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See page 10 for more details

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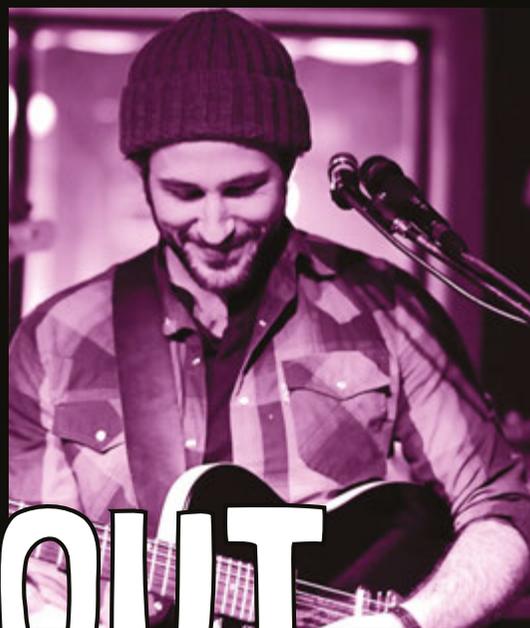
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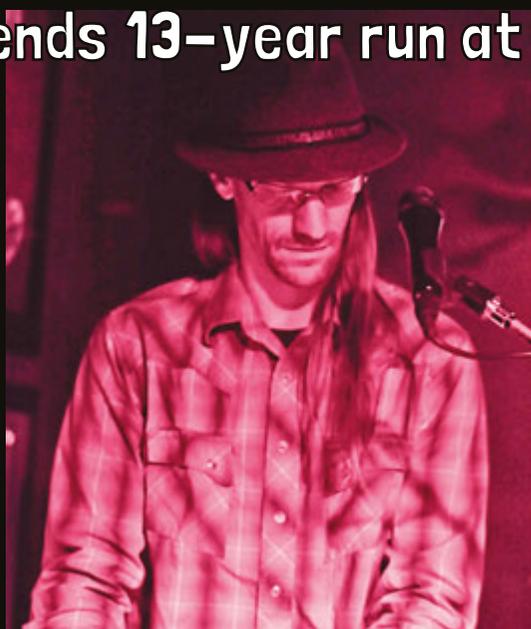
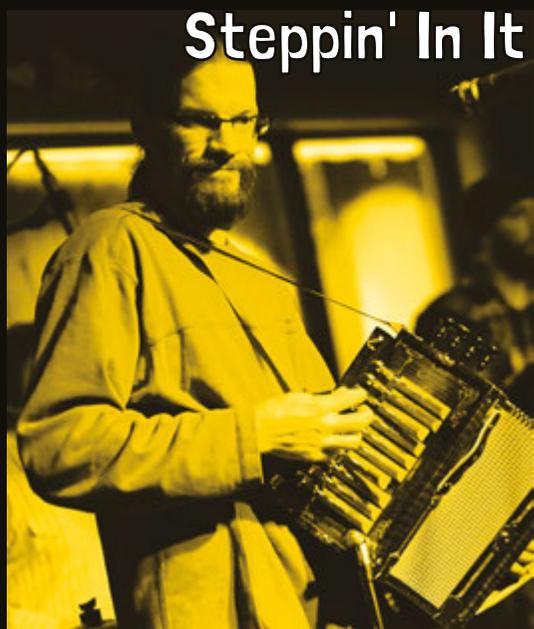
PAGE 5

Candid Judge
Collette chides
Enbridge protesters
as publicity seekers



STEPPIN' OUT

Steppin' In It ends 13-year run at the Green Door



see page 12



PAGE 10

East Lansing
entrepreneur taps
into global 'Game of
Thrones' replica
market



PAGE 16

Acclaimed
poet/mortician Thomas
Lynch speaks in Old Town
on Thursday



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Feedback

Protest more than publicity

Honorable Judge William E. Collette, After several days of thought we feel compelled to write our observations of our experience in the courtroom on Jan. 15. We were citizen observers for many cases that afternoon and witnessed many family members, friends and interested parties observing various trials. We are sure the defendants found the support of those that took the time to come to be helpful in this stressful and important situation.

When the case of Lisa Leggio, Barbara Carter, Vicci Hamlin, and Will Lawrence was called we were eager to hear the defense and your response. It appeared to us the others present were there for the same purpose. In our observation all sat quietly, also listened attentively and were interested and curious for the outcome. We witnessed no disruption on the part of the citizen observers. We were astonished when you made statements that the defendants and audience were using the courtroom as a protest. The simple presence of supporters from the community is not a protest. Additionally when you state that the defendants and supporters coming into the courtroom were present to gain self adulation — it astonishes us to think you would believe people facing such charges with grave consequence would use the courtroom in such a manner.

As you acknowledged how entities such as the EPA and Industry will continue to do business as usual, will not see the light of day, and how there are only a few people that care. Please consider that these defendants and community supporters are among those that care. That is why they were there. You know that truly caring involves actions, not just words. It is very disturbing to hear you interpret their actions as attention seeking for self. Please consider that these peaceful actions are creative ways to draw attention to very serious systemic issues, from which the public voice is not being heard over the roar of industry, and are not for self adulation.

— Kurt and Hillary Gleichman Saline

Still get to Huapei when we can

When I lived two blocks to the north (of Huapei Restaurant, the subject of last week's "He Ate/She Ate") in 1973 the building was the "Yankee Cone Shop." Then off to Haslett to live on the swamp for a few years. Then an old house owner by Lansing General in the mid 80s and happy to find a great (they said that they

were) Korean dinner place. Cold appetizer plate, mo sho pork, chicken no bones No. 2, and Cham Pong, an amazing bowl of mixed goodness. As regulars we would be treated to dried pepper hot, garlic hot and ginger hot dishes, as Haun and Cindy felt we could tolerate and enjoy both menu and family table offerings. Now living in the 'burbs and with friends who need a little hooch to tolerate each other, "wifey" and I visit when we can. Yep, not always open when we think it may be, but still great food. I don't know who lives down that side street, but it's probably the third time a vehicle has damaged the building.

— Al Grofvert Holt

\$25? It could be worse

BWL offers with stipulations \$25 to people suffering power outages during recent storm.

Are they kidding? Ridiculous! But wait! Wait! Not so fast! \$25 is not as ridiculous as the situation would be if the company offered 5 cents or 10 cents! We must be grateful for all favors.

— Marion Owen-Fekete Lansing

Mr. Mayor: Sorry you lost power

Did you hear the one about the mayor who held a public meeting after an ice storm?

After an hour and a half of city employees going on about the hard work and virtues of the local government and utility services a young woman stands up to speak, "Mr. Mayor, I was sorry to hear you lost your power."

The mayor responds that he never lost his services during the storm to which the woman responds, "I was referring to your integrity and ability to run a city."

— M. Koenig 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.)

CityPULSE

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BWL Watch: Independent review team off to a controversial start



PAGE 11

Award-winning documentary with Lansing ties gets local premiere tonight



PAGE 22

MSU Student Organic Farm project lets pigs be pigs



COVER ART

13 YEAR RUN by RACHEL HARPER PHOTOS by MCSHANE PHOTOGRAPHY



THIS WEEK

- Brad Van Guilder, Sierra Club field organizer
- MSU economist Charles Ballard
- Joshua Davis of Steppin' In It
- Ingham County Animal Control Director Jamie McAloon Lampman
- Laurie Thorp, director of MSU RISE program
- Vicci Hamlin, Enbridge protester



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
HELLO! I'M GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE! I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU PEOPLE ARE!
I'M YOUR DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF!
NO KIDDING!
GOVERNOR'S AIDE

AND I'M ONE OF YOUR APPOINTEES AT THE PORT AUTHORITY! ALSO, WE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER!
WHADDYA KNOW! IT'S A SMALL WORLD, ISN'T IT!
GOVERNOR'S MANAGER

WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE WORKING ON SOMETHING IMPORTANT! CARRY ON! I'M SURE I DON'T NEED TO KNOW THE DETAILS!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SOME SORT OF MICRO-MANAGER!
ABSOLUTELY NOT, SIR!
GOVERNOR'S MANAGER

AND JUST IN CASE ANYBODY ASKS, I'M DEFINITELY NOT A VINDICTIVE BULLY SEETHING WITH BARELY CONTAINED RAGE! POLITICIANS WHO CROSS ME HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!
OH, LOOK! A FLY HAS LANDED ON MY NOSE! WELL, LIVE AND LET LIVE, THAT'S WHAT I SAY! I'M SURE THE LITTLE FELLOW WILL BE ON HIS WAY SOON ENOUGH--UNIMPEDED BY ME!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE IN MY OFFICE IF YOU NEED ME, WHOEVER YOU ARE.
NOT TO WORRY, SIR! THIS STATE PRETTY MUCH RUNS ITSELF!
OF COURSE NOT!
IT GOES WITH-OUT SAYING!
BECAUSE THAT'S JUST THE PEACEFUL KIND OF GUY I AM!
OKAY! BACK TO WORK ON OUR INEXPLICABLE PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST THE MAYOR OF FORT LEE!
THE GOVERNOR MUST NEVER KNOW! IT WOULD MAKE HIM VERY, VERY SAD!



PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Colorful, candid Collette

Ingham County circuit judge, gearing up for trial with Enbridge protesters, is tired of publicity seekers

At a Jan. 15 hearing, Ingham County Circuit Judge William Collette was getting antsy with the defendants and their lawyers before him.

The hearing was on a motion to dismiss charges against four people arrested in July for protesting against oil-pipeline giant Enbridge by chaining themselves to heavy machinery at a site in Stockbridge. Attorney Robert Gaecke was arguing an esoteric point in property easement law, saying that Enbridge didn't have authority to order them off the property because it leased the land. Collette interrupted him.

"I am tired of people coming in here seeking publicity for themselves," Collette said, accusing the group of staging such protests — and making such motions — simply for the attention and news cameras. He would not grant the motion to quash the charges. "I'm ready to try these cases. ... I'm tired of it, and it's going to go to trial."

He'd go on to say that he is "unsympathetic to people who try to use this courtroom as some place to make a statement about your problems."

Protesters argued it was classic civil

disobedience.

The four defendants — Vicci Hamlin, Lisa Leggio, Barbara Carter and William Lawrence — are each charged with trespassing (a misdemeanor) and maximum two-year felonies for resisting and obstructing a police officer. Their trial is scheduled to begin on Monday at the Ingham County Courthouse in Mason.

"To think we would do this for publicity, with the risk of years in prison, is just absurd," Hamlin said. "Yes, it is for publicity because we want to reach the



masses and let them know what's going on. But we certainly aren't doing it for that reason.

"I just really believe it's important for future generations to protest and make change or it will only get worse than it already is."

Though appearing sympathetic to

the underlying cause of the case, "I don't think chaining yourself to construction equipment to make sure the TV cameras come out and see you is what I'm talking about," Collette said. "If I could personally ever say that, I'd support you 100 percent. But not as a judge."

Collette's comments from the bench should be of little surprise to those familiar with the outspoken judge. He delivered biting comments against the Snyder administration and Legislature after changes last year to the Court of Claims structure, spreading cases statewide rather than in liberal-leaning Ingham County. He reportedly called it "nothing but payback for having the gall to stand up to them."

He also allowed a challenge to the state's Right-to-Work law to move forward in May because it allegedly violated the state's Open Meetings Act. The challenge wasn't on the merits of the law, but whether the government operated within the law on transparency.

"If I hear that word again, transparency, I'm going to jump off a bridge," Collette told City Pulse. "The truth is with transparency, government spends most of its time trying not to be transparent."

In another Open Meetings Act case involving Detroit's emergency financial team, Collette ordered all 10 members of it to appear before him in court "to answer why they should not be held in contempt" for meeting in secret to allegedly avoid the law, the Detroit Free Press reported.

— Andy Balaskovitz

Sequestration pain

Despite budget deal, the impact of cuts in federal grants lingers for MSU researchers, threatening the quality of research and jobs

In the 2012-13 academic year, Michigan State University lost \$86 million in federal research funding, a 31 percent drop from the year before, according to an MSU external funding report. With federal grants making up 75 percent of the university's external research funding, the cuts indicate a major hit to ongoing attempts at scientific advancement, threatening jobs and the quality of research.

The funding cut — from \$277 million to \$191 million — is the result of a gridlocked Congress in recent years that struggled to reach budget deals, culminating last year in across-the-

board, automatic budget cuts known as sequestration.

Though it's difficult to determine precisely how much of that drop is to blame on the sequester, MSU spokesman Jason Cody said the federal budget cuts "definitely" hurt. "Sequestration had an impact on the amount of money that all federal funding agencies that MSU works with were giving out," he said.

Congress's inability to agree on a deficit reduction plan led to automatic spending cuts of \$85 billion as required by the Budget Control Act of 2011. When the sequester took effect March 1, federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy saw their budgets decrease 3 to 5 percent.

As a result, in 2013 these agencies awarded fewer new research grants and the National Institutes of Health reduced the dollar amount of existing grants. At

universities across the country those cuts have meant jobs lost, research projects shelved and labs shuttered.

The cuts only exacerbated the already challenging quest for research funding. MSU researchers say the increasing unpredictability of federal funding, exemplified by October's government shutdown, steers prospective scientists away from academic research toward careers that are less dependent on the whims of Washington politicians.

Beronda Montgomery, an associate professor in MSU's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, saw the impact of budget cuts in her lab, which studies how plants respond to changes in light. About 95 percent of her funding for salaries and supplies comes from federal grants, she said.

When one of her grants lapsed last year and was not renewed, Montgomery

See Funding, Page 6



Property: 521 Fenton St., Lansing

Owner: Clinethia Wells

Assessed value: \$29,300

Owner says: Could not be reached for comment

According to a reader, this house was damaged in a fire and has been in poor condition since 2010. The recent state of the economy cannot have been helpful in hastening the home's return to normal use. This home — indeed, the entire block — demonstrates the Minimal Traditional style, typical of post-war, working-class homes.

Unfortunately, the building's condition hurts the appearance of the entire block. One bad example can reduce the apparent value of surrounding houses and the stability of the neighborhood. Though demolition provides the quickest solution, it is not necessarily the best action. On this block, where an established rhythm of close-set houses defines the neighborhood pattern, a single gap in the streetscape can have an undesirable effect.

Assuming the structure is stable, repair efforts should focus on keeping the weather and wildlife out. The home might be gradually restored, focusing on options that will maintain weather tightness while simultaneously improving the home's appearance as funds become available. Siding would have a tremendous impact on the home's weather tightness as well as its curb appeal. Likewise, painting the boarded-up windows black will mimic the appearance of real windows. Replacement windows could be purchased and installed as the budget allows.

— 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 Andy Balaskovitz at 999-5064.

Funding

from page 5

had to release one employee and shift others to funded projects.

Though sequestration was temporary, the consequences of a temporary lapse in funding can be lasting. “Research projects are long-trajectory,” Montgomery said. “You have to keep them going.” Biological materials for a shelved experiment will not miraculously come back to life a year or two later when funds become available.

Congressional budget wrangling also delayed construction of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, MSU’s cutting-edge particle accelerator. The Department of Energy, a major funder of the project, has faced a blanket prohibition on new construction for more than a year because it has been operating under various “continuing resolutions” — temporary spending measures to fund the government while legislators reached a budget deal.

Construction on the accelerator building itself could have started in September 2013, according to Mark Burnham, MSU’s

vice president for governmental affairs. It’s now scheduled for spring. Meanwhile, work has proceeded on other fronts in an effort to keep the project on schedule.

Scientific brain drain

Sequestration only worsened an existing problem: growing demand for a limited number of federal grants. The National Institutes of Health, for example, reviewed twice as many grant applications in 2012 as in 1997, but it increased the number of grant awards only modestly, from 7,388 to 9,032. Thus a researcher’s chance of getting a grant from the agency dropped from 30.5 percent to 17.6 percent.

Real federal dollars spent on research and development declined 16 percent over the past four years, from \$158.8 billion in 2010 to an estimated \$133.2 billion in 2013, according to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, or AAAS.

As a percent of GDP, the government’s investment in research and development is less than half what it was at its peak in the early 1960s — an estimated .82 percent in 2013 versus nearly 2 percent in 1964, according to AAAS and the Congressional Budget Office. Industry has picked up the

slack, but that means more dollars going to applied research and product development rather than basic scientific investigation.

Michigan’s cap on tuition hikes puts increased pressure on universities to find alternate sources of funding, said Chris Maxwell, associate dean for research at MSU’s College of Social Science. “We have greater demand on faculty to get grants all the time,” he said. The message is that “you won’t get promoted, you won’t be retained as a faculty member, if you don’t have sponsored research programs.”

Hardest hit by funding cuts are the nation’s up-and-coming scientists: graduate students and postdocs who need jobs in faculty research labs to earn their degrees or launch their careers, and untenured professors just starting their research programs.

Jim Anthony, professor of epidemiology at MSU, sees those challenges firsthand. He directs a mentoring program funded by the National Institutes of Health that helps junior faculty members across the country design new research on the prevention and treatment of drug problems. His program includes pilot study funds so they can demonstrate the feasibility of their ideas.

Because of sequestration cutbacks, this

year the 11 assistant professors in the program each received less than \$8,000 for their pilot research instead of the originally budgeted \$15,000. A smaller grant means a smaller pilot study and less convincing evidence of their new ideas. That limits their ability to secure further grants for in-depth research.

The ultimate losers, he pointed out, are the patients who could benefit from improved drug prevention and treatment.

Researchers say that what’s ultimately at stake is America’s ability to lead in addressing the world’s major problems, from climate change to terrorism to rising healthcare costs.

“Many of the grand challenges are going to be solved by evidence-based solutions that provide clear direction of where to go,” said Maxwell, of the College of Social Science. “If Congress wants to ensure efficient, effective and fair outcomes, they’re going to have to fund scientists.”

— Rachel E. Cabose



BWL Watch

Keeping an eye on Lansing’s publicly owned utility

It didn’t take long for controversy to swirl around Monday’s announcement of the outside review panel selected to investigate the Board of Water and Light’s handling of the ice storm that hit a month ago.

State Journal reporters Steven R. Reed and Lindsay VanHulle reported in separate stories Tuesday that retired Brig. Gen. Mike McDaniel — who was tapped by Mayor Virg Bernero to select the 10-member Community Review Team (see list below) — believes subjecting the group to open records and meetings laws would be “really burdensome,” and that most of those selected come from governmental backgrounds.

(McDaniel will appear on “City Pulse Newsmakers” at 9 a.m. Sunday on My18 TV.)

“It looks like the list is deeply political,” said East Lansing resident Alice Dreger, who has arisen as an outspoken critic during the fallout of the storm. “Unfortunately, it’s the usual suspects in a way — friends of Virg. ... To combine that with the lack of our ability to scrutinize what they’re doing indicates the process is being turned into a political game.

“At this point, the BWL has lost our confidence. For us to regain that confidence we need a thorough, transparent investigation.”

“I absolutely disagree with that,” said T.J. Bucholz, a spokesman for McDaniel. “Mayor Bernero has not been involved at all with the decision-making process.”

As for a majority of the members — three

of which are women, seven men — having governmental backgrounds: “I don’t think that’s uncommon in a city like Lansing,” Bucholz said. “Practically everyone who works here has at one time or another experience in government, whether it be the local or state level.”

Dreger is also considering convening an East Lansing-based citizens group and “do it ourselves.” She said she was unable to apply for McDaniel’s committee because of conflicts with her work schedule.

Bucholz said the list of 10 was whittled down from 85 applicants to be on the panel, but he declined to release a list of all the applicants. “We’ll be tapping into probably 20 or 30 people who applied who have some sort of subject matter expertise over the next 60 days.”

The team members are:

Lansing

Patricia Spitzley: Deputy redevelopment manager for the RACER Trust, which was set up in 2009 to manage abandoned GM plants across the country. She is the former communications director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Larry Bass: CEO of Friedland Industries, a recycling and processing plant based in Lansing. He also serves as chair emeritus for Sparrow Health Services.

Joan Nelson: As director of the Allen Neighborhood Center, Nelson works to promote health, safety and stability programs for Lansing neighborhoods.

Kyle Bowman: A Michigan State Police lieutenant and an adjunct professor of Homeland Security at Siena Heights University in Adrian.

Meridian Township

Jerry Richards: The sole representative from Meridian Township, Richards is the former chief executive officer of the township and works for Mannik & Smith Group, an engineering and environmental services firm in Lansing.

East Lansing

Beverly Baten: An East Lansing City Councilwoman from 1997-2008, Baten has worked on a number of public policy issues, including serving on the Council when indoor furniture was banned from outside use in reaction to numerous celebratory couch burnings near MSU’s campus in 2004.

Douglas Jester: With experience as both a City Council member and mayor of East Lansing, Jester brings considerable government experience to the panel. Jester works for the alternative energy consulting firm 5 Lakes Energy. While he didn’t lose power during the outages, Jester told the Lansing State Journal he is most concerned with the length of the outages, the communications breakdown and the lack of coordination between BWL and city governments.

Delta Township

Darnell Earley: Earley is the emergency financial manager of Flint and also served as city administrator and temporary mayor there between 2001 and 2004. Most recently he was Saginaw’s city manager.

Bill Long: Long and J. Peter Lark, BWL’s general manager, both worked for the Michigan Public Service Commission, albeit serving at different times. Long also worked as the director of the Michigan Department of Labor.

The commission is expected to hold

community forums in Lansing, East Lansing and Delta Township by March 31, according to a press release.

Individuals still looking to voice concerns are asked to email any suggestions to lansingcrt@gmail.com, or attend the upcoming public hearings.

BWL’s ‘insular’ culture

Brad Van Guilder, a national field staffer for the Sierra Club working on the group’s clean-energy campaign, told BWL officials at a public meeting in East Lansing last week: “There tends to be a fairly insular culture at the BWL” when it comes to communicating with the public.

Van Guilder was speaking in the context of ongoing “energy dialogues” that are taking place between the Sierra Club and the BWL about the utility’s long-range transition away from burning coal. That may affect customers because changes will require improvements in the local service territory, the distribution grid and additional lines.

“This is the perfect opportunity to have an open conversation with the community about how they want to make improvements in that local distribution grid,” he said.

Van Guilder said the BWL is actually far ahead of investor-owned utilities DTE and Consumers on this front, but has failed to communicate its plans to customers.

“Mostly your communication with the public is discussing with (BWL) commissioners rather than taking in the wisdom of the community,” he told officials last week.

George Stojic, the BWL’s executive director of strategic planning and development, was unavailable for comment.

— Andy Balaskovitz and RJ Wolcott



Political notes from around town

Filling a vacancy when Hertel leaves, inauguration no-shows and saying goodbye to Ingham County's director of animal control

It's highly likely Ingham County Register of Deeds Curtis Hertel Jr. will resign mid-term to become state senator next year (the 23rd District has a 2-to-1 Democratic base) and replace Gretchen Whitmer. Hertel's been campaigning for the Senate seat and racking up major endorsements, and his county-office term runs through 2016.



WALT SORG

That leaves an opening for someone to occupy the position before the term expires, and preliminary maneuvering has already begun. County Commissioner Carol Koenig, D-East Lansing,

Lansing School Board member Nicole Armbruster and Lansing City Councilman Derrick Quinney, the health and safety director of the state AFL-CIO, all appear interested in the job. Quinney is publicly non-committal; Armbruster said she is interested and Koenig said she's "definitely interested" in the position.

While there's been some talk about combining the deeds office with the county clerk to save money, it won't happen. The idea was floated six years ago by Commissioner Randy Schafer, R-Williamston, when longtime Register of Deeds Paula Johnson retired, but it was rejected by the county board. Washtenaw County, for example, has combined the two offices.

Hertel opposes the consolidation. He says it likely would only save taxpayers about 5 cents each per year, and would dilute the office's ability to advocate on behalf of consumers. Hertel has been a state leader in attacking mortgage and foreclosure abuses.

He also notes that the two offices could not be consolidated in mid-term. Should he resign, the law requires a successor to be appointed by a committee comprising County Clerk Barb Byrum, Prosecutor Stuart Dunning III and Probate Court Chief Judge Richard Garcia. Their choice would serve through the 2016 election and Byrum could not hold both offices.

Democrats, who dominate Ingham County politics, would be reluctant to then turn around and create a 2016 primary race between Byrum and the newly appointed register of deeds.

Kumbaya ... for now

Two Lansing City Council members were "no-shows" at last week's inauguration ceremony for Mayor Virg Bernero, City Clerk Chris Swope and four members of Council. But the two absentees, Carol Wood and Jody Washington, cautioned against reading anything into their absences.

Wood said she was working at her City Hall office on constituent issues and "time just got away from me. When I looked up it was also 5 p.m. and I kept working," Wood said in an email.

The change in the inauguration schedule, forced by the winter storm, tripped up Washington. She was babysitting a grandson while her son-in-law was having hip surgery. Washington had let the Mayor's Office know she'd be unable to attend. After being contacted by City Pulse about her absence, the 1st Ward Councilwoman posted her explanation of the absence on her Facebook page.

One person who surprised some by attending: former Councilman Harold Leeman, who lost the mayoral election to Bernero. Leeman applauded from the audience as Bernero took the oath of office.

McAloon-Lampman says goodbye

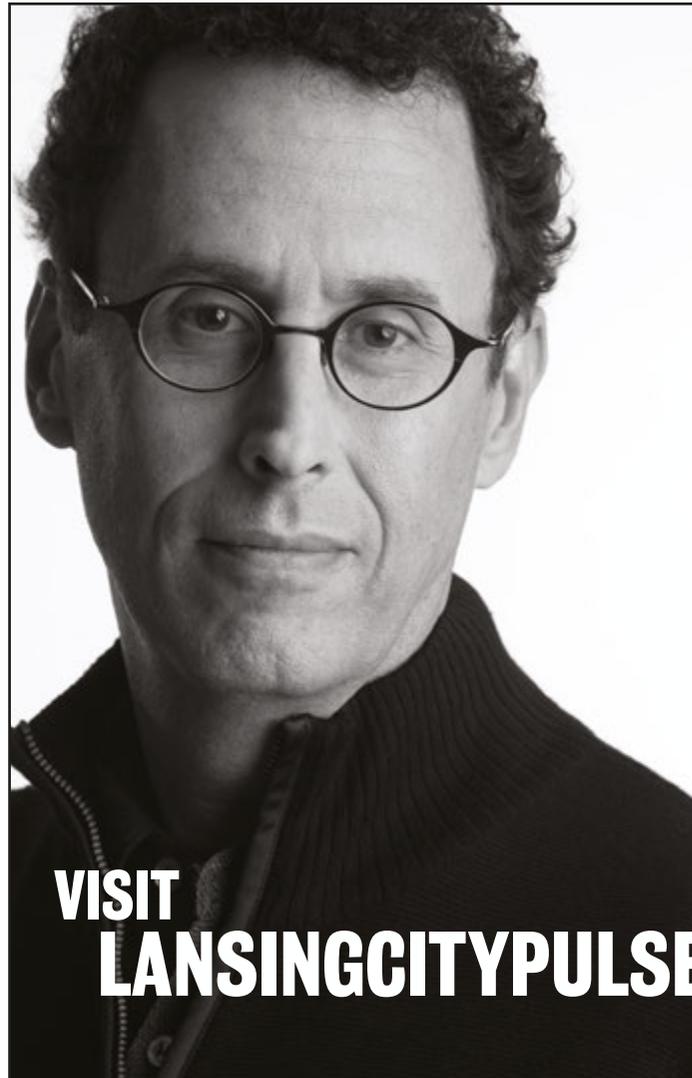
Ingham County Animal Control's director, Jamie McAloon-Lampman, is leaving her post to become executive director of the McKamey Animal Center in Chattanooga, Tenn. Before coming to Mason she had run shelters in Battle Creek and Norman, Okla.

In her 10 years here, she has worked to promote adoptions of stray/abandoned pets. Last year she succeeded in not euthanizing any animals due to overcrowding at the Mason shelter. She capped off the year with a marathon animal foster care promotion before Christmas, placing dozens of cats and dogs in temporary homes over the holidays to relieve the strain on the shelter's staff and space. Many of the animals were adopted by their "temporary" caretakers.

County Commissioner Todd Tennis, who chairs the Animal Control Shelter Advisory Committee, said he was sorry to see her go.

"Jamie has presided over Ingham County Animal Control during a time of award-winning service and progress both in the areas of animal welfare and public safety. She has helped make Ingham County's animal control programs a leader in Michigan and around the country," Tennis said.

McAloon-Lampman and her husband will be joined in the move south by their two horses, two dogs and two cats. All of the family critters, even the horses, were adopted from the Ingham County shelter.



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at the
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Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning playwright and screenwriter Tony Kushner comes to Wharton Center Feb. 10 as part of the World View Lecture series.



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THIS WEEK: BWL independent review team



Hosted by Bert Schwartz

CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS



**BRIG. GEN.
MICHAEL C.H. MCDANIEL**
CHAIRMAN, BWL REVIEW COMMITTEE

<p>OVER THE AIR</p> <p>Lansing/East Lansing.....Ch. 18</p> <p>COMCAST</p> <p>Lansing/East Lansing/Holt.....Ch. 8</p> <p>Jackson.....Ch. 18</p> <p>Summit/Leoni Township.....Ch. 8</p>	<p>MILLENNIUM</p> <p>Bath,Charlotte/Williamston/others.....Ch. 6</p> <p>Vermontville.....Ch. 12</p> <p>Grass Lake.....Ch. 11</p> <p>CABLE PROPERTIES</p> <p>Rives Junction.....Ch. 18</p> <p>Springport.....Ch. 18</p>
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Watch past episodes at vimeo.com/channels/citypulse

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FY 2015, JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS
 FROM: LANSING PLANNING BOARD
 SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING ON **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014**
 TIME AND PLACE: **6:30 p.m., Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple Street, Lansing, MI.**

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2015 (7/1/2014 – 6/30/2015).

For additional information, please contact Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner at (517) 483-4063, M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for HUD FY2014/City2015 (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed herein for HUD 2014/City 2015 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are based on prior entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown above, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity

PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS HUD FY 2014/CITY FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) CITY OF LANSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of Lansing's Housing and Community Development Program is the development of a viable community which will provide standard housing in a suitable living environment, principally to benefit low and moderate income persons, preserve and expand existing businesses and industries, and create an atmosphere conducive to stability in neighborhoods. Specific objectives are enumerated as follows:

- a. Provide standard housing in a suitable living environment through rehabilitation, new construction and improvement of the housing stock primarily in CDBG eligible neighborhoods and in specifically designated housing target areas.
- b. Provide housing counseling and assistance that will benefit low and moderate-income households.
- c. Promote home ownership for low and moderate-income households and promote deconcentration of poverty.
- d. Maintain at current levels the number of public and assisted housing units available to low and moderate-income households.
- e. Provide homeless prevention assistance, emergency shelter, re-housing assistance and supportive human services for people with special needs, people who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- f. Provide assistance for permanent supportive housing and human services for low and moderate income households with a history of chronic homelessness, including those with special needs.
- g. Promote economic opportunity for low and moderate-income individuals by facilitating economic development, providing employment opportunity, sponsoring job training, supporting business development, micro-enterprise lending and business or financial educational programs and initiatives.
- h. Promote economic development to provide jobs, business services and shopping opportunities for residents located in CDBG eligible areas.
- i. Provide community and neighborhood services, recreational opportunities and public facilities and promote neighborhood social cohesion to improve the quality of life in CDBG eligible neighborhoods.
- j. Increase security and safety in neighborhoods by supporting public safety and crime prevention initiatives, public educational programs and citizens' awareness in CDBG eligible areas.
- k. Improve the city's transportation, public facilities and infrastructure systems in CDBG eligible areas.
- l. Protect and improve the city's physical environment, including preventing or eliminating blight, removing lead or other safety hazards, preserving historic resources, mitigating flood hazards, promoting healthy housing and improving energy fitness in housing occupied by low and moderate-income households.
- m. Promote fair housing objectives.
- n. Provide affordable housing and economic development that benefits low and moderate income people in the context of mixed use development along transit corridors.

PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15)

CDBG Single-family, Owner-Occupied Rehab Program/Public Improvements
Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing units **\$942,927**

through city sponsored programs, and in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations and other state and federal agencies. Includes funds to meet lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures, funds to assist in emergency housing rehabilitation, market analysis activities and technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, contractors, and low- and moderate-income households. Includes loans and grants for owner-occupied single-family units through city sponsored programs, loans to rehabilitate historic homes in conjunction with rehabilitation of the unit, and loans or grants for ramps, hazard remediation or weatherization. Includes staff, office space, technical assistance, training and other direct project costs associated with delivery of Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant and other State and Federal Programs. 18 housing units estimated. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds.

General street, sidewalk, water/sewer improvements, including assistance to income eligible owner-occupants or those in CDBG-eligible areas for special assessments related to new improvements. Includes improvements to neighborhood parks, recreational facilities; public neighborhood, medical and community facilities in CDBG priority areas. Some improvements may be made with prior years' funds

CDBG Rental Rehab Program/Weatherization

Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of rental housing units through city sponsored programs. Includes funds to meet healthy housing standards and/or lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures. 6 units estimated. Includes financing of an Energy Fitness Program and/or Energy Optimization Program to benefit low and moderate-income households, 54 housing units estimated with current funding. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds **\$200,000**

Acquisition

Includes acquisition, maintenance and security of properties acquired through programs, and activities related to acquisition, disposition, relocation and clearance of dilapidated structures. Funds may also be used to acquire properties in the flood plain. Includes staff time associated with this activity. 1 housing unit estimated. Prior year funds may be used. **\$1,000**

Public Services (limited to 15%)

Includes homeownership counseling and education, neighborhood counseling, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes, tool lending programs, employment training, and community safety. Services are for low- and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits. \$285,590 **\$285,590**

Economic Development

Loans, technical assistance and training to low- and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprises within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. (A micro-enterprise is a business with five or fewer employees, including the owner(s).) Estimate 8 people trained and 4 loans issued. Prior year funds may be used. **\$93,629**

Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion, referrals for the attraction of new business and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing. Estimate 36 individuals and 4 businesses assisted.

Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate-income city of Lansing residents. Estimate 3 jobs

CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)

Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with the delivery of CDBG, HOME and other state and federal programs. Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs. Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the city. **\$380,786**

Total FY2015 CDBG: \$1,903,932

PROPOSED HOME PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15)

Down Payment Assistance

Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$15,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance not limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership counseling fees associated with this activity. Estimate 12 housing units. Prior year funds may be used. **\$135,273**

New Construction/HOME Rehab/Development Program

Includes funds for loans and grants for housing construction and rehabilitation. **\$274,145**

HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Acquisition, Development and Resale (ADR) activities. Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. Funds may be used for staff time associated with these activities. 2 housing units estimated in conjunction with partners. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds

Also includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of at least 2 owner-occupied housing units.

Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating (limited to 5%)

Funds reserved at option of the city to provide operating funds to CHDO's utilizing HOME funds provided by the city to produce affordable housing in the community. **\$29,244**

Making marimbas

MSU grad student chronicles his quest to make music with local materials

Perhaps it was an interest born when my son was a high-school percussionist who played a solo marimba piece in a statewide competition.



Or perhaps it was just the uniqueness of someone exploring the possibility of making an instrument from local resources. Or maybe it was the concept explored in my son's college and post-college involvement with musical troupes Groove and Juice that created music and instruments from everyday materials.

I'm not quite sure, but I was excited

just before the holidays arrived to hear the story of Michigan State University School of Music graduate student Alex Smith and his passionate drive to make a marimba from local materials.

In December, Smith presented the world premiere of his short documentary, "The Michigandered Marimba," about the process of this challenge, along with an original piece of music written for his new marimba played at the Cook Music Recital Hall. Smith's journey to MSU began in his home state of North Carolina where he studied percussion in high school. While attending East Carolina State University, Smith studied abroad in Brazil and there fell in love with the music of the poor. He noted that all of their instruments were locally made from local materials, including goats whose hides became drumheads. His teacher introduced him to, Candomble, an Afro-Brazilian religion mainly practiced in Brazil.

"Candomble is nature," Smith learned.

The story of his Michigan marimba construction is intriguing and inspiring in its own right. Smith was fortunate to find marimba maker Matt Kazmierski, owner

of Planet Marimba in Plymouth, who was willing to help Smith design and build it.

The initial difficulty was in finding a suitable replacement for the traditional but exotic rosewood that is used in most marimbas, including the ones that Kazmierski makes by hand. Smith and Kazmierski tested a lot of local woods, finally settling on sassafras. The next challenge was finding material to use as resonators, the long tubes that hang below each wooden bar. They ultimately worked with some cardboard tubes.

Smith is now folding this work into his thesis and hopes to travel to Ghana soon to study from their musical tradition and instruments. While he admits that the sassafras does not have quite the same sound as the rosewood, he believes that we all should be willing to open up to changing our sound aesthetics. This is clearly what the spreading and fusion of world music has helped to do. While he doesn't expect everyone to make their own instruments, he thinks even young students would benefit from understanding how, where and from what and whom their instruments have been made. This is clearly one notion at the heart of sustainability.

Rosewood, traditionally the prized wood for marimbas, is not grown in many places.

Where it is grown, the local people use it for many purposes in their daily lives. Looking for suitable and local materials that can be used instead of exotic and distant materials is a good exercise — in music, food and so much else that is important in our lives.

Fortunately, the Lansing area is home to much good local music from many musical traditions. Coming up soon is the 14th annual MidWinter Singing Festival at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, started by longtime community fireball Sally Potter.

The local instruments are the voices of local neighbors coming together to experience the joy of shared song. Thanks to Potter, this event has been highlighted nationally and other communities have tried to replicate it. There is something special and deeply moving being in the 500-seat auditorium in the Hannah Center and joining friends old and new with the song that opens and closes the festival, "How Can I Keep From Singing?"

There's nothing better than local and sustainable music. Thanks are due to Alex Smith and Sally Potter for helping us experience it.

'The Michigandered Marimba'

Is available to watch at youtube.com/watch?v=kDqBIMFpWIA

PUBLIC NOTICES	
Cont. from page 8	
CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required) HOME Program set-aside reserved for housing developed, sponsored or owned by CHDOs in partnership with the City. 1 unit estimated. Prior year funds may be used.	\$87,732
HOME General Administration (limited to 10%) Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver HOME program.	\$58,488
Total FY2015 HOME: \$584,882	
EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15)	
Homeless Assistance Funds provided to address homelessness through rapid re-housing	\$34,109
Homeless Prevention Funds provided to prevent homelessness	\$18,998
Administrative Activities (limited to 7.5%) Funds provided to offset the cost of administering emergency solutions program.	\$9,957
Shelter Operation Funds provided to shelter providers to cover cost of maintenance, operations, insurance, utilities and furnishings in shelter facilities.	\$69,701
Total FY2015 \$132,765	
SUMMARY	
Estimated Fortieth Year Community Development Resources:	
CDBG Entitlement Grant: \$1,903,932	
HOME Program Funds: 584,882	
ESG Program Funds: 132,765	
TOTAL: \$2,621,579	
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Administrative, management and operation costs for the above programs include the administration, management and operations of the eligible activities, as well as other federal and state community development programs in which the city is now or may be participating.	
CP#14_018	

PUBLIC NOTICES	
Notice of Public Sale	
In accordance with Michigan State Law Storage Facility Act No. 443 and to satisfy an operator's lien, the contents of the following units will be sold at public auction on www.StorageBattles.com to the highest bidder ending on January 9, 2014 at 10:00am for units located at 4200 Hunsaker Dr. East Lansing, MI 48823	
Unit#	Tenant Name
1240	Martha Gonzalez
The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes and appliances. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Compass Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.	
CP#14_0XX	

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, February 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. , in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:	
A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Lingg Brewer for Site Plan and Special Use Permit approval for the property at 500 Albert Avenue and 122 Division Street. The applicant is proposing to construct a four-story, mixed-use building containing 15 apartment units, approximately 2,000 square feet of non-residential space in two phases and to convert approximately 270 square feet of the existing 500 Albert building to office space. The property is zoned B-3, City Center Commercial District.	
Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.	
The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.	
Marie E. Wicks City Clerk	
CP#14_017	

ARTS & CULTURE

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Lovers travel from around the world to memorialize their affections at the Ponts des Arts bridge outside the Louvre Museum in Paris. Once there, they will inscribe a padlock with a message of love, clip it onto the bridge's chain-link fence and hurl the key into the Seine River below. Yes folks, never before has public littering been so sweet.

.....
On Feb. 12, we'll transform our cover into a piece of the Ponts des Arts fence, letting your special someone, not to mention all 50,000 of our readers, know how you feel.



Put your sweetie's Valentine on the COVER of City Pulse!

On Feb. 12, City Pulse transforms its cover into a personalized "love lock" fence!

For \$49.95, you can buy a "lock" and inscribe your personal message of love in a 1 ½-by-1-inch space on the cover.

For \$29.95, get your lock featured on page 3.

To buy a lock, call (517) 999-5069 or email jonathan@lansingcitypulse.com

Fantasy career

East Lansing entrepreneur taps into global 'Game of Thrones' replica market

By ALLAN I. ROSS

The warehouse of Chris Beasley's East Lansing business is stocked with replicate swords, shields, daggers and helmets from the hit HBO show "Game of Thrones." Some of the blades have names: Ice, Longclaw, Catspaw. One shield bears a direwolf; one of the helmets is shaped like a snarling metallic dog.

Mounted on the wall behind beside Beasley's desk is a massive warhammer; it's nearly 4 feet long, weighs about 10 pounds,



Katy Barth/City Pulse

Chris Beasley started his fantasy replica business, Valyrian Steel, in East Lansing seven years ago. He designs and manufactures weapons and armor based on the George R. R. Martin "A Song of Fire and Ice" book series and HBO's TV adaptation, "Game of Thrones."

three of its four business ends are tipped with inch-long spikes and "FURY" is emblazoned across its face.

"That's King Robert's Warhammer," Beasley said. "If they don't sell out, I'm all set for the zombie apocalypse."

Beasley, 32, manufactures and sells this officially licensed "Thrones" merchandise, as well as items based on the show's source material, George R. R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" novels. He launched his venture, Valyrian Steel in 2007 (the company takes its name from the magically imbued metal from the series' mythology). Beasley said he's been fascinated by castles and medieval warfare for as long as he can remember, but he didn't get into collecting until the "Lord of the Rings" started releasing merchandise based on the films in the early '00s.

"I started ordering swords, then I started selling them, and I was doing very well," he said.

In 2006, the Tennessee-based production company that had been licensed to make the "Rings" merch went bankrupt, but rather than retire as a Middle-earth middleman, he moved up the ladder.

"I took the profits I'd made to launch a career as a manufacturer," he said. "I hired some of the employees (from the bankrupt company), got some

licenses through George R.R. Martin, and when the TV series was announced, I slipped in and got the HBO license as well."

That's right: He was part of the "Game of Thrones" caravan before it was cool. So what if you were the Daenerys Targaryen for Halloween last year; he's got Martin on speed dial (Beasley works with the author directly for the novel-based products he puts out) and could probably crash the set in Ireland if he wanted to.

"I'd love to see them filming it someday, but I'm so busy here," he said. "I thought it would be great to visit the set and have them say, 'we need a 6-foot-5 extra over here' and have them put me in a scene."

Beasley's designer lives in Tennessee, and they work remotely to create the swords, helmets and shields based on Martin's books. The designer also travels to Ireland to design materials directly on the show's props. The designs are then sent to either China or India where they are manufactured in limited editions and shipped to East Lansing for distribution. And before you get all flag-wavy and denounce Chinese-made goods, these aren't mass-produced sweatshop materials.

"China has been making swords for 5,000 years," Beasley said. "That's longer than Europeans have. These are extremely high quality products."

Beasley moved from West Branch, Mich., to East Lansing in 1999 to attend MSU, where he studied biology and computer science. To make money, he split his time between working in one of the school's plant labs and developing websites. He dropped out of school when he realized he could make more money on the latter.

Beasley has started approaching other fantasy authors to continue his business after the popularity of "Thrones" inevitably wanes. He still runs content websites as well, which gives him additional monthly ad revenue.

"It's nothing (as big as) Facebook, but we do quite well," he said. "But obviously the focus is on the retail side. I'm no Mark Zuckerberg, but (Valyrian Steel) is very, very successful."

He won't dish on numbers, but get this: Beasley recently bought some property in the mountains outside Chattanooga, Tenn., and has started work on his own castle. It uses high-efficiency building materials and will be situated on a peak, about 1,600 feet above sea level. He blogs about the construction process at buildingmycastle.com, but to talk about it in person, he sounds almost ... apologetic.

"That sounds so (materialistic), 'I'm building a castle.' I don't really like to talk about it," he said. "But it's the fulfillment of a lifelong dream."

And he'll be able to defend it quite handily if those zombies ever attack.



'Death' at C!

Acclaimed documentary with Lansing ties gets local premiere tonight

By ALLAN I. ROSS

There doesn't seem to be much of a cultural overlap between audiences that appreciate thoughtful foreign language documentaries and those who rock out to death metal. But for anyone caught in that sliver of a Venn diagram set, "Death Metal Angola" is quite possibly the piece of head banging, poignant filmmaking you've been waiting for all your life.

"Angola Death Metal"

Screening/talkback with Travis Burgess
7 p.m. today
Studio C!
1999 Central Park Drive,
Okemos
(517) 393-7469,
celebrationcinema.com/indie

Eaton Rapids native Travis Burgess served as one of the film's producers. Burgess, 27, will introduce "Death Metal Angola" tonight at Studio C! in Okemos and facilitate a talkback after the screening. This is the first feature documentary for the New Jersey-based production company for which Burgess has worked the last two years. He

said it shows a cathartic side to the extreme rock subgenre that no one expected.

"You get this idea about death metal bands — what do they really have to scream about?" Burgess said. "This movie shows these African kids who've lived through genocide, who've had their homes bombed and their entire families killed. They've seen death and they're screaming about it. It's a way for them to process these raw emotions."

The film's storyline follows the formation of what Burgess called the "African Woodstock of death metal music" in the central Angolan city of Huambo. The dialogue is in Portuguese with English subtitles. Burgess said he spent six weeks living with one of the central characters, orphanage owner Sonia Ferreira.

"She's a wonderful, saintly woman," Burgess said. "She takes care of 57 boys living in a bombed out milk factory. It's a wonderful story."

How "Death Metal Angola" brought Burgess back to mid-Michigan is a story all its own: Burgess met Studio C! general manager Chad Wozniak at East Lansing's Peanut Barrel when he was in town for Thanksgiving last November; Wozniak suggested that Burgess bring the film to



Courtesy Photo

"Death Metal Angola," screening tonight at Studio C!, was produced by New Jersey-based Coalition Films. Eaton Rapids native Travis Burgess was one of the film's producers.

the East Lansing Film Series, which opens Friday (see details below).

"Death Metal Angola" debuted in Dubai in December 2012, but despite good buzz (including a rave review from the Huffington Post, which said the "must-watch" film is destined to be a cult classic), it has yet to pick up a wide distribution deal.

"It's been to over 35 festivals where it's won several awards, including top jury prize at one," Burgess said. "It's already done more than we expected. People have responded very well to it."

Maybe that death metal/indie film overlap set is more significant than we give it credit for.

East Lansing Film Series — January/February

Studio C! general manager Chad Wozniak said the year-old East Lansing Film Series has been connecting well with Lansing-area audiences.

"This isn't really a matinee community, but (the East Lansing Film Series) has seen a dramatic increase in traffic before 5 p.m.," Wozniak said. He said Oscar's Bisro, the theater's restaurant, has done so well that parent company Celebration! Cinema opened a second location near Kalamazoo.

"This had never been done so we didn't know what to expect," he said. "But management is happy and the public seems happy. We're exceeding all expectations."

The East Lansing Film Series runs Jan. 24-Feb. 20. For show times and more details, go to celebrationcinema.com/indie.

"THE CRASH REEL" (NR, 108 min.) U.S. champion snowboarder Kevin Pearce suffered massive head trauma in a 2009 accident in Park City, Utah, while training for the 2010 Winter Olympics. During his rehabilitation, he made the decision to return to the sport that almost killed him.

This illuminating documentary uses years of vérité footage to explore the mindset of an extreme athlete.

"DETROIT UNLEADED" (PG-13, 83 min.) This romantic comedy, set in a Detroit gas station, delves into issues of family relationships, cultural identity and love. Lebanese-American filmmaker Rola Nashef's feature debut is expanded from a short film shown at 2007 East Lansing Film Festival, drawing comparisons to breakthrough films "Clerks" and "Do the Right Thing."

"THE HUNT" (R, 115 min., in Danish with English subtitles) This mesmerizing import follows a lonely teacher whose life takes a dark turn after an innocent little lie. Starring the electrifying Danish actor Mads Mikkelsen (NBC's "Hannibal," "Casino Royale").

"INEQUALITY FOR ALL" (PG, 89 minutes) An engrossing and enraging documentary about Secretary of Labor-turned-Berkeley Professor Robert Reich's dissection on the

erosion of middle class America. Directed by MSU grad Jacob Kornbluth, "Inequality" examines the causes and consequences of the country's widening income gap and the need to regain the middle class to stabilize our economy.

"IN A WORLD ..." (R, 107 min.) Written, directed and starring Lake Bell ("Children's Hospital"), this off-kilter romantic comedy revolves around a struggling vocal coach who strikes it big in the cutthroat world of movie trailer voiceovers, only to find herself in direct competition with the industry's reigning king: Her father.



Courtesy Photo

"Detroit Unleaded," produced in Southeast Michigan, is one of six indie movies playing at Studio C! in Okemos.

"SHORT TERM 12" (R, 96 min.) This searing drama topped many critics' best-of lists for 2013. The story is told through the perspective of a young woman, who navigates the trials of adulthood as she works in a home for at-risk teenagers.

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Top: Photo by McShane Photography, Bottom: Photos by Jessica D. Cowles

Top: Joe Wilson, in a rare Monday night appearance with the band, played steel guitar and trombone. **Middle:** Fans presented the band with a farewell card midway through Monday's show. **Bottom:** Mike "The Reverend" Lynch has sat in with the band since the early days of playing at Mac's Bar every other Wednesday. Circa March 2011.



(Left to right) Joe Wilson, Andy Wilson, Jon Herrmann, Geoff Lewis, Mike Lynch and Jon

'The end of

Steppin' In It comes of age during more than

By ANDY BALASKOVITZ

Steppin' In It was never really *a* band, but rather, a couple of them. It's traveled the country as a swinging, Cajun string quartet, something straight out of the French Quarter. It manifested itself as a harder hitting electric six-piece, beefing up originals or succinctly clanging through Tom Waits covers. Sometimes within the same week.

The band has grown into its own since a few Michigan State University students got together in a house on M.A.C. Avenue in the late '90s — four beautifully written and crafted studio albums later.

Members have come and gone. Tracks from various artists were added to the repertoire. A few thousand more miles on the road have perhaps weathered the songwriting. But one thing has remained constant throughout Steppin' In It's history: Monday night at the Green Door.

"It was every week — we had a crowd, a lot of energy there," said Joshua Davis, the band's guitarist, singer and principal songwriter. "We could do whatever we wanted onstage. There was a lot of experimentation and stretching out. I built a personal sound around that band. Without that gig, I wouldn't have become half the player I am."

The Lansing-bred band bid farewell to fans new and old when it performed its last regularly scheduled Monday at the Green Door this week. (The band will stay together, with tour dates planned for 2014, including a benefit show for Robert Busby at the Creole Gallery Sunday.) Davis, 36, recently moved to Traverse City with his wife and daughter, making weekly trips downstate difficult. It capped a 13-plus-year run at the eastside blues bar, a gig that members say turned them into professional musicians. On paper, that's around 700 shows, though an occasional Monday was missed. "The end of an era" is thrown around loosely among the band and fans.

"I'm sad about leaving the Green Door," Davis said. "It's like cutting off one of my hands."

Davis met bassist Dominic John Davis (no relation) and multi-instrumentalist Andy Wilson in the late '90s. Along with a few other musicians, the group started playing house parties and co-ops in East Lansing in late 1998.



Joshua Davis

Photo by McShane Photography

of an era'

a decade of Monday nights at the Green Door

The band took its name from a Herbie Hancock song off his funky 1975 album, "Man-Child." The nearly nine-minute track features Stevie Wonder on harmonica. "We did some of that funky fusion stuff back in the day," Davis said.

Within a few years after forming, the band was playing every other Wednesday at Mac's Bar, along with violin and guitar player Jonathon Price, Joe Wilson (Andy Wilson's twin brother), Bob Bryan on drums and keyboardist Mike "The Reverend" Lynch, a longtime Lansing-based session musician.

"It got crazy down there, packed," Lynch, 50, said of those Mac's shows. It led to an agreement for Monday nights at the Green Door, which Lynch described as "a real step for them" because it had mostly served a blues and cover-band clientele. "We made the Green Door our playground. Monday in particular really allowed all of us to be full-time musicians. ... All of us learned our chops there."

In 2011, Steppin' In It released "At the Green Door," a 14-track live album recorded in December 2009.

"Leading up to that recording, the band was firing on all cylinders," Lynch said. With an introduction by Lansing good-time stalwart Mr. Party himself, the album features a mix of covers and originals, capped off with a positively ass-shaking take on Taj Mahal's version of "Candy Man."

Jenny Costigan, general manager and co-owner of the Green Door, has been doing booking for the bar since 2000. In her basement office, a daily planner from 2002 (the earliest she has) shows "Steppin' In It" preserved in pencil on each Monday of January that year. It was the start of what would turn out to be another decade-plus-long residency at the bar. Before Steppin' In It, the 10-piece blues band Blue Avenue Delegates held down Monday nights for what Costigan believed was 18 to 20 years.

Committing to Steppin' In It "was definitely a big step for us," she said, bringing in a "unique and different clientele than we normally have" — notably "a little bit younger."

The band has been able to draw a steady stream of college students, making for a generally rotating audience over the years.

"I love all the guys, I watched them all grow," she said. "I'm sad to see them go, but

See Steppin' In It, Page 14



Top: Photo by McShane Photography, Bottom: Photo by Jessica D. Cowles

Top: Steppin' In It capped off a 13-plus-year run of playing Monday night at the Green Door this week. "The end of an era" is thrown around loosely by fans and the band. **Bottom:** Original bassist Dominic John Davis, left, moved to Nashville a year and a half ago with his family, where he has been recording and touring with childhood friend Jack White of the White Stripes. Circa March 2011.



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Photo by McShane Photography

Jon Herrmann tunes his bass guitar between sets.

Steppin' In It

from page 13

it's awesome to see them move on."

Perhaps none in the band has moved on to a brighter spotlight than original bassist Dominic John Davis, who moved to Nashville with his family about a year and a half ago. Davis, 38, grew up in southwest Detroit. Around fifth grade, he befriended a young man by the name of Jack White. The two played in a band together in high school. In the mid-'90s, Davis moved to Lansing for college at MSU, while White would go on to form The White Stripes and help define a new generation in Detroit's rock 'n' roll history. Davis couldn't say whether White has a favorite Steppin' In It track, though he said White did see them perform at Moriarty's several years ago.

In the past two years, Davis has toured with and recorded on White's solo projects. But when he first arrived in Lansing, he said he had a hard time finding musicians to play with. He met Andy Wilson first, an astute harmonica, horn and accordion player living on the east side who still performs regularly with Steppin' In It. They met up with Joshua Davis soon after, toying around with country blues and a variety of Americana music. Dominic John Davis said the band was rehearsing "a lot" by the time it graduated from Mac's to the Green Door, but it was the latter that allowed them to really get comfortable with each other musically.

"Having any kind of venue that you're going to every week, knowing how a room sounds, playing to a room — you can gauge what people are into, what gets people on the floor," he said. Moreover, "You can't really play the same stuff" week in and week out. "We'd go off the cuff a lot of times."

But it's not as if the band didn't take the gig seriously. Despite traveling the country to establish the band, they never forgot where home was.

"It was wild. ... We'd play in Colorado on Saturday night and rush back home for Monday," Dominic John Davis said.

Going forward, the band has multiple shows lined up for 2014. Dominic John Da-

vis still helps with the booking. "We're not forcing it, but we're not saying no, either."

Lynch, along with drummer Geoff Lewis and Andy Wilson, has tentative plans to keep some form of a Monday night gig going at the Green Door, but it's uncertain how that will play out.

Even though the band plans to stay together, in whatever fluid lineup takes the stage, it's hard to avoid thinking about what kind of legacy the group has had on the Lansing and even the Michigan music scene.

"It's interesting now, looking back with all these other bands — Seth and May, Lindsay Lou and the Flatbellys — who say we were the ones to do it. And it's fun to be on the road with Jack and see how many people are familiar with Steppin' In It," Dominic John Davis said.

Singer/songwriter Seth Bernard (of Seth and May), a well-known figure in Michigan's folk scene with close ties to Steppin' In It both professionally and personally, said the band helped define a sound within the state.

"The end of an area," he said of the band's last Green Door gig. "An era of incredible tone and musicianship. Their Green Door residence has had a lasting impact on the Michigan music scene. They raised the bar down there at the Green Door. It was like walking into Frenchmen Street in (New Orleans) or Beale Street in Memphis, only it was 100 percent Michigan. Rust Belt music at its finest. Essential Lansing."

On Monday, the dance floor was packed for all three sets (and two encores) that spanned over four hours. The third-set closer, a cover of Townes Van Zandt's "Rex's Blues," is a "song about death, transition, moving on," Joshua Davis said after making the song even more haunting as he moved the bottleneck slide down his black Danelectro guitar. The band closed with it the week before, too. "It's one of my favorite songs," Davis said, with the favorite verse:

I'm chained upon the face of time

Feelin' full of foolish rhyme

There ain't no dark till something shines

I'm bound to leave this dark behind

The crowd didn't let them go, though. How did the band cap off its nearly 14-year residency in Lansing? Of course, with Bob Dylan's "You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go."



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Photo by MSU Communications and Brand Strategy
Vocalist Kimme Horne performs at the MSU College of Music's annual concert in honor of Martin Luther King.

Soul attack

MLK 'Women in Jazz' concert was earthy, eminent and oh-so-stylish

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It's hard to believe that "Jazz: Spirituals, Prayers and Protest," MSU's annual Martin Luther King celebration, is in its 14th year. The mélange of gospel, soul and jazz, knit together with the spoken word, gets fresher and resonates deeper each year. It doesn't hurt that the world keeps furnishing new fuel for civil rights work. The phrase "stand your ground" was among the new, discordant notes that had to be assimilated this year.

Sunday's afternoon and evening concerts were earthy, earnest, stylish and expansive. Any concert that can encompass a spoken-word account of the 1963 beating of civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer and a strutting, suggestive take on "Teach Me Tonight" without giving the audience whiplash must be doing "inclusive" the right way.

Right off the bat, Jazz Studies Director Rodney Whitaker's fearsome student jazz orchestra cleared the air with "Things to Come," a blistering arrangement of a Dizzy Gillespie tune. It sounded, in the context of the day, like a piece of Jim Crow legislation crumpled up and run over by a freight train. Pamela Bellamy, a spirited orator who could probably turn a list of shampoo ingredients into a call to arms, read a speech by King at the 1964 Berlin Jazz Festival, explicitly linking creativity, especially that of jazz musicians, with the struggle for civil rights.

She followed with a full-on performance, in costume of "Ain't I a Woman," a speech given by Sojourner Truth in 1851, that set the house to laughing, whooping and affirming in vigorous call and response.

It was genius to follow up the fresh faces of the MSU Children's Chorus with the gray-ing gravitas of the Earl Nelson Singers. They didn't even have to sing to make their point. But they did, of course.

The children's chorus sang "Blue Skies" with a generous and sensitive obbligato from MSU Professor of Jazz Diego Rivera. A second tune, "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel," swelled into a delicate bubble of unexpected drama. Aside from its sweet song, the children's chorus was a reminder that across this great land, countless groups of predomi-

nantly white, suburban kids are swaying to African-American spirituals. That, too, is cause for hope.

Whitaker is never the most flamboyant personality on stage, preferring to reflect the spotlight on his bandmates. But with five guest vocalists to showcase Sunday, his ego albedo reached new heights. Clad in a brown suit, he directed the proceedings like an anonymous gardener as the glorious diversity of womanhood blossomed around him.

Twyla Birdsong launched a swinging version of "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho." Then she gave everyone a soul attack (something like a heart attack, only they take you away from the hospital) with a spectacular reading of the spiritual "His Eye Is On The Sparrow," with pianist Reggie Thomas.

Informal and down-to-earth Rockelle Fortin ably embodied Ella Fitzgerald in two tunes: "The Nearness of You" and "Lady Be Good." In sparkling red dress and attitude, Ramona Collins settled straight into Dinah Washington's authority for "What A Difference a Day Makes" and vamped through a playfully suggestive "Teach Me Tonight," firing syllables off the instrumental cushions behind her like a pool shark. Kimme Horne gave a chic, stylish reading of two songs associated with Sarah Vaughan: "What is This Thing Called Love?" and "Come Rain or Come Shine."

The concert's final guest vocalist, Jasmine Hamilton-Wray, calmly nailed "All Africa" and "Freedom Day," two ultra-hip songs associated with Abbey Lincoln. In bright mustard pants, horn-rimmed glasses and heaped-to-heaven headgear, Hamilton-Wray put out minimal moves and maximum attitude. She gave the music a deliciously deadpan coffeehouse/beatnik vibe without dialing down the passion. It didn't hurt that a furious battery of congas and drums erupted during "All Africa," with moonlighting trumpeter Etienne Charles as the main instigator, as Hamilton-Wray stood watching like a queen.

At the end of the evening performance, all forces got back on stage for a massed "We Shall Overcome" and a spontaneous New Orleans style recessional, led by Charles, that snaked in and out of the Pasant Theatre. The formidable phalanx of female vocalists schmoozed and took photos of one another as the audience clapped and sang. Is it January 2015 yet?

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The edge of oblivion

Life, death and poetry with Thomas Lynch

By BILL CASTANIER

There are celebrity chefs, celebrity fitness instructors and, yes, even celebrity duck call manufacturers. But there is only one celebrity mortician. Thomas Lynch of Milford, Mich., has been a mortician for nearly four decades as director of Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors. And for almost as long he has also been a poet, essayist and lecturer, gathering

"An Evening with Thomas Lynch"

Old Town Poetry Series
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23
The Creole Gallery
1218 Turner St., Lansing
\$5 suggested donation
(517) 267-0410

manufacturers. Thomas Lynch of Milford, Mich., has been a mortician for nearly four decades as director of Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors. And for almost as long he has also been a poet, essayist and lecturer, gathering

national and international awards and accolades for his writing.

Lynch was a National Book Award finalist for his 1997 nonfiction book, "The Undertaking: Life Studies of the Dismal Trade." In 2011, he revisited one of his favorite characters, Argyle, in "The Sin-eater: A Breviary," a collection of poetry. Last year he co-authored "The Good Funeral: Death, Grief, and the Community of Care" with theologian Thomas G. Long, which focuses on contemporary funeral practices and their modern idiosyncrasies.

Adding a delight to the 25 poems in the "Sin-eater" is a collection of photographs by his son Michael Lynch, who is also a funeral director. Thomas Lynch said the book was written as a guide for seminarians, clergy, morticians-in-training and funeral directors, but it has also garnered a wider readership outside the profession of death.

"The single most evident thing we've lost (in modern funerals) is the welcome we extend to the corpse," Lynch said in a recent phone interview. "These celebrations of life are noted for fine finger food and everyone is invited. What is missing is the dead guy."

Lynch said he traces the unraveling of funeral traditions to Jessica Mitford's stinging 1963 book, "The American Way of Death"



Courtesy Photo

Michigan mortician Thomas Lynch imbues his writing with imagery of Ireland.

(which she updated in 1998) and the 1965 dark comedy film "The Loved One."

"Mitford had a lot to do with it," Lynch said. "And frankly, there was a lot to laugh at."

Lynch comes from a family of morticians that included his father and six brothers and sisters. He said he strongly believes that too many funerals have become "a kind of performance art." Although he has an entertaining way of criticizing modern funeral practices, Lynch is deadly serious when he

says modern funerals lack the gravity of the graveside service where mourners contemplate their own mortalities.

"We talk about the dead in terms of bike rides and long walks," Lynch said. "We're burying hobbyists, not Methodists," he said.

He particularly thinks that the corpse must be present at the ceremony of death.

"We wouldn't go to a baptism without the baby or a wedding without the bride," he said. "Too many dead are put away by cell phone and credit card, when we should go ... to the edge of oblivion and ask ourselves serious questions."

In the last 13 months, Lynch traveled twice to that edge of oblivion — which also entailed two trips to Ireland — for the funerals of two of his friends and fellow poets: Nobel Prize winner Seamus Heaney, who died last August, and Dennis O'Driscoll, who died in December 2012. Lynch said he was there on both occasions as the caskets were lowered into the ground.

He sets his poems in varying locations in Ireland, providing a vicarious excursion across the verdant landscape. In his introduction to the poetry collection, Lynch tells stories of his family and the many superstitions his ancestors brought with them to America. The myth of a sin-eater is one of them. It was believed that a sin-eater takes on a dead person's sins by eating a loaf of bread and drinking beer in the presence of a corpse. Through Lynch's character Argyle, he pillories his religious training and beliefs. In "Sin-eater" he writes, "I was raised by Irish Catholics. Even as I write that it sounds like 'wolves.'"

Lynch describes the sin-eater in an autobiographical sense as his "mouthpiece for my mixed religious feelings" and calls himself "seriously devout and devoutly lapsed."

Lynch admits that poetry has moved him closer to his religious upbringing, where as a young boy he was thought to have a vocation. The funeral director still greatly admires the "priest, or pastor, rabbi or imam" whom he describes as the "infantry and holy corpsmen in the wars long waged between faith and fear." In the introduction, he writes "the church has long suffered from mostly self-inflicted wounds and mostly at the hands of upper echelon sorts."

When Argyle sits with the dead, he questions his complex being, which clearly Lynch believes "is us."

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Meet Michigan State University Professors Lisa Fine and Kristen Fermaglich, co-editors of the first annotated edition of Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, released in honor of the 50th anniversary of the original publication of the feminist classic.

Here, reissued, is the book that jump-started the modern women's movement, filled with ideas and inspiration as vital to women today as when it first appeared. More than three decades later, the issues raised by Friedan still strike at the core of the challenges women face at home and in the workplace. Don't miss this thought-provoking event!

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, January 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Line Dancing. All ages and levels welcome, no partner needed. 3 p.m. \$7 drop-in members, \$10 drop-in nonmembers. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Kresge Art Center, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

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.

Drawing Class. All skill levels, with Penny Collins. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

Icons and Spirituality. Christian icons and how they have been used. 6 p.m.-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Cool Season Cooking. How to make winter meals at Allen Market Place. 4:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 999-3921. facebook.com/events/652764851436029/.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954. fcgl.org.

EVENTS

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

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

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

Ukulele Workshop. Learn to play, all ages and levels

See Out on the Town, Page 19

THURSDAY, JAN. 23-SUNDAY, FEB. 23 >> 'THE LION IN WINTER' AT WILLIAMSTON THEATRE

Last month we lost Peter O'Toole, "the untamed lion of King Street" himself. He received one of his eight Academy Award nominations for his portrayal of King Henry II in the 1968 film adaptation of "The Lion in Winter," the Tony Award-winning play at Williamston Theatre this weekend. The show is a partnership between Williamston Theatre and the MSU Theatre Department. In this piece of historical drama, Henry's two sons cross boundaries of brotherly competition to see who will be crowned his father's successor. The banished wife of Henry, Eleanor of Aquitaine, fuels the emotional heart of the show, which is full of deception, manipulation and a desire for world dominance. Chat with the producer during talkback sessions at one of four preview performances this weekend. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Pay what you can for the first preview; \$15-25 for later previews and performances. 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. (517) 655-SHOW, williamstontheatre.org.



SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JAN. 25-26 >> HAPPENDANCE WINTER CONCERT



Happendance, a school and professional dance company based in Lansing, performs a modern dance concert at LCC's Dart Auditorium.

"I have strived to make a concert of contemporary modern

dance that is not off-putting or so avant-garde that audience members will leave scratching their heads and saying 'I just don't get it,'" said Patricia Villanueva, the company's artistic director. "Dance is the language of the human body, and that is something we all have in common. Therefore dance can be a common denominator for all of us."

Four choreographers — Andrew Amos, Tracy Holtzer, Danielle Selby and Villanueva — create six works in the 70-minute show. The piece entitled "Tag! You're IT!" is choreographed by Amos and describes the fun (and

sometimes unpleasant outcomes) of the schoolyard game of tag. Dancers progress through daily struggles and notable life stages in Holtzer's "Where are You Right Now?" Not to be confused with the Disney movie (or the weather outside), "Frozen," choreographed by Selby, is a representation of the darkness that isolation can bring. Happendance 2, a pre-professional company, joins the stage for this number. Villanueva choreographs the three remaining works: "Portrait," "Darling" and "Dads Can Dance Too!"

Preview performance 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24; regular performances 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26. \$15/\$12 students and seniors (preview performance is pay what you can). Dart Auditorium on the campus of Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 333-3528, happendance.org.



SATURDAY, JAN. 25 >> CARDBOARD SLED RACE

For all those kids (and kids at heart) who'd rather play with the box their presents came in, is there ever the event for you. At the 8th Annual Cardboard Sled Race, snow hill daredevils will get to spruce up a cardboard hotrod and take the slopes. Prizes are given out for speed, creative design and best wipe out in one of the three age group categories. May the card(board)s be ever in your favor. Music and race commentary provided by AudioLogic DJ. Pre-register online or one hour before the event in the Gier Community Center Gym. 2 p.m., the hill behind Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. \$5. (517) 483-4313, lcc.edu/radio/events/cardboardclassic.

SUNDAY, JAN. 26 >> 'BEYOND THE BEATS' PERCUSSION RECITAL

Packed in the back of the orchestra, percussionists bide their time like explosives experts until it's time to light up the battlefield with a blinding "clang," a rolling "tattatatta" or a devastating "kaboom." Given the space and time to stretch out, they can weave patterns, melodies and colors of (ahem) striking variety. This Sunday, Lansing Symphony percussionists Gwen Burgett and Andrew Spencer play a rare duo percussion romp, perhaps the most unusual entry in the symphony's chamber series this season. The music calls for countless nuances of hitting resonant things, from the spare, post-Christmas iciness of Fredrik Andersson's "The Loneliness of Santa Claus" to the bracing whacks of Justin Merritt's "Drumbreak" to the hypnotic, globe-hopping "Book of Grooves" by Alejandro Vinao and more. \$15. First Presbyterian Church's Molly Grove Chapel. (517) 487-5001, lansingsymphony.org.

SUNDAY, JAN. 26 >> WINTER PARTY BENEFITS ROBERT BUSBY MEMORIAL GARDEN



Robert Busby, the late unofficial "Mayor of Old Town," was part of the guiding force that transformed the struggling north Lansing neighborhood into the colorful, artistic hub of Lansing. Commemorate this man of change with a winter party at Busby's former base of operations, the Creole Gallery. Shake the snowflakes from your hair as you dance to the music of Steppin' In It. Proceeds will go toward supplying the Robert Busby Memorial Garden with plants and continued maintenance. See his spirit bloom this spring as you walk along Lansing's River Trail and know that you were a helping force. If you're unable to attend the event but still want to contribute, donations are always accepted. 3-7 p.m. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Includes refreshments and one beverage. Visit "Robert's Page of Caring" on Facebook. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 803-8828, iloveoldtown.org/robert-p-busby-memorial.

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICHTUPICA



SAT. JAN 25TH

THE DT'S REUNION AT THE AVENUE CAFE

Saturday, Jan. 25 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. 8 p.m., \$5.

The dt's formed in the Lansing area in the late '80s, playing a brand of amped-up power pop and rock 'n' roll, echoing influences like The Replacements, Soul Asylum and Husker Du. After a 12-year hiatus, the band reunites Saturday at The Avenue Café. Opening are The Hat Madder, The Hardwires and Narc out the Reds. The dt's scored a publishing deal with Warner Brothers in 1994 and recorded two albums: "Cinch" and "Widow of an All American." The band includes: Tom Taylor (lead vocals/guitar), Marc Nischan (lead guitar/vocals), Blair Darling (bass) and Randy Farlin (drums). In the '90s, The dt's gigged locally at Small Planet, Rick's and Mac's Bar, but also played legendary venues like CBGB in New York and Whiskey a Go Go in Los Angeles.

RAGTIME AT 'THE FIDDLE'



FRI. JAN 24TH

Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. \$15, \$12 member, \$5 students. 8 p.m.

Fans of vintage Scott Joplin-style ragtime might want to check out Reginald Robinson, who performs Friday at The Ten Pound Fiddle. "The Fiddle" is a long-running local concert series held at various spots in East Lansing and Lansing. Robinson is a master of contemporary ragtime piano, performing dozens of rags at his shows. He started playing piano by ear at 13; one year later he ditched school and committed himself to music and professional lessons. At age 20, he cut his first solo piano album with Delmark Records. Robinson, 41, may have a retro sound, but he records mostly originals, all in the classic rag style. He received a MacArthur Genius Grant in 2004.

GUNNAR & THE GRIZZLY BOYS AT THE LOFT



FRI. JAN 24TH

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$12, \$10 adv., 8 p.m.

Gunnar & the Grizzly Boys may be from Grand Rapids, but lead singer/guitarist Gunnar Nyblad puts on his best faux-Southern accent and cranks out a high-energy brand of modern country rock, penning songs like "Standard American Sumbitch." The band has been keeping busy since it formed in 2009, gigging alongside artists such as Lady Antebellum and Kip Moore. Friday the band headlines at The Loft. Opening are Tripp N' Dixie and The Legal Immigrants. Nyblad's day job is farming his family's apple and plum orchards. Nyblad formed the band, with songwriter partner Joe Rood, while attending Michigan State University's agricultural program. The band is promoting its "North Country" EP and the single "Could Be Me."

ROOT DOCTOR CD RELEASE AT GREEN DOOR



SAT. JAN 25TH

Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 9 p.m.

Lansing blues vets Root Doctor release their fifth album, "New Attitude," Saturday at The Green Door. The five-piece features Freddie Cunningham (lead vocals), James Williams (bass guitar) Mike Skory (keyboards), Bill Malone (guitar), and drummer Bobby Gardner. The new disc, a follow-up to 2011's "Joy" LP, was recorded with local producer Glenn Brown at GBP Studios. The album, available on iTunes, mixes blues with touches of slick, old-school R&B, Cajun and gospel. A number of the songs were at least co-written by Skory, a soulful master of the Hammond who has played piano professionally for over three decades. Meanwhile Cunningham's powerful voice has drawn comparisons to legends like Lou Rawls, Bobby Blue Bland and B.B. King.

OPEN MIC AT DAGWOOD'S



TUE. JAN 28TH

Dagwood's Tavern & Grill, 2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, 21 and over, 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

This weekly open-mic event at Dagwood's, hosted by local songwriter Jen Sygit, has been running each Tuesday for 10 solid years. It's open to both seasoned musicians and rookies. You can hear a mishmash of genres: folk, blues, bluegrass, swing, jazz and folk rock, and more. Artists sign up for three songs or about 15 minutes. Participants are required to bring their own instruments but a four-channel sound system, two microphones and one acoustic guitar are supplied. The event has been voted the No. 1 Open Mic Night for four years in a row in City Pulse's "Top of the Town" contest. If you've been itching to showcase your songwriting, this is your chance.

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT RICHTUPICA AT RICHT@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, 7 p.m.	Eleanor Quigley, 9 p.m.	Eleanor Quigley, 10 p.m.	The dt's, 9 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.	Lady Luck, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 E. N. East St.		Johnny Beehner, 8 p.m.	Johnny Beehner, 8 p.m.	Johnny Beehner, 8 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Dave Menzo, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Easy Babys, 8:30 p.m.	Plan B, 8:30 p.m.	Still Rain, 9 p.m.	Root Doctor, 9 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Man Man, 7 p.m.		Gunnar & the Grizzly Boys, 8 p.m.	Hometown Throwdown, 6:30 p.m.
Lou & Harry's Sports Bar, 16800 Chandler Rd		Strade De Nada, 8 p.m.		
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Geovybe, 9 p.m.	Tree Ave. & Quinn, 8 p.m.	Signals, 6:30 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic, 10 p.m.	Kathleen/w Bridge Street Band, 10 p.m.	Second Nature, 9:30 p.m.	Second Nature, 9:30 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.	Well Enough Alone, 9 p.m.		
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Scott Martin, 8 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.				
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Ty Bates, 9 p.m.

PLAY IN A BAND? BOOK SHOWS? LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

To get listed just email us at liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-6710

WHAT TODO: Submit information by the Friday before publication (City Pulse comes out every Wednesday.) Be sure to tell us the name of the performer and the day, date and time of the performance. Only submit information for the following week's paper.

Out on the town

from page 17

welcome. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

Ambient concert at Abrams Planetarium. Featuring musician John Boyle. 7 p.m. \$5. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672. boylesoundartgallery.com.

THEATER

"Peter and the Starcatcher." Prequel to "Peter Pan." 7:30 p.m. \$27-\$62/\$25 students. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

"A Venomous Cocktail" Release. Celebrating the release of Lansing author Jody Valley's debut mystery novel. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

Thursday, January 23

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. The group meets on Thursdays (except holidays). 5:15 p.m. \$5 monthly. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 339-9000. newhopehaslett.com.

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

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.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced on Thursdays. 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.

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

EVENTS

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

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

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

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

Averill Woods Neighborhood. Lansing Emergency Management to discuss crisis planning. 7 p.m. FREE. Lansing Fire Department Station No. 46 Community Room, 5135 Pleasant Grove Road, Lansing. (517) 394-3996. AverillWoods.org.

MUSIC

Rally In The Alley Open Mic. 6:30 p.m. FREE.

American Legion Post 48, 731 N. Clinton St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1232.

THEATER

Stuart Pimsler Dance & Theater. Social and political performance. 7:30 p.m. \$37, \$15 students. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

An Evening with Thomas Lynch. Rare visit by one of Michigan's finest writers. 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$5, \$3 for students. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 267-0410.

Friday, January 24

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Dance Around the World. Learn traditional worldly dances. 3:15 p.m. \$7 drop-in members, \$10 drop-in non-members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

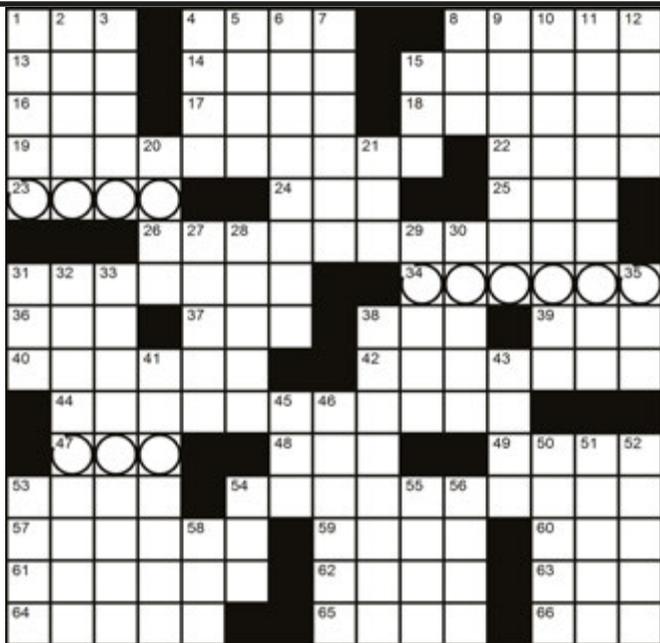
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Don't Look Down"
-- you'll get nightmares.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 On the ____ (like a fugitive)
- 4 Satisfied sounds
- 8 Slow, sad song
- 13 Historical period
- 14 Rorschach test pattern
- 15 Bakery chain
- 16 Foil material
- 17 ____-Honey (chewy candy)
- 18 First half of a Beatles song title
- 19 Completely disheveled
- 22 401(k) relatives
- 23 Patron saint of sailors
- 24 8 1/2" x 11" size, briefly
- 25 Cambridge campus
- 26 Post-game complaint
- 31 Subscription charge
- 34 President Cleveland
- 36 100 percent
- 37 Planking, e.g.
- 38 Chicken ____ king
- 39 Abbr. on a tow truck
- 40 The Grim ____
- 42 In an even manner
- 44 Inseparable friends on "Community"
- 47 Actress Saldana of "Avatar"
- 48 ____ Maria (coffee-flavored liqueur)
- 49 East, in Ecuador
- 53 Liven (up)
- 54 2013 Eminem hit featuring Rihanna (and



- inspiration for this puzzle's theme)
- 57 Lowers (oneself)
- 59 After-bath attire
- 60 "I'm down to my last card!" game
- 61 Tarnish
- 62 Be positive about
- 63 What three examples of 54-Across are hidden under
- 64 Sports star's rep
- 65 "Don't change!" to a printer
- 66 Sault ____ Marie, Mich.

Down

- 1 Leave alone
- 2 "The Little Mermaid" title character
- 3 Coated piece of candy
- 4 "Dancing Queen"

- group
- 5 Sacha Baron Cohen alter ego
- 6 Stuck fabric together, in some craft projects
- 7 Eric of "Pulp Fiction"
- 8 "Lost" actor Daniel ____ Kim
- 9 Left hanging
- 10 Bringing back, as computer memory
- 11 Bunch
- 12 Where buds hang out?
- 15 Prof's degree
- 20 "That was a catty remark!"
- 21 Make a mistake
- 27 "Wow, that's ____ up, man..."
- 28 ____ smile (grin)
- 29 Lewd looker
- 30 Shout heard over the applause
- 31 Egypt and Syria, from 1958-61
- 32 Loathsome person
- 33 Give all the details
- 35 2004 Jamie Foxx biopic
- 38 Concert site in "Gimme Shelter"
- 41 Looks through a keyhole
- 43 Peeping pair
- 45 Degree in mathematics?
- 46 Country music star ____ Bentley
- 50 Paycheck pieces
- 51 Basic principle
- 52 Carve a canyon
- 53 Bearded Smurf
- 54 Airport org.
- 55 Reed instrument
- 56 Little salamander
- 58 Talking Tolkien tree

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SUDOKU 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

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

Out on the town

from page 19

Oil Painting. For all levels with Patricia Singer. Preregistration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Brown Bag Presentation. On direct-care workers. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-3982.

Alcoholics Anonymous. A closed women's meeting. 7:30 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. (517) 882-9733.

EVENTS

One-on-One Business Counseling. Call (517) 483-1921 to register. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

MUSIC

WLNZ 89.7/LCC Radio. Featuring The Legal Immigrants. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710. lcc.edu/radio.

Mega 80's at Harpers. Performance by live 80's cover band. 10:30 p.m. FREE. Harper's, 131 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-4040. harpersbrewpub.com.

Saturday, January 25

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Tai Chi in the Park. Inside at Allen Market Place during the cold. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.
Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.
LEGO Movie Event. Come celebrate the LEGO Movie with us! 1 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437. bn.com.
Montessori Radmoor Open House. Tour the classrooms, meet the staff. 10 a.m.-Noon, FREE. Montessori Radmoor School, 2745 E. Mt. Hope Road, Okemos. (517) 351-3655. montessoriradmoor.org.

MUSIC

The Barn Presents: Taylor Taylor. Lansing native performs live. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

Riverwalk Cabaret. Jerry Sprague and Friends. Call for reservations. 8 p.m. \$20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Sunday, January 26

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Juggling. Learn how to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 485-9190.

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.

Progressive Christian Study. Conversation and book discussion. 5:30-7 p.m., FREE. Lansing Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 323-2445.

Mid-Michigan Atheists and Humanists Dinner Meeting. Guest Speaker: political activist Norma Bauer. 5 p.m. FREE to attend, optional buffet. Old

Great Wall Restaurant, 4832 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 914-2278. atheists.meetup.com/453.

EVENTS

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Cash bar with restrictions. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

MUSIC

Chamber Series 3: Beyond the B. Lansing Symphony musicians in an intimate setting. 3:30-5 p.m. \$15 adult, \$10 students. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa, Lansing. (517) 487-5001.

Monday, January 27

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.

Adult Rape Survivor Support Group. Pre-registration preferred. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's



Katy Barth/
City Pulse

Last week, Neva Austin opened her Aggie Mae's Bakery in Grand Ledge. She closed her Lansing City Market location, but maintains her bakery in Old Town.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Aggie Mae's Bakery, which got its start in the **Lansing City Market,** moved last week to its new location in Grand Ledge.



At 2,100 square feet, it's more than double the size it had in its previous space.

This is the second brick-and-mortar store for Aggie Mae's, which also has a location at 317 E. Grand River Ave., in Lansing's Old Town district.

"We simply outgrew the market," said owner/operator Neva Austin. "This bigger space will allow us to expand on some of our services and try some new things."

Austin confirmed that the new store will stock the full line of Aggie Mae's chocolates, which are produced at the Old Town location. The production facility is bigger, and Austin promised a higher output of pies, cakes and artisan breads. She also plans to use the larger space to promote retail sales.

AGGIE MAE'S BAKERY/THE ENGLISH INN

Austin started Aggie Mae's in July 2009. She moved to the old Lansing City Market two months later, then made the move to the new market the following year. Austin expanded inside the market with a deli in 2011, and the Old Town location came in March 2012. You have to admit, the lady's got momentum.

"I might consider a move to the eastside area, somewhere in Okemos, somewhere along the line," Austin said. "But I haven't too much time to think about that yet. I'm just trying to make sure this place does well first."

English Inn unveils its new Croquet Cottages

After seven months of construction, **The English Inn,** 677 S. Michigan Road in Eaton Rapids, opened its new Croquet Cottages last weekend. The cottages consist of four free-standing buildings nestled into the estate's tree line, each one featuring two private guest rooms.

"The views overlooking the croquet court are spectacular," said managing partner Erik Nelson. "The theme turned out really neat." Each room is named for a different color from a croquet set and features that color scheme: Royal, Crimson, Buttercup, Raisin, Tangerine, Emerald, Coffee and Dove. All have, air-jet tubs, heated floors, kingsize beds and private balconies.

So long, Spuds Spuds Family Restaurant,

611 S. Waverly Road on Lansing's west side, closed earlier this month. No one could be reached for comment, but a sign in the window blamed the close on the December power outage. No response yet from the BWL.

Aggie Mae's Bakery

914 Charlevoix St., Grand Ledge
7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday
facebook.com/aggiemaesbakery,
aggiemaesbakery.com

SUNDAY, JAN. 26 >> WHAT DOES THE FOX SAY?

Reconnect with nature and discover what being foxy really means at Fenner Nature Center. This event gives you a hands-on experience with real fox artifacts and allows you to make your own fox-inspired craft. Information given on fox behaviors will help as you step into their environment to learn about tracking. Dress warmly. 1-2 p.m. \$5/person. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224, mynaturecenter.org.

Home Buyer Education Workshop. Counseling on purchasing a home. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Eliezer Temple Church, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 708-2550. centerforfinancialhealth.org.

EVENTS

Soup Supper. Proceeds go to tuition assistance. 3:30-6:30 p.m. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7000 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 321-6100.

WINTERFEST 2014. 9:30 a.m.-dusk. \$5 advance, \$7 door for the party; \$10 chili cook-off registration. Charlotte American Legion, 1000 W. Lawrence Highway, Charlotte. (517) 543-1344. Post42.org.

Robert Burns' 255th Birthday Celebration. With the Glen Erin Pipe Band. 5:30 p.m. \$45. Eagle Eye Golf Club, 15500 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 484-1069. glenerinpipeband.com.

Winter Wonderland. Hike or ski at the center. Donations accepted. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

'Chill' Winter Evening. Winter family festival. 3-10 p.m. \$15, \$12 for members, student and seniors. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road,

Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

Job Seekers Support Group. Find the right job or 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. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272. stdavidslansing.org.

Fanged Fiction Book Group. Monthly horror reading group. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music (Lansing), 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

EVENTS

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

Social Bridge. Come play Bridge and meet new people. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road,

Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

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. Donations. 6-8:45 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 348-5728. cadl.org.

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weight-loss program open house. 6:30-7:30 p.m. First visit FREE. South Washington Office Complex, 2500 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 881-2513.

MUSIC

Open-Mic Blues Mondays. Solo, duo, band and spoken-word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

Tuesday, January 28

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Mustard Tasting Class. Taste and make mustard

Out on the town

from page 20

with homemade pretzels. 7 p.m. \$10 single, \$18 couple. Holt Senior High School, 5885 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-3411. midmittenhomemade.com.

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.

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.

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

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

Water-media class. All skill levels, with Rebecca Stafford. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

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

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.

EVENTS

Preschool Visit Days. Opportunity for child to experience preschool. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779 ext. 107. lansingchristianschool.org.

Bible and Beer. Discussion of using Scripture on daily basis. 6 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600. bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Tuesday Morning Book Club. Discuss "Sum It Up," by Pat Summitt. 10:15-11:15 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

Wednesday, January 29

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954. fogl.org.

Drop-in Figure Drawing. Easels and drawing boards provided. 7-9:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 students. Kresge Art Center, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

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 Square, Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

Drawing Class. All skill levels, with Penny Collins. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$60 for four weeks. Gallery 1212 Old Town, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

Trinity Discussion. How does progressive theology deal with Trinity? 6 p.m.-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

What Does it Mean to be Transgender? A discussion about Gender Dysphoria and the Gender Spectrum. 7-8:30 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 927-8260.

EVENTS

Young Artists Series: 3D. Ages 9-18. Learn 3D drawing techniques. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

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

Painter: Jeremy Gilbert-Rolfe. Artist talk presented by the MSU Art Department. 7 p.m. FREE. 107 S. Kedzie Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-3961. art.msu.edu/content/2013-2014.

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

Kindergarten Visit. Opportunity for child to experience kindergarten. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779 ext. 107. lansingchristianschool.org.

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

Jan 22-28

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Actor Casey Affleck appreciates the nurturing power of his loved ones. "My family would be supportive," he says, "if I said I wanted to be a Martian, wear only banana skins, make love to ashtrays, and eat tree bark." I'd like to see you cultivate allies like that in the coming months, Aries. Even if you have never had them before, there's a good chance they will be available. For best results, tinker with your understanding of who your family might be. Redefine what "community" means to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Author John Koenig says we often regard emotions as positive or negative. Feeling respect is good, for example, while being wracked with jealousy is bad. But he favors a different standard for evaluating emotions: how intense they are. At one end of the spectrum, everything feels blank and blah, even the big things. "At the other end is wonder," he says, "in which everything feels alive, even the little things." Your right and proper goal right now, Taurus, is to strive for the latter kind: full-on intensity and maximum vitality. Luckily, the universe will be conspiring to help you achieve that goal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): At her blog other-wordly.tumblr.com, Yee-Lum Mak defines the Swedish word *resfeber* this way: "the restless race of the traveler's heart before the journey begins, when anxiety and anticipation are tangled together." You might be experiencing *resfeber* right now, Gemini. Even if you're not about to depart on a literal trip, I'm guessing you will soon start wandering out on a quest or adventure that will bring your heart and mind closer together. Paradoxically, your explorations will teach you a lot about being better grounded. Bon voyage!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): How does a monarch butterfly escape its chrysalis when it has finished gestating? Through tiny holes in the skin of the chrysalis, it takes big gulps of air and sends them directly into its digestive system, which expands forcefully. Voila! Its body gets so big it breaks free. When a chick is ready to emerge from inside its egg, it has to work harder than the butterfly. With its beak, it must peck thousands of times at the shell, stopping to rest along the way because the process is so demanding. According to my analysis, Cancerian, you're nearing the final stage before your metaphorical emergence from gestation. Are you more like the butterfly or chick?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "I'm not sure where to go from here. I need help." I encourage you to say those words out loud, Leo. Even if you're not sure you believe they're true, act as if they are. Why? Because I think it would be healthy for you to express uncertainty and ask for assistance. It would relieve you of the oppressive pressure to be a masterful problem-solver. It could free you from the unrealistic notion that you've got to figure everything out by yourself. And this would bring you, as if by magic, interesting offers and inquiries. In other words, if you confess your neediness, you will attract help. Some of it will be useless, but most of it will be useful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Dogs have a superb sense of smell, much better than we humans. But ours isn't bad. We can detect certain odors that have been diluted to one part in five billion. For example, if you were standing next to two Olympic-sized swimming pools, and only one contained a few drops of the chemical ethyl mercaptan, you would know which one it was. I'm now calling on you to exercise that level of sensitivity, Virgo. There's a situation in the early stages of unfolding that would ultimately emanate a big stink if you allowed it to keep developing. There is a second unripe situation, on the other hand, that would eventually yield fragrant blooms. I advise you to either quash or escape from the first, even as you cultivate and treasure the second.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Whatever adventures

may flow your way in the coming weeks, Libra, I hope you will appreciate them for what they are: unruly but basically benevolent; disruptive in ways that catalyze welcome transformations; a bit more exciting than you might like, but ultimately pretty fun. Can you thrive on the paradoxes? Can you delight in the unpredictability? I think so. When you look back at these plot twists two months from now, I bet you'll see them as entertaining storylines that enhance the myth of your hero's journey. You'll understand them as tricky gifts that have taught you valuable secrets about your soul's code.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Manufacturing a jelly bean is not a quick, slam-bam process. It's a five-step procedure that takes a week. Each seemingly uncomplicated piece of candy has to be built up layer by layer, with every layer needing time to fully mature. I'm wondering if maybe there's a metaphorically similar kind of work ahead for you, Scorpio. May I speculate? You will have to take your time, proceed carefully, and maintain a close attention to detail as you prepare a simple pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I understand the appeal of the f-word. It's guttural and expulsive. It's a perverse form of celebration that frees speakers from their inhibitions. But I'm here today to announce that its rebel cachet and vulgar power are extinct. It has decayed into a barren cliché. Its official death-from-oversaturation occurred with the release of the mainstream Hollywood blockbuster "The Wolf of Wall Street." Actors in the film spat out the rhymes-with-cluck word more than 500 times. I hereby nominate you Sagittarians to begin the quest for new ways to invoke rebellious irreverence. What interesting mischief and naughty wordplay might you perpetrate to escape your inhibitions, break taboos that need to be broken, and call other people on their BS and hypocrisy?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) has had a major impact on the development of ideas in the Western world. We can reasonably divide the history of philosophy into two eras: pre-Kantian and post-Kantian. And yet for his whole life, which lasted 79 years, this big thinker never traveled more than ten miles away from Königsberg, the city where he was born. He followed a precise and methodical routine, attending to his work with meticulous detail. According to my analysis, you Capricorns could have a similar experience in the coming weeks. By sticking close to the tried-and-true rhythms that keep you grounded and healthy, you can generate influential wonders.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The Aquarian author Georges Simenon (1903-1989) wrote more than 200 novels under his own name and 300 more under pseudonyms. On average, he finished a new book every 11 days. Half a billion copies of his books are in print. I'm sorry to report that I don't think you will ever be as prolific in your own chosen field as he was in his. However, your productivity could soar to a hefty fraction of Simenon-like levels in 2014 -- if you're willing to work your ass off. Your luxuriant fruitfulness won't come as easily as his seemed to. But you should be overjoyed that you at least have the potential to be luxuriantly fruitful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): When I'm older and wiser, maybe I'll understand the meaning of my life. When I'm older and wiser, maybe I'll gain some insight about why I'm so excited to be alive despite the fact that my destiny is so utterly mysterious. What about you, Pisces? What will be different for you when you're older and wiser? Now is an excellent time to ponder this riddle. Why? Because it's likely you will get a glimpse of the person you will have become when you are older and wiser -- which will in turn intensify your motivation to become that person.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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Laura Johnson/City Pulse

Laurie Thorp, founder of Michigan State University's Pastured Pig Project, with some of the baby pigs born on the Student Organic Farm.

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Meet your meat

MSU Student Organic Farm project lets pigs be pigs



By LAURA JOHNSON

It's a little-known fact that pigs, like birds, build nests for their young.

"This is what they want to do when they give birth," said Laurie Thorp, a professor in Michigan State University's Department of Community Sustainability and director of the Residential Initiative and the Study of the Environment program. "They don't want to be on a concrete floor in an 8-by-3-foot stall."

Learning this fact six years ago was what Thorp calls her "ah-ha moment."

"It blew my mind," she said. "And then I went on to learn about pigs and how incredibly smart they are. They're our smartest livestock animal and yet, for me, some of their housing conditions are problematic."

From here, Thorp gave birth to an idea that would become the MSU Student Organic Farm Pastured Pig Project. Founded in 2010, it's the first alternative system of animal husbandry being practiced at a land grant institution.

"We have pigs in an intensive method on campus," Thorp said. "But I knew then that I wanted to have an alternative to that system, where students could learn about swine production in a different way ... in which pigs could express some of these behaviors that they're not able to express in an intensive system."

An intensive, or industrial, system is one in which pigs are confined and concentrated indoors, reliant on modern

equipment and heavy investments in infrastructure, explained Dale Rozeboom, MSU extension specialist and professor of Animal Science. An extensive or alternative system, on the contrary, requires few resources, little infrastructure and brings animals into broader farm production.

In pursuit of the latter, the Pastured Pig Project moves a few sows (adult female pigs) from the intensive swine farm on campus to the Student Organic Farm each spring, where they give birth to their babies naturally. The pigs are then incorporated into the workings of the farm.

"(The project) is a way for us to show others how pigs can be integrated into a cropping system," said Lexi Hinson, MSU sophomore zoology major and Pastured Pig Project volunteer. "Farms can become a cycle, rather than separate as you see in industrial agriculture."

Such a cycle is artfully designed to make use of pigs' natural tendencies, rather than restricting them, in order to produce rich crops, soil and meat, all within a low-input, small-scale and co-beneficial system of organic production.

"This (is a) beautiful way of bringing animals back to the land and allowing them to exhibit their natural behaviors for the benefit of the land," Thorp said. "We rotate them into our fields and they do this wonderful work for us, eating the stubble, adding organic matter, even controlling weeds."

What is otherwise wasteful becomes productive and beneficial, said Samantha Noll, a philosophy graduate student at MSU who studies animal ethics and agriculture. "Rather than their manure being wasteful, it becomes (fertilizer) for the soil," Noll said. "It's not just making them happy — we put them to work. But they're happy too, because it's actually allowing

See Pigs, Page 23

Pigs

from page 22

them to be pigs.”

Rozeboom said extensive systems won't completely replace intensive systems, and they're not necessarily meant to.

“We're looking for solutions that offer long-term sustainability in the varied extensive and intensive situations,” he said. “We're taking elements from alternative and industrial systems and blending them.”

Having both types of systems accessible on campus offers a chance for students and the general public to experience both and come to their own conclusions.

“They can begin to deliberate and think for themselves about the social, environmental and economic tradeoffs,” Rozeboom said. “We're motivated by engaging students with varied perspectives that easily bring them into discussion about long-term sustainability. The goal is really to create a place at MSU where we can discuss these things.”

Such firsthand experience is crucial in establishing this sort of productive discussion because it takes what is otherwise an abstract discussion and contextualizes it.

“So many people these days don't have a direct connection to where their food comes from,” Noll said. “So when we talk about things like food or agriculture or animal ethics, they don't have a point of reference.”

She emphasized the importance of looking beyond organic and non-organic labels to see how animals are treated.

“All agricultural systems are built with different values prioritized,” Noll said. “So what does an agriculture look like that values welfare over cost benefit? I think this project really helps people see it.”

Students and the general public are welcome to visit the pigs by taking a free

tour of the farms; students interested in a longer-term commitment are invited to become Pastured Pig Project volunteers.

“The project gives people the opportunity to meet their meat,” said Hinson. “They can see how the pigs are living, what they're eating, where they're sleeping, to see the pigs play, which is so important because pigs are such social animals. Our system gives them the opportunity to play.”

The pigs live on the farm until late fall when the young pigs are processed for certified organic meat and the sows are placed with local farms interested in using this kind of alternative system.

The organic meat is purchased by campus restaurants or by community supported agriculture members, but the general public can also buy meat when available. There are also ongoing fundraising initiatives: Pastured Pig Project calendars, magnets, pins and key chains are available year-round for purchase. Thorp says her biggest hope is that the project might help change the way we view animals, agriculture and food.

“We've got to change the way we inhabit this planet, and the food system is responsible for a very large portion of our impact,” she said. “You cannot be a part of this project without gaining a greater appreciation of where your food comes from.”

To get involved or be added to a list for meat purchases, contact Laurie Thorp at thorpl@msu.edu, Lexi Hinson at hinsonal@msu.edu or visit msuorganicfarm.com.



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WINTER PARTY OF THE SEASON 1/26

Friends of Robert Busby, Old Town's late beloved mayor, are throwing a winter party at Creole Gallery! Dance to Steppin' In It on the Creole stage or mingle with friends among the snowflakes behind the Creole.

Proceeds will go directly to the Robert Busby Memorial Garden on Lansing's River Trail.

Date: Jan. 26, 2014

Time: 3-7p.m.

Location: Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner Street

Tickets: \$30 in advance, available online at robertbusby.org or at the Old Town Commercial Association (1232 Turner St., Lansing, MI 48906) Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Tickets include one beverage redeemable at the bar. Additional beverages are available for purchase. Light appetizers will be served throughout the event and are included in the ticket price. Online sales will end at 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 25, 2014. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$35.

OLD TOWN CHOCOLATE WALK 2/12

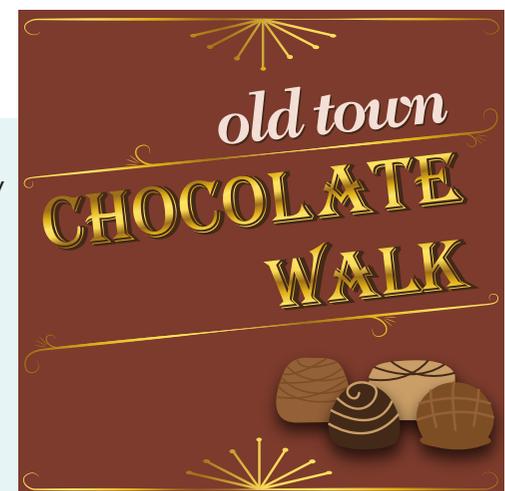
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Time: 5-8p.m.

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By purchasing one of these tickets you will receive a 1lb chocolate box to fill with chocolates from Old Town retailers. Boxes will be available for pick up the day of the event at the OTCA office.



For a complete list of events, how to get involved, or questions go to iloveoldtown.org, call 517.482.4283 or follow us @oldtownlansing

