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# CITY PULSE

13th Anniversary Issue

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August 13-19, 2014



## THE CHEAP ISSUE

# 34

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## A birthday present for readers, advertisers

City Pulse turns 13 this week, and to celebrate, we are offering our first-ever Cheap Issue.

We offered advertisers a special deal: Run a coupon this week and receive at least 50 percent off. The result: 34 local coupons. That's a win-win for advertisers and readers alike.

Which is great, because City Pulse depends on both. We have virtually no paid subscriptions. We thought The Cheap Issue would be a great way to say thank you to both.

To make this issue work for our printer,

we had to put our news section on hold for a week, but it will be back next week and better than ever in the hands of our new editor, Belinda Thurston.

As we begin year 15, City Pulse is strong. We are distributing close to 20,000 copies a week, nearly 95 percent of which typically get picked up. More and more advertisers are discovering us. A sincere thank you to both and to everyone listed to the right in our masthead who make City Pulse possible.

— Berl Schwartz

## 10 things to know about the new City Pulse editor

I ran into a former colleague from the Lansing State Journal as I left the Waterfront Bar & Grille last Friday.



**BELINDA THURSTON**

His first words to me were, "You're with the enemy now."

This snarky comment was in reference to my becoming editor of City Pulse.

But in the last few years I've been active in the community, anything but being an enemy.

I realized he doesn't know me, and neither do many of you. Let me introduce myself with 10 things I want you to know about me:

### 10. I might be rusty and a little nervous

Even after 20 years in daily news, jumping back into the game feels like the curtain lifting on the stage. Will I connect with the community? Can I help cultivate good stories? Can we grow good writers?

### 9. I'm mixed, but not mixed up

I'm a mixed-race woman originally from Washington, D.C. Don't ask me my race or what I'm "blended" with. I can get rather ornery depending on if I choose to answer. And really, what does the answer tell you about me?

### 8. I'm not fashion-forward

My wardrobe is a blend of deals from St. Vincent's Catholic Charities (we call it St. Vinnys Couture) and what's left over from my upper-management, executive-aspiring days.

### 7. I love yoga

I own a donation-based yoga studio. That black Toyota Yaris with the JustBYoga magnet on the back is mine. Drive a safe distance behind me. I might stop for squirrels, children or bicyclists.

### 6. I stop for animals and I love the planet

I have a pet-rescue habit. Dogs and cats that need a home find me. I have created Facebook pages for animals. I even stopped traffic on Mt. Hope for a mother duck and her ducklings once.

I love hiking at the Woldumar and biking on the River Trail. I love to fly fish, specifi-

cally for trout. We've got a garden at the yoga studio and I know tons of local farmers.

### 5. Yes, Baratunde Thurston is my brother

Nuff said. If you don't know who he is, Google him.

### 4. I didn't major in journalism

I'm just newsie by nature. I was trained one editor and newspaper and community at a time. I believe news writers need to know and write about life, not the systems and the politics. We should be plugged in and having conversations. I am animated and passionate about writing and storytelling. I want readers to be informed, engaged, enlightened, uplifted and empowered. I believe in experimenting with new things, new tools, new storytelling techniques.

### 3. Social media — digital media — multimedia. #Yes!

We will do all these things. Maybe not perfectly. But better than we have. I promise.

### 2. LGBTQ

I'm in a same-sex relationship. It's my first open same-sex relationship. Nope, no kids. Never been married. Don't know if I want to be. That's about all you get about my personal life for now.

### 1. I love Lansing

I can still taste the fresh clean air that struck me when I arrived in Lansing in 2004. It was a stark contrast to the smog in Dallas. This was crisp, green, alive. It felt like a homecoming. People were open and friendly. The sky was beautiful and inviting. I felt like myself.

Becoming the editor of City Pulse feels like that breath of fresh air all over again.

In some ways Just B Yoga gave me an opportunity to be on a long-term embedded assignment in Lansing.

You've shared your aches and pains. You've shared your dreams and your failings. You have big and poignant stories to tell.

I am honored to have a role in telling them. I am Belinda. You can call me B.

### Correction

Because of a reporting error, a story last week on City Pulse's new editor, Belinda Thurston, misstated her academic background. Her only degree is a bachelor's in English from the University of Pittsburgh.

# CityPULSE

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**VOL. 13  
ISSUE 52**



Renegade Theatre Festival brings stampede of theater companies, independents to Old Town



Local TV, radio changes break new ground, say goodbye to longtime personalities



He Ate, She Ate: East Lansing gets lucky with Black Cat Bistro



CHEAP ISSUE by JUSTIN BILICKI & JONATHAN GRIFFITH

## CITY PULSE THIS WEEK

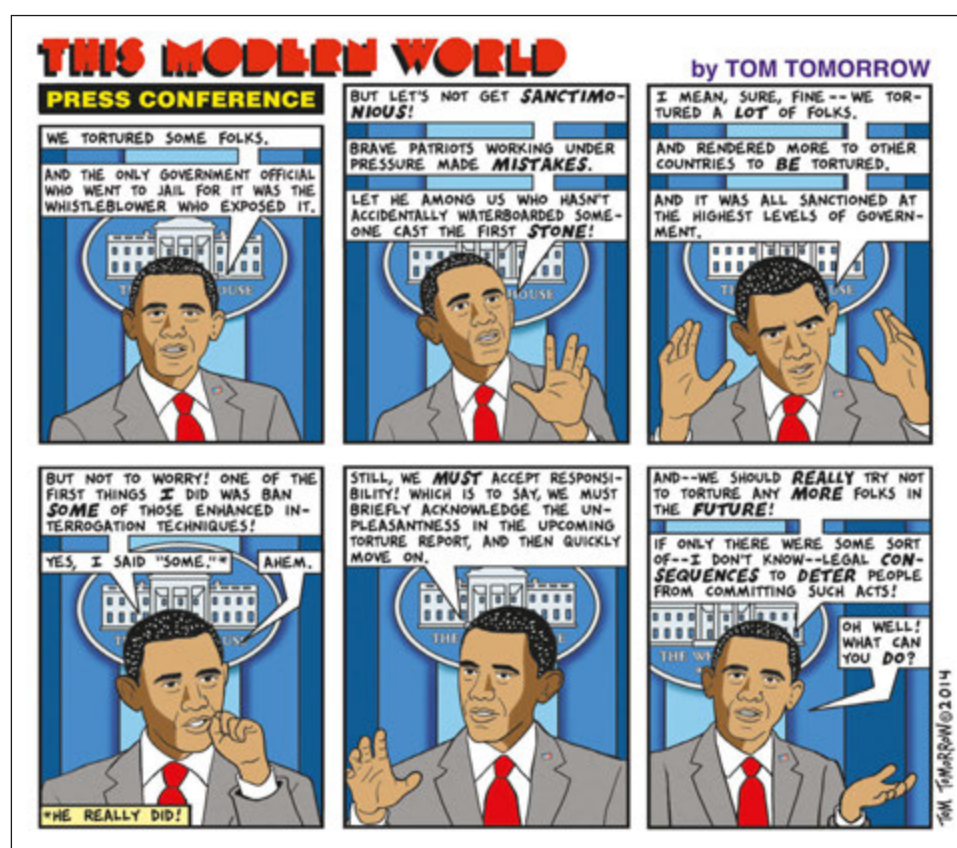


- Belinda Thurston, City Pulse editor
- Mickey Hirten, City Pulse associate publisher
- Jam Sardar, Channel 6 news director
- Bonnie Bucqueroux, Lansing Online News
- Chad Badgero, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
- Author Howard Storm



7 p.m. Wednesdays

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# the (HEAP) issue

## 'Walden' in the city

Lansing area simplifiers go for less stuff and more soul

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Suzanne Love pulled Henry David Thoreau's "Walden" from the shelf two weeks ago. She hadn't looked at it since college.

Back then, it was required reading. Now it's more like an inner voice.

At 66, Love retired on a fixed income last year.

***"To maintain one's self on this earth is not a hardship but a pastime, if we will live simply and wisely," Thoreau wrote.***

Simplification takes many forms. Some people do without cable TV or catch their own meal of fish now and then. Other folks go all in and change their lives from top to bottom.

Suzanne Love is somewhere in between. Duane Elgin, guru of the simplicity movement, has pointed out that most people who choose a life of "conscious simplicity" don't live in the backwoods or on farms, but in cities or suburbs.

"I didn't know this was a movement," Love said with a smile. "But I'm simplifying, for sure."

She loves to talk with people, read and think. She wants to reconnect with friends and neighbors, do volunteer work and take some time to just figure life out.

"I was busy at a job," she said. "Now I have a chance to work."

She drew up a budget: \$40 a week for food. So far she's holding firm.

The backyard of her small Eastside house is fenced in by reused oak pallets and shaded by unkempt weed trees

and mulberries that seeded themselves. Gravel and stones crunch underfoot.

"This is kind of my Walden Pond," she said.

A Buddhist shrine of glass brick and cheap lawn ornaments rests serenely under the shrubbery. (She's not a Buddhist, but she meditates.)

Love has already been simplifying for a while. She got rid of her 1963 Corvair in 1970 and hasn't owned a car since. She walks wherever possible.

***"The swiftest traveller is he that goes afoot," Thoreau wrote.***

There's also CATA. "I raised my daughter with a bus, and she's raising her children with the bus," Love said.

Modern conveniences don't always interfere with simplification. To help meet her retirement budget, she cut out her book and magazine allotment of \$50 a month, bought a Kindle and downloads materials free from the library.

Like Thoreau, she has no hankering to travel.

"My retirement destination is right here," she said.

Yvonne LeFave is a database administrator ("a geek," she said) for the state of Michigan. She swapped cars for bikes in the early 1990s and uses low-cost "electrohuman hybrids" like her Stites Design Truck Trike for heavy jobs.

LeFave is a conscious simplifier, geek style. She declared that "probably all" the threads of her life connect with Thoreau's. She doesn't have a TV. Her sole vanity is her early adopter compulsion.

On a bright Friday morning last week, the quietude of



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Yvonne LeFave swapped cars for bikes in the early 1990s and uses low-cost "electrohuman hybrids" like this Stites Design Truck Trike for heavy jobs.

Vine Street on Lansing's east side was not shattered by the whisper-like whir of LeFave's latest metal mantis.

"How many cars could deal with that?" LeFave asked.

"That" was a huge plywood cabinet a resident had tossed to the curb. It was more than 8 feet long — more than LeFave expected — but she wrangled it onto the Truck Trike all the same. The job began with a good omen. Inexplicably, a crumpled-up dollar bill rested on top of the cabinet.

She pocketed the wig and whisked the behemoth to the former gas station at 1715 E. Kalamazoo St., soon to be the home of the Lansing Bike Co-op, where it will come in handy for tools and spare parts.

LeFave was intrigued by her grandparents who grew up

See Walden, Page 6

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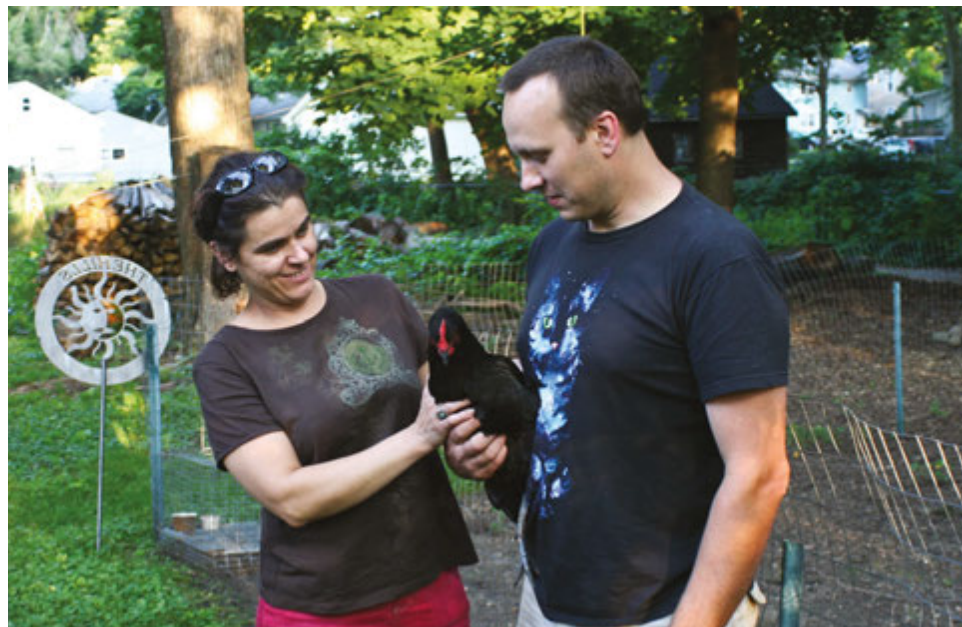
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Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Dawn and Matt Hill live with three kids, four chickens, a bountiful garden and no TVs in their North Lansing home.

## WALDEN

from page 5

during the Great Depression: They didn't drive and re-used everything.

She read books by influential simplifiers, including Duane Elgin's "Voluntary Simplicity" and Bruce Elkin's "Simplicity and Success." The endless reuse ideas of Amy Dacyczyn (creator of "Tightwad Gazette") made a deep impression.

She retired her 1977 Thunderbird, which cost her a dollar to buy but considerably more to maintain, and started biking everywhere. To cut her grocery bill, she started bulk shopping, but it's hard to do that on a conventional bike.

LeFave was the first person in Michigan to own an ELF, a three-wheeled bubble-shelled bike with a trunk for cargo and a solar-powered assist motor. One more acquisition — a CETMA Stretch "Cargo Margo" — is on the way (after she got a deal on a used one). LeFave has big plans for her little fleet, which is part of her new business, Go Green Trikes LLC, a green delivery and hauling business.

"The best thing is, they let me live the way I want to live, which is non-car," she said.

Not all simplifiers are proselytizers.

Dawn and Matt Hill aren't dogmatic about their way of life. Unlike snobs who can't wait to point out that they have no TV, you have to ask them about it.

"I can't imagine paying so much for cable," Dawn said. "It's a waste of time and kind of boring."

The porch of their northside home is piled with evidence of active play, from guitars to hula-hoops. The table is heaped with about 50 freshly picked onions. Their garden is bursting with greens, carrots, chard, beets and enough squash to last much of the winter.

There are two woodpiles in the backyard, one messy and one orderly.

*"Every man looks at his woodpile with a kind of affection," Thoreau wrote.*

They'd love to cut out cars entirely, but with three kids, they're pleased to make do with one. Matt commutes to his job at Impression 5 Science Museum in all kinds of weather. "It's a nice quiet time for me," Matt said. "I'm not distracted."

They've been raising chickens for five years, but that didn't necessarily simplify life. "They're friends" Dawn said. "If you name them, it's over with. But we get about an egg a day."

*"I am wont to think that men are not so much the keepers of herds as herds are the keepers of men," Thoreau wrote.*

See Walden, Page 8

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## WALDEN

from page 6

reau wrote.

If dreams count for anything, put Caleb Kisor into the “all-in” group of simplifiers.

Three months ago, Kisor, 36, moved into a 3-acre lot in Dimondale, just south of the Lansing city limits. He wants to build a cobb house, with walls of mud, clay and straw, for his mother, Gwendolyn Kisor, or “G.G.” She’s studying a book, “Cobb to Code,” to help navigate the legalities of building such a house.

“*Shall we forever resign the pleasure of construction to the carpenter?*” Thoreau asked.

G.G.’s cobb house will go. The pond, full of fish, adds a touch of Thoreau to their ambitious plans.

“I don’t know how long God plans on me being involved in it, but it’s a pretty clear picture,” G.G. said.

Simplifying life can be a survival tactic, a conscious decision or a natural flow. Everyone will define it differently, but it often boils down to two things: Less stuff and more soul.

“*I sometimes caught a mess of fish for my dinner,*” Thoreau wrote.

In the heart of Lansing, people fish the Grand River every day, some for food, some for fun. Last Thursday, Michael Conrad of Lansing was settled in under the Saginaw Street Bridge with a buddy.

“I like to eat fresh fish,” Conrad said.

“This old lady wants to be a pioneer. My duty as a son is to try my best to make it happen.”

**-Caleb Kisor**

The house is just the beginning. Together, they plan to terraform a grassy field into an “edible forest” of fruit and nut trees and berry bushes.

“This will be my living legacy,” said G.G., 63. The drought-resistant forest will mature in about 20 years. By then, Caleb plans to be “totally off grid.” Solar panels, wind turbines and hoop houses are all part of the plan.

“This old lady wants to be a pioneer,” Caleb said affectionately. “My duty as a son is to try my best to make it happen.”

Last week, they were planning one of the first projects. A dry creek bed lined with rocks will divert storm runoff into the pond, away from the lowlands where

“You can go to private lakes and pay \$35, limit 11 fish.”

He tugged the pole. “It’s peaceful and relaxing.”

Conrad’s friend, sitting nearby on the rocks, was fishing only for the sport. “I give ‘em to him,” he said, nodding at Conrad.

Across the river near the Brenke Fish Ladder, a Lansing man who only gave his first name — Demetrius — checked his pole.

“I’ve been fishing this river for five years,” he said. He agreed to have his picture taken, then turned purposefully around to attend to his line. Without a word, he sat down and looked into the water.

I asked no more questions.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCE # 2580

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-3-2014  
Address: 616 S. Washington Avenue  
Parcel Number: PPN: 33-01-01-16-384-051  
Legal Descriptions: Lots 3 & 4, also East 2 Rods Lots 5 & 6 Block, 158 Original Plat, City of Lansing, Ingham County, MI, from “F-1” Commercial & “DM-4” Residential Districts to “G-1” Business District.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on August 11, 2014, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of seven (7) days from the date this notice of adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation.

CHRIS SWOPE, LANSING CITY CLERK



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# Lansing hacks

A brief guide to cheap and free entertainment options in the capital city

By DYLAN SOWLE

Paying for things is stupid. The man is always trying to keep you down by demanding that you hand over your hard-earned currency. There may be no such thing as a free lunch, but that doesn't mean you can't crash the buffet.

Hold on tight while we suck up every last drop of discount in Lansing.

## ENTERTAINMENT

- Going to the movies is a painfully expensive ordeal, but in Grand Ledge, the one-room **Sun Theatre** is your beacon of hope with \$2 movies. Take a moment to rejoice. And just down the street from the Sun every Friday night through Aug. 29 there are free outdoor movies being shown in the park. Live on the east side? No problem. The (unrelated) **Sun Theatre Wil-**



City Pulse File Photo

If you're on a budget, you can catch \$2 movies at the Grand Ledge Sun Theatre.

**liamston** features \$4 movies.

- Libraries are good for borrowing free books and getting shushed by old ladies, but you can also take advantage of the **Capital Area District Library's MeLCat system**, which allows you to get books and other media sent to you from over 400 libraries around Michigan. And if you're lacking in the computer department, the libraries are about the only place where you can use one for free whenever you want.

- What's awesome about Lansing is that there are so many events that are free to get into. **Mac's Bar** has free comedy on Mondays. **Michigan State University** has

See Hacks, Page 12

### Safe Disposal of Unwanted Medications

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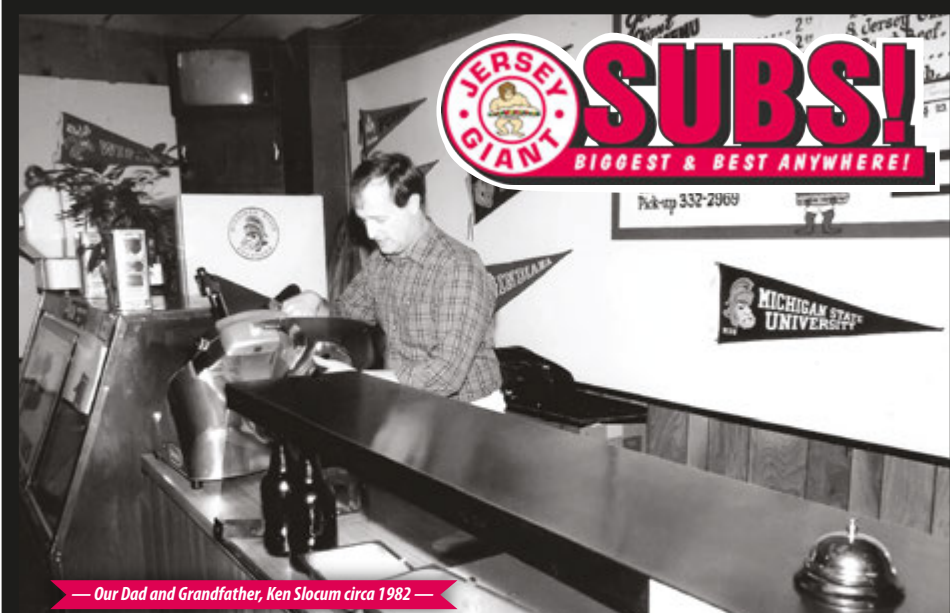
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# HACKS

from page 10

two museums and free bowling Wednesday nights. And we have so many free festivals all year long it's overwhelming. Take advantage of it!

## FOOD/DRINK

- **Horrocks Farm Market** is a drinkers paradise, whether it's just a jolt of caffeine or something for the over-21 crowd. You've got a free coffee bar and a wine tasting bar, and shoppers recently have been given the upgrade option to purchase a 12-ounce beer to drink while they shop. With great power comes great responsibility, people.

- Free samples are your friend. On Saturdays, **Meijer** is full of people trying to fill your hands with as many little plastic cups full of food as possible. Pro tip: if you walk by any Chinese restaurant in a mall food court about once every 15 minutes, they'll force bourbon chicken on you every time.

- This one's cheating a little, but here goes: If you and a friend are getting fountain drinks at a sit-down restaurant, get cozy and share one. If it's a self-serve and they offer you a size option, don't pay for a larger size when you can just refill the small one. And make sure you take one for the road because at some point in your life, you'll be thirsty again.

## PARKING

- Stop paying for lots and meters if there are side streets within a few blocks where you can park for free. **Walnut and Chestnut streets** just west of **Lansing Community College** can save an industrious commute hundreds of dollars that I didn't spend on ramp parking when I was in school.

- If you're heading to the **Lansing City Market** and all eight parking spots are

filled, park for free at the Lansing Center parking lot across the street. Just tell the attendant where you're going. Of course, if you go somewhere else downtown afterward, who's to know?

- If you're heading into East Lansing with a car (God help you), ditch the vehicle in the Frandor Shopping Center lot and pay the \$1.25 to ride the bus into town. Or if it's between 4 p.m. and midnight, hit up the free street parking in the residential area north of Albert Street and try to avoid the flying ping pong balls and plastic cups.

## AND THE REST

- Still got your old college ID? Just shave off that trendy lumberjack beard and use your alma mater to keep getting you discounts and half-priced stuff. And don't feel guilty: We can probably all agree if you're still paying student loan debt, that qualifies you for the student rate.

- There's an entire page on the **Lansing Craigslist** site dedicated to people trying to give away their old stuff for free. A lot of it is just piles of crap and weird kid-made crafts, but there's some gold in there too. Just bring a friend — we don't need another news story.

- If you're swimming through mid-Michigan trying to leech bandwidth like an Internet parasite, there are plenty of nice cafes where you can suck free WiFi in peace. Just buy one (refillable) coffee or a happy hour beer and the proprietors should leave you alone while you cling to your device in the corner.

- If you want to find the buried treasure, you've got to climb in a Dumpster every now and then. But it's worth it — I once found an entire Dumpster full of rollerblades in **Frandor**. And if you walk outside the dorms after MSU's end-of-semester clean-out, you will have everything you need to furnish a new home. Sure, you have to suck up your dignity, but sticking it to the man's worth it. Right?

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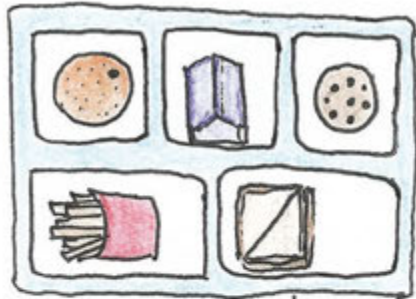
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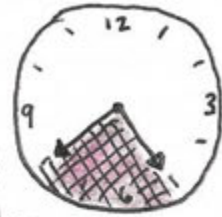


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Illustration by Stephanie Ondercharin



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## Digging ditch stands

To find low-cost produce on the cheap, get rural

By **NATHAN KARK**

Lansing's rural areas are filled with farmers who grow too much for their own consumption. The result is the "ditch stand," a place where freshly harvested goodies are positioned for people to pick up as they pass by. Some farmers simply ask for a donation for their efforts while others just give it away. One thing you can count on is that most of the farmers will come out to say hello, boast about their growing practices, and tell you what they plan on harvesting next — valuable intelligence for future trips.



Nathan Kark/City Pulse

There are no shortage of ditch stands in the Lansing area, where farmers share their overages for free or low cost.

Mid-summer through mid-fall is prime ditch stand season. Half of the fun is finding them yourself, but some general hot-spots for ditch stands tend to be south of Lansing around Holt, Mason and Charlotte; east of Lansing toward Williamston; north around DeWitt; and west around the Grand Ledge area. Be sure to get off the main drag for the best results. A trip down College Road frequently results in giant zucchini. A country home west of DeWitt on Herbison Road near Wacousta Road is churning out delicious cucumbers. There are also a lot of farmers producing fresh eggs south of Lansing. Though the eggs are generally not free, they are significantly cheaper than you can find in-store.

We live in a beautiful area filled with places you would never expect, dotted along the way with some of the best produce you maybe never thought to look for. Have fun exploring — you never know what you may find out there.

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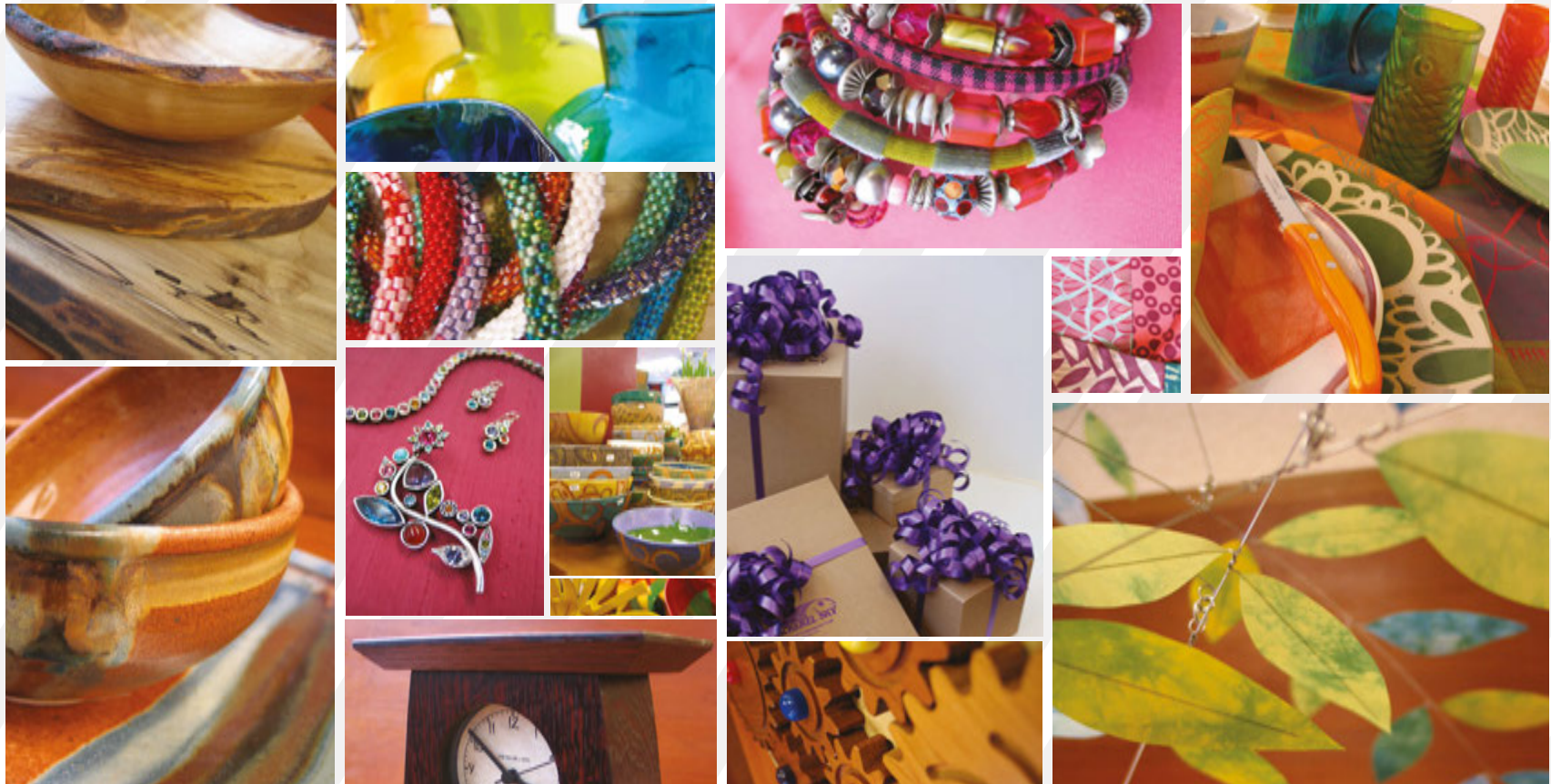
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## Read 'em and cheap

A guide to free and low-cost reading options

By **BILL CASTANIER**

If you're not too picky and you can wait to read recent bestsellers, books are easy to snag for a couple bucks or even free.

The first place to look is at library book sales. The East Lansing, Delta Township, DeWitt, Mason, Haslett and downtown Capital Area District Library branch all have ongoing sales in permanent stores within their libraries. Check library websites for times and locations.

Libraries generally have sales in the fall and spring. The best way to learn about times, dates and locations is to check with the website [booksalefinder.com](http://booksalefinder.com).

Grand Ledge Library and St. Johns Library both hold library sales the third weekend of the month; Grand Ledge's is on Fridays and Saturday, St. Johns' is on Saturday mornings. The most recent listings also show Delta Township Library will host its

semi-annual book clean out on Aug. 22-23. Also be sure to check out the semi-annual Mid Michigan Antiquarian Book and Paper Show at the Lansing Center Oct. 5. The show is managed by Ray Walsh, the proprietor of Archives Book Shop and Curious Book Shop in East Lansing. Walsh likes to point out that the nearly 1 million books on sale at the show include pricey collectibles but also low-priced reading copies.

Some of the best sources for used and cheap books are area thrift shops where you can pick up books starting at four books for \$1. Included on that list are local Salvation Army, Goodwill, Volunteers of America, St. Vincent DePaul and Value Land World Mission stores. Not to be forgotten is the MSU Surplus Store on the campus of Michigan State University where each Tuesday and Friday at least 15 carts of books are put up for sale for \$1 or \$2 a book. Books range from textbooks to bestsellers and come primarily from donations.

Lansing's two local Schuler Books & Music stores also offer extensive collections of quality used books, sometimes including bestsellers at half price.

For those with e-readers, classics and other books outside copyright protection can often be downloaded for free. If you don't mind subscribing, there are also hundreds of thousands of books available for as little as \$10 a month from sites such as Scribd, Oyster and Kindle Unlimited. It's worth trolling Amazon for free or low cost e-books that are offered as promotional items. One website with a free subscription is Bookbub, which will email you titles of e-books that are discounted or free. Julia Glass' "Three Junes" was offered for \$1.99 as an e-book recently. There are also random niche sites such as Open Culture, which recently offered nine books by Noam Chomsky online for free.

But the best way to find free books is from a friend, or borrowed from your local library where you pay for unlimited use of books through millage. But remember to return them promptly and in good condition.

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# 2014 RENEGADE THEATRE FESTIVAL

## A fistful of drama

Renegade Theatre Festival brings stampede of theater companies, independents to Old Town

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A spur-jingling cowpoke saunters through a Western street, picking up snatches of drama from every door: Guffaws, gunshots, a baby crying, some honky-tonk piano, sighing lovers, the crash of the obligatory troublemaker flying through a plate glass window. He raises an eyebrow, touches his gun and moves on.

Now it's your turn, pilgrim — and if you don't know how to saunter, attend a free workshop. This weekend, the Renegade Theatre Festival, in its ninth year, is about to corral most of Lansing's established theater companies, several independent presenters and a crowded sideshow of music, spoken

word and other events into one Wild West theater free-for-all. (*See schedule and descriptions on pages 20-21.*)

Why did they have to come here and make so much trouble, Marshal? Simple. Lansing has the theater talent in spades, and the perfect 1880s set — the real thing, actually.

"We're giving you a space and 50 chairs and that's it," co-organizer Chad Badgero said, spitting tobacco into the dust. "We're not going to tell you what you can and can't do."

Twirling her Colt .45, co-organizer Melissa Kaplan explained that there is no "curatorial process." Hell, the nearest curator is three days' ride away.

"We open the doors and send invitations to all Lansing theaters and past participants," Kaplan said. "The only way we would turn people away is if they were doing something that is illegal or outright inhumane or cruel."

Each year, word of mouth brings independent presenters and other theater groups to town. This year there are more than ever.

As always at Renegade, the subject matter ranges wildly, from Peppermint Creek Theater Co.'s bisexual-confusion drama "Cock" and Williamston Theatre's horrific "Camp-

fire" to the pizzazz of Riverwalk's musical "Just Wanna Dance" and a life lesson delivered by talking fruit (Ngoc Van obi Troung's "Orange You Perfect").

The cubbyholes, alleys and storefronts of Old Town suit Renegade perfectly. It doesn't matter whether new businesses move in, old ones fold up or long-empty spaces stay empty. Renegade adapts equally to gentrification and decay by latching on to the happening spots and occupying the dead ones.

This year, there are events tailored to spiffy new gathering places like the Old Town General Store, with its high-end comestibles and flower-filled "secret garden" courtyard, and newly renovated Zoobie's Old Town Tavern, transformed last year into a retro-style watering hole and microbrew destination. The former is hosting a spoken word slam at 7 p.m. each day of the festival; the latter is hosting a first-time "Renegade Cabaret" that nudges the festival for the first time into fizzy nightclub territory.

The cabaret is no slapdash afterthought. An A-list of local musical theater luminaries, led by Joe Quick and Kelly Stuible and accompanied by John Dale Smith, will perform a slate of real purty tunes from new

and about-to-become-huge musicals. It's an extension of a musical theater class Stuible taught at Lansing Community College last spring and a nod to a longtime theater tradition. Expect to schmooze with many of the actors and directors you've applauded earlier in the afternoon and evening.

"You get done with your show, you want to talk and drink," Badgero said as the swinging doors flapped behind him.

With Renegade, an empty shell is just as much of an opportunity as a trendy watering hole. The historic edifice at 317 E. Grand River Ave., next to the railroad tracks, is no longer home to Aggie Mae's Bakery, but this weekend will host the Mid-Michigan Family Theatre's "The Castaways," a musical about immigrant children living on the streets of New York in the 1900s and a story with resonance for our own times.

The play was supposed to be presented at the historic Turner-Dodge House, an 1850s mansion ideally suited to the period, but the water-damaged venue wasn't ready yet, so the shell of the defunct bakery will fill in at the last minute.

See Renegade, Page 22

The 4th Annual  
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# 2014 RENEGADE THEATRE FESTIVAL

## AUGUST 14-16

## OLD TOWN LANSING

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WWW.RENEGADETHEATREFESTIVAL.ORG

### RENEGADE MAINSTAGE

PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS	7pm	9pm
<b>A</b> CHROME CAT	Skitsophrenia Something Creative Teen Thr	The Human Behind the Image MSU Theatre (Thur/Sat Only) *
<b>B</b> OT GENERAL STORE	Spoken Word Various Artists	Comedy & Improv Capital City Improv
<b>C</b> AGGIE MAE'S	The Castaways Mid-Michigan Family Thr	Just Wanna Dance Riverwalk Thr
<b>D</b> ABSOLUTE GALLERY	Father, Son, Holy Spirit Katie Doyle (Thur/Sat Only) *	Campfire Williamston Thr (Fri/Sat Only) *
<b>E</b> MICA	Boomer & Imaginary Friend Revolt LCC Theatre Dept	Cock Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
<b>F</b> GALLERY 1212	North Gier Street Raymond Goodwin	With One Little Stone Hull/McShane
<b>G</b> OTCA COURTYARD	Soap Box Speeches Various Artists (begin at 6:30pm) *	
<b>I</b> MUSTANG	Boyfriend Forever Sarah Hauck	Skill Trade Cabaret (Thur Only) Experimental Stage (Fri Only) *

### RENEGADE N.O.W.

THE RED CEDAR FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE	7pm	9pm
	Room 1	Room 2
<b>Thurs.</b>	* 7 Deadly Sins: 7 10-Min Plays	One Cat Away from 61/A Vase for Molly's Roses
<b>Fri.</b>	What About The Bones	Home Again, Jiggety Jig
<b>Sat.</b>	Not in a Perfect Mind	Bucket List of Booze Club

\* Also playing on Saturday at 3pm

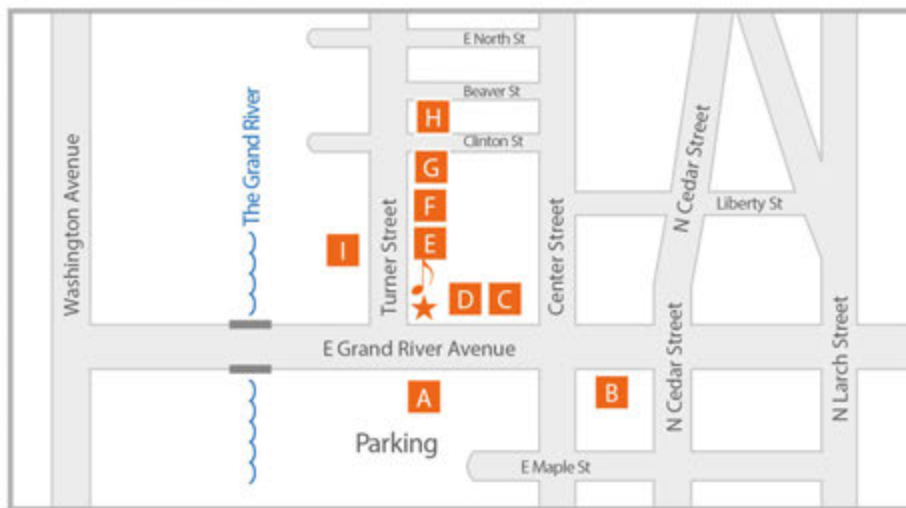
### RENEGADE MUSIC

	6-7pm	8-9pm	
<b>TURNER MINI-PARK</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	Jerry Sprague. Guitar Rock/Pop	Chad Riggs Country
	<b>Fri</b>	Wizards of Woz Americana/Folk Rock	Taylor Taylor Jazzy Pop
	<b>Sat</b>	Greater Alexander Lush Folk	Twice As Nice Easy Listening/Oldies
	<b>Sat (Day)</b>	1 - 2pm: Cuatro Sur (Flamenco/Salsa)	2:30-3:30pm: Some Guy & a Blonde (Cajun Creole)
	3:30-4:30pm: Red Electric Shark (Mystical Dancical)	4:30-5:30pm Aaron Pride (Folk)	

Visit [www.renegadetheatrefestival.org](http://www.renegadetheatrefestival.org) for the latest schedule and participant updates.

### RENEGADE KIDS (SATURDAY)

	11am	12pm
<b>RED CEDAR FRIENDS</b>	<b>STAGE ONE</b> Traveling Tales Mid-Michigan Family Thr	Orange You Perfect Ngoc Van Boi Truong
	<b>STAGE TWO</b> When The Curtain Falls All-of-us-Express Children's Thr	Wanda & Friends Kellie Stonebrook



\*Map not to Scale

### KEY

- A** Chrome Cat  
226 E. Grand River
- B** Old Town General Store  
408 E. Grand River
- C** Aggie Mae's  
317 E. Grand River
- D** Absolute Gallery  
307 E. Grand River
- E** MICA Gallery  
1210 Turner St.
- F** Gallery 1212  
1212 Turner St.
- G** OTCA Courtyard  
1232 Turner St.
- H** The Red Cedar Friends Meeting House  
1400 Turner St.
- I** Mustang  
1215 Turner St.
- Turner Mini-Park
- Information Tent

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## EVENING PRODUCTIONS

### CAPITAL CITY IMPROV

The troupe presents comedy sketches, and long and short form improv. **Audience: mature audiences.** **Run time: 60-75 minutes**

### The Father, The Son & The Holy Spirit KATIE DOYLE

Three interwoven vignettes all occurring on one Italian train: The Father: A detrimental exchange between two Italian men. The Son: A vacationing American couple, with their adopted son, visiting family in Italy. The Holy Spirit: A woman searching for something lost 12 years ago. **Audience: high school and up.** **Run time: approx 45 minutes**

### North Gier Street

RAYMOND GOODWIN

North Gier Street is a one character play set in Lansing, Michigan on a summer afternoon in 1970. Marty Beeson, a junior high school English teacher, while awaiting news on the fate of a kidnapped girl, describes the burden of the wait and reveals many of his personal trials and tribulations and those of the times, including the Vietnam War, the Kent State shootings, and the counterculture. **Run time: 75 minutes**

### Boy Friend Forever, A Friendship Fable

SARAH HAUCK

Jim and Claire, both 13 years old, are best friends. Rumors and questions surround them: Are they really boyfriend and girlfriend? How can a boy and a girl be "just" friends at that age? The play follows them through the Fall of their eighth grade year, through friendship, Jim's romance and break-up with another girl, and finally the possibility of romance between them after all. **Audience: PG or PG-13.** **Run time: 90-105 minutes**

### Soap Box Speeches

TOM HELMA

A series of speeches emphasizing political themes of diversity presented by local actors. **Audience: Primarily adults, but appropriate for children, too.** **Run time: 15-30 minutes (one to three speeches each night)**

### Boomer and the Imaginary Friend Revolt

LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE THR DEPT

Boomer has lost his way, and it isn't until his childhood imaginary friend and a group of wild characters show up that he is able to find himself again. But when you're hurting, how big is your radius of self-destruction allowed to get? Sometimes it takes old friends and tough love to put you back together. **Audience: adult-oriented, contains some bad language and sexuality.** **Run time: 75 minutes**

### With One Little Stone

CONOR McSHANE & LESLIE HULL

A comedic drama about the Campbells: a family of well-off, upper-middle class liberals whose happy home life is altered when son Keith comes out to his parents, Terry and Fran. Fran is quick to embrace Keith's sexuality but Terry is hesitant. A rift opens between father and son and sends Keith into the arms of Alan, an older man and struggling actor. While Keith struggles to come out of his shell, Terry struggles with his feelings and how they clash with his otherwise liberal ideals. Will Terry be able to get over his hangups and accept his son's true self, or will the schism between them become permanent? **Audience: adult-oriented, contains some bad language and sexuality.** **Run time: 80-90 minutes**

### The Human Behind the Image: A Matter of Life and Death

MSU THEATRE DEPARTMENT

A staged reading of a new play inspired by true events in the life and death of actor and MSU alum, Jon-Erik Hexum, who was killed while shooting an episode of his TV series, COVER UP. There continues to be controversy over whether or not his death was an accident or a suicide. **Audience: PG - teens and up.** **Run time: 100 mins**

### The Castaways

MID-MICHIGAN FAMILY THEATRE

Selections from a musical about immigrant children's struggles on the streets in early 1900s New York City. Happy endings for these "castaways" take them to homes with Midwestern families. Their poignant stories sensitize today's children to the stark realities of homelessness. **Audience: all ages.** **Run time: 45 minutes**

### Cock

PEPPERMINT CREEK THEATRE CO

John has been in a stable relationship with his boyfriend for a number of years. But when John takes a break, he accidentally falls in love with a woman. Torn between the two, filled with guilt and conflicting emotions, he doesn't know which way to turn. His boyfriend is willing to wait, but so is his girlfriend. And both are prepared to fight to keep him. As the pressure mounts, a dinner with both parties is arranged. Everyone wants to know: Who is John? What is John? And what will he decide? A comic discussion of identity and sexuality. **Audience: ages 18 and up.** **Run time: 90 minutes**

### Just Wanna Dance

RIVERWALK THEATRE

Concert version of original musical. Skipping lightly through life, Paul just wants to dance but is pushed by the expectations of his parents and his wife. Can he ever find true happiness? **Audience: mature (not children).** **Run time: 60-75 minutes**

### Skitsophrenia

SOMETHING CREATIVE TEEN THEATRE

"The voices in our heads come to life" - a collection of skits created, directed, and performed by a new youth theatre company. **Audience: 12 and up.** **Run time: 60-90 minutes**

### SPOKEN WORD STAGE

Featuring a variety of spoken word artists including ReNita Antoine, Solo Brooks, Suban Nur Cooley, Rose Jangmi Cooper, and more. **Audience: Teens and up.** **Run time: 90 minutes**

### Campfire

WILLIAMSTON THEATRE

A horror play. Marcus Carver has brought his niece and nephew back home, one year since the death of his brother and their father. In the woods behind his farm, around a campfire, the Carvers will tell stories as they have for many generations. But a stranger has entered the dimly-lit circle. Their tales take on a darker tone as the night grows long, and family secrets draw the stranger closer to the Carvers. However, these secrets come with a dangerous price. **Audience: High school and up.** **Run time: 90 minutes**

## RENEGADE NOW New Original Works

Ten Minute Plays: Seven Deadly Sins

**LUST:** Mercy Killing by Rikki Schwartz, Waterford, MI

This play examines how the most damaging of lusts aftermath may not be guilt or loss, but rather forgiveness.

**GLUTTONY:** Kitty by Terry Palczewski, East Lansing, MI

A young woman secretly adopts a homeless kitten, leading to a chain of events that helps her discover how much she's being hurt under the guise of 'doing what's good for her family'.

**GREED:** The Component by Terry Palczewski, East Lansing, MI

A CEO, his chief engineer, and his finance officer struggle to define the line between gambling with human lives and protecting the company's stock value... and their year-end bonuses.

**SLOTH/LUST:** A Song for Annie by Jeremy Llorence, Kalamazoo, MI

After a fight with her girlfriend, Annie is left questioning who she is and what she wants out of a companion.

**WRATH:** Crowbar by Devlin Giroux, Lansing, MI

A young man struggles with his hatred for life, affecting everyone around him.

**ENVY:** Shiwase by Jeremy Llorence, Kalamazoo, MI

Set in the mean suburbs of Detroit, Shiwase follows Keith and Cujo, two high-school students who belong to the gang, the Shiwassee Posse. When a midnight outing turns tragic, the two young men butt heads as they debate what in life is really worth living for.

**PRIDE:** Secrets by Autumn Schneider, St. Johns, MI

Esther is a foster child in a new middle school—and she has a secret. In order to make friends and protect herself, Esther betrays her siblings and new foster mother by sharing their personal affairs. When Esther makes a realization about her new "friends," it's too late, and they strike back at both her and her family.

### N.O.W. One Acts:

**A Vase for Molly's Roses** by Raymond

Thibeault, Lansing, MI

The play tracks one morning's increasingly intense, but often humorous, encounter between a mother made bitter by her husband's abandonment and a daughter who refuses to accept bitterness as a way of life.

### One Cat Away from 61

by Rikki Schwartz, Waterford, MI

This play examines middle age, love, marriage and adultery through the lens of a therapist and her resistant patient.

### Members Only

by Oralya Garza, Lansing, MI

Attorney Brad Gumbel faces the most critical interview of his life, well, of his afterlife, as he attempts to explain, justify, and negotiate his way through the "Pearly Gates."

### N.O.W. Full Length:

**Not in Perfect Mind** by Joseph Allen Smith,

Holmes Beach, FL

It's déjà-vu all over again! This play concerns the absurdities of dementia - for all involved: That experienced by the person who looks in the mirror and doesn't recognize anyone and that experienced by the family, who no longer recognizes the person they once knew.

### The Bucket List of Booze Club

by Maureen Paraventi, Redford, MI

Four longtime female friends gather weekly to sample exotic adult beverages and talk their way through various problems. Jennifer, a successful lawyer, can't find a good man. Mary Ann has found one, but he's much too young for her. Empty nester Amy wants more from her marriage. Collette, who hosts the gatherings, is battling

cancer and facing the regrets her illness is forcing her to confront.

### What about the Bones?

By Sean Welch

When the host of a dinner party suddenly drops dead, the wife and her three guests look at one another as suspects in the murder. When no one can agree whether or not it's a good idea to call the police, the situation becomes increasingly desperate.

### Home Again, Jiggety Jig

by Janet Pound, W. Bloomfield, MI

Opening in 1995, we meet Irishman John McGarry, who wants to return to his homeland before he dies. A touching and humorous drama that explores a lifetime of family, loss and love.

## RENEGADE KIDS

### Traveling Tales

Mid-Michigan Family Theatre

Created and performed by the company

A collection of stories to entertain all ages, especially kids. Audience participation encouraged!

### Wanda and Friends

KELLIE STONEBROOK

Wanda and her puppet friends have fun being silly while illustrating the importance of teamwork and being true to yourself!!!

### When the Curtain Falls

ALL-OF-US-EXPRESS CHILDREN'S THEATRE

The plagues of life follow both the children and adults at The North Star Theater, but there they discover that the love a family can heal, and a family isn't always what they expect.

### Orange You Perfect

Ngoc Van Boi Troung

Orange desires to be like Banana, due to his "smooth skin and toned body." Orange thinks he is flawed and underappreciated, but he learns that every fruit is completely unique and perfect in his own skin.

## OTHER FESTIVAL EVENTS

### CABARET

A showcase of some of musical theatre's newest and most exciting new composers, featuring vocalists Scott Laban, Mary Maurer, Joe Quick, Rachael Raymer, Kelly Stuble, and Adam Woolsey, accompanied by John Dale Smith and friends.. Friday Aug 15, starting at 10:30pm. Zoobie's Bar.

### EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE STAGE

At the Renegade Theatre Festival, where theatre is inside and outside of the box... The Experimental Theatre Stage, where there is no box. But there may be a pole-dancing poet...Presented by Janet Coulson.

### RENEGADE TEENS WORKSHOP

Presented by Rico Bruce Wade

A day-long workshop on acting and improv, with participants creating and performing an original play. Open to all teens on Saturday, Aug. 16 starting at 9:30 am in the MICA Gallery, performance at 5pm.

### RENEGADE CLOSING PARTY

Celebrate Theatre! Celebrate Community! Saturday, Aug. 16 at 10 pm in The Mustang on Turner Street, join Renegade audiences, artists and volunteers for food, prizes, and music!





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## Renegade

from page 19

The big plays are scheduled for all three nights, but Kaplan is keen to see how new one-night events, like the Renegade Cabaret or the Thursday night's Skildtrade Cabaret, an evening of improv at the old Mustang Bar on Turner Street, will score with audiences.

"This year we have more one-off things," Kaplan said. "If that's successful, we may open up the schedule and do more of that."

Some of Renegade's independent presenters are Lansing theater alumni who have struck out on their own and need a place to try out unproven scripts or productions. Leslie Hull, director of "With One Little Stone," moved to New York after graduating from MSU's theater department and is active in the Flint theater community.

Established companies also use Renegade as a platform to polish shows for the

upcoming season. Staged readings, with or without props, are as common as full-blown productions.

"We don't have any expectations," Badgero said. "Whatever you come to see, this is what you're getting. It may be highly polished or not, it may be experimental, it may not."

Badgero's Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. will put on a fully staged and memorized play, but it's still taking advantage of Renegade's lax jurisdiction. For two years Badgero has wanted to produce Mike Bartlett's "Cock," a romantic drama about a man who is torn between his longtime boyfriend and a new girlfriend, but he admits it's not without its challenges.

"It's tough to market a show some people don't even want to say," he lamented. "It's not nearly as provocative as the title." (In England, posters billed the play as "Cockfight" and in New York, posters read "C\*ck.") The four-member cast of "Cock" has been rehearsing under director Shannon Bowen for three weeks.

Part of Renegade's appeal, especially to theater newbies, is mobility. No one needs to fear being pinned in an uncomfortable or draggy experience for 90 minutes, especially when something else is happening a few doors away. But Kaplan hopes festival goers will bring more than a casual channel surfing mindset.

"We hope for a little bit of commitment from the audience," she said. "You don't know where a play is going to go, and it may find a way into your heart and mind that you had not expected. But if something isn't working, go do something else. The doors are open."

No matter how many boutiques and lofts crop up on Turner Street, Renegade kicks Old Town back to its 1970s heyday as a place where artists got into the streets and empty spaces and expressed themselves, often in unpredictable ways.

"The edges have smoothed out a little," Kaplan said, "But it's the perfect place to bring people together for a festival."

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Comedy by  
Mel Brooks

**Director**  
Tom Ferris

**Music**  
Director  
James Geer

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Oscar-nominated  
smash hit  
1974 film, this

wickedly inspired re-imagining of the Mary Shelley classic comes to life through the electric genius of Mel Brooks. Filled with laughs and zany music, it's just what the "doctor" ordered.

**September 11-14 & 18-21, 2014**

Auditions: 7 pm June 22-23 • Tickets on sale NOW!



Charles Condomine receives a visit from his first wife, Elvira. Unfortunately, Charles is now married to Ruth - and Elvira is a ghost.

**October 23-26 & Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 2014**

Auditions: 7 pm August 24-25 • Tickets on sale 9/30/14

**ANTON CHEKHOV'S THE SEA GULL**

by Jean-Claude van Itallie  
Directed by A.S. Freeman

Quintessential Chekhov. His first success is both comic and tragic. Friends and relations gather at a country estate to see the first performance of an experimental play written and staged by the young man of the house, an aspiring writer who dreams of bringing new forms to the theatre.

**January 8-11 & 15-18, 2015**

Auditions: 1 pm Oct. 11 & 7 pm Oct. 12  
Tickets on sale 12/16/14



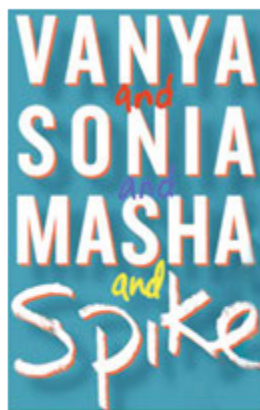
**Musical by Murray Horwitz and Richard Maltby, Jr., Directed by Hope Rollins**

We are savin' our love for you! Enjoy an entertaining evening of the true Harlem stride style melodic jazz

sounds of Fats Waller. This production of the Tony-award-winning show celebrates the music legends of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's and 30's. Don't miss the fun!

**February 5-8 & 12-15, 2015**

Auditions: 7 pm September 14-15 • Tickets on sale 1/13/15



**Comedy by Christopher Durang Directed by Addiann Hinds**

A man and his step-sister live trapped and regretful in their family's farmhouse caring for their ailing parents, while their sister gallivants around the world as a successful actress and movie star. What happens when she returns home with a boy toy?

**March 19-22 & 26-29, 2015**

Auditions: 7 pm January 11-12 • Tickets on sale 2/24/15

**Best of Friends**

**Comedy by Jeff Daniels Directed by Bob Robinson**

In a small Midwestern town, two middle-aged married couples have fallen into the happy habits of "best friends." A perceived slight over dinner devolves the blossoming relationship into an escalating game of one-upmanship. Which couple can devise a plan that will sever the relationship forever?

**May 28-31 & June 4-7, 2015**

Auditions: 7 pm March 29-30 • Tickets on sale 5/5/15

Riverwalk again named best local theatre in City Pulse Poll



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- PLAYS Fridays/Saturdays/Sundays \$15 (\$12 seniors aged 55+, students, and military personnel)
  - PLAYS "BARGAIN THURSDAYS" \$10 (\$8 senior/student/military)
  - MUSICALS \$22 (\$19 sr./student/mil.)

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## Vouching for vouchers

Maximizing the utility of  
online vouchers

By **MARY CUSACK**

This summer a friend and I savored a gourmet meal at a local country club. It included an appetizer, two glasses of wine and two enormous entrees. Total cost: \$29. No, we didn't know the waiter and there was no scam involved. We enjoyed this upscale experience thanks to online vouchers, which make it is easy to save big bucks on Lansing meals, massages, golf and goods.

"Deal of the day" sites, including Groupon and Living Social, offer savings for cost-conscious consumers. The premise is

simple: A business offers a voucher toward a good or service for a set price. The consumer buys the voucher online, presents it to the merchant and enjoys a good bargain.

While some vouchers are limited in number or have a short deadline for purchasing, many are available for longer. One local barbecue joint has had a Groupon deal available all summer. Longer deadlines alleviate the pressure to click the "Buy" button, allowing customers to research reviews on sites like TripAdvisor, Urbanspoon and Yelp.

Research is key to ensuring that the offer is a good fit for you. As my coupon-cutting mom used to say, a half-price bag of manure is a bargain if you have a field to fertilize. If not, all you have is a cheap bag of turds.

I have used dozens of discount vouchers over the past three years and can attest for the value. I've made out like a bandit, but have also made my share of bad buys. Here are some basic tips:

**Be adventurous.** One of the main goals of the merchant is to attract new customers, while the attraction for customers is to try something new. Vouchers allow you to try new foods, experiences (tandem parachuting, anyone?) and services.

**Choose wisely.** Yes, be adventurous, but within reason. You have to be realistic about what you will or won't eat or do. If you're on a low-fat diet, you're probably not going to use a voucher for a joint that specializes in deep-fried gizzards.

**Do your research.** Read the details about the business, and if it really feels outside of your comfort zone, skip it. That introductory pole-dancing fitness class sounded like a lark when I hit "Buy," but modesty and reality set in and I never called to schedule a class. The only workout I got was from kick-

See Vouchers, Page 25

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Courtesy Photo  
Golf courses, restaurants and health and fitness businesses have contributed to the popularity of online vouchers.

## VOUCHERS

**from page 24**  
ing myself. Although I can still redeem it for the price I paid, years later the well-worn voucher is buried deeply in my purse.

**Don't stock up.** Most vouchers for local businesses expire in 30 to 120 days. Don't buy more meals than you can eat in that period and don't save them up for a rainy day. More than once I've been out of town and re-

where to eat or what to do if there's a voucher nearing its expiration date.

**Don't be stingy.** Groupon reminds clients of this often, but it bears repeating: If a voucher involves a service where tipping is expected, tip on the total bill, not the discounted amount. The server or service person is not getting a cut of the voucher, but is still providing complete service.

**Shop around.** Voucher sites tend to orient their offers around cities, but there is some crossover. Groupon has the toehold on

Research is key to ensuring that the offer is a good deal for you. A half-price bag of manure is a bargain if you have a field to fertilize. If not, all you have is a cheap bag of turds.

alized that I have a voucher that is due to expire while I'm gone, then frantically emailed friends trying to find someone who will use it so that the bargain is not wasted. Oddly enough, not everyone can drop what they're doing to go play putt-putt golf for free.

**Print it.** While many vouchers can be redeemed through smart phone apps, it may be more effective to print them, highlight the expiration date and put them in order of nearest to farthest expiration date. On date night, it's easier to make a decision about

Lansing, but check Living Social's Flint, Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids pages — you can often find deals for businesses in the Lansing area, especially if the business is part of a chain or franchise.

**Sealing the deal.** Finally, remember that even when a voucher expires, you still get to use the expired voucher at that business for what you paid. You don't lose money unless you never use the voucher. Who knows? Maybe someday I will get that pole-dancing lesson after all.



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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## Broadcast news

Local TV, radio changes break new ground, say goodbye to longtime personalities

By ALLANI I. ROSS

Contrary to media doomsday polemicists, the Internet did not kill television, just as TV didn't kill radio in the '50s and radio did not kill newspapers in the '20s. As you're reading these words, some DJ somewhere is giving "Hotel California" its billionth spin while a cub TV reporter is earning her wings interviewing a 90-year-old yoga enthusiast. The broadcast industry is rarely news itself. In Lansing this week, recent developments have included several noteworthy changes.

The biggest is the addition of a new daily news program. Last month, mid-Michigan NBC affiliate WILX-TV (Comcast's channel 4 in Lansing and channel 10 in East Lansing) launched "First @ 4," a half-hour news digest show that airs weekday afternoons at 4. That time slot had previously been filled by nationally syndicated programming, but Kevin Ragan, the station's news director, said he thought his station "could do it better ourselves."

"We looked at the syndication landscape, saw what was available and made the decision (to create this show)," Ragan said. "We wanted to control our own destiny, so we did. And we're very proud of the results."

"First @ 4" summarizes the top news of the day, including entertainment reports and weather recaps. Ragan said the concept of 4 p.m. news shows is about 5 years old — Detroit, Flint and Grand Rapids each have one — but this is the first one in Lansing.

"We're very aggressive about expansion, so we started looking for a new news time," Ragan said. "(The 4 p.m.) time period is being filled all over the country. We thought it was important to be there too."

The show is hosted by Ann Emmerich and Kirk Montgomery, with Andy Provenzano providing weather updates. Montgomery returns to mid-Michigan after stints in California, Florida, Detroit and 13 years as an entertainment reporter in Denver, while Emmerich jumped channels from WLNS-TV across town to helm the show's news.

"Ann is undoubtedly one of best reporters in town — we were very fortunate to get her," Ragan said. "And Kirk is a fun, very engaging entertainment reporter. We really fell into our talent."

Ragan said the 4 p.m. slot supplements the 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. broadcasts, and appeals to a mostly female, 25-54 crowd.



Alexa McCarthy/City Pulse

Ann Emmerich and Kirk Montgomery host the half-hour news digest show "First @ 4" on WILX-TV at 4 p.m. weekdays.

"That audience is very attractive for advertisers," he said. "There was an awful show (that had been airing at 4 p.m.) that fell away. It's a good example of why we're doing 'First @ 4' and not doing that."

Meanwhile, change is also happening over at WLNS. The station's "6 News Evening" anchor Greg Adaline, who worked as a reporter at the station from 2005 to 2009 and returned in 2011, leaves this week for New Orleans. He'll anchor the morning news there.

"It makes sense financially and for be-

ing able to spend more time with my family," said Adaline, 34. "I love Lansing, I love Michigan — I was born and raised here — but this opportunity presented itself and I couldn't say no."

As Adaline's position opens in the evening, "6 News This Morning" anchor Evan Pinsonnault will fill in temporarily, spearheading a massive morning show overhaul. Last month, meteorologist Jake Dunne was booted to weekends and replaced by Emily Wahls. (Dunne had no comment about the

See Broadcast, Page 28



## Folk and a smile

It can be hard to get outside in these dog days of summer, but thousands of mid-Michigan residents braved the heat and ventured to downtown East Lansing last weekend for the Great Lakes Folk Festival. A large crowd gathered at the M.A.C. Stage on Saturday to swing along to the bluegrass band Detour. For 45 minutes, festival attendees enjoyed the soulful lyrics while dancing in the streets, eating fresh cooked food from the food court and shopping for local artisan crafts at vendors up and down the nearby streets.

Four blocks in downtown East Lansing held sights and sounds to accommodate any festivalgoers' tastes, including performances from nearly 100 artists. From ethnic food to recycled art to Tibetan Monks creating majestic sand mandala art, there was much to see at the three-day festival.

-Ariniko O'Meara

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# CURTAIN CALL

## Viagra falls

Musical comedy 'Married Alive!' takes aim at life after 'I do'

By TOM HELMA

The 2014-'15 theater season is off to an inauspicious beginning with "Married Alive," Over the Ledge Theater Co.'s lackluster midsummer musical.

Review

Before the show, director Rick Dethlefsen urged the audience to follow his mother's advice: If they find themselves with nothing good to say after the performance, don't say anything at all. On the other hand, my mom urged me to always tell the truth, so here goes. The play serves up stereotypes of two married couples, one young, the other in midlife. Neither couple remotely resembles any married couple anywhere in real life, ever.

The slim storyline consists of a chronological sequence of vignettes from the two marriages, all of them set to song, with an incessant, intrusive piano accompaniment.

What went wrong? It could be the script, which is insulting to women and men alike. A husband dresses himself up as Zorro and wraps his wife in a strange, not-so-sexy shawl to spice up their sex life. But — wait for the punchline — he forgets to take his Viagra. The other husband is less articulate than an ape while his wife is a fluffy chatterbox.

Or maybe it's the awkward, too-loudly-



Courtesy photo

"Married Alive!" is a musical comedy about two couples facing the trials and tribulations of married life.

miked acting. Or is it the off-key singers, straining to stay on pitch? Sorry to say it, it is all of the above.

Dethlefsen isn't usually off the mark like this, but he's not the only one. Joe Dickson's lighting skills often enhance the ambience of an already good play, but in this production, bright flashes of LED lighting momentarily blind the audience from time to time.

Erratic, out-of-context videography is thrown into the mix. Did I mention the odd costumes and the clumsy choreography? Yikes! Am I piling it on? It's hard not to, where this production is concerned.

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## Broadcast

from page 26

move.) Morning anchor Chivon Klepfer will stay put, but morning reporter Francesca Amiker will depart later this week for Jacksonville, Fla., where she'll be a nighttime reporter for the independent WJXT-TV. Amiker, 24, a native of Atlanta, had been at WLNS for a year. She said the move is part of her career plan.

"I'd love to be a reporter for 'Good Morning America' someday, traveling abroad — that really suits me," Amiker said. "I have enjoyed my time getting to know Lansing. This town is my second family. But when you get an opportunity to move on to a top 40 market, you say yes. I'm a single girl, what have I got to lose?"

Jacksonville is the 47th biggest news market in the country; Lansing is the 114th, according to StationIndex.com.

WLNS News Director Jam Sardar said shakeups like this happen all the time in TV.

"Reporters come and go — it's part of the game," Sardar said. "We're a market where we give a lot of reporters their first job. It's kind of like grad school. They get experience and go on to bigger markets and get more money. I knew from Francesca's resume tape that she'd go on to bigger and better things, and we were lucky to have her as long as we did. We enjoyed every minute she was here."

Sardar said the station isn't planning any changes to its scheduling anytime soon.

"We're going through the same thing every news org is going through," he said. "Making use of social media platforms, adapting news to mobile devices, trying to figure out how to give news to people where they want it when. It's a tricky industry."

And on radio, Amber "Alabama" Cole, the 2014 City Pulse Top of the Town winner for Best Radio Personality, quit her job at WJIM-FM (97.5 NOW FM) last month after six years. A non-compete agreement in her contract means she can't accept a job at another Lansing station, so she's been traveling to other cities — including Detroit, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Spokane, Wash. — looking for other gigs.

"I haven't paid my power bill yet this month," said Cole, 29. "It's been a struggle. I've got to find a job."

Cole said she quit because she became angry after being put on a 60-day probation. She said her station bosses felt she wasn't giving the station "enough attention." (Cole also DJs part time at a Detroit radio station.)

"I said this is bullshit, I'm not going to sit around and wait to be fired," she said. "I want to be famous. I want to be big. I thought I could do that in Lansing but now it looks like it's not going to happen."

Cole said she'd like to host a "Chelsea Lately"-type show eventually, and has made in-roads with TV producers on the West Coast. But the experience hasn't burned her off the medium.

"I'll always listen to the radio," Cole said. "Radio will be fine."



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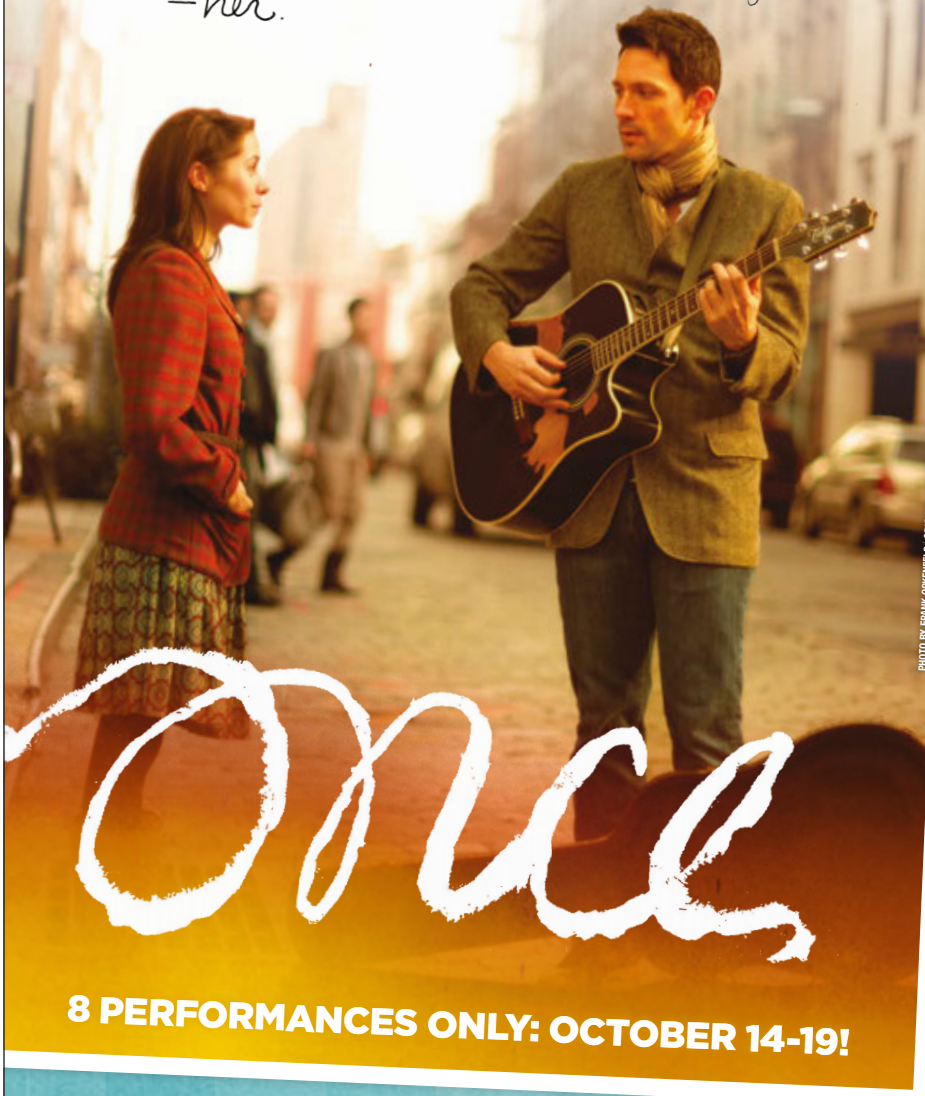
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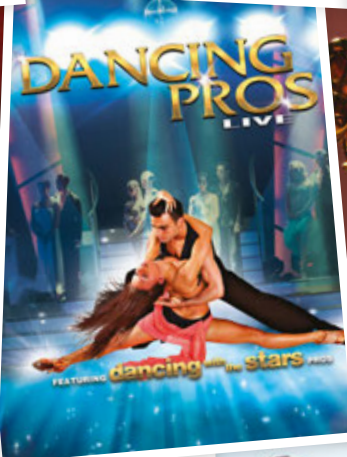
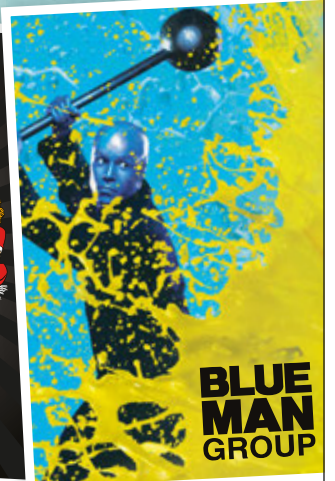
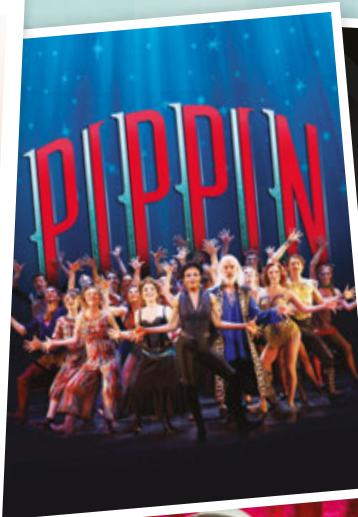
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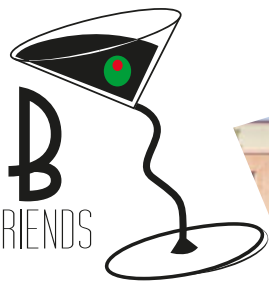


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# OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://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, August 13

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**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.

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

**Near-Death Experiences.** Do these experiences have meaning? 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, [pilgrimucc.com](http://pilgrimucc.com).

### EVENTS

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

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

**Allen Street Farmers Market.** Featuring locally grown/prepared foods. Live music. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

**Capital Area Crisis Men's Rugby Practice.** Weather permitting. All experience levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2151 W. Hillsdale St., Lansing. [crisisrfc.com](http://crisisrfc.com).

**Teen Movie Mania.** Watch a blockbuster hit on the library big screen. 1-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpi.org](http://elpi.org).

**Mobil Super: Go the Distance.** With an appearance by Dodgers legend Steve Garvey. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Meijer (East Lansing), 1350 W. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 349-2930.

## Thursday, August 14

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Family Storytime.** Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes

See Out on the Town, Page 34



## Feast meets fest

SATURDAY, AUG 16

As the Renegade Theatre Festival turns Old Town into a giant turntable of live theater this weekend, festivalgoers will need something to munch on. Anticipating all those empty bellies taking in shows, Old Town will hold its inaugural ART Feast event, featuring 23 local artists, three food trucks and a neighborhood sidewalk sale. The art fair takes place 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and the food slinging will go from 1-4 p.m. The participating food trucks will include Shimmy Shack from South Lyon (Michigan's first all-vegan food truck), Good Bites from Mason (featuring farm-to-table fare) and Wooden Spork from Brighton (with sandwiches, salads and taco plates).

Feeding off the energy of ART Feast, the Old Town General Store will hold its Off Center Art Festival. The festival will combine art, music and food tastings from noon-6 p.m.

"When we describe where we are located we always say off Center Street," said Old Town General Store owner Rhea Van Atta "And we are also a little off center as a store, so we thought the name fit well."

Van Atta said she found visitors to Old Town don't often cross the road to the stores off of Grand River Avenue. The festival attempts to take part in ART Feast and to draw people their way. The festival is an extension of Van Atta's vision for the store and courtyard.

"Most of the artists I am very familiar with — some are personal friends and

most have products in our store," Van Atta said. "We are going to have a nice variety of different art forms." Visitors will find stuffed animals, recycled jewelry glasswork and jewelry made of Petoskey stones. The store will also feature wine from WaterFire Vineyard in Torch Lake.

Artists and craftspeople scheduled to display include Jojo Beans Barn recycled pallet furniture, Kathy's Cracker Jack Pottery, Lou Ann's Altered



Attitude clothing, Nannie's Flip Top earrings and Rhea's Punky Plants. Tracy Wolford of Tracy's Sun Catchers and Jewelry will be at the festival selling Swarovski crystal and natural stone beaded jewelry and sun catchers. A regular at the store, she said the festival fits the store's personality.

"A lot of this side of Old Town gets forgotten," Wolford

said. "The store has such an eclectic mix. The off-center idea is so perfect for what this store is. It's a great draw to get people down to this end (of Old Town)."

Next door, Preuss Pets will hold its first-ever sidewalk sale, also in an effort to draw more people to the east side of Old Town.

"It's a special event and we are hoping people will go past Turner Street to see what else is down here," Van Atta said.

—ALEXA MCCARTHY



# TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

THE (HEAP ISSUE EDITION  
BY SARAH WINTERBOTTOM



WED. AUG  
13, 20 & 27

## MIGHTY MEDICINE PLAYS "MEET ME AT THE FOUNTAIN" SERIES

Reutter Park, 400 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. Noon. FREE. Wednesday, Aug. 13, 20 and 27

Mighty Medicine plays "Meet Me at the Fountain," a free lunchtime concert series at Reutter Park every Wednesday in August. Guitarist Larry Neuhardt, vocalist DeShaun Snead and percussionist/vocalist John Esser play a laidback mixture of blues, soul, reggae, jazz and classic rock. Mighty Medicine has a varied song list of about 200 covers and a catalog of originals. Since the summer of 2009, Mighty Medicine has played over 600 shows at different venues and festivals like the East Lansing Art Festival, the Lansing Jazz Festival and the Capital City Film Festival. The band has kept busy as full-time musicians with a schedule around the state, including Petoskey, Traverse City and Grand Rapids.

## FABULOUS OLDIES BUT GOODIES AT THE LAKE LANSING CONCERT SERIES



FRI. AUG  
15, 22 & 29

Lake Lansing Park, Band Shell concert stage, 7 p.m. FREE. Friday Aug. 15, 22, and 29

The '50s- and '60s-infused Fabulous Oldies But Goodies Band will play Friday at the Lake Lansing Concert Series. The band has opened the stage for acts like Chuck Berry, Dennis Yost and Bill Haley's Comets. Each summer, Lake Lansing Park hosts live bands each Friday at the Lake Lansing South band shell near Marsh Road. Guests can expect a summer night of music in the park along with free admission, free parking, and free moonwalk and giant slide for kids. Bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. Next week the blues band Blue Catz performs, with Party of Seven closing the series on Aug. 29.

## DON MIDDLEBROOK AT EASTWOOD TOWNE CENTER'S SUMMER MUSIC SERIES



TUE. AUG  
19TH

Eastwood Towne Center, 3003 Preyde Blvd., Lansing Township. 6 p.m. FREE, Tuesday, Aug. 19

Playing the final show of the Eastwood Towne Center's free Summer Music Series is Don Middlebrook. Rumored to have stolen Jimmy Buffett's TV Guide (which he wrote a song about), Middlebrook has been churning out tunes for over 13 years and gigs over 150 times each year. He has released eight albums and worked closely with Greg "Fingers" Taylor, Buffett's harmonica player. Middlebrook has had two songs in a Showtime original movie and his music is played on radio stations around Michigan. His island sound earned him the title "mid-Michigan's resident Beach Boy," but he also delivers some country/folk music. His latest album, "The Key West Connection," echoes the atmosphere of being at the beach — a suitable way to let summer drift to a close.

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## LIVE & LOCAL

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The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Joe Buck Yourself, 9 p.m.	Ghoulie, 9 p.m.	The Barnyard Stompers, 9 p.m.	Tease-a-gogo, 9 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Updraft, 9 p.m.		DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		Open Mic w/Pat Zelenka Project, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Ashly Chambers, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Blue Wednesday, 8 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke w/Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 8 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 8:30 p.m.	Mix Pack, 9 p.m.	Soulstice, 9 p.m.
Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.		Open Mic w/Hot Mess, 9 p.m.	Karaoke	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Way to Fall, 6 p.m.	
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Kings Foil, 6:30 p.m.	Soul Trial, 9 p.m.	U.S. Royalty, 7 p.m.	Horse the Band, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.		The MTVs, 10 p.m.	Those Delta Rhythm Kings, 9:30 p.m.	Big Boss Blues, 9:30 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Rd.	Kari Propst, 6/8 p.m.	Sean Bodell, 6/8 p.m.	Well Enough Alone, 6/8 p.m.	Rick Wood, 6/8 p.m.
Reno's West, 501 W. Saginaw Hwy.	XXX, 6/8 p.m.	Brent Burns, 6/8 p.m.	New Rule, 6/8 p.m.	Rachel & Alex, 6/8 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.	Scott Martinz, 8 p.m.		
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.			
Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Jr.		Prozak, 8 p.m.	After the Minor, 8 p.m.	Emperors and Elephants, 8 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Rif Raf, 8:30 p.m.	Full House, 8:30 p.m.
Watershed Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr.	Suzi & the Love Bros., 6 p.m.	Jen Sygit, 6 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	From Big Sur, 6 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Jon Pardi, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 7 p.m.

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**WHAT TO DO:** 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 32

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. 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, triplegoddessesbookstore.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.

**Ojibwe/Anishinaabemowin Class.** Teaching the language of the first people from this region. 7-9 p.m. Donation. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777, nokomis.org.

**Craft Night Social.** Creating quill boxes, making

dance shawls and teaching the peyote stitch. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777, nokomis.org.

**Sign Language Classes.** For ages 12 and up. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Christian Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 492-6149.

**Basics of Microsoft Word.** Beginners class. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4394, iteclansing.org.

**Current Events.** Coffee and discussion. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

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

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

## EVENTS

**Moonlight Film Festival.** "Sleepless In Seattle" (PG). Music: Swift Brothers. 9 p.m. FREE. Valley

Court Park, 400 Hillside Ct., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

**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, elpl.org.

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

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

**YPAAL Happy Hour** Meet and network with other local professionals. 5:30-7 p.m. FREE. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (614) 266-0852.

**Dimondale Farmers Market.** Live music, locally grown produce. 3-7 p.m. FREE. Bridge Street, Dimondale. (517) 646-0230, villageofdimondale.org.

**On the Storm Front.** Former WLNS meteorologist Rob Dale visits. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtdl.org.

**2014 Gold Medal Wine Reception.** Taste the breadth of quality of Michigan's wine. 5-8 p.m. \$40-\$45. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. michiganwines.com/events.

**Student Organic Farm Farmstand.** Featuring local organic food. 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MSU Erickson Hall, 620 Farm Lane, East Lansing. (517) 230-7987, msuorganicfarm.com.

**Pizza Party on Capitol Lawn.** To benefit MET's Charitable Tuition Program. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$5. Capitol Building, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 1-800-MET-4-KID, setwithmet.com.

## 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.

**[REVOLUTION] at Tavern.** Electronic music, 21-up. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-5555.

**Open Mic Night with Hot Mess.** All acts and musicians are welcome. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-4714, facebook.com/gusbuster11.

**Open Jam at the Colonial.** All talents welcome. \$8 sizzler steak special. 8 p.m. FREE. Colonial Bar and Grill, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd. Lansing. (517) 882-6132, colonialbarandgrille.com.

## THEATER

**"The Big Bang."** Musical comedy depicts history of the universe. 8 p.m. \$20. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**"Married Alive!"** Musical comedy about marriage.

8 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors. Ledges Playhouse, 137 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. (517) 318-0579, overtheledge.org.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Writers Roundtable.** Get feedback on your writing. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014. dtdl.org.

**Nonfiction Book Club.** Discuss "Girls of Atomic City" by Denise Kiernan. 11 a.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

## Friday, August 15 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

## EVENTS

**Drive-In Movie.** Golf and drive-in movie. 5:30 p.m. \$6 for golf. Groesbeck Golf Course, 1600 Ormond St., Lansing. (517) 483-4277.

**Lansing Bike Party.** Bike ride with TGIF stop. 5:45 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU campus, East Lansing. facebook.com/groups/lansingbikeparty.

**Moonlight Bootlegger.** Live music and spirits. 8 p.m. \$25-\$45. Ionia Free Fair Association, 317 S. Dexter St., Ionia. bootlegger5k.com/ionia-county2014.

**Old Town Farmers Market.** Featuring local foods and products. 3-7 p.m. Corner of Turner Street and Grand River Avenue, Lansing. (517) 485-4283.

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

## MUSIC

**Matt LoRusso Trio.** Jazz. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 111 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

**Karaoke Night.** Food, drink specials and vocalists. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-4714, facebook.com/gusbuster11.

**U.S. Royalty.** Live performance. 7 p.m. \$10. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. ow.ly/Ac3Kc.

**Way To Fall.** Live performance. 6 p.m. \$7. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/Ac917.

See Out on the Town, Page 35

## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Any Questions?"-- save them until the end.  
Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 Android download
- 4 "Letters from Iwo \_\_\_\_"
- 8 "Dancing Queen" grou
- 12 December danger
- 13 Ivy League sch.
- 15 Scanned pic
- 17 2013 single from DJ Snake and Lil Jon
- 20 Nod in unison
- 21 European high points
- 22 Gardner of "The Night of the Iguana"
- 23 Garden gastropod
- 26 Cleans (up)
- 28 Home to Missoula and Bozeman
- 31 Rolled pair
- 32 Ending after Japan or Taiwan
- 33 Long, long ago
- 38 Baseball family surname
- 40 "Neither snow \_\_\_\_ rain..."
- 41 It's a bit of a stretch
- 42 Norah Jones ballad
- 47 Jack-in-the-box sound
- 48 Brand that ran "short shorts" ads
- 49 "Let me clean up first..."
- 51 Speed's mysterious nemesis, in cartoons
- 54 Taboo act
- 55 \_\_\_\_ king
- 56 Best-of-the-best
- 59 They're all tied up
- 63 Dr. Seuss book made into a 2008 movie
- 67 Be stealthy



- 68 Alpaca relative
- 69 \_\_\_\_ Zeppelin
- 70 Literary Jane
- 71 "Good Will Hunting" director Gus Van \_\_\_\_
- 72 Shark's home

### Down

- 1 Aqua Velva alternative
- 2 Electrical cord's end
- 3 Sound from a happy cat
- 4 He plays Dr. John Watson
- 5 Stock market debut, briefly
- 6 Sound from a happy kitten
- 7 Oscar winner Paquin
- 8 Highly nauseous?
- 9 Company based in Munich
- 10 "One planet" religion

- 11 Plant used to make tequila
- 14 Lombardi Trophy awardee
- 16 HHH, in Athens
- 18 Fit one inside another
- 19 Vision-related
- 24 A as in Argentina
- 25 "I Will Survive" singer Gloria
- 27 Like lawns in the morning
- 28 Trapper Keeper maker
- 29 City bidding for the 2022 Winter Olympics
- 30 "Animal" band \_\_\_\_ Trees
- 31 Galapagos Islands visitor
- 34 Greet the queen
- 35 Obama 2008 campaign word
- 36 Me-generation
- concerns
- 37 Grabs some shuteye
- 39 "\_\_\_\_ Reader" (alternative digest)
- 43 Drunk singing, often
- 44 He claimed not to be a crook
- 45 Abbr. in an employee benefits handbook
- 46 Tugs on
- 50 \_\_\_\_ Lisa
- 51 Arena shouts
- 52 Lacking a partner
- 53 Barker's successor
- 57 Maple Leafs, Bruins, et al.
- 58 Squiggly critters
- 60 Night fliers
- 61 "... I \_\_\_\_ wed"
- 62 Fizzy drink
- 64 Paving material
- 65 A step below the Majors
- 66 44-Down's initials

## SUDOKU

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

## 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 37



## RED FOX COMICS

Alexa McCarthy/City Pulse  
Red Fox  
Comics  
opened last  
week on  
Lansing's west  
side.



## By ALLAN I. ROSS

When the company that Daniel Rust worked for relocated his insurance claims position to Wisconsin, he opted not to make the move. Instead, he followed a lifelong dream — heck, the lifelong dream of millions of kids.

"As long as I can remember, I've always wanted to have my own comic book store," Rust said. "It took long enough, but it's a reality now."

His store, **Red Fox Comics**, opened last week (the name being an in-joke with his wife referring to a gag on "Trigger Happy TV," a British "Candid Camera"-style show). It

anchors the west end of the local comic book store scene; it joins **Hollow Mountain Comics** in East Lansing and **Clem's Comics**, **Stephen's Way** and **Fun 4 All** in Lansing.

Rust, 39, has no employees, but said he will be hiring as the business grows.

Rust doesn't fit the "Comic Book Guy" stereotype —

he's not condescending to neophytes, and no, he doesn't have a basement full of boxes of comic books.

"I had to sell most of my stuff in my earlier years, so my personal collection only goes back to mid-'90s," he said. "I kind of got out of it, but when I started going to Comic Cons in recent years, it reignited an old flame."

The 1,400-square-foot store is on Lansing's west side, just west of the Lansing Mall. Red Fox Comics will start with all new releases, but Rust said as time goes on, he hopes to supplement his stock with older books. His store also specializes in an array of comics-related merchandise, as well as paperbacks and graphic novels.

"(Comics) used to be only for the nerdy guys like myself, but now they're chic because of the movies," Rust said. "If you're a fan of the movie, you're a fan of the character. I doubt if most girls would know about Green Arrow if not for the 'Arrow' TV show, but they wear shirts with him on it. (This business) is more than just about comics."

He's not going to be

stocking any gaming materials, and hasn't started carrying busts or figurines (yet). He said his personal favorite is Aquaman, but that a lot of people have an inherent misconception about what the comics world encompasses.

"Comic books aren't just cloaks and capes," he said. "A lot of people don't realize that 'Walking Dead' is a graphic novel. The popularity of (comics) is just so huge right now."

But he has mixed emotions about the industry he loves going mainstream.

"When you used to go to a Comic Con, you used to be able to just show up and walk right in," he said. "Now you're waiting three-and-a-half hours to get in."

It's a good problem to have.

**Red Fox Comics**

723 Brookside Drive, Lansing  
Noon-8 p.m. Monday-Friday;  
10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday; noon-  
5 p.m. Sunday  
(517) 574-4974, redfoxcomics.  
co, facebook.com/  
redfoxcomics

**Tai Chi in the Park.** For beginning and experienced tai chi practitioners. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

**Upa Yoga.** Beginner class. Sign up at isha.barb@gmail.com. 2-4 p.m. FREE. LotusVoice Integrative Therapies, 4994 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 897-0714, lotusvoice48823.com.

**Near Death of Howard Storm.** 7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. pilgrimucc.com.

**Tease-A-Gogo: Trailer Trash.** Burlesque, drag, costume contest, dunk tank and more. 9 p.m. \$10. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. teaseagogo.com.

## EVENTS

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

**Stewardship Morning.** Volunteers help restore habitat; care for the park. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

**Habitat's Bike to Build.** Bike ride benefiting Habitat for Humanity. 8-10 a.m. \$35. Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 374-1313, active.com.

**Grand Art Market.** A day of art and music. 9-5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com/events.

**All-Class Eastern High Reunion.** Bring a dish. Hot dogs provided. 1 p.m. Eastern High School, 220 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 755-1050, lansingschools.net.

**St Casimir Corn Roast 2014.** Three days of food and music. 5 p.m.-midnight, FREE. St. Casimir Catholic Church, 800 W. Barnes Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-1346, stcas.org.

**Tee Off for Charity: GolfFest.** To raise money for Meridian Township residents. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5. Meridian Sun Golf Course, 1018 Haslett Road, Haslett.

**Mason Aviation Day.** Food, airplane rides and aviation exhibits. 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Mason Jewett Airport, 655 Aviation Drive, Mason. (517) 589-5051, eaa55.org.

**Bike to Build Fundraiser.** To benefit lower income families of Greater Lansing. 8-10 a.m. \$35. Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Rd., DeWitt. (517) 227-1771 ext. 4, habitatlansing.org.

## MUSIC

**Matt LoRusso Trio.** Jazz. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 111 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

**Horse the Band.** With special guest Math the Band. 7 p.m. \$12. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. ow.ly/Accif.

## THEATER

**"The Big Bang."** For details see Aug 14. 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$22 matinee/\$25 evening. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**"Baby Bear and the Big Bad Wolf."** For details see Aug 15. 7 p.m. \$7/\$5 ages 12 and under. Eaton Rapids Public School, 912 Greyhound Drive, Eaton Rapids. (517) 339-2145, ow.ly/Ac9MI.

**"Married Alive!"** For details, see Aug. 14. 8 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors. Ledges Playhouse, 137 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. (517) 318-0579, overtheledge.org.

## Sunday, August 17

## CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation and Silent Prayer.** 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201, selfrealizationcentremichigan.org

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

**Charlotte Yoga Club.** Practicing Vinyasa Yoga. For beginners to intermediate. 3:30 p.m. \$5 annual membership. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. (517) 285-0138, charlotteyoga.net.

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

## EVENTS

**Great Lakes Feis.** Traditional Irish dance music and art competition. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. \$7/free for 16 and under. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. greatlakesfeis.org.

**Swing & Light Variety Dance.** Hosted by Lansing

Eagles. 5-9 p.m. \$8. Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838. (517) 490-7838.

## THEATER

**"The Big Bang."** For details see Aug 14. 2 p.m. \$22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

**"Married Alive!"** For details, see Aug. 14. 8 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors. Ledges Playhouse, 137 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. (517) 318-0579, overtheledge.org.

## Monday, August 18

## CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Adult Rape Survivor Support Group.**

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

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

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

**5 Elements Qigong Class.** Exercises to condition the body and quiet the mind. 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$10. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

**Sleep Deprived and Alive.** Learn how to sleep better with nutrition. 6:15 p.m. FREE. Russell-Daigneault Family Chiropractic, 537 N. Clippert St., Lansing. (517) 203-2090, achiro.net.

## EVENTS

**Ancestry Club.** Learn & share genealogy tips. Call to register. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtdl.org.

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

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

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

**Saints, Sinners & Cynics.** Lively conversation, variety of topics, no judgment. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Coral Gables, 2838 E. Grand River Ave., East

See Out on the Town, Page 36

## Out on the town

from page 34

## THEATER

**"Baby Bear and the Big Bad Wolf."** A twist on fairy tales. 7 p.m. \$7/\$5 ages 12 and under. Eaton Rapids Public School, 912 Greyhound Drive, Eaton Rapids. (517) 339-2145, ow.ly/Ac9MI.

**"Married Alive!"** For details, see Aug. 14. 8 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors. Ledges Playhouse, 137 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. (517) 318-0579, overtheledge.org.

**"The Big Bang."** For details, see Aug 14. 8 p.m. \$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

## Saturday, August 16

## 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.

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# Ingham County Animal Shelter

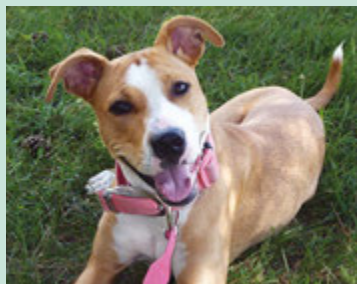
To adopt one of these pets from the ICAS call (517) 676-8370. 600 Curtis St., Mason, MI 48854. ac.ingham.org



## Whiskers

Whiskers is an older girl who is looking for a sunshiny spot to relax in the sun.

In Memory of Whitey



## Noodle

Noodle is a unique girl! She loves playing and has quite a bit of energy. She will need an experienced owner.

Sponsored by: Linn & Owen Jewelers  
517-482-0054



## Duckie

Duckie is the sweetest pit! She is very calm & docile. She loves to waddle around on a walk and will do anything for a cookie/kiss.

Sponsored by: Dale & Matt Schrader

## Sponsor a pet on the next Adoption Page for only \$35

\$6 goes to the shelter.

To sponsor, call by Nov 3: 999-5061 Now!!

Adopt a pet on this page & Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate.

Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt



## Opal

Opal is a younger, smaller cat. She is a nice, friendly girl, but she is not fond of dogs.



### STORE HOURS

Mon 9am - 9pm  
Tue 9am - 9pm  
Wed 9am - 9pm  
Thu 9am - 9pm  
Fri 9am - 9pm  
Sat 9am - 9pm  
Sun 9am - 8pm

2655 East Grand River  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(517) 324-9010



## Charlotte

Charlotte is a sweet little girl. She bonds quickly especially if you have a few cookies to share!



**Okemos**  
1802 W. Grand River  
517.349.8435  
**Dewitt**  
12286 U.S. 127  
517.669.8824  
**Lansing**  
5200 S. MLK  
517.882.1611  
5206 W. Saginaw Hwy.  
517.323.6920  
**Charlotte**  
515 Lansing Road  
517.541.1700

## Out on the town

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Lansing. (517) 882-9733, saintmichaellansing.org.

**Ballet StoryTime.** Learn simple ballet moves. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Peace & Justice Planning.** Greater Lansing Network Against War and Injustice. 7 p.m. FREE. donations welcome. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 410-1243.

**Project 60/50 Film Series.** Watch "Fruitvale Station." Panel discussion to follow. 6:30-9 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Out of This World Book Club.** "Parasite" by Mira Grant. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

### MUSIC

**Open Jam at (SCENE) Metrospace.** All talents and styles welcome. 7 p.m. \$3. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832, facebook.com/scenemetrospace.

### Tuesday, August 19

#### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

(517) 381-4866.

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

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

**Using Gmail.** Beginners class. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4394, iteclansing.org.

**Starting a Business.** Costs, planning and more. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, Suite 110, 309 N. Washinton Square, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

**HERO: Life after foreclosure.** Call to register or email bruce@glhc.org. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St. Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.

**Reflexology.** Stress relief. Call for an appointment. 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$15 per 15 minutes. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

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

**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.

### EVENTS

**DTDL Crafters.** Work on your handcraft project.

See Out on the Town, Page 37

### THURSDAY, AUG. 14 >> PIZZA PARTY AT THE CAPITOL

A minimum donation of \$5 will get you a slice of pizza, a beverage and an ice cream at the third annual pizza party on the Capitol's lawn. Hosted by the Michigan Education Trust and sponsored by Hungry Howie's, the donations will benefit foster youth getting into colleges. The luncheon takes place from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; donations from debit and credit cards can also be made online at michigan.gov/setwithmet.

### FRIDAY, AUG. 15 >> MOONLIGHT BOOTLEGGER 5K

Run from the imaginary feds over the hill and through the woods toward the finish line. Celebrate the end of the race the way our bootlegging predecessors would have celebrated the end of Prohibition: with booze, music and dancing. If only there was a speakeasy rest area loaded with cigar smoke, the illusion would be complete. 6:30-10:45 p.m. \$28-\$45. Ionia Recreation Area, 2738 W. Riverside Drive, Saranac. More information at bootlegger5k.com.

### MONDAY, AUG. 18 >> OPEN JAM AT (SCENE) METROSPACE

Pat Zelenka leads an open jam — bring your instruments and play music with other musicians and anyone else interested in performing. 6-10 p.m. FREE. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

### WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20 >> ROCKING ON THE RIVER

Drop your anchor and belly up to the bar on the Michigan Princess as the band Charley Horse rocks Grand River Park on Lansing's southwest side. Proceeds from food and drink sales go to Lansing's Park and Recreation Youth Scholarship Fund. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Grand River Park at 3205 Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 483-4277, lansing.org.



# Out on the town

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2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtdl.org.

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

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

## THEATER

**"Snow Queen" Auditions.** Production fee if cast. 6:45 p.m. Schmidt Community Center, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 339-2145, freewebs.com/midmichfamilytheatre.

## Wednesday, August 20

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**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.

**Community Conversation.** Beauty and variety of Michigan geology. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

**Sex Work and the Law.** Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, pilgrimucc.com.

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

## EVENTS

**DTDL Book Club.** Carol Rifka Brunt's "Tell the Wolves I'm Home." 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4, dtdl.org.

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

**Allen Street Farmers Market.** Featuring locally grown/prepared foods. Live music. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

**Capital Area Crisis Men's Rugby Practice.**

Weather permitting. All experience levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2151 W. Hillsdale St., Lansing. crisisrfc.com.

**Summer Baby Time.** Intended for ages 0-2 yrs. with adult. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Welcome Kindergarten.** Story time for kids entering kindergarten. 2-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org/register.

**Teen Crafternoon: Tie Dye.** You supply the shirt, we supply the dye. 1-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

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

## MUSIC

**Secret Grief.** Live performance. 7 p.m. \$8. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, ow.ly/Acmk0.

**IM5.** With guests the House on the Cliff. 6 p.m. \$15. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. fusionshows.com.

**Rockin' on the River.** Rock music by Charley Horse. 7-9 p.m. Grand River Park, 3001 Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 483-4277, lansingmi.gov/parks.

## THEATER

**"Snow Queen" Auditions.** Production fee if cast. 6:45 p.m. Schmidt Community Center, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 339-2145, freewebs.com/midmichfamilytheatre.

## City Pulse Classifieds

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(517) 999-5066 or adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com

**Meridian Mall** Arts, crafts, antiques, collectibles & home-business shows. Oct. 17-19, 31-Nov. 2, Nov. 14-16. Space limited. For info, visit smetankacraftshows.com or call (810) 658-0440 or 658-8080.

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## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 34

A	P	P	J	I	M	A	A	B	B	A				
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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 34

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## Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezсны

August 13-19

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Researchers in Peru have recently tracked down many previously unknown varieties of wild cacao plants. What that means is that there are exotic kinds of chocolate that you and I have never dreamed of, and they will be commercially available within a few years. As delicious as your Chocolve XOXOX Extra Strong Dark candy bar may taste to you now, you will eventually journey further into a new frontier of ecstatic delectability. I propose that we use this theme as a metaphor for the work you have ahead of you right now. It is time for you to make good things even better -- to take fun diversions and transform them into experiences that engender transcendent bliss. Turn "yes" into "YESSSS!!!!"

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): At your next meal, imagine that the food you are eating is filled with special nutrients that enhance your courage. During the meal after that, fantasize that you are ingesting ingredients that will boost your perceptiveness. The next time you snack, visualize your food as being infused with elements that will augment the amount of trust you have in yourself. Then you will be ready to carry out your assignment for the coming weeks: Use your imagination to pump up your courage and perceptiveness as you carry out smart adventures that you haven't trusted yourself enough to try before now.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): The leaves and berries of the deadly nightshade plant are highly poisonous. If ingested, they cause delirium and death. On the other hand, a drug obtained from the same plant is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines. It's helpful in treating many illnesses, from gastrointestinal and heart problems to Parkinson's. Is there a metaphorical equivalent in your life, Gemini? An influence that can either be sickening or healing, depending on various factors? I suspect that now is one of those times when you should be very focused on ensuring that the healing effect predominates.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): A New York doctor offers a service he calls Pokertox. Jack Berdy injects Botox into poker players' faces so as to make their expressions hard to read. With their facial muscles paralyzed, they are in no danger of betraying subtle emotional signals that might help their opponents guess their strategy. I understand there might sometimes be value in adopting a poker face when you are in the midst of trying to win at poker or other games. But for the foreseeable future, Cancerian, I recommend the opposite approach. You're most likely to be successful if you reveal everything you're feeling. Let your face and eyes be as eloquent as they can be.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): When we are launching any big project, our minds hide from us the full truth about how difficult it will be. If we knew beforehand all of the tests we would eventually face, we might never attempt it. Economist Albert O. Hirschman called this the principle of the "hiding hand." It frees us to dive innocently into challenging work that will probably take longer than we thought and compel us to access new resources and creativity. To be clear: What's hidden from us are not only the obstacles but also the unexpected assistance we will get along the way.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The literal meaning of the Swedish word *smultronställe* is "wild strawberry patch." Metaphorically, it refers to a special place that feels like your private sanctuary. It may be hard-to-find or unappreciated by others, but for you it's a spot that inspires you to relax deeply. You might have had a life-changing epiphany there. When you're in this refuge, you have a taste of what it's like to feel at home in the world. Do you have a *smultronställe*, Virgo? If not, it's time to find one. If you already do, spend extra time there in the coming week.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If I'm reading the astrological omens correctly, the bells are about to ring for you.

The festive lights will flash. The celebratory anthems will throb. It's like you're going to win a fortune on a TV quiz show; like you will get an A+ on your final exam; like you'll be picked as homecoming king or queen. But it's possible I'm a bit off in my projections, and your success will be subtler than I anticipate. Maybe, in fact, you are about to accomplish the Healing of the Year, or discover the Secret of the Decade, or enjoy the Most Meaningful Orgasm of the Century.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A teenage Pakistani boy decided he wanted to help his country's government clean up the local Internet. Ghazi Muhammad Abdullah gathered a list of over 780,000 porn sites and sent it to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority. Big job! Hard work! I would love to see you summon similar levels of passion and diligence as you work in behalf of your favorite cause, Scorpio. The coming weeks will be prime time for you to get very excited about the changes you would like to help create in the world.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Working as a journalist for the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Simon Eroro wanted to interview a group of indigenous rebels in a remote jungle. He decided he was willing to do whatever was necessary to get the big scoop. After making a difficult journey through rough terrain to reach them, he was told he would be given the information that he sought on one condition: that he be circumcised with bamboo sticks as part of a cleansing ritual. Eroro agreed to the procedure, got the story, and ultimately won a prize for his report. I don't recommend that you go quite that far in pursuit of your current goal, Sagittarius. On the other hand, it might be wise for you to consider making a sacrifice.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): *Kintsukuroi* is a Japanese word that literally means "golden repair." It refers to the practice of fixing cracked pottery with lacquer that's blended with actual gold or silver. Metaphorically, it suggests that something may become more beautiful and valuable after being broken. The wounds and the healing of the wounds are integral parts of the story, not shameful distortions to be disguised or hidden. Does any of that resonate with you about your current experience, Capricorn? I'm guessing it does. Let's call this the *kintsukuroi* phase of your cycle.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Near the end of his career, the painter Henri Matisse created a paper-cut composition he called *Le Bateau*, or *The Boat*. It is an abstract piece that does not depict a literal boat. That's why the Museum of Modern Art in New York should perhaps be forgiven for mistakenly hanging it upside-down back in 1961, upon first acquiring the piece. Fortunately, after a month and a half, a knowledgeable person noticed, and the position of *Le Bateau* was corrected. I'm wondering if there's a comparable phenomenon going on with you right now, Aquarius? Is it possible that a part of your life got inverted or transposed? If so, will you be sharp enough to see the goof and brave enough to fix it? I hope you won't allow this error to persist.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): "I owe my success to having listened respectfully to the very best advice," said British author G. K. Chesterton, "and then going away and doing the exact opposite." I'm going to endorse that approach for you, Pisces. In my astrological opinion, I don't think anyone can possibly give you accurate counsel in the coming weeks. Your circumstances are too unique and your dilemmas are too idiosyncratic for even the experts to understand, let alone the people who care for you and think they own a piece of you. I do suspect it might be useful for you to hear what everyone has to say about your situation, though. Seeing their mistaken or uninformed perspectives should help you get clarity about what's right.





# HE ATE

# SHE ATE



## East Lansing gets lucky with Black Cat Bistro

### Looks great, tastes better

By **MARK NIXON**

Memo to the owners of Black Cat Bistro:

Check to see who prepared the food at about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 22. Specifically, who prepared the asparagus tartar, the peanut crusted goat cheese fritters, the Albert Ave. street corn and the avocado crabwich. Seek them out. Praise them. Shake their hands and ask them to recreate these dishes every day, right to the very last drop of balsamic reduction.

Yes, it was that good. And totally unexpected, given our first, so-so experience with this new bistro in downtown East Lansing.

But let's not spoil the mood. Let's first delve into what Black Cat does right. Our college-bound granddaughter oohed and aahed over the wrought-iron ceiling lights, the backlit bar and especially the glassware etched with sleek silhouettes of black cats.

"It's like cool people hang out here," she said.

To which Grandpa silently replied: "Yeah, whatever — where's the food?"

When the appetizers arrived, it was my turn to ooh and aah. I had the Albert Ave. street corn (\$6) — chunks of corn on the cob rolled in a spiced-up queso fresco and a little lime aioli. The only way it could be better is with local, height-of-season sweet corn.

My wife ordered the goat cheese fritters (\$9), served with caramelized onions and saffron honey. This had at least three of the elemental tastes — sweet, bitter and salty — plus crunch and silken creaminess thrown in for good measure.

Our granddaughter had the asparagus tartar (\$8), and this one took the prize. It's a wheel of blanched, finely chopped asparagus, topped with a same-sized wheel of tomato concassé (finely chopped, seeded tomatoes).

The dish is eye candy and tastes better than it looks, thanks to minced garlic mixed into the asparagus and a balsamic reduction drizzled on the plate. This is a perfect summer dish.

For the main course, I had the avocado crabwich (\$12). Now, there are many crab cakes out there, and many are bad. The problem is usually too much filler — usually flour — that masks the crab's natural sweetness. At Black Cat, the jumbo crabmeat is front and center. True, less filler means the crab cake may crumble if you look at it wrong. No matter. The crab is the star, even slightly ruffled and torn. It's even more stellar with mango, arugula and roasted garlic aioli, as it's served here.

But there is room for improvement. The steamed mussels (\$16) were overcooked and thus tough. Mixing in bits of chorizo robbed the mussels of what flavor remained after overcooking.

See He Ate, Page 39

### Perfection on a plate

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

First, the bad: The website looks like it's only half-developed and doesn't list prices. You've got to pay for parking in downtown East Lansing. And it's pricy — I'm not made of money, a fact I frequently lament. The good: Everything else. Everything we had there during two separate meals was fresh, innovative and worth eating again.

My boyfriend and I met for lunch and decided to sit outside and enjoy the nearby courtyard. Crazed with hunger, the moment we sat down I ordered an appetizer I remembered seeing on the website, asparagus tartar (\$8). I didn't know what it was, but I knew that asparagus was a safe bet for both of us. Our bet paid off handsomely when we were presented with chopped asparagus topped with chopped tomato formed into a mound, surrounded by crisp slices of crostini and drizzled with balsamic vinegar. The tartar was cool, refreshing, flavorful, and the moment the

crostini ran out the waitress offered more.

He ordered the Cajun-spiced chicken club sandwich special (\$9), which came with fries. I ordered the lobster roll (\$15), which also came with fries. His only beef (er, chicken?) with the sandwich was that it was cheeseless. A well-spiced, oversized chicken breast was topped with two thick slices of bacon, crisp Romaine lettuce, and mayonnaise. (He asked them to hold the tomato.) The fries were fantastic. We hadn't read the description carefully and were surprised to see a mix of sweet potato and Idaho potatoes, obviously made in-house, thickly sliced, perfectly salted, hot and fresh.

My lobster roll was out of this world. Slightly spicy, smoky lobster was mixed into a salad, topped with peppery arugula, slices of tomato and a spicy aioli on lightly grilled ciabatta bread. Yes, the sandwich was \$15. Worth it. This was one of the best sandwiches I've had lately.

We went back for dinner the next week and continued to explore the menu. We started with the chicken lollipops (\$9), four chicken drumsticks on a thick slab of cornbread with honey and jalapeño sauce. This cornbread was exceptional, which is a rare find and something I didn't know I was missing until I found it. I'd love to see the fabulous cornbread featured in more dishes, or just brought to the tables in a basket. I know I personally would shovel an entire basket in my face any old day.

My boyfriend ordered the avocado crabwich (\$12), an extra-large crab cake set on thick mango slices that was topped with arugula, tomato, avocado, and a mild roasted garlic aioli. The ingredients

See She Ate, Page 39



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# He Ate

from page 38

I ordered that night's drink special, white sangria (\$6). To paraphrase Gertrude Stein, "There was no there, there." If there was anything remotely like wine and fruit in this drink, I couldn't detect it. I was about to send it back, but my wife said she'd drink it. "Not bad," she pronounced. (This from the woman who once ate a plate of rotten shark in Iceland and declared it to be "not bad.")

Now, roll back the calendar 10 days to Black Cat's Sunday brunch. If the weather is right, ask for a table on the patio. It's good for people watching. Abutting the patio is a small fountain tucked into a "vest pocket" park, which offers a dose of tranquility in an urban setting.

We began with Bloody Marys (\$6). Mine, the Classic, was more cookie-cutter than classic. She had a Spartan Mary, made with cucumbers and tomatillos. Well, they got

the color sort of right — Spartan-ish green. It was like a rough-cut smoothie with a modest vodka kick. This Sparty-inspired drink draws a personal foul and should be suspended for unspecified team violations.

Ditto the Mexican Migas (\$10). In theory, this was preordained to be a hot dish. My first bite informed me the Migas was likely heated by walking it through a warm room. There were tortilla chips tossed with eggs, jalapeños and onion, avocados and cilantro crème fraîche. Only the crème fraîche stood out.

On a sunnier note, the shaved asparagus and arugula salad (\$10) was masterful. Tossed with bacon, red onions, Parmesan cheese and red wine vinaigrette, this could be an entire meal if the portion were a bit bigger.

Black Cat Bistro is practically brand new, so missteps and misbegotten attempts are to be expected. The good news is, they are getting more things right than wrong. I give Black Cat a full-throated Arnold Schwarzenegger-ish "I'll be back!"

# She Ate

from page 38

were fresh, the mango was an interesting play on the traditional flavors of crab cakes, but the sandwich needed a little texture. I marveled at the bright colors on his plate before I became preoccupied by my own meal, which again stole the show and had me congratulating myself for being an entrée-ordering genius.

The steamed mussels and frites (\$16) looks impressive before you even have your first whiff of garlic or your first slurp of chorizo-laced broth. Again, worth it. Mussels were heaped into a deep dish and bathing in a spicy, smoky broth with red onion, garlic, and chunks of chorizo. Thick slices of char-grilled baguette were perfect to soak up the juice when I took a break from scooping the mussels out of their shells and encouraging the boyfriend to stick his nose into the broth and take a whiff, because I am just that kind of annoying eater. The same sweet and salty

fries as last time perfectly complemented the shellfish.

We asked the waitress for more bread. She quickly brought more and didn't charge extra. She also didn't charge us for my club soda, which means that she forever has my heart and must understand the complete idiocy of charging upwards of \$2 for a glass of bubbly water.

Her dessert recommendation, roasted pineapple rum cheesecake (\$5), was a perfect ending to a meal that had already blown me away. Roasted, almost caramelized pineapple topped a thick, round cheesecake, a perfect portion size for two (or for me alone, but only if nobody will ever know). The creamy, luxurious cheesecake and made me want to lie my weary head down on a pillow made of the filling. The boyfriend kept swooping in for dollops of the vanilla custard dotting the plate.


The only other bad thing I've got is that we haven't been able to stop in yet for Sunday brunch — cornbread cakes are on the menu.

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