The large brick building and its on-site parking lot are up kept nicely. Once inside, I immediately felt welcomed. The lobby was clean and had a fresh scent. I checked in with the receptionist, who checked my ID and verified my card. After I completed the paperwork, he provided me access into the back room, which was unlike any dispensary model I've seen.

The Sweet Leaf
400 S. Dort Highway,
Flint
(810) 259-2571, info@thesweetleafllc.com

I was able to find everything from clones (baby marijuana plants) to flowers to oils. The THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) edibles were slightly short-stocked, but after some discussion with a few caregivers I can see this selection growing in the near future. It was nice to see that the CBD (cannabidiol)-rich edible selection was in large supply. This gave the store more of a medical center feel, as CBD provides many of the medical benefits of marijuana with less of the psychoactive effects. The Sweet Leaf had some of the best CBD-rich products I've found in the Flint area, in both flower and edible forms.

Every vendor was helpful, and they were diligent to ensure I had the full experience by encouraging me to visit each of the other vendors. If I was the type of person who buys something from each vendor, this could have become an expensive trip. Whom am I kidding? I am that kind of person. Thankfully, I didn't have to explain a budgetary hit to my wife. The compassionate gifts rained in: First-time patients get a nice offering from each vendor. Prices were also very competitive, with most of the products set around \$10 per gram.

With a nice building, ample parking, the helpfulness of the vendors and a large variety of quality medicine, the Sweet Leaf has certainly hit the formula

for success. It is the perfect combination of a farmers market and upscale store. If you are the kind of person who likes individual care and sitting down to talk with your provider, they've got you covered here. The Sweet Leaf has only been open four weeks, and I am interested to see if this model is repeated elsewhere in the state.

I left with a well-stocked bag contain-

ing everything from pre-rolled joints to high-CBD flowers to edibles of every variety and even some bubble hash, a THC resin extracted using only water and ice that carries double the potency of a marijuana flower.

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

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There were several hallways with offices lining both sides — a total of nine offices. Each of the offices housed an independent caregiver, each with their own products available and their own price points. I was excited about this setup because it not only drastically increases the selection of medical marijuana strains and products available, it also provides a plethora of personalities — you never have to deal with someone you're not comfortable with.

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THE PULSIFIEDS

BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

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