

City PULSE

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February 18-24, 2015

MERCURY RISING

THE EAST LANSING MERCURY SPILL, FINES AND LAWSUIT • PAGE 8

CITY OF EAST LANSING
WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT



IS IT A CRIME?

Crenshaw missed campaign finance report deadlines, bounced check - Page 5

HITTIN' IN THE MITTEN

Two of the state's top jazzmen come to MSU - Page 11

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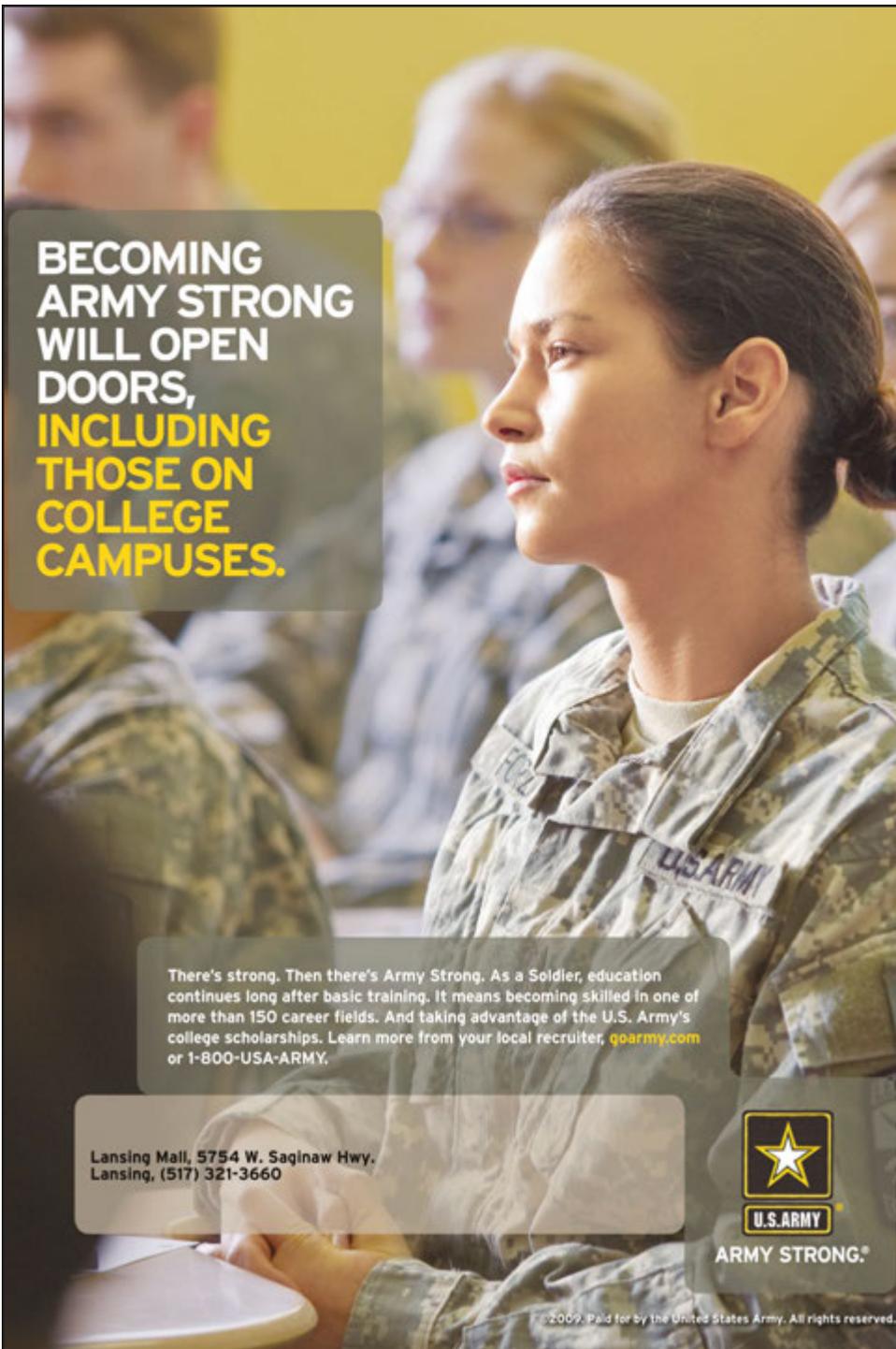
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MSU Center for Orthopedic Research
517-975-3301
msucor@msu.edu
orthopedicresearch.msu.edu



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY College of Osteopathic Medicine

PI: Jacek Cholewicki, PhD and Peter Reeves, PhD. Funded by NIH.



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Feedback

City Pulse should offer conservative voice and viewpoints

I cannot think of anything neater than having your own business. It is your baby and you can do what you want as long as you don't break any laws. You do your best to keep your customers happy and hopefully you will earn a good living. What happens if this business is a publication? Do you still have the opportunity to do what you want? Or should there be a balance if business owner only has one point of view?

Please hear me out. I find your publication interesting and enjoy it when individuals or organization do things that may not be people's best interest and you expose it.

Most of your reporting is left (liberal/progressive) leaning.

Pretty much all your interviews are with folks on the Democratic party. I find this kind of reporting very unbalanced. This would not be an issue if the City Pulse was just an entertainment magazine. But you have elected to address issues and candidates that generally have just one point of view. Your columnists are also leaning very left.

What I agree with is that this publication is owned by Berl Schwartz and he should do what is in his best interests. However lately there have been many questions on all media regarding pushing a particular agenda or political party (MSNBC-Democrat, FOX-Republican). Shouldn't there be at least a half hearted try of another point of view?

How about a column from someone here in Michigan who has a more conservative agenda? Tom Watkins, the former State Superintendent of Michigan Public Schools used to write some very informative articles in the Lansing State Journal. Another individual that comes to mind is Tim Barron from WLMI. He is right leaning and has been known to give an opinion from time to time.

I think the public deserves political balance in their local publications. Is the City Pulse willing to give it to them?

— Phil Lange
Dewitt

Vaccinations save lives

In the article on "Immunization Obligation," Ms. Skurnowicz stated: "Up until 100 years ago, there were no vaccinations. How did civilization survive to that point in time without having vaccinations?"

Sure, civilization survived, but with the premature loss of many individual members. Go to any early cemetery and look at the gravestones from the 19th and early 20th centuries, and you will see how many children died. Sometimes, one sees multiple children from a single family who died close together, or multiple children from one community who died within the same time period. This suggests a communicable disease that hit these families. It was not unusual during previous centuries for just about every family to have lost one or more children. Thankfully, that is a rare occurrence today because of antibiotics, vaccines and other scientific advances. How many families would be willing to go back to sacrificing even one of their children?

Parents who wish to study all the facts about vaccination and make informed decisions should not neglect the stark truth of history.

— Mary L. Kwas
Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing Historic District Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 9, 2015, at 5:30 p.m., in the Planning & Neighborhood Development Department Conference Room, 316 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, Michigan. This hearing will be to consider HDC-1-15, 216 Huron St., Lansing, MI 48915, a request by Carol Skillings, owner of 216 Huron St., for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the renovation of the residence at that address, within the Darius B. Moon House Historic District.

The Historic District Commission's review of this building permit is in accordance with Section 1220.07 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lansing.

For more information about this case, please contact Bill Rieske, Asst. Planning Manager, at (517) 483-4066 during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. M-F.

Bill Rieske, Secretary
Lansing Historic District Commission

CP#15_032

CityPULSE

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Profile: Old-school barber Duane Stoolmaker

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Capital City Brass Band prepares for national competition

PAGE 12



Harry Belafonte drops the hammer in fiery speech at MSU

PAGE 13



COVER ART

"MERCURIAL" by ANGUS McNAIR



THIS WEEK

- State Rep. Mike Callton
- Kyle Melinn of MIRS News
- Ari Adler, Special Projects Manager, Governor's Office
- Susan Demas of Inside Michigan Politics
- Joe DiSano of DiSano Strategies



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

Panel 1: --AND THEN THERE WAS THE TIME I STARED DEATH IN THE EYE ON A CHINOOK HELICOPTER UNDER HEAVY ENEMY FIRE IN IRAQ--
UM, SIR--PSST PSST PSST!

Panel 2: INTERESTING! I'VE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT I SEEM TO HAVE CONFLATED SOMEONE ELSE'S EXPERIENCE WITH MY OWN!
MEMORY IS CERTAINLY A TRICKY THING!

Panel 3: IT REMINDS ME OF THE TIME I WAS A SECRET AGENT WITH A HEAD FULL OF IMPLANTED MEMORIES AND I HAD TO GO TO THE MINING COLONY ON MARS--
AHEM! PSST PSST!

Panel 4: MY APOLOGIES, AMERICA! I SEEM TO HAVE CONFUSED MY OWN LIFE WITH THE PLOT OF THE 1990 VERSION OF "TOTAL RECALL!"
AND I DON'T MIND ADMITTING WHEN I'VE MADE A MISTAKE!

Panel 5: IT'S THE ONLY WAY NEWS PROFESSIONALS SUCH AS MYSELF CAN MAINTAIN THE TRUST OF THE AUDIENCE!
WE HAVE TO REPORT THE TRUTH--AND DAMN THE CONSEQUENCES!

Panel 6: LIKE WHEN WE COURAGEOUSLY EXPOSED THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S LIES ABOUT WMD'S IN IRAQ AND SADDAM'S CONNECTIONS TO AL QAEDA!
IT WASN'T EASY-- BUT IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

Panel 7: CAN YOU EVEN IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF MESS THE WORLD MIGHT BE IN TODAY IF WE'D SHIRKED OUR DUTY AS JOURNALISTS--
--AND INSTEAD SERVED AS DE FACTO PROPAGANDISTS?

Panel 8: SIR! PSST PSST PSST PSST PSST PSST!
ER--I MAY HAVE SLIGHTLY MISREMEMBERED SOME OF THAT.

Panel 9: BUT LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME MY CREW AND I SAVED EARTH FROM THE BORG--
UM, SIR--?

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Check and balance

Clerk wants criminal investigation over county commissioner campaign finance fees, bounced check

Late campaign finance reports and a bounced check may have Ingham County Commissioner Bryan Crenshaw facing a criminal investigation and charges.

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum, a Democrat, has asked state officials to investigate whether Crenshaw, also a Democrat, may have committed perjury when he signed his campaign finance compliance affidavit on Jan. 2. The requests for investigation were made by letter on Jan. 20 to the Michigan State Police and the Attorney General's Public Integrity Unit.

"Something happened that doesn't pass the smell test," Byrum said in an interview. "I am under the belief that the committee was not in compliance at the time Commissioner Crenshaw signed the document."

For Byrum, the issue is the timing of a check used to pay off campaign finance fees and fines.

"I believe that Commissioner Crenshaw waited too long to take care of his campaign finance obligations," Byrum says. "I believe that Commissioner Crenshaw wrote a check he knew or should have known would not be valid. I believe that Commissioner Crenshaw should have known that, when we signed the affidavit of campaign finance compliance, he was not in compliance."

The document in question is an affidavit saying that the campaign committees they operated were fully compliant with the law, and any fines or fees had been paid. The affidavit is signed under the penalty of perjury — a five-year felony in Michigan — and are required for all elected office holders in



Crenshaw

the state.

Crenshaw says the bounced check was a simple oversight, which he quickly remedied.

Byrum tells officials Crenshaw filed for re-election to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners on April 15 of last year, and on April 29 was mailed detailed information on campaign finance reporting deadlines and responsibilities.

"Mr Crenshaw then received numerous additional notifications from my office regarding his accruing late filing fees," Byrum wrote in her letters to officials. "On October 28, 2014, Mr. Crenshaw was notified that the total amount had grown to \$1,350."

In order to take office, Crenshaw had to file all his reports and pay any fees and fines. Dec. 30, Crenshaw sought a payment plan from the county, something Byrum declined. On Jan. 2, Crenshaw paid the \$1,350 debt with the county, records show, and immediately signed his affidavit and took his oath. On Jan. 15 the check Crenshaw wrote was returned for non-sufficient funds.

Crenshaw admits he failed to keep up on his campaign finance reporting requirements. He also says the returned check was the result of his own oversight. He opened his campaign committee account on Jan. 2.

He says "family and friends" contributed \$1,275 towards his debts, and he intended to transfer the remaining \$75 to cover the balance of the debt to the new account for his committee at the MSU Federal Credit Union.

"I forgot to transfer the money from my account," Crenshaw says. "I had thought I had done that, but apparently, I had not done that."

Crenshaw took a cashier's check for \$1,375 to the county on Jan. 27, a week after formal notice of the returned check was sent to him by the county. He provided the additional \$25 fee for the returned check, meaning he loaned his campaign committee \$100.

As for why he failed to file his required reports, or request a waiver — committees and candidates that expect to raise or

See Crenshaw, Page 6

Being in Lansing

Duane Stoolmaker, barber of the greats

I studied finance at Michigan State University and took a job on Wall Street with Wells Fargo Securities Investment Banking. I worked two years of 80+ hour weeks out in the "big city" and decided perhaps it wasn't for me. Each time I would visit campus, I had a hard time returning to NYC. I missed the area, the people, and MSU. It was summer 2013, when I finally came home.

Upon returning to the area, I established a financial advisory/insurance business. I needed a new barber, dry cleaner, etc. It was nearly a whole year before I took my father's suggestion and headed to Arkie's to get a haircut. Why had I been so stubborn? After one cut from Duane Stoolmaker, I realized that I had found my barber. Needless to say, I am not planning on finding a different barbershop any time soon.

Let me introduce you to Duane Stoolmaker:

Across Grand River Avenue in the shadow of the new Whole Foods under construction is a throwback to a simpler time.

The scent of heated shaving cream and aftershave waft in Arkie's Barbershop. The leather chairs and wood cabinetry date to the 70s. Golden Oldies are just barely audible over spirited

conversations about recent news, family and the Spartans.

Arkie's is a classic American barbershop, where everyone chats like old friends and enjoys the pleasure of a good haircut, from a good barber.

Duane Stoolmaker turned 80 this month. He has been a fixture at Arkie's in Meridian Township since 1972. His craft is barber, storyteller and conversationalist. He has cut hair for the likes of MSU coaches Biggie Munn, George Perles, Gus Ganakas and even former MSU President M. Peter McPherson.

Arkie's is a classic American barbershop, where everyone chats like old friends and enjoys the pleasure of a good haircut, from a good barber.

Getting his sea legs

Stoolmaker graduated from Hill-McCloy High School in Montrose in 1952, at the age of 17. Once he received his barber license, at age 18, Stoolmaker enlisted in the Navy.

Three months after enlisting the Korean War ended and Stoolmaker was back stateside cutting hair.

He went to work for a shop on the west side of Lansing at the corner of Saginaw Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (then, Logan) for 20 years until the owner died.

In 1956, Stoolmaker opened the Spartan Barbershop, next

See Stoolmaker, Page 6



Property: 734 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
Owner: Lansing Mobile Homes LTD PTS, Southfield
Assessed value: \$253,000

The recently improved crosswalk in front of this building seems slightly absurd along this busy stretch of Grand River. However, if this building was connected with its neighbors more effectively, it could anchor a nascent commercial cluster, particularly if the limited bus service were increased along this route.

Although most of the building's character has been removed or covered up, it exhibits vaguely Art Moderne elements. The industrial concrete block exterior is softened by the use of rounded corner blocks. An improved entry would feature a covered awning that echoes the existing horizontal string course bands. Restored windows, featuring newly composed arrangements on the upper level, might employ glass block units for privacy.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

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

Stoolmaker

from page 5

door to the Harrison Roadhouse and across the street from Brody Hall. It was a location that seemed filled with potential. Brody Hall, at the time, was an all-male dorm that housed nearly 3,600 students.

Over the next 16 years, Duane built up a loyal client base and followed the changing hairstyles from “flat-tops” to “Princetons” to the longer, feathered hairstyles of the 1970s.

“I don’t get many surprises,” Stoolmaker said when it comes to styles.

By 1972, Brody Hall had gone co-ed and parking got tight around his barbershop. Stoolmaker partnered with a friend to create Arkie’s.

Spartan stamped

Stoolmaker definitely bleeds green and

white.

He says he’s rarely missed a Spartan home football game. Stoolmaker even made the trip to Pasadena last year to watch the Spartans win the Rose Bowl.

The walls of the barbershop are covered with Spartan memorabilia, posters, newspaper clippings and signed photos of MSU faculty and current and former coaches.

He still sees George Perles and Ganakas, even as recently as last week.

“I cut George Perles’s hair in the 50s when he played football here and he still comes in to this day,” Stoolmaker said.

Perles must really like the quality of the cut, I said.

“Or maybe I’ve just got him fooled after all these years,” Stoolmaker replied with a laugh.

He recalls the barber sessions not but the cut but by the stories.

In recalling McPherson, he said the man was a “workaholic who lived on cat-naps.”



Ariel Rogers/City Pulse

Duane Stoolmaker, owner of Arkie’s Barbershop, cuts the hair of Dale Bartlett, 82, of East Lansing.

He said he always had to finish one side of his head quickly before he nodded off to sleep.

The affection and affinity go both ways.

“I got very attached to the place and to him and his background,” said Ganakas. “I’m older, but we have a lot in common ... especially when it comes to MSU athletics.”

Ganakas said Stoolmaker is upbeat and positive. “He’s not just the person who grooms my hair, but a person I can consider a friend.”

Perles said he was recommended to Arkie’s by some friends years ago and was hooked. Going in for a cut is more than about the cut. It’s conversation time with a friend.

“Besides being a great barber, Duane really knows a lot about a lot of different things,” Perles said. “He’s been around so long, he’s been able to learn a lot from his customers. He really listens to what people have to say. Most of his customers have been going to him for many, many years, just like I have.”

All about attitude

After 60 years working the chair, Stoolmaker is often asked when he will hang up his shears.

“This is how I am thinking about retirement ... sorta shop ‘til you drop, if you get what I mean. ... My son just told me about two guys, a 98-year-old barber in Florida and a 100-year-old barber in Pennsylvania. I’m thinking I may want to break the record. But I am not sure what my wife thinks of that idea.”

Stoolmaker considers his livelihood one person at a time.

“I get paid to talk to my friends all day. It’s not really work to me,” he said.

Stoolmaker’s got energy to spare.

“A person’s altitude is determined more by their attitude than their aptitude,” he said.

— By Andrew Gauthier



CityPULSE

NEWSMAKERS



HOSTED BY BERL SCHWARTZ

THIS WEEK:

BWL



DAVID HOLLISTER

FORMER MAYOR



JOE GRAVES JR.

FORMER BWL COMMISSIONER



MY18TV!

10 A.M. EVERY SATURDAY

COMCAST CHANNEL 16 LANSING

7:30 P.M. EVERY FRIDAY

Crenshaw

from page 5

spend less than \$1000 can be exempted from reporting requirements — because “2014 was a hard year for me.”

He cites the unexpected death of a relative and business issues as examples of how his attention was diverted.

“It was really tough on me. I failed to do what I needed to do campaignwise,” Crenshaw said. “It was my error for not checking with the clerk.”

Crenshaw, 40, was appointed to the board of commissioners in August 2013 to fill a vacancy created when former Commissioner Deb DeLeon resigned to accept a job out of the area. He takes home about \$13,000 a year for his post as a commissioner. He is otherwise unemployed.

When Crenshaw was appointed, he served as the director of the Eaton Rapids Senior Center, a nonprofit agency. He was appointed to the Lansing School Board to fill a vacancy in 1999, but chose not to stand for election for that seat. He also served in the Granholm administration in different roles.

Byrum says Crenshaw is not the first politician she has referred to the state offi-

cial. She says since taking office in 2012 she has referred five campaign committees to state officials, and seven campaigns to the county treasurer for collection of past due fees and fines. Three of the referrals to state officials resulted in warning letters from the Secretary of State’s Election Bureau. None of the referrals resulted in criminal prosecution for those involved.

Collecting past due fees and fines has been worse, she says.

“I believe only one or two of the committees that have been referred to the county treasurer have made payments to the County,” she said.

For campaign finance expert Rich Robinson, executive director of the Michigan Campaign Finance Network, Byrum’s actions are good for democracy.

“I understand that Ms. Byrum has a strict law and order approach to campaign reporting — I think that’s good, as long as it’s pursued impartially,” Robinson said in an email to City Pulse. “That said, this whole sequence of events isn’t a great recommendation for a county commissioner.”

— By Todd Heywood



Open government

Leveling the price of the freedom of information

Starting this summer, most public bodies in Michigan will be somewhat more accountable, a bit more transparent, in allowing people to discover what they do and how they do it.

The so-called Freedom of Information Act — so-called because it's studded with exceptions and doesn't apply to the legislature or courts — was modified during the just-ended legislative session to give people a bit more leverage to press government for information.

The changes are designed to curb abusive fees and encourage prompt compliance with the law, according to a analysis by Butzel Long, the First Amendment attorneys for the Michigan Press Association. And while the law firm's FOIA highlights were designed for the journalists, it's important to remember that FOIA isn't just a press issue.

Gov. Rick Snyder put it this way: "The reforms make clear that we in government are working on behalf of our residents, who should not be discouraged from learning about how that government is serving them."

What's changed with FOIA is the ground rules. Public bodies — local government, school boards, state agencies and authorities — must summarize their FOIA policies, post them on a website if they have one, and provide a copy of, or link to, the policy to those filing a FOIA request. Starting July 1 when the revised law takes effect, public bodies must tell you if a document is available at no charge on a website before they can charge to fill a request.

They must establish a standard fee itemization form. What public bodies charge and how they establish costs, has been an ongoing issue with FOIA. The revised law prevents what had been arbitrary and at times deliberately high fees demanded by public bodies to discourage inquiries.

Revisions to the law will require public bodies to fully itemize all of the costs that it factors into its FOIA fee and there are limits on how they can compute their charges.

Copying fees must reflect real costs. Governments can't charge more than 10 cents per sheet for paper and they must copy on both sides. Labor charges are pegged to the hourly wage of the lowest-paid employee capable of searching, locating and examining documents, whether or not the work is done at that level.

This should encourage public bodies to minimize the cost of complying with FOIA

although many won't since their payroll costs are fixed. But it does limit what they can charge.

And the law also limits what public bodies can charge for outside expertise. Some governmental bodies may not have the staff to handle a FOIA request and are forced to contract for lawyers or accountants or other professionals.

Right now this can result in steep charges — hundreds of dollars an hour. But starting in July, these contract wages will be limited to six times the state minimum hourly wage, or \$48.90. The public body must tell you who it hires, it cannot pay fringe benefits and can't charge overtime for the contract employee unless you agree to it.

All labor charges must be computed in 15-minute intervals and rounded down. If a request takes 14 minutes, there should be no labor charge. Also, a public body cannot charge for redacting a document that already has been redacted.

More important, the law says that a public body may not charge for a FIOA request unless it entails an unreasonably high cost and that it must identify the unreasonably high cost.

There are also new penalties for failing to comply with FIOA. If a dispute goes to court — the Court of Claims if the state is involved and Circuit Court for other disputes — and a public body is found to have "arbitrarily or capriciously" refused or delayed disclosing information, the court shall order it to pay \$1,000 to the Michigan State Treasury and \$1,000 to the requester. If the public body "willfully and intentionally" fails to comply with FOIA, a more serious action, the court shall raise the fine to the state by a minimum of \$2,500 and not more than \$7,500.

This is real money and ought to help governments focus on treating FOIA requests professionally.

The new law does give public bodies some relief from gadflies who barrage them with frivolous and wasteful requests. If the fees to fill a FOIA request are likely to exceed \$50, it is normal to require a 50 percent deposit. But starting in July, the public body can require a 100 percent deposit for people who failed to pay for their last request.

The law also places the onus on the individual to ensure that the public body actually receives a FOIA. There are penalties for failing to comply in a timely manner, and the clock starts with receipt. But the Legislature in modifying FOIA recognized that many requests are filed using email and that sometimes these emails are treated as junk mail or spam and never seen by the public body.

The point is, if you send a FOIA request make sure to follow up with a phone call, a letter or in some way inform the public body so that it is aware and it must answer within five days. Remember, FOIA is a two-way conversation. You will be louder in the future, but make sure that it's heard.



MICKEY HIRTTEN

BRIEF

East Lansing playground wins park design award

East Lansing's Playground in the Park "Re-Imagined" project at Patriarch Park has won an outstanding park design award from the Michigan Recreation & Park Association.

"The project was the result of a great partnership between the City of East Lansing and the Rotary Club of East Lansing and it could not have happened without the support of the community," said Tim McCaffrey, director of parks, recreation and arts in East Lansing.

The Playground in the Park "Re-Imagined" project is completely community driven — designed, built and funded. More than 200 volunteers assembled the new 1.2-acre playground during a three-day build last summer. The playground is eco-friendly and is fully accessible.

The project was funded in part by a \$300,000 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant as well as sponsorships and community contributions.

...and Briefer

The **\$54 billion state budget** proposed by Gov. Rick Snyder includes hundreds of million of dollars in spending cuts, would use the School Aid Fund to support community colleges, **add \$75 per-pupil for K-12 school funding**, and would increase the Health Insurance Claims Assessment, essentially a tax increase. ... Meridian Township named Mike Froh to serve a one-year term as a non-voting member of the **Lansing Board of Water & Light board of commissioners**, joining East Lansing's nominee, Robert Nelson. ...**Radio Shack**, which has filed for bankruptcy, will close three Lansing-area stores. ...Thirty people have applied for the appointment to fill the **Lansing City Council position** vacated by Derrick Quinney.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of reviewing the proposed 2015-2021 Capital Improvements Program.

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

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#15_033

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

2015 MISCELLANEOUS CONCRETE PROJECT

CITY OF EAST LANSING
410 ABBOT ROAD
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of East Lansing at the Office of the Director of Public Works, up to 11:00 A. M., Monday, March 16, 2015, at which time and place proposals will be publicly opened and read for the furnishing of materials, labor and equipment for an unspecified quantity of miscellaneous concrete work in the City of East Lansing. Proposals may either be mailed to the Director of Public Works at 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 or hand delivered to the Office of the Director of Public Works located at 1800 E. State Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

The Contract Documents, including Specifications, Plans and Bidding Forms may be obtained at the Director of Public Works' Office, located at 1800 E. State Road, East Lansing, Michigan, by paying a Twenty-Five Dollar (\$25.00) non-refundable preparation fee.

The City will apply its Local Purchasing Preference Policy, Policy Resolution 2009-3, in making the award of this contract.

The City of East Lansing reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive defects in proposals, and to make the award in its own best interest.

CITY OF EAST LANSING

By: Marie Wicks
City Clerk

CP#15_031

WASTED EFFORTS

DID EAST LANSING JEOPARDIZE EMPLOYEE AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN IMPROPER MERCURY CLEANUP?

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

It began when a pressure gauge in the Waste Water Treatment Plant in East Lansing broke the day after Thanksgiving 2013.

Somewhere between one and half and three pounds of the mercury — a toxic heavy metal — spilled onto the facility floors.

A maintenance supervisor used shop vacuums to clean up the spilled liquid metal. According to documents released by the city of East Lansing, he poured the collected mercury down a drain located in a sink in the facility's shop. He didn't report the spill to supervisors.

According to records released by the city, the toxic spill was handled in an unsafe manner and possibly resulted in contamination outside the plant. Failing to report a toxic release is a violation of state and federal law, as well.

The city was ultimately fined thousands of dollars by state safety regulators and cited for over 15 violations of state environmental laws and regulations. And last month, eight current and one former employee of the facility filed a state lawsuit against the city of East Lansing alleging the municipality put their health in jeopardy by their failure to address the mercury spill and ongoing issues with asbestos.

One activist says the city needs to be transparent about the spill and the cleanup.

"It's very troubling the allegations were not disclosed fully," said Walt Sorg, president of the board of directors of the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council.

All the internal communications, government reports, citations and bills were obtained through the Freedom of Information Act by citizen journalists at EastLansingInfo.org. They were also first to report on the lawsuit. City Pulse obtained the documents from the city of East Lansing as well as from the Ingham County Health Department last week.

Documents show facility staff attempted to clean up the remaining mercury. During that time, the contamination was spread to other parts of the facility, as well as to the Hannah Community Center — although the public would not be told of the Hannah exposure for nearly seven months.

Finally, on March 20, 2014 — nearly four months after the incident — facility staff and union officials brought the spill to the attention of city of East Lansing administrators. State and local government mobilized staff to investigate and respond.

THE INITIAL REPORT AND RESPONSE

According to the documents, the maintenance supervisor used two shop vacuums available in the shop of the Waste Water Treatment Plant to vacuum up the mercury.

He then dumped the mercury down a sink in the facility. While other employees were aware of the incident and the cleanup, they didn't report anything until March.

When the Ingham County Health Department was called in, officials arrived with a specially designed mercury cleanup vacuum and they tested the air. They determined there was contamination, but not enough to pose a health threat to employees. Nonetheless, employees were encouraged to get tested for mercury — blood tests which showed there were no toxic levels of mercury in any of the tested employees.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says the health effects of exposure the type of mercury spilled at the

facility include: "tremors; emotional changes (e.g., mood swings, irritability, nervousness, excessive shyness); insomnia; neuromuscular changes (such as weakness, muscle atrophy, twitching); headaches; disturbances in sensations; changes in nerve responses; performance deficits on tests of cognitive function. At higher exposures there may be kidney effects, respiratory failure and death."

Health department officials also packaged the contaminated vacuums.

The city had wanted to keep the sink where the mercury had been disposed. But outside contractor testing found it was heavily contaminated. As a result, the 200-pound sink and drain were removed and replaced.



Ariel Rogers/City Pulse

A mercury spill at the East Lansing Wastewater Treatment Plant and cleanup efforts are being called unsafe in a lawsuit filed by employees.

Health officials worked with city employees to properly contain the contamination. They placed the exposed items — two vacuums and the manometer — in trash cans sealed with plastic. A dumpster, where one of the vacuums had been stored was checked and found to contain no contamination. Based on the records released from the city, the contaminated material was stored in an unlocked room at the facility.

LESSONS UNLEARNED

The incident in 2013 stands in stark contrast to an incident in March 2005 at the facility. At that time, less than a pound of mercury was spilled. Within 24 hours, employees contacted the Ingham County Health Department Bureau of Environmental Health. County officials responded, identified mercury beads in a storage room, and took mercury vapor readings. They cleared the building for occupancy and left the vacuum for continued cleanup needs at the facility. Employees of the Waste Water Treatment Plant were trained on how to use the mercury vacuum, as well as using personal protection equipment so they could conduct the cleanup over the course of a "couple of days."

The event did not require reporting to the state, and no

state or federal agencies inspected. That 2005 response was well within cleanup recommendations provided by county health officials in March 2014.

And that difference is shown in the costs that added up for this spill. As a result of the 2013 spill, and the delay in reporting, the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited the facility for five serious violations of workplace safety rules. The city was cited for failing to have hazard communications and emergency response plans, failure to inform employees of asbestos, to provide required asbestos awareness trainings, and to keep asbestos from surfaces in the facility.

MIOSHA levied an original fine of \$11,000 for the violations, but reduced that to \$4,400 in a settlement agreement signed in August.

Beyond the fines, the city also racked up significant bills cleaning up asbestos and mercury. The documents show the city paid contractor HBC \$7,570 to remove asbestos from the tunnels in the facility, something MIOSHA cited the city for.

The city paid contractor Environmental Quality \$3,943.76 for mercury abatement — by removing and properly disposing of the vacuums and the sink. The city paid

another contractor, FiberTec, \$725 for mercury testing; and \$900 to ASHA for providing two three-hour asbestos trainings.

The Lansing State Journal reported the former maintenance supervisor, Wayne Beede, 48, was given a \$26,450 separation agreement on Nov. 4. Under the agreement, he would not seek legal action against the city, and was barred to discuss any details of the separation.

The total cost to the city — not including medical testing of employees for mercury exposure and staff time developing new policies — was \$44,038.76.

HANNAH COMMUNITY CENTER

The city had paid its fines to MIOSHA. The cleanup was complete. Contaminated items from the facility had been disposed of and citations from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality were all abated.

Then on Oct. 9 Paul Stokes, the recently appointed plant superintendent, notified East Lansing administrators that he had been informed by two employees that a vacuum

Cleanup

from page 8

hose attachment used during the improper mercury cleanup had been detached from the contaminated vacuum and taken to the Hannah Community Center for use.

"I bring this to your attention since there seems to be continuing employee contact with MiOSHA regarding asbestos issues," Stokes wrote in an email to Lahanas and others. "Would not be surprised the next visit from MiOSHA involves mercury too."

There, four heater units were "blown out," a term of art to reference removal of dust and debris. This happened on March 18, 2014, two days before the November incident was reported to authorities.

Hannah is owned and operated by the city of East Lansing. According to the city website, the facility plays hosts to a variety of activities including meetings, classes, physical fitness programming, and is home to the All-Of-Us-Express Children's Theatre.

The following day, the Ingham County

duct testing] as any mercury vapors would be gone. Even if small droplets were actually discharged, they would probably be evaporated by now."

Where the vacuum and its attachments were used between the Nov. 22 incident and its removal by county officials on March 20, 2014, is unknown.

Shelli Neumann, director of human resources for East Lansing, indicates in an email that the employee who used the contaminated vacuum says he informed leadership of the situation on March 20, while the health department was investigating. But Todd Sneathen, then the director of public works, told officials he did not recall being notified, and contemporary documents do not show such a report was made.

City Councilwoman Ruth Beier received an email from Lahanas and city officials Oct. 16 answering questions she had posed.

"The heating coils are located next to exits to the building and are used as 'space heaters' to very specific small areas," a memo attached to the email reads. "The air does not travel through the heating/cooling system that runs through the entire Hannah building. If there were at any times higher mercury levels between March and October, they would have been isolated to the smaller, limited areas directly by the four heating coils."

And following the inspection and testing of Hannah Community Center by the health department, Neumann emailed Lahanas, who forwarded that email to City Council.

"It should be noted that there is no way of predicting or calculating what the mercury vapor levels were at the time of the event in March 2014," Neumann wrote.

Public safety is a concern, according to Sorg.

"There's a reason for all these rules," Sorg said. "It needs to be dealt with firm-

ly. I'm not ready to hang anybody, yet."

THE LAWSUIT

The mercury spill and subsequent investigations by various government agencies unfolded in the midst of a controversy between Waste Water Treatment Plant employees and the city over asbestos, according to a lawsuit filed in district court last month on behalf of current and former employees.

According to the lawsuit, the city "intentionally and with malice" exposed workers to asbestos and mercury.

Lahanas responded with this statement: "I have assigned staff and our attorney to review all of the information provided in the recent lawsuit filed regarding the mercury and asbestos at the Waste Water Treatment

TIMELINE

2013

Nov. 22: Gauge containing mercury breaks at wastewater treatment plant. The spill is cleaned up with a shop vacuum.

2014

March 18: A contaminated vacuum and hose is used at the Hannah Community Center.

March 20: City management is made aware of the mercury spill. Ingham County Health Department called, and comes to site.

March 25: Health department returns to remove additional mercury.

March 25: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection conducts inspection of plant.

March 26: Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration begins investigation responding to a complaint filed by an

employee over mercury spill and potential asbestos exposures.

April 16: DEQ issues 15 citations over the incident.

May 1: George Lahanas, city manager, updates city council in an email. Lahanas notes the mercury testing results on employees came back "within normal levels." He added, "We are very pleased that while we clearly understand that the mercury was not properly addressed when it occurred, it appears that our employees suffered no ill effects."

July 9: MIOSHA issues multiple violations of workplace safety rules and laws. Initial fines were \$11,000.

Oct. 9: Treatment plant staff notify city officials of Hannah Community Center exposure.

Oct. 13: Ingham County Health Department inspects Hannah Community Center

Oct. 16: City of East Lansing posts letter to Hannah Community Center visitors and employees notifying them of the potential mercury exposure.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Citations, issued by letter April 16, 2014

1. East Lansing Waste Water Treatment Plant had not adequately characterized discarded elemental mercury and equipment, fixtures, and clean-up debris from a mercury release on or about November 22, 2013, and from actions in response to release starting on or about March 21, 2014.
2. Unrecovered mercury was observed on the shop floor and bench shelf on March 25, 2014.
3. ELWWTP failed to submit EQP 5150 notification form which constitutes an application for United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) identification number.
4. The facility stored and disposed of hazardous waste on-site, and did not have a hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facility construction permit and operating license.
5. ELWWTP failed to determine if hazardous waste streams are prohibited or restricted from land disposal and to notify the treatment, storage, or disposal facility of the prohibition status of the waste.
6. ELWWTP failed to retain on-site a copy of all notices, certifications, demonstrations, waste analysis data, and other documents related to land disposal of restricted waste.

Health Department was contacted about the potential mercury exposure. Inspectors conducted tests for mercury Oct. 13.

Three days later, the city posted a letter from Lahanas to city residents and employees at Hannah Community Center.

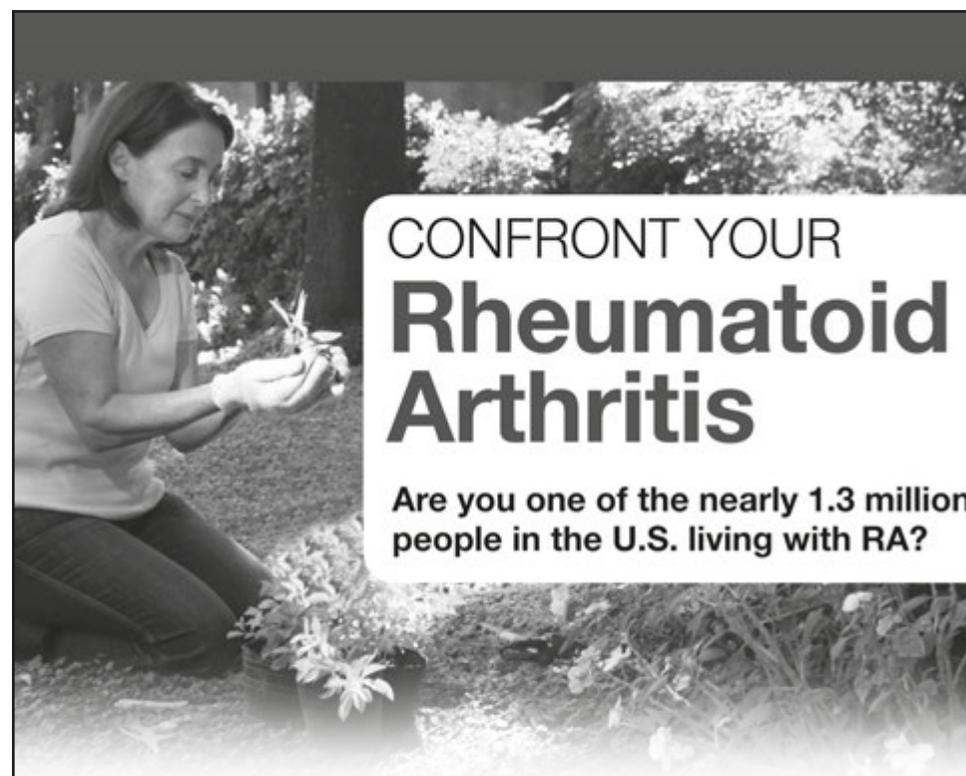
"Last week it was brought to our attention that a hose from a shop vacuum that may have contained a small amount of mercury was used to clean four (4) fan coil units at the Hannah Community Center in March," the letter read.

"The results of the tests indicate that mercury vapor levels are well below the standards allowed in a commercial building," the letter noted.

What the letter didn't say, however, was that Stokes didn't think testing was necessary or that it would reveal anything.

In his Oct. 9 e-mail, Stokes wrote, "At this point in time it would be fruitless [to con-

See Cleanup, Page 10



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Cleanup

from page 9

Plant. That review has just begun and it will be several weeks until we have a more complete picture of all of the issues raised. In terms of complaints and violations from MIOSHA, we see these as an opportunity to find out where we can improve in terms

of safety and to then take the steps to correct any areas indicated by regulatory agencies. Our goal is to provide the safest workplace possible, and we continually strive to improve the safety of the work environment for our employees."

City Councilwoman Kathleen Boyle was the only Council member to respond to questions submitted over the weekend.

"I will not respond to your inquiries because of pending litigation," she wrote.

January 29 - March 1, 2015



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No chair throwing

Top state jazzmen Tim Froncek, Vincent Bowens spend a swinging week at MSU

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A lot of people have gotten their idea of what goes on in a jazz class from that chair-throwing jerk of an instructor, Terry Fletcher, in the Oscar-nominated film "Whiplash."

The two latest guest artists at MSU's Jazz Studies program, drummer Tim Froncek and saxophonist Vincent Bowens, are cut from finer cloth.

"I don't discourage any player," Bowens said. "Everybody has something to say."

Froncek and Bowens, two of the state's top jazz musicians, will work with MSU students all week, tour with them to several schools around the state and cap the week with a concert Friday.

Their joint residency marks the kickoff of a new Michigan Icons series at MSU and a geographical pincer movement by Rodney Whitaker, director of jazz studies. Bowens is a respected veteran of the Detroit scene; Muskegon-born Froncek is a staple of the West Coast school (think of Traverse City, not San Francisco) and a jazz instructor at Grand Valley State University.

Both musicians belie the popular image of controlling tyrants like the fictional Fletcher.

"Music is a spirit," Bowens said. "Feeling and spirit. If you stifle it by trying to control it, you don't get the true essence of the person you're dealing with."

"I try not to control the music, but to fit in," Froncek said. "I might have to lead sometimes. But you have to know when not to be forceful."

Froncek tells his students that drummers have to be ready for anything, including reading minds. Bandleader Hank Levy once told Froncek to play a beat "like a three-legged dog" at a nerve-wracking 1990s gig. (Levy was a specialist in odd meters who composed off-kilter charts for jazz legends like Stan Kenton and Don Ellis.)

"Sometimes people don't know how to write it out, or even explain it," Froncek said. "You have to learn to interpret for people who don't know any musical terms."

More than 30 years ago, at Detroit's fabled jazz hothouse, Metro Arts Complex, Bowens enjoyed the kind of mentorship he'll provide at MSU this week.

One of Bowens' favorite memories was meeting dynamic drummer Roy Brooks in 1972, when Brooks was playing with jazz icon Charles Mingus. Brooks even brought Mingus to sit in with the students at the complex.

"It was a beautiful thing," Bowens said. "You're looking at jazz royalty. Herbie [Hancock], Freddie [Hubbard], whoever was in town would come in and play with us."

It sounds like a lot of pressure for a young student, but Bowens basked in the generosity and patience of the elders and passes it forward whenever he can.

"The way I was taught is, everything you try is good," he said. "I wouldn't try to discourage any way or form."

While still a youngster, Bowens fell in love with saxophon-

ist Coleman Hawkins' classic recording of "Body and Soul."

"Once you heard Coleman, the saxophone was it," he said.

Froncek got the bug when he saw Ringo Starr flipping his sticks (and hair) with the Beatles on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

He skipped career day in high school. "I never thought of doing anything else, ever," he said. "I just knew I was going to play the drums."

Soon after, he fell in love with the big band sound of Duke Ellington and Count Basie. Energetic drummers Gene Krupa and Buddy Rich (a notorious jazz jerk) got him hooked on the physicality and coordination the drum kit demands. "It involves the whole body," Froncek said. "You're totally into it, and if you're doing it right, the audience won't sit still either."

Being a big fish in the small town of Muskegon helped Froncek. When the Miss Michigan pageant, the circus or some other show came to town, he was the go-to drummer. His big break was a steady gig with Woody Herman's big band (the fabled Thundering Herd) in 1982.

How do you impress Woody Herman when you're fresh out of high school? The answer will not be lost on MSU students this week.

"By being a professional, showing up and doing the best I can — that impressed him," Froncek said

Bowens and Froncek visited MSU last week for a quick introduction to the students. Bowens has fond memories of whisking 20-year-old Whitaker along on a tour of Mexico



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Vincent Bowens (left) and Tim Froncek (right) perform for MSU jazz studies students. Rodney Whitaker (back) accompanies on bass.

with Detroit pianist Kenn Cox in the late 1980s.

"We played real good," Bowens said. "We went all over Mexico. It was a real nice situation."

A week-long residency and tour is the ideal way to make a difference with students, Froncek said.

"Playing with them is where the learning takes place," Froncek said. "I can give them a lecture all day. When you're out on the road, you see how they react to the audience and to the other musicians."

Bowens was amazed at what he heard at MSU.

"Man, those guys are playing," he said. That's good news for a humble teacher who thinks of learning as a two-way street.

"I'm going to learn from them, definitely," he said. "I'm still learning all the time. Nobody knows it all."



LEFT: Allison Castiglione, intern at Old Town Commercial Association, passes out boxes to Chocolate Walk attendees.



RIGHT: Lamb's Gate Antiques handed out buckeyes to cocoa craving participants.

Mission: delectable

Hearty souls with sweet teeth braved the harsh cold to get their hands on delicious treats at this year's Old Town Chocolate Walk. Participants went from business to business on a scavenger hunt to collect chocolates with an end goal of filling their boxes with sweets. Lamb's Gate Antiques passed out buckeyes and Cravings Popcorn handed out chocolate-drizzled caramel popcorn. According to David Gregware, chairman of the Old Town promotions committee and developer of the Chocolate Walk, 240 boxes were sold for this year's event.

— ARIEL ROGERS

All photos by Ariel Rogers

Kickin' brass

Capital City Brass Band prepares for its upcoming competition

By TY FORQUER

When you hear the term “brass band,” your mind may take you to the streets of New Orleans and the clamor of Bourbon Street. Many people are unaware, however, there is an entirely different style of brass band, rooted in centuries of British history. This unique style will be on display Saturday when the 40 members of Lansing’s own Capital City Brass Band take the stage.

“The sound is really like nothing else,” says band member Daniel Alt. “It’s a homogeneous sound, it really blends from top to bottom.”

Capital City Brass Band

Competition Preview Concert
7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21
FREE
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capitalcitybrassband.com

Alt, 40, has been a member of Capital City Brass Band since 2007, and has been playing in British-style brass bands for 16 years. The British style is a tradition

that dates back to the early 1800s.

“This style of brass band comes out of the British labor movement,” Alt explains. “These would be bands made up of workers from textile mills or coal mines.”

The British style means there is a spe-

cific set of instruments and number of players. The instrumentation is almost entirely made up of conical-bore brass instruments.

“We’re really getting into the weeds here,” says Alt, as we begin to discuss what the term “conical bore” means.

In a cylindrical-bore instrument, French Horn or trumpet, for example, the piping maintains a constant diameter until the bell, where it flares out. Conical bore instruments, such as cornet or euphonium, feature an increasing diameter throughout the piping. This subtle difference in design significantly changes the tone color of the instruments. Consider the warm, mellow sound of Chuck Mangione’s conical-bore flugelhorn versus the direct, biting tone of Miles Davis’ cylindrical-bore trumpet.

A classically trained French Horn player, Alt picked up the less-common E-flat tenor horn to play in brass band.

“It looks like a euphonium that has been left in the dryer a little too long,” he jokes.

There are some other instrumental oddities in the band, including a tiny soprano cornet and two sizes of tuba. The standard instrumentation also includes trombones — the only cylindrical-bore instruments allowed in the band — and two to four percussionists.

Another quirk of the British style is that all instruments read music in treble clef.

Much of the band would normally be reading bass clef.

“It drives that tuba players crazy,” says Alt.

Capital City Brass Band’s Saturday performance is a preview of their upcoming appearance at the North American Brass Band Association Championships March 13 and 14. This annual competition pits bands



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Tracy Sonneborn (left) and Dennis Hooper rehearse with the Capital City Brass Band.

from all over the nation against each other in three divisions.

“Each division has a test piece that every group must play,” explains Alt. “Each band looks at the test pieces and picks a division based on what they think they can handle.”

This year’s competition will be in Fort Wayne, Ind., and, according to the asso-

ciation’s website, more than 30 bands have signed up for this year’s contest. Capital City Brass Band has performed well in recent years. In 2011 the band was named 3rd division champions and in 2014 it was awarded 2nd place in the 2nd division.

The ensemble is performing under the direction of Ken Kroesche, interim music director. Kroesche served as the group’s musical director from 2007 to 2011, but resigned when he was offered a job at Oakland University. The 52-year-old Rochester Hills resident agreed to return this year to help the group prepare for the competition.

For Kroesche, the competition drives brass bands to a higher level of playing.

“These are community groups that are trying to play at their very best,” he says. “The competition definitely gives them an extra push.”

Kroesche finds that new audience members are often surprised by the versatility of the band.

“They’re impressed by the sound, but they are also surprised at the difficulty of the music we perform,” he says. “There are a lot of intricate parts. People are also impressed, not just by the loudness, but also at how softly the group can play.”

While the group is based in Lansing, it has looked to other communities in the area to fill out their performance calendar.

“It’s difficult finding affordable performance spaces in the city,” says Alt. “We’re always looking to play more in Lansing.”

LOST DETROIT:

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'Now we're about nothing'

Harry Belafonte brings down the hammer in passionate MSU lecture

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Harry Belafonte is a tall tree with deep roots in music, movies and civil rights activism, but he didn't come to Michigan State University last week to cast a kindly shadow.

At 88, he was desperately planting seeds. Addressing a packed conference room at the Kellogg Center Thursday afternoon, the actor-singer-activist slammed the American culture of greed and accused colleges and universities of turning their backs on the humanities.

"Once [colleges] gave us the gift of genius, understanding, analysis," he said. "Now the curriculum is totally empty. Much of what (students) talk about is how to prepare themselves for the gift of money."

The humanities, Belafonte said, have paid a "terrible price."

"We do not see the lust among students to answer the big questions," he said. "What is love? What is truth? We assume the good Earth is something we can rape and exploit."

Nobody had to wonder what gets Belafonte up in the morning. He looked, and talked, like a defiant oak in a dying forest.

"We are numb to our deeper humanity," he said. "Why must power suffocate us so easily?"

Decrying a 21st-century vacuum of "courage and leadership," he invoked giants of the 20th century, including his close friend Martin Luther King, Jr., W.E.B. Du Bois and Franklin Roosevelt, as leaders who advanced human rights and economic equality. He cited federal programs such as Social Security and the Works Progress Administration and laws like the Voting Rights Act.

"Somewhere along the line, all that disappeared," he said. "Now we're just about nothing."

He pointedly left President Barack Obama out of his speech.

Although hundreds of people packed the Big Ten Room in the Kellogg Center, Belafonte didn't hide his disappointment at the "demographics" of the room. (Most were past their 40s and many were long past.) Clearly, he hoped to sow his seeds on younger soil.

Instead, he admonished the salt-and-pepper-haired crowd as teachers and mentors who are falling asleep at the switch. When young people succumb to political apathy or forget civil rights history, he said, they are not to blame. "What happened to our young people is us," he said. "We blinked. We let it go. We shifted the values. Now we look at the world and everything is a struggle for power."

However, Belafonte sees a new spark of passion for human rights in the recent protests over police killings of young black men



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Harry Belafonte delivered a fiery speech on civil rights, arts, education and commercialism in modern society.

in Ferguson, New York and elsewhere. He had advice for protesters who are pressed by opponents to enumerate "exactly what they want."

"Don't let them put the trick on you," he said. "Sometimes it's important to know what you don't want."

Besides higher education, Belafonte lamented the state of other institutions he feels have eroded in the new century, beginning with "a vital, powerful and productive labor movement" that "had our backs" in the fight against poverty and equality.

He criticized churches, too, for losing their way. "Now we have Christianity fighting Islam and Islam fighting Christianity, destroying life," he said. "When the church becomes so powerful, it becomes more about property than souls."

He left no doubt where his soft spot, and primary hope for the future, lies.

"Artists are the gatekeepers of truth, civilization's radical voice," he said.

In the 1950s, Belafonte, along with fellow African-American artist-activists like Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee and Sidney Poitier, seized upon the arts as a vehicle for social change.

"I could make you cry, make you laugh, or make you sensitive to something you might not have thought about," he said.

To demonstrate, he sang the famous cry, "Day-O," from his signature song, "The Banana Boat Song." His soothing rasp had a cutting edge, like a file sawing through bars. Underneath the song's infectious joy hides a story of grinding work, exploitation and inequality, just as the song's "pretty bananas" hide a tarantula.

Success in music and movies, Belafonte said, gave him a platform for delivering more "overt" messages. He recalled introducing King to the audience at his concerts in the 1950s.

"I'm in your bedroom, your bathroom,

your kitchen," Belafonte said. "I'm in your face. What do I do with that space?"

At last year's Oscars, Belafonte praised film-makers for rising out of its racist "Birth of a Nation" origins to make socially conscious films like "12 Years a Slave," "Schindler's List" and "Brokeback Mountain." He praised "Selma" at Thursday's MSU speech and urged the audience to see it.

But Belafonte added that the arts, too, are far from immune to corruption. He cited the origins of hip hop as a vital form of expression for people in poor urban centers until "gangsters and corporations" took over. "It's not just rap," he said. "American culture has suffocated under the pressure money can bring."

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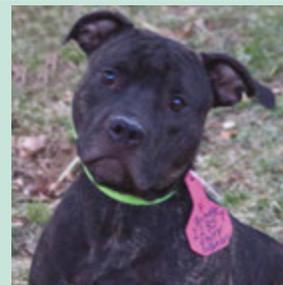
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CURTAIN CALL

Fantastic voyage

Ixion Theatre brings the outlandish tales of Louis de Rougemont to life

By MARY C. CUSACK

Ixion Theatre's latest production, "Shipwrecked! An Entertainment — the Amazing Adventures of Louis de Rougemont (as Told by Himself)" is the

Review polar opposite of its last play. "Topdog/Underdog" was gritty, intense and tragic, while "Shipwrecked!" is innocent, charming and

cute. And while "Topdog" benefited from the bare and intimate space of the AA Creative Corridor, "Shipwrecked!" would benefit from a space that offers better light and sound effects.

The play is based on the real-life and imagined exploits of one Henri Grin. In the late 1800s, Grin created a fantastical (and mostly fictional) biography, under the pseudonym Louis de Rougemont, which he sold to London's Wide

World Magazine.

According to his fanciful account, de Rougemont grew up a sickly boy who reveled in the adventure stories his mother read to him. At the age of 16 he left home to see the world, and went to sea with a crew of pearl divers. The lone survivor of a terrible storm, he was shipwrecked on a small island near New Guinea. He was alone for three years until an Aboriginal woman, Yamba, and her father were also shipwrecked on the island.

Eventually, de Rougemont and his companions built a boat and returned to their tribe in Australia. The tribe worshipped him as a god. He married Yamba and lived with the tribe for 30 years. Homesickness eventually led him to trek across Australia to find his way back to London, where he sold his story. It was a huge hit, and de Rougemont was the toast of London — until several scientists and journalists challenged his stories.

"Shipwrecked! An Entertainment"

Ixion Theatre
8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21;
7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22
\$15
AA Creative Corridor
1133 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing
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The play is faithful to history, and is presented in a unique manner. As de Rougemont, Rick Dethlefsen delivers what is essentially a 90-minute monologue, busking his wares — his storytelling skills — on stage. On opening night, Dethlefsen sold the story almost flawlessly, throwing himself full-force into the narrative with maximum charisma. De Rougemont himself would have been impressed.

Christine Fisk and Steve Ledyard accompany Dethlefsen on his journey, taking on multiple roles and creating simple sound and visual effects. Fisk is solid as both de Rougemont's mother and wife (what would Freud have said about that?), but her accents are inconsistent when playing characters such as the salty sea captain.

Ledyard is nothing short of adorable as Bruno, the ship's dog and de Rougemont's companion for many years. Ledyard takes on other characters, both goofy and serious, but his performance as Bruno is oddly touching.

While director SaDonna Croff and the cast have done their best to maximize the imaginative value of sparse props and set, the play could be a more immersive experience if it were presented in a black box space that allowed for better lighting and staging effects. Perhaps Ixion will be the next Peppermint Creek or Williamston Theatre and eventually find a suitable home that will allow it to reach its potential.

"Shipwrecked" is probably the most family-friendly production Ixion has ever produced. Children will easily be transported into the world of de Rougemont's imagination and will certainly love Bruno the dog. It's unfortunate that the production may be past most bedtimes, but with the show's tight, 90-minute running time, maybe some kids will be allowed to stay up to see a man tell tales about riding a sea turtle.

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How Malcolm became X

New young adult novel tells the story of Malcolm X's formative years

By BILL CASTANIER

"It is so important for you and me to spend time today learning something about the past so that we can better understand the present, analyze it and then do something about it."

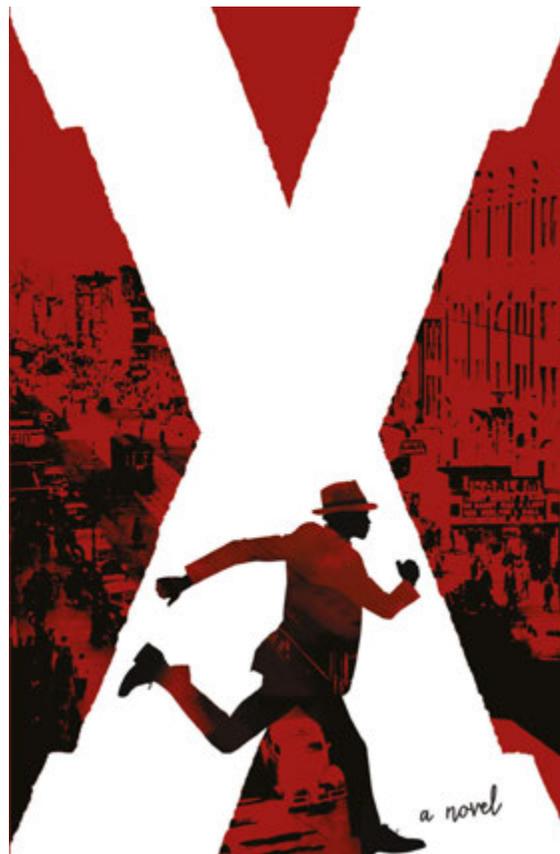
This is not a quote from a famous historian, it's from the firebrand civil rights activist Malcolm X. Those who have read about his transformation from petty street criminal to formidable civil rights activist will not be surprised by his passion for history.

Author Ilyasah Shabazz, Malcolm X's daughter, shares her father's passion for history. She is co-author of a new young adult book, "X: A Novel," which recounts the story of her father's conversion for a new generation of readers. This release is a timely one: Malcolm X was assassinated in New York 50 years ago on Saturday.

"X: A Novel" is an extraordinary coming-of-age story covering the life of a young Malcolm Little between 1930 and 1948, beginning with his formative years in Lansing and ending with his religious conversion and his adoption of the name Malcolm X. Shabazz, a 63-year-old author and consultant in New York, says that she wants to reinforce the fact that Malcolm X began life with "a solid foundation."

"My father was born into a whole household: father, mother and siblings, and the parents were educated," she says. "That characterization of him has been lost in the media."

Earl and Louise Little and their four children arrived in Lansing in 1929 when Malcolm was 4. The family had been living in a temporary home in Milwaukee after being terrorized by the Ku Klux Klan and driven out of Omaha.



Courtesy photo

"X: A Novel," by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon, tells the story of Malcolm X's early years.

The family's time in Lansing was marked by tragedy. Early on, the family was ordered to leave their first home in northwest Lansing because of the restricted covenant which allowed only Caucasians to live there.

The house burned to the ground before

the family was able to move. Malcolm's father was charged with arson but exonerated. The family believed that an offshoot of the Ku Klux Klan set fire to the home.

In 1931, further tragedy struck when Earl Little either fell or, as Shabazz contends in her book, was thrown under a street car on West Michigan Avenue. She says that family stories and first-person recollections lead her to believe that her grandfather was killed by the KKK. (Although, in a speech at MSU, Malcolm X pulled back from that theory.)

Earl Little's death set in motion a series of events that would result in Malcolm X's mother's commitment to Kalamazoo State Hospital after a nervous breakdown.

At 13, Malcolm was sent to a foster home in Mason where he would excel as a student, but was also exposed to further racism.

Malcolm X wrote in his autobiography that a Mason teacher admonished him for aspiring to be a lawyer, telling him "A lawyer — that's no realistic goal for a nigger." Malcolm dropped out of school after

eighth grade, moved to Boston and later Harlem where he fell into a life of crime. At 20, Malcolm was imprisoned for six years. While in prison, he converted to the Nation of Islam faith and would go on to become a leader in the group, first in Detroit then eventually New York.

Shabazz believes that the tragedies in her father's life are crucial to understanding the passion he brought to the civil rights movement.

"It's important for people to understand how he found himself pained by a society he thought was unjust," she says.

Shabazz says she co-wrote this novel, as well as her recent children's picture book, "Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to be Malcolm X," so that "the important work my father did is remembered."

"I believe that it is appropriate for young people in society to revisit Malcolm's journey and his role in history," she says.

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Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA



FRI.FEB
20TH

DIRK POWELL AND RILEY BAUGUS AT THE TEN POUND FIDDLE

Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St, East Lansing. \$18, \$15 members, \$5 students. 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20

Fiddler Dirk Powell and banjoist/guitarist Riley Baugus bring their old-time music expertise to the Ten Pound Fiddle. Deeply rooted in Appalachian heritage, both members of the duo are highly regarded in the American roots scene. Powell has recorded acclaimed releases for Rounder Records and played on Loretta Lynn's Grammy-winning "Van Lear Rose" LP. He has also performed alongside Sting, Jack White, Levon Helm, Jewel, T-Bone Burnett and Linda Ronstadt. Baugus has gigged with a number of bands, including the Red Hots and the Old Hollow Stringband. When not performing or teaching banjo, guitar or fiddle at music camps across the map, he's also worked on other artists' projects. Baugus is featured on the Lonesome Sisters' "Going Home Shoes" LP and contributed vocals to the Academy Award-winning "Cold Mountain" soundtrack.

A NIGHT UNDER COVERS... KNOW LYFE IS NOW HEARTSICK



SAT.FEB
21ST

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15, \$10, 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb 21

A roster of area bands will drop their original tunes for "A Night Under Covers," an ongoing, all-covers concert series at the Loft. The event was created by vocalist Alfonso Civile of Know Lyfe. For this evening, Know Lyfe will perform as Silverchair. Other bands parading as major-label acts include: Frizzle Fry (Primus), Heed the Assailant (Mudvayne), Assume Nothing (Bullet For My Valentine), Break the Edge (A Day to Remember), From Blue to Gray (Rob Zombie) and Given Six (Manson). As for Know Lyfe, this will be their last show under that moniker. The metal veterans announced a new band name: Heartsick. The newly branded group will continue playing its original material. The band has completed work on its upcoming album, and also unveiled a new track, "Rose Casket Diary," on its Youtube channel.

HAILEY WOJCIK AND THE SHONDES AT THE AVENUE



THU.FEB
26TH

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$5, 9 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 26

Lansing-based songwriter Hailey Wojcik is preparing for a United States tour with the Shondes, a Brooklyn-based rock 'n' roll outfit. Also performing is So Long Naota, a "QueerPop" music collective spearheaded by Daniel Ryan Balderas. Wojcik's extensive 30-date tour, which includes this stop at the Avenue Café, stretches from Brooklyn to San Francisco. Wojcik cut her teeth in the Lansing music scene, but has also spent time living and gigging in New York. Her next record, the "Book of Beasts" EP, will be available March 3 via Wiener Records. A video for the debut single, "XO, Skeleton," is streaming on YouTube and features stop motion and old home-video footage, edited together by Wojcik. As for the Shondes, MTV describes the group's sound as "a touch of Bruce Springsteen, a touch of Nashville and plenty of gritty '90s pop punk."

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Open Mic, 9 p.m.	Lez "B" Honest, 9 p.m.	Genome, 9 p.m.
Blue Gill Grill, 1591 Lake Lansing Rd.			Karle Delo, 7 p.m.	Chris Laskos, 7 p.m.
Capital Prime, 2324 Showtime Dr.			Bob Schultz, 8:30 p.m.	Bobby Standal, 8:30 p.m.
Claddagh Irish Pub, 2900 Towne Centre Blvd.				Sam Corbin, 8:30 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.			Young Guns, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		Open Mic w/Pat Zelenka, 9 p.m.	Showdown, 9 p.m.	Showdown, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Colin Riley, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies, 9:30 p.m.	Skoryoke live band karaoke, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke w/Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Gold Rush, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Still Rain, 9 p.m.	Root Doctor, 9 p.m.
Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.			Karaoke	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Citizen, 9 p.m.	Homegrown Throwdown, 6:30 p.m.	A Night Under Covers, 6:30 p.m.
Log Jam, 110 W. Jefferson St.				Sarah Brunner, 9 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Spence, 9 p.m.	Savior Monroe, 9 p.m.	Zacharia\$, 8 p.m.	A Sleepless Malice, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		EP & the MTVs, 9 p.m.	The Lash, 9 p.m.	Zydecronch, 9 p.m.
R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.			Pat Zelenka Project, 8:30 p.m.	Pat Zelenka Project, 8:30 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27			The Tenants, 8 p.m.	The New Rule, 8 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd.			The New Rule, 7 p.m.	Rush Clement, 7 p.m.
Reno's West, 501 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Kathy Ford, 8 p.m.	Rachel & Alex, 8 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.			
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Lady Luck, 8:30 p.m.	Lady Luck, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr.			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Watershed, 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Dan MacLaughlin, 8 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capital City DJs, 10 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.			DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.

LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

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

Out on the town

from page 16

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

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

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

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

MUSIC

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

Thursday, February 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tween Chinese New Year Party. Ages 9-12 Games, crafts and food. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3, dtdl.org.

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

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

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

Blood Pressure Check. Free blood pressure checks. 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

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.

Mind Benders. Enjoy a trivia game. 11 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

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

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

Genealogy Club. Third Thursday of each month. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

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

Shamanic Healing Clinic. Group session. 6-7:30 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. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Trinity Church, 3355 Dunckel Road,

Lansing. (517) 492-1866.

EVENTS

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.

micagallery.org.

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

Spanish Conversation. Practice listening to and speaking Spanish. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public

FRIDAY FEB. 20-21 & FEB. 27-MAR. 1 >> A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE AT LCC

In the award-winning "A Streetcar Named Desire," Tennessee Williams poignantly portrays how family ties can sometimes turn into nooses. Presented by LCC's theater department, the play offers a glimpse into the scandalous private lives of a dysfunctional New Orleans family. Directed by LCC theater Professor Paige Dunckel, the play features local filmmaker Michael McCallum as Stanley Kowalski, Anna Szabo as Blanche Dubois and Sarah Lynn Wilke as Stella Kowalski. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$15/\$10 seniors and staff/\$5 student. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.



FRIDAY, FEB. 20 >> 'TIDAL SHIFT' OPENING RECEPTION AT THE BROAD

The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum puts the spotlight on the talented ranks of MSU's own studio art and design faculty with its new exhibit, "Tidal Shift: Department of Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial." The exhibit features works from over 20 artists in a variety of contemporary mediums. Outside of MSU, members of the studio art and design faculty regularly exhibit and have gained national and international recognition for their work. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

FRIDAY FEB. 20-22 & FEB. 25-MARCH 1 >> MACBETH AT MSU

Tragedy, murder and witches make their way to the stage of Fairchild Theatre as MSU's Department of Theatre presents Shakespeare's classic, "Macbeth." Come early on Sunday for a director pre-show discussion at 1:15 p.m., or stay late on Feb. 26 for a director post-show discussion. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. \$15/\$13 seniors and faculty/\$10 students. Fairchild Theatre, Auditorium Building, MSU Campus, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu/macbeth.



FRIDAY FEB. 20-21 & 27-28 >> BLUE LIGHT PLAYERS PRESENT THE MUSIC MAN

The Blue Light Players are celebrating their 10th anniversary with performances of "The Music Man," a story of a con man posing as a children's band leader. The Blue Light Players are a nonprofit musical theater group dedicated to raising money for families of fallen police officers. This year's production will honor Ingham County Deputy, Grant Whitaker, and Michigan State Trooper, Jeffrey Werda, who lost their lives in the line of duty. 7 p.m. \$15. Albert White Auditorium, Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. bluelightplayers.com



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

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

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

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

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

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

LINC Meeting. Discuss issues in Meridian Township with LINC. 6:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Kindergarten Roundup. Children play and visit with teachers. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Jumpin' Jax, 1475 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 882-6631, ow.ly/J0W0V.

MUSIC

The DJClarinet Combo. New Orleans flavored jazz/swing DJClarinet Combo. 8 p.m. FREE. Libby's Jazz Club, 128 W. Michigan Ave., Jackson. (517) 795-2629, libbysjazzclub.com.

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

Marshall Music Drum Circle. All ages and levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

THEATER

"The Best Brothers." A bittersweet comedy. 8 p.m. \$22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Chipmunk Story Time. Preschoolers enjoy nature stories, games and crafts. 10-11 a.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

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

Festival of Listening. An evening of untranslated poetry. 7 p.m. FREE. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 884-1932, poetry.rcah.msu.edu/calendar.html.

Friday, February 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

How to Use Local Orbit. Learn to use the AMP Exchange online marketplace. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 999-3923, allenmarketplace.org/happenings.

Mud and Mug. Learn how to work with clay. Bring refreshments. Ages 21 and over. 7-10 p.m. \$25. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org/events.

EVENTS

Used Book Sale. \$1 hardcover; 25 cents paperbacks. Wide variety. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-9588, grandledge.lib.mi.us.

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.

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

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

"Tidal Shift" Opening Reception. Department of Art, Art History and Design Faculty Triennial. 7 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

MSU Community Club Feb. Event. Cathy George, MSU volleyball coach will speak. 12:30-2:30 p.m. MSU Federal Credit Union (Farm Lane Branch), 4825 E. Mt. Hope Rd., East Lansing. (517) 332-4313.

MUSIC

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

MSU Jazz Octets. Vincent Bowens, saxophone; Tim Fronek, drums. 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

THEATER

"A Streetcar Named Desire." Classic drama by Tennessee Williams. 8 p.m. \$15/\$5 students/\$10 seniors, LCC staff and alumni. Dart Auditorium, LCC Campus, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-1546,

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Out on the town

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lcc.edu/showinfo.

"Macbeth." Shakespeare's classic tragedy. 8 p.m. \$15/\$13 seniors and faculty/\$10 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu/macbeth.

"The Best Brothers." (See Feb. 19 for details.) 8 p.m. \$27. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

Saturday, February 21

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.

Home Buyer Education Workshop. Registration required. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$25. Center for Financial Health, 3815 West St. Joseph, Suite B200, Lansing. (517) 708-2550, centerforfinancialhealth.org.

Lansing Symphony: Wicked Divas. Broadway and beyond. 8 p.m. \$20-\$47. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001. lansingsymphony.org.

Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society. Intro to resources at the MI archives. 11 a.m. FREE. Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-1300. mmgs.wordpress.com.

EVENTS

Gallery Tours. "Seeing China" gallery tours. 11:30 a.m. FREE. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-6897, museum.msu.edu.

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

Watercolor Wonder. Use watercolors and white space to create designs. 1-3 p.m. FREE. ELPL 2.0 Maker Studio, 300 MAC Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

Chinese-language Tours of "Future Returns." Student led tours. 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

MUSIC

Family Concert: PALamazoo Sue. East Lansing's Childrens Concert Series, 11 a.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 319-6929, cityofeastlansing.com.

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

Capital City Brass Band Concert. Previewing their national championship program. 7 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge High School, 820 Spring St., Grand Ledge. (517) 925-5356, capitalcitybrassband.com.

THEATER

"A Streetcar Named Desire." (See Feb. 20 for details.) 8 p.m. \$15/\$5 students/\$10 seniors, LCC staff and alumni. Dart Auditorium, LCC Campus, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-1546, lcc.edu/showinfo.

"The Best Brothers." (See Feb. 19 for details.) 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Matinee \$24, evening \$27. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

"Macbeth." (See Feb. 20 for details.) 8 p.m. \$15/\$13 seniors and faculty/\$10 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton, theatre.msu.edu/macbeth.

"Long Lost Stories." Featuring Madcap Puppet Theatre. 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. \$9. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Charles P. Graham Signing. Signing "Survive! Marooned on Planet Tau Ceti G." 1 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437, bn.com.

Sunday, February 22

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.

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.

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.

Michigan Reptile Identification. See live reptiles to learn identification and habits. 3-4 p.m. \$3/\$7 family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

Intro to Gouache Workshop. Learn basic techniques. Noon-4 p.m. \$45, \$5 materials fee. Grove Gallery & Studios, 325 Grove St. #A, East Lansing. (517) 333-7180, grovegalleryandstudios.com.

EVENTS

Chocolate Party Benefit for MSU Museum. Sample chocolate masterpieces. 1:30-3:30 p.m. \$30-\$75. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

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.

Atheists and Humanists Meeting. Discussion. 5 p.m. FREE, \$10.20 buffet optional. Old Great Wall Restaurant, 4832 W. Saginaw Highway. Lansing. (517) 914-2278, atheists.meetup.com/453.

My Ladys Night on the Town. A night of R&B. Live performances. 9 p.m. Ladies FREE/guys \$5. Brannigan Brothers, 210 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (313) 218-9685.

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

Sunday's Avenue 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 Concerts: Cliff Gracey. Live performance. 1-2 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

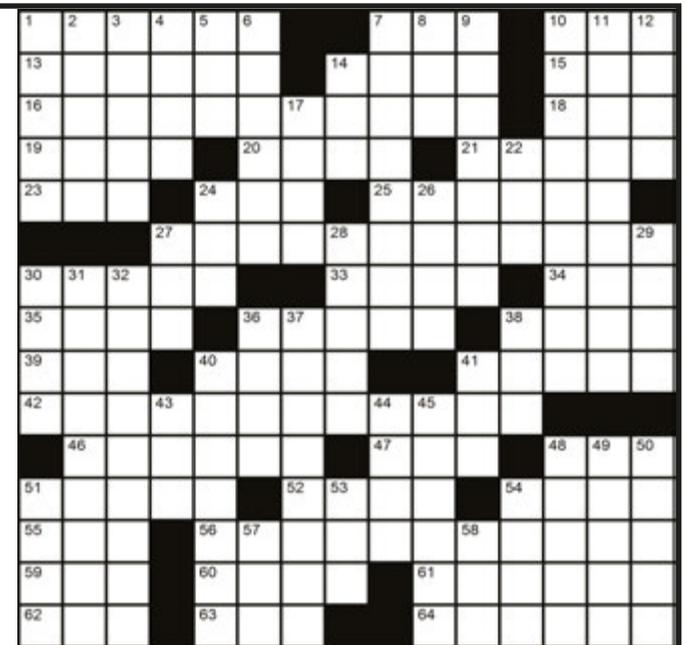
Downton Abbey Afternoon Tea. Celebrate the end of Downton Abbey Season 5. 3-5 p.m. FREE.

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Solve Like a Pirate"-
-and sound like one,
too.
Matt Jones



Across

- 1 Cavatappi and capellini
- 7 Poe title word
- 10 Rejections
- 13 Detach, in a way
- 14 "Free Willy" creature
- 15 Decide (for)
- 16 The color of believing you can fly?
- 18 Dead heat
- 19 Airline since 1948
- 20 Drags
- 21 Stood
- 23 Flag thrower
- 24 Extreme
- 25 Not often
- 27 Garfield's call when Jon has fallen?
- 30 Come from behind
- 33 "Get away, stranger!" (from a cat)
- 34 "Transformers" director Michael
- 35 "Y" wearers
- 36 Hit
- 38 Harrowing
- 39 Meadow sound
- 40 Epps of "Resurrection"
- 41 Feeling of insecurity
- 42 Creature surrounded by bamboo and other trees?
- 46 Bathroom buildup
- 47 1963 Paul Newman movie
- 48 "___ with Lovin'" (McDonald's promo of February 2015)

- 51 Free-for-all
- 52 Utah city
- 54 Formally give up
- 55 Mean Amin
- 56 Food advertised with the line: "Keep on Truckin'... and Snackin'?"
- 59 Took a chair
- 60 Story
- 61 It's west of the Urals
- 62 Muddy home
- 63 Word before Spice or Navy
- 64 Turns back to 00000

Down

- 1 Less contaminated
- 2 Foot holder
- 3 Wheat amount
- 4 Driving money
- 5 "You've Got Mail" company

- 6 1970s space station
- 7 Media packet
- 8 "Riunite on ___, Riunite so nice"
- 9 Comb challenges
- 10 Comfortably sized
- 11 Conflicts in China
- 12 Instructions part
- 14 Nonprofit's URL suffix
- 17 Knowledgeable sort
- 22 Like unmatched socks
- 24 Make onion rings
- 26 Apart from that
- 27 Ice Bucket Challenge cause, for short
- 28 Bird sound
- 29 Turgenev's turndown
- 30 2000s sitcom set in Texas
- 31 Worried by
- 32 It's no asset
- 36 "Peter Pan" role
- 37 Tears for Fears hit
- redone for "Donnie Darko"
- 38 Evidence with a twist?
- 40 Demand that someone will
- 41 Hit the plus button
- 43 "Bravissimo!"
- 44 Throat clearing sound
- 45 Three or five, but not threeve
- 48 Gunpowder alternative
- 49 Expert
- 50 Positive feedback
- 51 Word before any U.S. state
- 53 Wish you could take back
- 54 Lightning McQueen's movie
- 57 Ironman Ripken
- 58 Maestro's signal

SUDOKU

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

INTERMEDIATE

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 21

Out on the town

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

Chinese-language Tours of "Future Returns." Student led tours. 2 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

THEATER

"Macbeth." (See Feb. 20 for details.) 2 p.m. \$15/\$13 seniors and faculty/\$10 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu/macbeth.

"The Best Brothers." (See Feb. 19 for details.) 2 p.m. \$24. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

SATURDAY FEB. 21 >> WICKED DIVAS

Enjoy favorite Broadway, opera and pop numbers sung by Elphaba and Glinda as the Lansing Symphony Orchestra presents Wicked Divas. Singers Emily Rozek and Nicole Parker will be performing in character as the witches from the Tony Award-winning musical, "Wicked." The diva-driven evening includes selections from "Wicked," "Gypsy," "Funny Girl," "Carmen" and more. 8 p.m. Tickets starting at \$20. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001, lansingsymphony.org.

THURSDAY FEB. 26 >> AL SHARPTON AT MSU

Outspoken and often controversial, the Rev. Al Sharpton will close out this year's Slavery to Freedom lecture series hosted by MSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. A prominent social justice activist and National Action Network leader, Sharpton has dedicated his life to the advancing the cause of civil rights. He hosts the nationally syndicated radio show "Keepin' it Real" and the MSNBC television show "PoliticsNation." 7:30 p.m. FREE. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-4979.

Monday, February 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

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

EVENTS

Homeschool Connect. Activities for homeschooling families. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3, dtdl.org.

Ancestry Club. Learn and share genealogy tips. Call to register. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014

ext. 4, dtdl.org.

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

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

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

Daddy Daughter Dance. Corsage, refreshments, photograph. 7-9 p.m. \$12/\$10 Delta Township residents. Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts, Lansing. (517) 323-8555, deltamichigan.gov/parks.

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

BabyTime. Intended for ages 1-18 months with adult. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950

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

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

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

Out of This World Book Club. "Soon I will Be Invincible" by Austin Grossman. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

Tuesday, February 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Dinner with the Doc. Dinner with the Doc of Total Health. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Carrabba's Italian Grill, 6540 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (855) 681-2225, totalhealth-fitness.com.

LCS Student Shadow Day. Students shadow a LCS student. 8 a.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779 ext. 107, lansingchristianschool.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.

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

DAN'S CONEY ISLAND/MEAT EXPANSION

Alan Ross/City Pulse
John Gjidoda (left) and his staff at Dan's Coney Island, which opened last month on Lansing's south side.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Just to be clear: There's nobody named Dan behind the scenes at **Dan's Coney Island** — at least not now. The fledgling diner on Lansing's south side may

coincidentally hire an eponymous member to its crew someday, but no Dan yet.

Instead, owner/operator John Gjidoda came up with the name by taking the first initial from each of his three kids. Given that those three letters could have also formed an acronym for the molecule that carries the genetic instructions for life, a conjunction or a slang nickname for a very sensitive body part, "Dan" seems like a fine choice.

Gjidoda (pronounced "jee-DOE-dah") opened Dan's Coney Island last month in the former site of **Grumpy's Diner**, which closed early last year. The building had been empty during the interim, and when Gjidoda took over he revamped the interior. He installed new kitchen equipment, ripped out the carpeting and laid down new tile, put in new bathrooms and gave both inside and outside a fresh coat of paint. Gjidoda got his start in the

367-6300, cadl.org.

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

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.

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.

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.

Capital Sources for Businesses. An overview of funding sources. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. MSU Federal Credit Union (Farm Lane Branch), 4825 E. Mt. Hope, East Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

Lansing Christian Campus Tours. 9-11 a.m. Lansing

restaurant business 21 years ago. He opened Hannah's Koney Island in Hannah Plaza with his former business partner, Anton Prenaj. Gjidoda left the partnership seven years ago to work for his brother at **T&D Coney Grill** in Okemos. Prenaj, meanwhile, went on to open **Athenas Diner** last year after selling **Hannah's Koney Island** in 2013. (Hannah's Koney Island, under new owner Bryan Van Curen, recently expanded its hours and launched a new dinner menu.)

"I missed owning a restaurant, so when this opportunity came up, I took it," Gjidoda said. "And I've been able to do some new things with the menu that I wasn't able to do before."

Those new things include a roster of inventive deli sandwiches, burgers and dinners. The produce and meats are driven up from Eastern Market in Detroit, and all sauces, soups and gravies — including the sausage gravy, which is used on the biscuits and gravy dish that Gjidoda claims is the diner's biggest seller — come from family recipes.

"The Super Meat Cheese Burger is the biggest burger I've ever had on a menu," Gjidoda said. "It's got ham, bacon, an egg, two patties — I

thought it might be too big when I made it, but people love it. It's our most popular burger. It's a lot of meat."

Bigger Meat

And speaking of a lot of meat — or rather, a lot of Meat — last week Meat Southern B.B.Q. and Carnivore Cuisine opened its new 1,700-square-foot dining room. That expansion more than triples the footprint of the thriving Old Town restaurant. The expansion comes with a new menu, extended hours and the addition of a full bar.

"We just got busier than I thought we ever would," owner/operator Sean Johnson said.

Dan's Coney Island

5600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing
7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday
(517) 763-2720, dansconeyisland.com

Meat Southern B.B.Q. and Carnivore Cuisine

1224 Turner St., Lansing
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-7 p.m. Sunday
(517) 580-4400, meatbbq.com

Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779 ext. 107, lansingchristianschool.org.

Chair Massage. Call for an appointment. 9:30-noon, \$14/\$12 members. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseiorcenter.weebly.com.

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

EVENTS

Paws for Reading. Kids read to therapy dogs. Call to register. 11 a.m.-noon, FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3, dtdl.org.

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

Out on the town

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bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

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

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

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

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

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

Future Returns Documentary Film Series Featuring "China Gate." 7 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-0659, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

MUSIC

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Tuesday Morning Book Club. Discuss "Elizabeth is Missing" by Emma Healey. 10:15-11:15 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtld.org.

Wednesday, February 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.

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

En Garde! MSU Fencing Club. MSU Libraries hosts live fencing demo. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, MSU Campus, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-0901, lib.msu.edu.

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed step meeting. 6 p.m.

Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S.

Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

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

EVENTS

Strategy Game Night. 18 and over. Learn and share favorite games. 5-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtld.org.

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

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

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

Ron Wilson of AFLAC at ANC. On low cost weatherization of doors and windows. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468, allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

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

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

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

National Ethnic History Month. Discussion. 6 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 282-2612, pilgrimmucc.com.

MUSIC

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

MSU Faculty Recital. Chen-Yu Huang, harp. 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.

Ukulele Jam. Learn how to play chords on the ukulele. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St. Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

THEATER

"Macbeth." (See Feb. 20 for details.) 7:30 p.m. \$15/\$13 seniors and faculty/\$10 students. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu/macbeth.

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

Feb. 18-24

ARIES (March 21-April 19): There are many different facets to your intelligence, and each matures at a different rate. So for example, your ability to think symbolically may evolve more slowly than your ability to think abstractly. Your wisdom about why humans act the way they do may ripen more rapidly than your insight into your own emotions. In the coming weeks, I expect one particular aspect of your intelligence to be undergoing a growth spurt: your knowledge of what your body needs and how to give it what it needs.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): What is the proper blend for you these days? Is it something like 51 percent pleasure and 49 percent business? Or would you be wiser to shoot for 49 percent pleasure and 51 percent business? I will leave that decision up to you, Taurus. Whichever way you go, I suggest that you try to interweave business and pleasure as often as possible. You are in one of those action-packed phases when fun dovetails really well with ambition. I'm guessing that you can make productive connections at parties. I'm betting that you can spice up your social life by taking advantage of what comes to you through your work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In 1900, the world's most renowned mathematicians met at a conference in Paris. There the German whiz David Hilbert introduced his master list of 23 unsolved mathematical problems. At the time, no one had done such an exhaustive inventory. His well-defined challenge set the agenda for math research throughout the 20th century. Today he's regarded as an influential visionary. I'd love to see you come up with a list of your own top unsolved problems, Gemini. You now have extra insight about the catalytic projects you will be smart to work on and play with during the coming years.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Spanipelagic" is an adjective scientists use to describe creatures that typically hang out in deep water but float up to the surface on rare occasions. The term is not a perfect metaphorical fit for you, since you come up for air more often than that. But you do go through phases when you're inclined to linger for a long time in the abyss, enjoying the dark mysteries and fathomless emotions. According to my reading of the astrological omens, that's what you've been doing lately. Any day now, however, I expect you'll be rising up from the Great Down Below and headed topside for an extended stay.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): When faced with a big decision, you might say you want to "sleep on it." In other words, you postpone your final determination until you gather more information and ripen your understanding of the pressing issues. And that could indeed involve getting a good night's sleep. What happens in your dreams may reveal nuances you can't pry loose with your waking consciousness alone. And even if you don't recall your dreams, your sleeping mind is busy processing and reworking the possibilities. I recommend that you make liberal use of the "sleep on it" approach in the coming weeks, Leo. Revel in the wisdom that wells up in you as you're lying down in the dark.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1962, Edward Albee published his play "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" It won numerous awards and is still performed by modern theater groups. Albee says the title came to him as he was having a beer at a bar in New York City. When he went to the restroom, he spied the words "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" scrawled in soap on the mirror. I urge you to be alert for that kind of inspiration in the coming days, Virgo: unexpected, provocative, and out of context. You never know when and where you may be furnished with clues about the next plot twist of your life story.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Edward III, a medieval English king, had a favorite poet: Geoffrey Chaucer. In 1374, the king promised Chaucer a big gift in appreciation for his talents: a gallon of wine every day for the rest of

his life. That's not the endowment I would have wanted if I had been Chaucer. I'd never get any work done if I were quaffing 16 glasses of wine every 24 hours. Couldn't I instead be provided with a regular stipend? Keep this story in mind, Libra, as you contemplate the benefits or rewards that might become available to you. Ask for what you really need, not necessarily what the giver initially offers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): To make the cocktail known as Sex on the Beach, you mix together cranberry juice, orange juice, pineapple juice, peach schnapps, and vodka. There is also an alternative "mocktail" called Safe Sex on the Beach. It has the same fruit juices, but no alcohol. Given the likelihood that your inner teenager will be playing an important role in your upcoming adventures, Scorpio, I recommend that you favor the Safe-Sex-on-the-Beach metaphor rather than the Sex-on-the-Beach approach. At least temporarily, it's best to show a bit of protective restraint toward the wild and sometimes erratic juvenile energy that's pushing to be expressed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In Herman Melville's short story "Bartleby, the Scrivener," a lawyer hires a man named Bartleby to work in his office. At first Bartleby is a model employee, carrying out his assignments with dogged skill. But one day everything begins to change. Whenever his boss instructs him to do a specific task, Bartleby says, "I would prefer not to." As the days go by, he does less and less, until finally he stops altogether. I'd like to propose, Sagittarius, that you take inspiration from his slowdown. Haven't you done enough for now? Haven't you been exemplary in your commitment to the daily struggle? Don't you deserve a break in the action so you can recharge your psychospiritual batteries? I say yes. Maybe you will consider making this your battle cry: "I would prefer not to."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better." That's what American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson advised. Even if you're not naturally inclined to see the potential wisdom of that approach, I invite you to play around with it for the next three weeks. You don't need to do it forever. It doesn't have to become a permanent fixture in your philosophy. Just for now, experiment with the possibility that trying lots of experiments will lead you not just to new truths, but to new truths that are fun, interesting, and useful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The art of the French Aquarian painter Armand Guillaumin (1841-1927) appears in prestigious museums. He isn't as famous as his fellow Impressionists Paul Cézanne and Camille Pissarro, but he wielded a big influence on them both. His career developed slowly because he had to work a day job to earn a living. When he was 50 years old, he won a wad of free money in the national lottery, and thereafter devoted himself full-time to painting. I'm not saying you will enjoy a windfall like that anytime soon, Aquarius, but such an event is possible. At the very least, your income could rise. Your odds of experiencing financial luck will increase to the degree that you work to improve the best gifts you have to offer your fellow humans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "It isn't normal to know what we want," said pioneering psychologist Abraham Maslow. "It is a rare and difficult psychological achievement." That's the bad news, Pisces. The good news is that you may be on the verge of rendering that theory irrelevant. In the coming weeks, you will be better primed to discover what you really want than you have been in a long time. I suggest you do a ritual in which you vow to unmask this treasured secret. Write a formal statement in which you declare your intention to achieve full understanding of the reasons you are alive on this planet.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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HE ATE

SHE ATE



Piazzano's offers 'pub grub' and beyond

Blue collar charm

By **MARK NIXON**

Standing in Piazzano's parking lot, I looked across Grand River Avenue at a darkened, silent lumber yard. It struck me that Piazzano's is like several other Lansing restaurants — Art's Bar, DeLuca's and Harry's Place come to mind — that sprung from this town's industrial taproot.

These are neighborhood joints, unremarkable looking blue-collar islands far from the clustered restaurant districts of downtown Lansing, East Lansing or suburban shopping malls. You have to figure that these modest dining islands have something going for them, or they'd have faded from the scene long ago.

What keeps Piazzano's ticking is a faithful clientele, above-average pub grub at an affordable price, and a waitstaff that is prompt and, in my experience, unfailingly polite.

You will not find wildly imaginative cuisine at Piazzano's. The wildest, craziest thing on the menu is an appetizer: Their Reuben Rolls (\$6.99) feature slices of corned beef, swiss cheese and sauerkraut tucked into phyllo dough and deep fried.

What you will often find here are meals prepared with attention to detail. One night, I opted for their regular Friday special, prime rib. I ordered the "queen" cut, a 12-ounce slab of beef (\$16.95). I asked for it rare, and rare it came — but with a blackened, spiced-up crust on the edges. Just the way I like it. This is arguably the best prime rib I've eaten in greater Lansing. On a previous visit, I had the Five Cheese Mac and Cheese with a sausage add-on (\$13.98). The blend of cheeses and the crisp, browned crumb topping were perfect for a bitterly cold evening. I should have skipped the sausage, though. It's the typical, boring sausage chunks you get on just about any sausage pizza. I'd recommend Piazzano's instead use quality bratwursts that are first boiled, then broiled or browned and finally cut into bite-size chunks.

During the same visit, Judy had the wild mushroom pasta (\$12.99). It was an excellent choice. The nuttiness of the mushrooms meshed well with an understated, creamy Alfredo sauce. It is the single best thing I tasted in our two visits.

This was the night when we tried the aforementioned Reuben Rolls. Though I'm a fan of corned beef and sauerkraut, I gave these a C+. Judy, who doesn't care much for sauerkraut, loved them. Go figure.

Our friends Bruce and Jan are Piazzano's regulars, with Bruce declaring it "the best pub grub in town." They dined with us on our second visit. Bruce had his favorite, baked spaghetti (\$9.99), and I agreed with him that the meaty marinara sauce really made this dish.

Most meals come with a small loaf of warm bread, plus a small platter of olive oil with a dab of marinara sauce swimming in the middle. I could have done without the spicy marinara, but the saucy sauce was a hit with Judy.

I'm less enthusiastic about the two kinds of soups I tasted. I ordered the always-on-the-menu Michigan bean soup (\$3.29 for a cup). It arrived piping hot (good), but I didn't understand the need to add potatoes to the beans. It's a hearty soup, and no doubt a favorite with many. For my money, the best bean soup in town is at Art's.

Judy and Jan both ordered the Friday night soup du jour, crab bisque (\$3.29). They loved it; I did not. What I tasted was probably imitation crab. When I occasionally make crab bisque or crab cakes, I splurge by buying quality, lump crab meat. It's expensive, which is probably why many restaurants don't use it, but you really can taste the difference.

There are things that make Piazzano's stand above standard pub grub. One is their nightly specials, which include Wednesday's turkey dinner. They cook whole turkeys a

See He Ate, Page 23

Scene-stealing meatballs

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

The first time we went to Piazzano's for dinner, we weren't exactly sure where we were going. On Grand River Avenue, just west of Turner-Dodge House in a stand-alone building? It wasn't ringing any bells. But as we drove down the street, the absolutely packed parking lot was a dead giveaway. We walked in through the door on the west side of the building and were momentarily befuddled when we couldn't find a hostess to tell us where to sit. We eventually took steps toward the one empty booth in the restaurant and were reassured when a waitress motioned for us to sit down.

For once, the boyfriend and I weren't ravenous to the point of sniping at each other, and we decided to share a salad and a pizza. The Antipasta Salad (\$7.95) is a platter filled with shredded iceberg lettuce, topped with sliced provolone cheese (of the Kraft singles variety), recently packaged ham, salami and capicola, with a few cherry tomatoes, pepperocini, rings of red onion and a dish of overly sweet vinaigrette dressing. I think that an Antipasta Salad gives Italian restaurants an opportunity to shine. Spend a little more money on quality ingredients, make your own vinaigrette with a vinegar that has a little bite to it, and chop all the ingredients together so that the vibrant colors are highlighted and allow me to eat with my eyes before the dish is even presented. This Antipasta Salad was not that. It was quite the opposite.

Our 12 inch House Special pizza (\$13.99) didn't fare much better. The extremely dry crust was topped with pepperoni, onion, ham, green onions and mozzarella, all of which were serviceable, but I sucked down about a gallon of water just to get the crust down. Service was fine but unremarkable. What was remarkable was the atmosphere in the place — people were eating dinner to be sure, but others were just hanging out, spending time with their friends at their neighborhood joint. I like that.

On our next visit, this time with friends, we started with two appetizers — the Reuben Rolls (\$6.99) and Piazzano's Meatballs (\$6.99). The Reuben Rolls were six deep-fried, two-bite Reuben sandwiches, served with Thousand Island dressing. Reuben sandwiches are one of my favorites, and these mini versions were fresh and fabulous. The meatballs, however, stole the show — the three giant beauties were topped with a light coat of marinara sauce and mozzarella cheese. The meatballs were juicy, a little bit spicy, and just barely held together with fresh breadcrumbs. If these were nestled into a foot-long crusty baguette, they would make for a heavenly meatball sub fit for Andre the Giant.

For dinner I chose a special of mussels and shrimp with chopped tomatoes and green onions over linguini (\$14.95). The entrée came with salad and bread, and I would have been better served by sticking with meatballs, salad and bread. The linguini dish was utterly tasteless, completely unseasoned, and there was a literal pound of it. There was no sauce to speak of on the pasta, and after a few bites of the grocery-store variety linguini I set down my fork and ate all the mussels. The rest of the dish languished in the refrigerator until it was tossed into the trash several days later.

The boyfriend was happier with his choice of BBQ Chicken Pizza. The chunks of chicken were thick and plentiful, the BBQ sauce was tangy, and the pizza crust was starkly different than that of our first visit. It was obviously the same recipe, but didn't stick in our throats on the way down. If this is how pizza is normally made at Piazzano's, I understand why the place was again positively jam-packed with diners.

Our friends had a buffalo chicken wrap — which didn't have any actual buffalo sauce and was just fried chicken, cheese, and iceberg lettuce in a tortilla — and a Buffalo Style Burger, which purported to be mixed with jalapeño peppers, Louisiana hot sauce, onions, and pepper jack cheese. Our spicy food-loving friend said it was "kind of spicy,

See She Ate, Page 23

Piazzano's

1825 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing
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Gabrielle Johnson/City Pulse

Piazzano's in North Lansing serves a variety of Italian favorites and traditional pub fare.

He Ate

from page 22

la Thanksgiving. For \$7.95, you get turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing and a salad. Now, that's a deal.

Incidentally, when you get your bill, at the bottom they promote the next night's special (e.g. the turkey dinner). This "Check out tomorrow's specials" tagline is smart advertising.

And now to the service, which I thought was exemplary. On our first visit, Christin was patient and polite despite our raft of questions. She even ranked her personal preferences on the various Piazzano Roll appetizers (Reuben Rolls are one of several kinds you can order).

On the next visit our server was Natasha. It was a Friday evening, and Piazzano's was soon packed. Natasha was busy — slammed, as they say in the business. But she and her fellow servers took it all in stride, delivering food and clearing tables with great efficiency.

That takes not only practice, but a mindset. You might call it a blue-collar mentality.

She Ate

from page 22

but not really." He liked his chicken noodle soup much better, however, and the waitress was eager to tell us that the cooks made it themselves.

During both visits, the waitress tried her best to convince us to have a slice of the "homemade" cheesecake. If you'll indulge my tangent, it really frosts my cookies when restaurants are proud to label something "homemade." When I go to a restaurant — any restaurant — I want everything there to be homemade. I don't expect to see packaged cheesecakes from GFS and bagged loaves of grocery store bread on the shelves next to cans of soup and jars of pasta sauce. If I wanted to eat convenience foods, I could do it at home, much more inexpensively. So quit with the "homemade" moniker, restaurateurs. I don't expect my clients to be blown away when I tell them that their estate planning documents are drafted correctly and their names are even spelled right. It's just part of the deal. But I digress.

Regardless, the homemade Snickers cheesecake certainly didn't deserve any accolades. The familiar cheesecake texture and the visually pleasing presentation, I'm sure, have convinced other diners that they're enjoying a special, decadent treat. The cheesecake was indeed decadent, but the chocolate and caramel drizzles on top couldn't mask the totally milquetoast filling.

It hurts me to write this, since I know that many people truly love Piazzano's. But if I want garden variety, inauthentic Italian food, I'll make it myself.

Perpetual harvest

Lansing farmers markets offer fresh food year-round

By TY FORQUER

When there is snow on the ground and ice on the roads, not many people are thinking about fresh vegetables. A growing number of Lansing-area farmers markets, however, are providing customers with a place to pick up locally produced foods through the winter months.

Winter farmers markets

Allan Street Farmers Market

3-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
Allan Market Place
1629 E. Kalamazoo St.,
Lansing
(517) 367-2468,
allenmarketplace.org/
farmers-market/

Holt Farmers Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays
2150 Cedar St., Holt
(517) 268-0024,
holtfarmersmarket.org

Bath Farmers Market

3-6 p.m. Thursdays
Bath Community Center
5959 Park Lake Road,
Bath
(515) 994-0236, shopbfm.org

Meridian Township Farmers Market

10 a.m.-2 p.m. First and third Saturdays of the month
Meridian Mall, JCPenney corridor
1982 West Grand River Ave., Okemos
(517) 712-2395, meridian.mi.us

Lansing City Market

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday
325 City Market Drive,
Lansing
(517) 483-7460 ext. 234,
lansingcitymarket.com

in the winter," said Kate Heflick.

Heflick, 26, is manning the table for Foodshed Farm, a certified organic farm in Bath. Foodshed Farm uses hoopouses to grow spinach and salad greens through the winter. Customers looking for fresh greens need to act fast though. The table was already sold out when I stopped by at 5 p.m. (The market opens at 3.)

"It's a shame there aren't more people winter gardening," said Heflick.

At a nearby table, Steve Grose looks over a cornucopia of beans, potatoes, garlic and onions. The 57-year-old Onondaga resident owns Green Eagle Farm, a small farm dedicated to "practicing sustainability and permaculture." Despite the bounty available at his table, Grose said many people don't think about going to farmers markets in the winter.

"They don't realize that we have things stored that we can sell all winter," he said.

While fresh fruits are scarce, many other farmers market staples are still available through the winter. Vendors are selling fresh breads, baked goods, coffee beans and meat products.

Lizy Ferguson, manager of the Allan Street Farmers Market, thinks that public

awareness is the biggest hurdle for winter markets.

"I talk to people all the time who don't even know we have an indoor market," she said.

Ferguson said the market pulls in 900 customers per day during the peak of the summer season. In the winter, that number dips significantly. This winter they are averaging close to 200 customers per day.

"Last winter we averaged 100 per day," she said. "It's definitely growing."

Despite the decrease in foot-traffic, Ferguson finds that the vendors are happy to be open through the winter.

"We give them an opportunity to sell when otherwise there wouldn't be one," she said. "Most of the winter vendors are regular summer vendors, and they jumped at the chance to sell through the winter."

The Holt Farmers Market, which is open every Saturday, recently made the transition to a year-round market. Housed in the former Delhi Township Fire Department building, the market is in the middle of its first winter season.

At its summer peak, the Holt Farmers Market hosts nearly 30 vendors, spilling out into the parking lot. In the winter, their indoor space hosts a more modest 15 vendors. Chuck Grinnell, market manager, has noticed a drop in foot traffic, but not as drastic as the drop at Allan Street.

"We're getting 60 to 70 percent of the foot traffic we get in the normal season," he said.

For Grinnell, making the transition to a

year-round market was an easy decision.

"We have vendors — bakers and butchers, for example — whose product demands they sell every week," he said. "Since we have the building, we decided to move forward with a year-round market."

A handful of other Greater Lansing farmers' markets are open through the winter. Downtown's Lansing City Market is open year-round. A few area markets without permanent buildings find temporary homes for through the cold months. The Bath Farmers Market moves into the Bath Community Center for the winter months, and the Meridian Township Farmers Market takes up residence near JCPenney inside the Meridian Mall.

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