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a newspaper for the rest of us

www.lansingcitypulse.com

January 15-21, 2014

FREE

YOU NEED A LAUGH,
LANSING
see page 9



124 W. MICHIGAN



Justin Bilicki 2014



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Early skepticism from East Lansing City Council members on Trowbridge plans



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Tom Wopat talks jazz, Tarantino and "Dukes of Hazzard" in HD



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Riverwalk's courtroom drama "Twelve Angry Men" cuts like a dagger

RATHBUN
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The Affordable Care Act Health Exchange is Open
Rathbun Insurance is available to help with information and enrollment assistance.
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Drop by the **Michigan Historical Center** on **Jan. 25** to celebrate **Statehood Day** honoring Michigan's role in World War II and **Michigan's 177th birthday!**
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
FREE admission!
Courtesy Jackson National Life

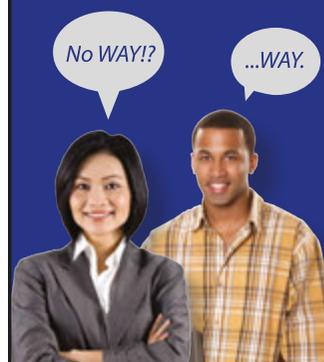
Veterans sharing their memories of the war
Hands-on activities for all ages and rare statehood documents on display.
Also, visit our new exhibit "Lake Effects"

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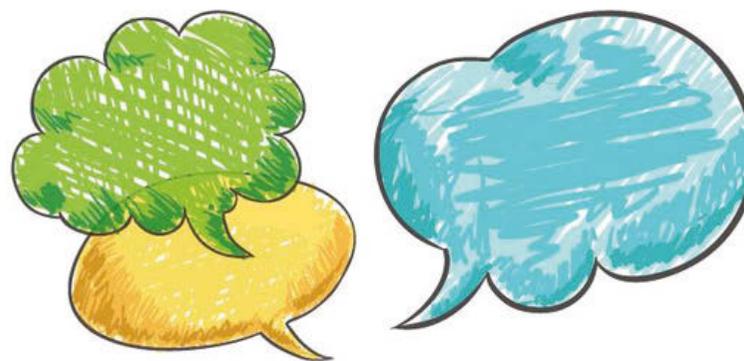
Are you in jeopardy of losing your home?

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing wants you to know there may be help.

Go to www.HoldOnToYourHome.org to see a property tax foreclosure listing. If you or someone you know is on that list, the Ingham County Treasurer's office can direct you to resources that could help.

HOLD ON TO YOUR HOME
HOLDONTOYOURHOME.ORG

517-676-7220



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JANUARY 18, 2014

SHOW STARTS AT 7:30PM DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM
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www.LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

Feedback

My BWL experience

Like one of thousands of mid-Michigan residents, I lost my power (along with my entire subdivision) around 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec 21. By Sunday afternoon, a large tree limb fell in my backyard and ripped the wires completely off my house. Fast forward to Christmas Eve, day No. 5 with no power, and all I've succeeded in doing is contacting BWL to report the downed wire. Fortunately that evening we were able to procure a generator, so at least we could run our heat. However, by this point my sump pump had flooded for about three days. Seven-hundred square feet of brand new berber carpet in my finished basement is now beginning to mold and stink like you can imagine. On day No. 7, BWL shows up to wrap "high voltage tape" around my backyard, and tells me they "aren't sure" when they will be back to fix the wires, as it was their part damaged and fortunately not my responsibility to fix. Day No. 9 the smell and mold in my downstairs has exceeded the point of tolerance. I called my insurance company, filed a claim, but was told no restoration

company could begin to start cleaning it up until I had electricity restored. Well guess what! BWL STILL could not tell me when they would be able to fix my house. I paid \$300 for an electrician to do what they would not. Overall, I commend the linemen and the actual workers who worked their tails off to do as much as they could, but am I a satisfied customer? Absolutely not. And no \$25 potential credit will undo the almost \$1,000 and counting I have spent for my insurance deductible and electrician hiring. LAME! Happy New Year City Pulse.

P S . . . B r i n g back the Advice Goddess!

— Sarah McGee
Lansing

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

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor:
• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
• Snail mail: City Pulse, 2001 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
• Fax: (517) 371-5800
- 2.) Write a guest column:
Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 371-5600 ext. 10

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

CityPULSE

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BWL Watch: Did the Board find all of the available linemen to help with restoration?



PAGE 14

Ambient musician gets atmospheric at MSU's Abrams Planetarium



PAGE 22

He Ate, She Ate: Huapei Restaurant's Chinese menu a delight



COVER ART

ONE ON THE ICE, ONE ON A BANANA PEEL by JUSTIN BILICKI
CITY PULSE



THIS WEEK

- Actor, singer Tom Wopat
- John Boyle, ambient musician
- Kathy Hollister, Capital Area Health Alliance outreach manager
- Lansing City Councilwoman Carol Wood
- Dennis Louney, vice chairman, Lansing Board of Water and Light Board of Commissioners



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF MEETING SCHEDULES OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSION

On January 13, 2014, the following meeting schedules of various boards and commissions were sent for posting in the following locations:

- Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
- Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, MI;
- Hope Borbas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI;
- Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street, Haslett, MI;
- Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI
- Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Ave., East Lansing, MI

- Township Board
- Park Commission
- Planning Commission
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Environmental Commission
- Land Preservation Advisory Board
- Economic Development Corporation

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK
CP#14_016

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Rezoning #13050 Ordinance No. 2013-08

Date passed: January 7, 2014
 Nature of the ordinance: A request to rezone 1404, 1408, 1416, 1422, 1434, 1438, 1443 and 1449 Haslett Road from PO (Professional and Office) and C-2 (Commercial) to RB (Single Family-High Density)
 Full text available at: Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road
 Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct.
 Hope Borbas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road
 Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street
 Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road
 Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Avenue
 The Township Website www.meridian.mi.us

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK
CP#14_015

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

'Red Cedar Village' fears

Early skepticism from East Lansing City Council members on proposed housing at Trowbridge Village Lifestyle Center

A student ghetto. Burning couches. A loss of commercial enterprise.

It's a housing image the city of East Lansing has struggled with for years, and one City Councilwoman Ruth Beier hopes to avoid at Trowbridge Plaza. She fears a major redevelopment project there will devolve into a "Red Cedar Village."

And her fears, while perhaps more extreme, mirror the questions and concerns of other Council members.

Local developer Kevin McGraw's \$24 million, mixed-use plan to upgrade the dated shopping center may face serious scrutiny from the Council going forward, as much for the type of housing that could come as the loss of a longtime family-owned grocer.

With 134 apartments proposed across two buildings (one four-story and one five-story), Beier fears a large influx of student housing could lead to a similar reputation to that of another East Lansing complex.

"I wouldn't want it to be another Cedar Village," she said of the infamous complex just east of MSU's campus, the ritualistic site of couch-burning and public intoxication. (The Trowbridge Plaza is just south of the Red Cedar Neighborhood.)

Beier, who was elected to the City Council in November, is not alone with her housing concerns. Councilwoman Kathleen Boyle said she is "certainly not in favor" of the proposal as it stands

now. Her main concern is if the amount of housing proposed will "predominate that space, then we've lost valuable commercial space."

"I've really been disappointed with the proposal so far," she added. "I don't think we need more housing of that sort. We have more than 26,000 licensed housing units in the city of East Lansing. I don't see a crying need for more."

Beier believes the site is dated and needs to be redeveloped. However, she also said she is opposed to any tax incentives that suggest the site is blighted or contaminated, such as a brownfield credit.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Darcy Schmitt confirmed that McGraw is seeking brownfield assistance to clean up the site. Approval for that is separate from the various special-use permits being considered by the East Lansing Planning Commission. Only the City Council votes on the tax abatements, she said.

"I don't think you can make the case" for a brownfield, Beier said. "From what I have read so far, there is no contamination there. And I don't know if it qualifies as blighted. Unless I find some reason to change my mind, I wouldn't support a brownfield credit or any kind of develop-

ment credit. I don't think the city needs to subsidize it."

Other Council members interviewed for this story are taking a more guarded position on the project at this point.

"It seems like that site is constantly changing," said Councilwoman Diane Goddeeris, referring to revised site plans that have come to the city. "It still seems fluid."

Councilwoman Susan Woods, who like Beier was elected to her first term in November, declined to comment at this stage. "I think that it has a long road to go before it gets going."

Mayor Nathan Triplett could not be reached for comment.

The Planning Commission tabled the proposal after its meeting last week after reportedly hearing more than two hours of public comment. It is not on the commission's Jan. 22 agenda, Schmitt said, because the developer is considering how much of the site plan to revise.

The Planning Commission's recommendation is merely advisory to the Council, though "the City Council does put a lot of weight on the recommendation," Schmitt said.

— Andy Balaskovitz



Courtesy of Kevin McGraw

At least two East Lansing City Council members have expressed concern about the proposed housing component in plans to transform Trowbridge Plaza, a portion of which is shown in this rendering.

Why Goodrich's can't stay

Closing for six to eight months plus renovation costs was not an option for Goodrich's Shop-Rite

Goodrich's Shop-Rite, the family owned business based in East Lansing's Trowbridge Plaza, is unable to close for six to eight months to renovate the

26,000-square-foot grocery store.

Such were the terms Goodrich's faced as local developer Kevin McGraw looks to put \$24 million into upgrading the dated shopping center just west of Michigan State University's campus. Goodrich's co-owner Steve Scheffel is also unsure whether the store could afford a new lease that would have tripled its rent.

Therefore, Goodrich's — which has operated in the Lansing area for 76 years — is likely to abandon its Trowbridge home, even though the East Lansing

City Council is yet to vote on McGraw's proposal.

"Chances are pretty good it is" going to close, Scheffel said Monday. "That's the best I can tell you. It still has to go before (City Council) before they put the tombstone on us."

"I can't close down the store for eight months," Scheffel said. "I don't have \$1 million to \$2 million (for renovations) in my bank account. That was why the one and only lease presented to us was

See Goodrich's, Page 6



RJ Wolcott/City Pulse



Property: 313 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing

Assessed value: \$28,900

Owner: 313 East Grand River, LLC

Located in Old Town, this unassuming structure has an equally humble beginning. The building is narrow, measuring a mere 17 feet wide, and sits adjacent to the Pennsylvania Lines railway. It was constructed in 1915 in response to repeated public requests for a public restroom in North Lansing. Now called the Thelma Joyce Osteen Comfort Station, in recognition of the woman known informally as "The Mayor of North Lansing," the building serves as the offices of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

The brick building's front elevation features a shallow elliptical arch with keystone, springing from the capitals of wide brick columns. Three large, double-hung windows and a simple building cornice mark the elevation's upper level. Access to the upper level is offered by a pair of staircases, one from the Grand River entrance and the other along a walkway on the east elevation, covered by the overhanging upper level.

Recent modifications have provided barrier-free access to the entire building, via ramps and a new mechanical lift. In keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, the interior renovations maintain the open appearance of the original building while providing for individual offices and private conference space.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

"Eye Candy of the Week" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Andy Balaskovitz at 999-5064.

Goodrich's

from page 5

simply undoable.”

McGraw's plan calls for two new buildings for student housing, offices and retail and renovating the Goodrich's space. It was tabled at a city Planning Commission last week after dozens of residents reportedly showed up asking for the plan to be revisited. The commission will ultimately make a recommendation on the project to the City Council.

Yet media reports surfaced after that meeting that Goodrich's will have to close when its lease expires this summer. McGraw announced that he had already finalized a lease agreement with a new grocer to replace Goodrich's.

“I did not want to make this about Goodrich's, because it's not,” MLive.com reported McGraw saying to the commission. “I've got to tell you: We tried. There's not a ... landlord in town that doesn't want to keep ... people who are as good as Goodrich's.”

McGraw could not be reached for comment.

— Andy Balaskovitz

BWL Watch

Keeping an eye on Lansing's publicly owned utility

Battle Creek line crews ignored

At a Jan. 7 public hearing, Patrick Hanes, BWL manager of electric transmission and distribution, told the BWL Board of Commissioners that the utility attempted to bring in as many line crews as it could to repair widespread outages in the early days of the storm.

“We tried getting more crews. We went around and around getting help,” he told the commission, including from the Upper Peninsula. “We tried everywhere.”

Well, it appears there were several line crews available just 45 minutes away. City Pulse uncovered Midwest Powerline Inc. in Battle Creek, a private contractor specializing in storm-restoration work that apparently wasn't on the BWL's radar.

Midwest's president, Louis Monaweck, who founded the company in 2006, said he was prepared to send 10 to 15 crews — or about 30 to 45 people — to Lansing, but he was never contacted by the BWL.

It's possible the BWL didn't know the company was out there, since Midwest never contacted the BWL, either, Monaweck said. “If you haven't worked for them, if you're not on their list, they really don't know you're out there.”

Hanes could not be reached for comment. He said during the Jan. 7 meeting that the BWL brought in additional crews from municipal power companies throughout the state and four different contractors.

Midwest did help others during last month's storm. It sent six line crews to help Thumb Electric Cooperative, Monaweck said.

The company has 25 to 30 crews on staff. Since opening, it has assisted in recovery efforts after natural disasters along the East Coast and the Midwest.

Meanwhile, the Lansing State Journal reported over the weekend that, 20 days after the storm hit, General Manager J. Peter Lark still couldn't say how many line workers are employed by the BWL.

— Andy Balaskovitz

BWL once had mutual aid pacts

Lark has said on multiple occasions since the storm that the BWL did not have mutual-aid agreements when he started the job in July 2007. According to the Michigan Municipal Electric Association, that may have been true when he took office, but the BWL did have prior agreements in which members of the association share resources or employees during emergencies.

Jim Weeks, executive director of the association, said the BWL dropped its membership from the organization in May 1995, which would have canceled any mutual aid agreements in place.

But between at least 1991 and May 1995, BWL had mutual-aid agreements with other utilities. BWL's membership with the organization dates back to the 1960s.

Of 41 municipal utilities in Michigan today, 30 are members in the organization, Weeks said.

— Andy Balaskovitz

Costs for new initiatives unknown

The BWL unveiled a 10-point action plan last week in response to criticism from the IcePocalypse aftermath. The plan includes promises to hire more tree trimming crews, line workers and dispatchers, and a social media specialist. The plan also included the hiring of a local public relations firm to create a crisis communication plan and “provide additional communications assistance during a crisis.”

Turns out the BWL doesn't know how many people it will be hiring, how much it will cost, or where it will get the money.

In an email, spokesman Steve Serkaian only said that “the FTE's and budget impact have not been calculated at this time,” “any cost for these items will be paid for by the BWL budget,” and that no contract has been finalized with the Martin/Waymire communications firm.

Serkaian did not respond to a question on whether the public relations contract is being awarded without soliciting other proposals, or how much the firm is being paid for work already underway.

Based on the promises made in the press release, the new spending could easily reach \$1 million to \$2 million per year. Before the ice storm, the board had said it needs an \$18 million rate hike (which has been placed on the back burner for now). The new initiatives would either add to that number, or require cuts elsewhere in the budget.

— Walt Sorg

McDaniel to oversee BWL performance panel

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero announced last week the formation of a committee to investigate the BWL's crisis preparedness and its response to the outages. It will be headed by retired Brigadier General Michael C.H. McDaniel, who has worked for a number of state and federal agencies, including serving as a homeland security consultant under Gov. Jennifer Granholm. He's also a professor at Cooley Law School.

Foremost in McDaniel's mind is examining not only how the BWL reacted to the outages, but taking a look at the contingency protocols in place and if they were followed or ignored.

“The goal is a full, independent, objective evaluation of the efforts of BWL. Not just the response efforts, but looking at what the Board of Light did in terms of preparations and what sorts of plans they had in place,” he said.

McDaniel added that he and his team have worked diligently over the past week to comb through the outpouring of community feedback and applications to be on the commission, saying he tentatively expects to have a list of members by today. While he is looking for equitable representation for customers within BWL's network, McDaniel is also searching for volunteers with a background in strategic planning as well as crisis communication.

Anyone looking to submit feedback or express interest in aiding in the investigation is asked to email lansingert@gmail.com

When asked how he will evaluate BWL leadership, including Peter Lark, BWL's general manager who came under fire for leaving Lansing on vacation during the crisis, McDaniel said he would approach it with military precision.

“No one gets a pass — I see this no differently as being in the military investigating a fellow office. Duty is to the service, not the officer — my duty is to BWL customers.”

— RJ Wolcott

Get heard

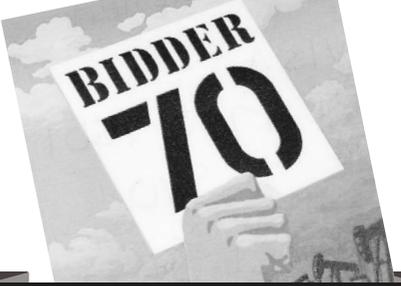
As part of its internal review of what happened during the restoration, the BWL is holding three public forums this week to get more information and concerns from customers, including those from service areas outside of Lansing:

- **East Lansing/Meridian Township:** 6 p.m. today. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

- **Delta, Lansing townships:** 7 p.m. Thursday. Delta Township Administration Building, 7710 W. Saginaw Highway, Room A, Lansing.

- **Lansing:** 7 p.m. Friday. REO Town Depot, 1201 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

Which side are
YOU on?



FREE SHOWING!!

SUNDAY, JAN. 19TH, 6:30-8:30P.M.

In 2008 Tim DeChristopher committed an act which would redefine patriotism in our time.

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DOORS OPEN AT 6PM.

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of Greater Lansing
855 Grove Street

(across from East Lansing Public Library)

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LAHR • LGBT News • Coming Out Group • Frim Awards
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**An advocate by and for
lesbian, gay, bisexual and
transgender people and
their allies in the greater
Lansing community since 1979.**

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Political notes from around town

Rose Bowl vacations, challenging Mike Rogers, millionaires in Congress and more

The aftermath of the ice storm fouled up Rose Bowl plans for the mayors of both Lansing and East Lansing.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero's wife, Teri, headed to the Left Coast right after Christmas, but the mayor didn't leave town until New Year's Eve. (Power was restored to the full BWL grid later in the day, although many individual homes still were without power.) Bernero's trip was privately funded.



WALT SORG

Even though the position of East Lansing mayor is part time, Mayor Nathan Triplett and his wife, Sarah, decided on Christmas Eve that they'd forfeit their pre-paid airfare and hotel (along with game tickets) to allow him to stay on top of storm recovery efforts. Triplett has been widely praised for his non-stop social media presence during the recovery, providing residents with continually updated information on power restoration, debris collection and warming centers.

Two want to challenge Rogers

Two Lansing residents are letting it be known that they will seek the Democratic nomination to oppose six-term Republican Rep. Mike Rogers. Susan Grettenberger is

director of social work programs at Central Michigan University. Ken Darga just retired as the State of Michigan demographer.

Darga's strategy is unique: He'll run as a nonpartisan Democrat, actively seeking support from moderate Republicans. His nonpartisan cred is bolstered by the fact he only recently joined the Democratic Party. (He felt, as a state employee, he shouldn't be a member of a party.) In the primary he will be criticized for his staunch opposition to reproductive choice.

Either would face a major challenge with Rogers. The Brighton Republican was reelected in 2012 with 58.6 percent percent of the vote. (Mitt Romney also won the 8th district, 51-48, over President Obama.) And Rogers has more than \$1.7 million sitting in his campaign bank account.

State and national Democrats are likely to sit out the race financially. At least four other Michigan congressional seats (held by Republicans Justin Amash, Dan Benishek, Tim Walberg and Kerry Bentivolio) are considered more winnable.

Millionaires dominate Congress, mid-Michigan's members lag behind

A new analysis from The Center for Responsive Politics shows more than half of all members of Congress are millionaires. While financial reports only indicate a range of wealth, the CRP estimates the median net worth for House members at \$896,000 and a whopping \$2.9 million for senators.

Nine of Michigan's 14 House members (as well as Sen. Carl Levin) fall into the millionaire category. Locally, Reps. Mike Rogers and Tim Walberg rank among the poorest (financially) in Congress: Rogers' net worth is estimated at between \$111,016 and \$590,999 (No. 370), Walberg's at between \$67,018 and \$355,000 (418th).

Sen. Debbie Stabenow ranks second-from-last in the upper chamber with a net worth of \$15,001-to-\$50,000.

Michigan's wealthiest members are Republicans Fred Upton (\$8 million to \$28 million) and Dave Camp (\$5.6 million to \$15.3 million).

Net worth was calculated by the lawmaker's range of assets and range of liabilities. Assets include securities, real estate (excluding primary residence, unless it generates income), business ownership, bank accounts and loans owed.

Call me if you agree with me ...

Walberg has raised some eyebrows with a request to constituents to tell him about their experiences with the Affordable Healthcare Act, but only if it's a bad-news story.

On his government website, he writes "From letters, phone calls and emails you've told me how many of your premiums are expected to rise or your health provider is cancelling your insurance all together due

to the health care law. To better help you with these concerns, please fill out the page below on how Obamacare is hurting you, your family or business. Additionally, someone in my office may be in touch with you about the potential use of your story to help address this on-going problem." Walberg has consistently voted to repeal ACA.

Hertel pursues inevitability

Ingham County Register of Deeds Curtis Hertel Jr. continues to pile up endorsements in what appears to be a cakewalk campaign for the state Senate to succeed Gretchen Whitmer. In the last month he has announced support from a Democratic party Who's Who list that includes Sen. Carl Levin, UAW Region 1-C and the UAW CAP Council, former state Rep. Joan Bauer (once considered a possible primary rival), all 11 Democrats on the Ingham County Commission, all five county officials, all three Ingham County state representatives, the Greater Lansing Labor Council and Teamsters Local 580.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On January 7, 2014, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

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

December 3, 2013 Regular Meeting

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK
CP#14_014

CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE NO. 1320

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE III - PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE - OF CHAPTER 6 - BUILDING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING BY MAKING FURTHER LOCAL CHANGES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, 2006 EDITION, KNOWN AS THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING, AS ADOPTED AT SECTION 6-171 AND AMENDED BY SECTION 6-175 BY AMENDING SECTIONS 303.1 AND 303.2 TO PROHIBIT FRONT AND SIDE YARD POOLS AND TO CONFORM THE REGULATION OF SWIMMING POOLS TO THE MICHIGAN RESIDENTIAL CODE.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

The International Property Maintenance Code, 2006 Ed, as adopted by § 6-171 and amended by § 6-175 of Article III of Chapter 6 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby further amended by amending Sections 303.1 and 303.2 to read as follows:

303.1 Swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. Swimming pools, spas and hot tubs shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, in good repair, and in accordance with the requirements of Appendix G of the 2009 Michigan Residential Code. No pool, swimming pool, hot tub or spa of any depth, permanent or temporary, shall be placed in the front yard of any one-family, two-family, or multiple-family dwelling except for Class A multiple dwellings. No pool, swimming pool, hot tub or spa of any depth, permanent or temporary, shall be placed in the side yard of any one-family, two-family, or multiple-family dwelling unless the side yard is enclosed with a barrier in conformity with the requirements of Appendix G of the 2009 Michigan Residential Code. The definitions contained in Chapter 50 of the Code of the City of East Lansing shall apply to this provision.

303.2 Enclosures. Private swimming pools, hot tubs and spas, containing water more than 24 inches (610 mm) in depth shall be completely surrounded by a fence or barrier in conformity with the requirements of Appendix G of the 2009 Michigan Residential Code. No existing pool enclosure shall be removed, replaced or changed in a manner that reduces its effectiveness as a safety barrier.

Marie E. Wicks, City Clerk

CP#14_013

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS EAST LANSING WAYFINDING SIGNS PROJECT

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

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of East Lansing at the office of Planning, Building and Development Office, 2nd Floor, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823, up to 3:00 p.m. local time Friday, February 7, 2014 at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read for the furnishing of materials, labor and equipment for East Lansing Wayfinding Project in the City of East Lansing. The Bid Opening will be in Conference Room A, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

Work includes: Fabrication and installation of wayfinding signs and kiosks, obtaining permits for installation and all necessary restoration work at installation sites.

The Contract Documents, including Contract, Design Intent Drawings, Sign Message Schedule and Sign Location Plan may be requested via e-mail to hpope@cityofeastlansing.com or in person at Planning, Building and Development Office, 2nd Floor, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823. The Contract Documents will be available beginning Wednesday, January 15, 2014 and questions about the project will be answered until Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Questions for this project should be made in writing to Heather Pope at hpope@cityofeastlansing.com

Proposals must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the City of East Lansing, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount, which shall be forfeited to the City of East Lansing if the bidder to whom the Contract is awarded as specified in the contract fails to enter into a Contract within ten (10) days after the Contract is awarded. The unsuccessful bidders' checks or bid bonds will be returned upon final award of Contract, approved and executed.

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

CITY OF EAST LANSING
By: Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_012



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Advertisement for Bids Notice

Valley Court Park and Farmer's Market Improvements

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of East Lansing, Department of Parks and Recreation up to **11:00 am on Tuesday, February 11, 2014**, for the furnishing of materials, labor and equipment for concrete work, asphalt paving, shade structure, landscaping and miscellaneous work at Valley Court Park in East Lansing, MI, 48823.

The Contract Documents and specifications may be obtained from the Landscape Architect electronically at no charge; contact VIRIDIS Design Group at 269.978.5143 or john@virdg.com. All interested bidders must attend a **mandatory** pre-bid meeting on **Tuesday, January 28, 2014, at 11:00 am** at the project site.

Sealed proposals may be either mailed or hand delivered to the Parks and Recreation Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, and are to be clearly marked "Bid Documents: Valley Court Park Improvements". Questions regarding this notice can be directed to the Project Designer, John McCann, VIRIDIS Design Group, 269.978.5143.

Publish: City Pulse
Wednesday, January 15, 2014

CP#14_011

PLEASE BE ADVISED OF CANCELLATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED WATER, STEAM, AND ELECTRIC RATE CHANGES
BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT
OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

A Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Water and Light Reotown Depot at 1201 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing Michigan. Members of the public are invited to attend.

PURPOSE OF THE HEARING: The Board of Water and Light will solicit comments from the public on PROPOSED ELECTRIC, WATER, STEAM, AND CHILLED WATER RATE SCHEDULES. THE PROPOSALS being considered by the Commissioners would INCREASE RATES FOR ELECTRIC, WATER, STEAM, AND CHILLED WATER.

REASON FOR CHANGE: The proposed rate adjustments will provide additional revenue to operate and maintain the electric, water, steam, and chilled water systems. The proposed rate adjustments will partially offset costs of operating and maintaining the electric, water, steam, and chilled water systems.

IF YOU WANT TO BE HEARD: Comments, oral or written, may be submitted at the public hearing. Mailed comments will be received until 5:00 p.m. on January 22, 2014, addressed to the Board of Water and Light, P. O. Box 13007, Lansing, Michigan 48910, Attention: Corporate Secretary. Comments **MUST BE LIMITED TO THE PROPOSED RATE CHANGES.** The hearing officer may impose time restrictions on oral comments, depending on the number of persons wishing to be heard.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Copies of proposed rate schedules and other data may be picked up at the information desk on the first floor of the Board of Water and Light Headquarters, at 1201 S. Washington Avenue between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. This material will also be available at the public hearing.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSIONERS

M. Denise Griffin
Corporate Secretary

CANCELLED PUBLIC HEARING

CP#14_010



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'It's a big old goofy world'

Let's face it: For many of us in greater Lansing, the past three weeks have sucked.

Our publicly owned utility was turned on its head following the Dec. 21 ice storm that for some knocked power out for upwards of 11 days. We saw the Board of Water and Light's inadequacies, and we are not letting them off the hook for it. Consumers Energy did somewhat better.

That ongoing story is the fallout of what was a truly miserable time for some here — a week or more without power or water, followed by a dumping of snow that closed schools for three days with some Arctic-like temperatures on the side.

But your friends at City Pulse would like to show a little mercy on your still-thawing souls. Several weeks ago, we put out a call for writing and artistic submissions for what was supposed to be a humor issue on the first of

the year. Then old Mother Nature had to come along and give us real news, so we put the satire in our back pocket.

In that time, we received dozens of submissions from local writers and some who have long left town. It was all fair game: pot, Niowave, tax abatements, local eating, elected officials. We whittled it down to the best of the best before you now.

City Pulse would like to thank all of those who submitted their work. We hope this gives readers a few minutes to pause, relax and find the humor in our Capital City.

After all, as iconic folk singer John Prine sang, "Oh, baby, it's a big old goofy world."



Match the Mayor



In "Match the Mayor," try your hand at matching the quote with the mayor who said it. In this week's edition, we've compiled some gems from Toronto Mayor Rob Ford and Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero.

- (F) (B) 1. "Mark my words, my friends, this is going to be outright war in the next election."
- (F) (B) 2. "You pathetic piece of shit."
- (F) (B) 3. "I've run a fantastic city. I don't want to toot my own horn here but I'm the best mayor this city has ever had."
- (F) (B) 4. "They don't believe me until I start speaking it, and then they look and say 'Holy Smokes this guy can speak Arabic!'"
- (F) (B) 5. "My point is: He's a tedious S.O.B. that we no longer need. We don't have the time for it. We need to move on. Vote yes or vote no but take a vote."
- (F) (B) 6. "Women love money. ... Give them a couple of thousand bucks and they're happy. Get some treats on the side obviously for her. At the end of the day, she wants her cash. So I give her a nice check and we're all happy."
- (F) (B) 7. "You are the dumbest motherfucker I have ever seen."
- (F) (B) 8. "That was not intended as a title, but to say he's the lead opponent, or lead naysayer — the guy who is leading the charge — the lead Chicken Little saying the sky is falling. I don't see how that is racist. I grew up reading Chicken Little."
- (F) (B) 9. "That was pure stupidity. I shouldn't have got hammered down at the Danforth. If you're going to have a couple drinks you stay home, and that's it. You don't make a public spectacle of yourself."
- (F) (B) 10. "She took nine months to write a moratorium? It's just say no — I could have done that in a day."

ANSWER KEY: 1) F 2) B 3) F 4) F 5) B 6) F 7) B 8) B 9) F 10) B

Golden Harvest to downsize

By ANDY MCGLASHEN

Golden Harvest, the Lansing breakfast spot known for quirky dishes, pirate-themed decor and fiercely loyal customers, this week announced it is leaving its home in Old Town for a smaller location.

Beginning Feb. 1, the restaurant will be housed in a renovated storage closet in the Speedway gas station at Michigan and Clemens avenues, said chef and owner Zane Vicknair.

The restaurant will downsize from 34 seats to a single chair and a TV tray. Its kitchen equipment will include only a George Foreman grill and a Keurig single-serve coffee machine.

"I won't lie to you, this is as much a social experiment as a business decision," Vicknair said. "It's about taking a no-frills approach where the food is front and center and everything else is secondary. But also, we're really curious to see how long people are willing to stand in line for this stuff."

Golden Harvest regular Chad Bradley said he looks forward to the private dining experience and stripped-down setting.

"I think it's going to be awesome," said Bradley, who was wearing a shirt with the restaurant's logo on it. "I feel like Golden Harvest has kind of gotten too big, you know? Like, I saw someone there last week who was wearing a DeWitt football sweatshirt, and I don't think it was ironic."

"I'm hoping the new location turns a lot of people off so I can feel good again about being in on something exclusive."

Formerly a cash-only business, Golden Harvest now will accept only bitcoins, Vicknair said.

Building on its reputation for playing aggressive music at anxiety-inducing volumes, the restaurant will play Lou Reed's 1975 experimental album "Metal Machine Music" on a continuous loop.



Illustration by Jonathan Griffith

@BWLPeter_Lark

Tweets from someone masking as Board of Water and Light General Manager J. Peter Lark

There was plenty of input from Lansing Board of Water and Light employees at a Jan. 7 public hearing in REO Town, the vast majority of whom showed up to defend their boss, General Manager J. Peter Lark.

But while it appeared Lark was also making comments throughout the night from the Twitter account @BWLPeter_Lark, he wasn't. It was someone impersonating him. Below are actual tweets written from the bogus Lark account, which certainly caused some confusion from followers who wondered whether it was actually Lark tweeting.



31 TWEETS | 7 FOLLOWING | 44 FOLLOWERS

- Hey @BWLComm, can we wrap this meeting up soon? Just tell the employees here we're good. I have a Cancun flight in the morning. #flylansing
- Our focus on technology is shown through our amazing sound system. The feedback in the livestream sounds like a Slayer concert. #goesto11
- My board is currently talking about me management style. "I don't know." Summed it up pretty well. #gettingaraise

- I would like to publicly thank the employees that came out tonight. Your raises will be in your next check. #bwloutage
- Of course I'm going to refer to myself in the third person @MattMillerLSJ. I'm Peter effin' Lark! #bwloutage #trueleader
- Look at all the amazing statistics that aren't at all biased by our size! Nothing to see here people. Don't you have snowplows to stalk?
- I'm pretty sure you spoke at the public hearing @JPowers155, right? We're you on my side? I can't remember, was trying to read our comm plan
- MAN! Now I've missed the beginning of the MSU game. Never thought this many people would speak. I didn't think there were many angry folks.
- We don't need tree trimming crews. Has so little to do with getting power back on. We've clearly had success just waiting for mother nature.
- I'm hearing reports of the live feed going down. Reminder, that it's the LSJ's problem, not ours. We are amazing at technology.
- @AliceDreger In all fairness, my ass needs more kissing to balance out the kicking it has taken lately. #bwloutage
- Barron did a great job for us Tuesday. Kicked off the meeting great per the plan. I just wish he hasn't talked to the media! Who does that?!
- @AliceDreger To be fair, my good friend The General totally said he would be objective. And you can always trust someone appointed by Virg!
- @AliceDreger A sex scandal would make this #bwloutage so much better! Thanks for the idea. We'll work on that for next time. #trueleader

Want more? Log into twitter & search : @BWLPeter_Lark

Arts and Culture news briefs

By ERIC BAYLIS Common Ground Festival 2014 to feature 1997's hottest stars

Christine Campos, event planner for the 2014 Common Ground Festival, won't tell us everyone who is playing this year, but "rest assured, some of the hottest stars of 1997 are stopping by Lansing to rock this town."

Headliners will include Smash Mouth, Third Eye Blind, Ginuwine, and Keith Sweat. The annual music festival held on the banks of the Grand River draws an estimated total crowd of over 50,000 to hear music likely to be replayed at 20th anniversary graduation reunions all over the greater mid-Michigan area.

Ghosts of piano duelers past haunt Rum Runners, reports wait staff

Tormented by the vicious duels they fought and lost, the ghosts of Rum Runners' piano duelers past still haunt the East Michigan Avenue bar.

"I've done heard their baleful cries of 'I think you know this one, a little something from the Piano Man himself,' and, 'Ladies, I can't hear you!'" said bartender Melanie Kurtz. Since opening in 1996, hundreds of piano players have lost duels in the downtown bar's upstairs lounge area. Their grim specters are a potent reminder of man's transience in the mortal realm. At night, witnesses report water glasses surreptitiously filled with vodka drained before their very eyes, and the haunting refrain of birthday requests echoing in the dark.

A recent attempt to exorcise the spirits by removing the tiki-bar aesthetic has only angered the ghosts, according to busboy Reggie Alvarez.

place where they can learn to be makers and doers while enjoying totally dope Kopi Luwak lattes.

"As you can see, we're filling a real need for these people," Forencia said. "We're quite progressive."

Economic development officials and the makedodrink team will hold an invite-only community forum next week to go over the plan, where they will present beautifully drawn renderings of the site and #lovelansing bumper stickers.

Horowitz, a self-described social media guru, said she's looking forward to the meeting and has already launched "Lansing needs makedodrink" accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Flickr, Pinterest, Instagram and Google Plus.

"We are fully prepared to work with the community to provide multiple synergies between myriad stakeholders through numerous platforms," she said, "as long as these people maintain a positive, supportive and hassle-free vibe."

NEW IN #LOVELANSING



City Council to take up exciting new development project on South Side for coffee shop/artist's loft/makerspace/business incubator

By THOMAS P. MORGAN

A small band of entrepreneurs has set forth on an ambitious mission: Transforming the Lansing region and indeed the entire state by starting a new business on the city's South Side.

The trio — Topher Martin, Chaz Forencia and Delilah Horowitz — are planning to repurpose a bank-foreclosed hardware store on South Cedar Street and convert it into a coffee shop/artist's loft/makerspace/business incubator called "makedodrink."

"What we're really looking to do with makedodrink is leverage existing assets and create a sense of place for people in the creative class to come together to share best practices," said Martin, a 28-year-old conflict-resolution consultant from Okemos who once spent three months in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, N.Y. "We feel that this project

can be transformative for Lansing and provide these people here with a rallying point to help spur a true Midwestern Renaissance."

Indeed, city officials are set to pledge \$2.2 million in tax breaks — including \$750,000 in school tax abatements — to help offset the cost of façade improvements, hardwood floors, two Pabst Blue Ribbon neon signs, three top-of-the-line espresso machines, five MacBook Pros, 56 feet of faux-industrial ductwork, two corkscrew slides, a fire pole and what Martin describes as a "super rad" iRobot Roomba 770.

The Lansing City Council next month will also consider issuing \$4.7 million in public bonds to create new bicycle lanes leading to the area, providing easy access to makedodrink for the tens of thousands of neighborhood residents who make daily use of the South Side's expansive network of bike lanes.

The entire project is expected to only cause a temporary disruption to other local businesses, while creating three to five jobs that will pay about \$9 an hour.

Critics contend that it's poor public pol-

icy to dole out public tax dollars to subsidize profits for private businesses when schools, public safety and city services continue to be cut due to a lack of revenue.

Local resident Alberta Johnson, 64, said she has mixed feelings about the project.

"My grandkids' school is crumbling and is full of mold, and I can't walk to QD without stumbling across drug dealers, so it seems like the city could be asking these folks to pay their fair share so we can improve some of these things," said Johnson, who receives no tax breaks on her modest two-story house on Fenton Street. "On the other hand, I understand that my concerns are secondary to the needs of the creative class, and I am kind of interested in learning how to become a maker."

Those who oppose tax incentives for makedodrink will undoubtedly be labeled as obstructionists who want to take Lansing back to the 1950s. Rightfully so, said Forencia, 26, a graphic designer who recently moved to Lansing from West Bloomfield Township.

"There's plenty of existing businesses and citizens who pay taxes for city services and schools," Forencia said. "But unlike many of them, we will actually be helping the community in very tangible ways. After all, more than anything, Lansing residents need a walkable, bikeable

Organic: Eating local has never been so easy

By LAURA JOHNSON

After watching a Netflix documentary and four YouTube videos about the benefits of local, sustainable food, one Lansing family decided to take local eating to the next level.

"I heard about all of these people who would only eat from their state or region for a month or a year or whatever," explained Tim Hornsby, 38, who lives with his wife, Elaine, 35, and their two children on Lansing's East Side. "And I thought, hey, we can do better. So we decided that we were only going to eat from a one-mile radius for one month."

Elaine Hornsby said their friends and family initially scoffed at the idea. Some went so far as to mock them and call them names. "Everyone told us it wasn't possible and that we were crazy," she said. "But we showed them! I had no idea eating locally could be so easy, affordable and accessible. I don't know why everyone thinks it's hard."

Luckily for their family, Tim Hornsby explained, the one-mile radius included numerous restaurants and grocery stores. When beginning their local adventure this October, they made a list of all the local venues at which they could purchase local food: Kroger, McDonalds, Subway, Arby's, Rite Aid, Red Lobster and Quality Dairy were just a few on their list.

"It was way longer than we expected," Tim Hornsby said. "We were able to find local meat, local bread, local coffee, local chips, even local Coke!"

The couple's children, Henry, 8, and Sarah, 6, said they didn't mind the sacrifices they had to make in order to eat locally.

"I didn't wanna at first," Henry Hornsby

confessed shyly. "There are some kids at school who eat funny diets and they get made fun of."

But their lunchboxes weren't drastically affected. "I could still have local Oreos and local peanut butter and jelly," Sarah Hornsby smiled as she sipped from a local juice box.

In order to decrease their carbon footprint, the Hornsbys purchased only local gas for their cars, from stations within the one-mile radius. "When you look at things like the BP oil spill and hear about wars over oil in the Middle East, it just makes you realize the benefits of purchasing your gas locally," Tim Hornsby said.

Upon reaching their one-month goal, the Hornsbys reported a renewed appreciation for food and profound sense of reconnection to agriculture and food producers.

"It feels so great to see where your food comes from, to know that it comes from your community, that the money is staying in your community, and to meet your food producers and form relationships with them," Elaine Hornsby said.

The family announced that while they

might cheat here and there, they plan to stick to a local diet in the future. "We feel fabulous!" exclaimed Elaine Hornsby as she helped herself to a slice of fresh, local pizza and cracked open a cold, local Bud Light.



Mr. Jensen's Question Man

12-13

Any plans for 2014?



- Ellen "Ema" Fanny sign language interrupter

"I plan on challenging the Mandela memorial signer champion Thamsanqa Jantjie to an all out battle of Rock-Paper-Scissors. Should be epic, I see he's been practicing."



- Frank "The Pain" Bain meat eater

"I'm working on an information sharing start-up. I'm going to try and broker a deal between the NSA and Santa Clause so they can compare their naughty or nice lists."



- Less "Than" Mann polarising dancer

"As a matter of fact I've been paying my credit card off with phoney checks I drew myself. See, I'm hoping the Visa fraud will get me stripped searched - a fantasy of mine for some time. If I

happen to end up with a couple of extra bucks in the ol' Jockeys, all the better!"



- Maygun "P. Onme R." Kelly news stylist

"I'm working on legislation to ban all milk and dark chocolate Easter Bunnies. Kids we all know the Easter Bunny is white chocolate, that's just a hysterical fact."

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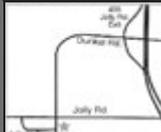
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Lansing State Journal, Dec. 25, 2013

A sincere apology o

To our loyal customers,

I sincerely apologize to our customers who suffered hardships and difficulties because of the catastrophic December 22 ice storm, and the time it took to reconnect your service. We did not meet the needs of you, our customers, or our own standards for superior service.

Now it is time to repair our relationship with you by determining how the Lansing Board of Water & Light can restore service faster and communicate better. We can do better, we will do better, and I pledge that we will work tirelessly to regain your trust as your hometown power company.

This devastating ice storm that occurred in the early morning hours of December 22 was unprecedented in modern Michigan history. The ice storm hit every part of our service territory, resulting in an estimated 40,000 customer outages, or about 40 percent of our service territory. More than 2,400 power lines succumbed to the ice and tree limbs needing to be repaired. There has not been a comparable loss of service experienced by a Michigan utility.

With the help of line crews who came from communities all over Michigan, we restored power within four days to 90 percent of the customers who lost power. It took us much longer to restore power to the remaining 10 percent of our customers. That was not nearly fast enough, especially for customers who were without power during the Christmas holiday and into the New Year.

We know many of you were angry, and some of you still are. We have listened to your concerns and frustrations, particularly on how we failed to communicate with you during the ice storm crisis. We also have heard your constructive criticism and input, and we thank you for your suggestions on how we can improve.

As part of our top to bottom review of our restoration efforts, changes are already underway that will help us improve our preparedness, and strengthen how we communicate during a crisis. We aren't waiting until the next storm hits to fix the areas where we fell short. While some changes to our system will take time, we are making the following key improvements right now:

- We have entered into new retainer agreements with several contractors, tripling the number of line crews that can help us in an emergency. This will give us more manpower to immediately deploy in a catastrophic storm.
- We have tripled the number of tree trimming crews who are working now to make sure lines in our service area are clear of limbs and vegetation. This will reduce the chances of major damage during a significant weather event.

and a renewed commitment to serve

- We have begun to hire more line workers and a dispatcher.
- Beginning immediately, all customer outage and downed lines calls can be made to one number: 877-295-5001. In addition, we are exploring retaining a third-party customer service call center to deploy during emergencies to help us handle a sudden surge in calls.
- We have identified and addressed the weaknesses in our Outage Management System, allowing us to more accurately track where power is out, communicate better with our customers, and restore power faster during future outages.
- We will soon have an online outage map on our website (www.lbwl.com) available to our customers during outages. That map will show if an outage has been reported to our system and the extent of that outage.
- We know we need to improve communications with our customers, so we have hired a local communications firm to help us shore up and implement a crisis communications plan and assist during emergencies.
- We also recognize that people depend on social media to gather information during natural disasters. We are in the process of hiring a social media manager to fully engage our customers across all social media channels and to help disseminate important information during a crisis.
- We are conducting a top to bottom internal review of our response during this power outage to assess our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for improvement. A report on this review will be released in mid-February.
- In addition to all of these actions, and as part of our internal review, we will continue to seek input from our customers during a series of community forums this week. We want to hear from you about what we can do better to serve you during a power outage. Customers from the BWL electric service territory – which includes Lansing, East Lansing, Lansing Twp., Delta Twp., Meridian Twp., DeWitt Twp., Delhi Twp., Watertown Twp., Windsor Twp. and Alaiedon Twp., are invited to attend the following meetings:

East Lansing

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 6 p.m.
Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823

Delta Township

Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
Delta Township Administration Bldg.
7710 W. Saginaw Hwy., Room A
Lansing, MI 48917

Lansing

Friday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
REO Town Depot
1201 S. Washington Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910

Along with a comprehensive internal review, I wholeheartedly support Mayor Bernero's call for an independent investigation of the BWL's outage response and review by the Michigan Public Service Commission. Together, these findings and any recommended improvements will help us achieve our goal of restoring the trust and confidence of our customers and being the best utility we can be.

The BWL has a dedicated team of employees who worked long hours to restore power. I am grateful for their efforts. Together, we are committed to our customers and to ourselves to be even more responsive, responsible and reliable.

The BWL is proud to have been a part of the Lansing community for more than 125 years. We are hometown people providing hometown power. We want to engage with you, our customers, to help us improve. With your help, we will make the BWL stronger, delivering the level of customer service you expect and deserve.

Sincerely,



J. Peter Lark
General Manager



ARTS & CULTURE

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Tune in, space out

Ambient musician gets atmospheric at MSU's Abrams Planetarium

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Although John Boyle attended Boston's prestigious Berklee College of Music, he said he didn't get much out of his classroom time when he was there.

"I majored in 'The Flintstones' and smoking pot," the 47-year-old musician said by phone from his home in La Crosse, Wis. "I avoided classes completely for a couple months. But I developed an encyclopedic knowledge of the background music used in Hanna-Barbera cartoons. I have a Ph.D. in Flintstones."

John Boyle

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22
Abrams Planetarium
755 Science Road, East Lansing, MSU campus
\$5
(517) 355-4762, pa.msu.edu/abrams

Boyle, 47, is a mostly self-taught musician whose style evolved from guitar rock into ethereal ambient noise. On Jan. 22, he plays at Abrams Planetarium on the campus of Michigan State University. But this ain't his first time in a big dome.

"My first rock band, Concrete Jello, did a choral voice thing involving tape loops in a planetarium," Doyle said. "Since then, I've played about once every two years at a local planetarium. My current music is geared perfectly

for the space."

Doyle drives from gig to gig in a "well-worn" 1997 Mercury Villager lugging around his bread-and-butter, an electric synthesizer. But his first instrument was the guitar, which he picked up at age 11. He said he went into a music store and asked them how to tune it. Through a misunderstanding, he walked out with a totally skewed sense of how his instrument was supposed to sound.

"I somehow had it backward — I saw one finger go across whole fret board," he said. "I thought the bar must indicate making a bar with the whole finger. But I stumbled on a method that made my music sound completely different."

And it set the stage for a career in music that sounded nothing like ... music.

"I've worked with sound, experimenting with tape recorders all life," Doyle said. "I go out and capture the sound of weed wackers, kids out playing, then I slow it down, play it back three or four times and mix it into a mono track. It's just noise, but patterns start to emerge. And then I play to that."

Emerging patterns, ambient noise, a dark environment primed for spacy visuals, a background in mind-altering drugs. Hmm ... But when asked if he was trying to appeal to a certain demographic tinkering with hallucinogenics, he laughed.

"You don't need that — just let the mu-



(Left) Katy Barth/City Pulse; (Lower left): Courtesy photo

(Left) A mural in the black light gallery at Abrams Planetarium. (Lower left) John Boyle, an ambient noise musician from Wisconsin, has played planetariums on both coasts and around the Midwest.



sic take you," he said. "I had a CD release party at a planetarium a year back, and a friend came up to me afterward and said, 'I'm sorry, but I felt like falling asleep.' I thought that was the best compliment ever. But it gave me an idea

really remote.

"This radio station in San Francisco was broadcasting my music, which I was playing live from Wisconsin," Doyle said. "I was listening to it over the Internet, which had about a second and half delay, and I was playing along to that. I created an infinite loop that was stretching around the world."

This year marks Abrams' 50th anniversary, but Doyle doesn't think he'll stick around and catch any of the sky shows.

"I'm not really into astronomy," he said. "It's actually just a coincidence. Planetariums have an intimacy that appeals to people with more than just an interest in astronomy. Stars just make a nice backdrop to the music."

Listen to some of Boyle's music at the online version of this story at lansingcitypulse.com.

to encourage people to bring a sleeping bag and have an all-night sleep concert."

Doyle said he's played up and down both coasts and driven through a fair portion of the Midwest. He's played a gig in Ann Arbor before, but this will be his first time in East Lansing. For one of his more experimental remote gigs, he was

Courtesy photo

Tom Wopat, the erstwhile Luke Duke, brings his jazz stylings to the Charlotte Performing Arts Center on Friday. His career has included stints on Broadway, 10 jazz albums and a turn in Quentin Tarantino's 2012 film, "Django Unchained."



Duke elegant

Tom Wopat talks jazz, Tarantino and 'Dukes of Hazzard' in HD

By RICH TUPICA

It's been 28 years since Tom Wopat squealed around the fictional roads of Hazzard County in that old Dodge Charger, The General Lee, in the hit CBS show "The Dukes of Hazzard." These days, however, he's committed to recording jazz music and acting on Broadway.

Since 1981, the 62-year-old, New York-based Tony Award nominee has recorded 10 albums, the latest being 2013's "I've Got Your Number." Friday, Wopat will perform songs from that

album, along with the rest of jazz repertoire, at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center.

"We do a few Broadway tunes, but with our own jazz treatment so it's really consistent," Wopat said by phone from San Francisco, where he'd just performed a show. "I (also) do some original material that I've written. We do 30 to 50 shows per year."

While he does look back fondly on his sitcom years, Wopat said he doesn't depend on nostalgia.

"I don't really dwell on 'Dukes' much," he said. "There will be shows where I don't even mention it unless it comes up, but a lot of times we will. I also always make myself available after the shows. People can come up, talk and take pictures. We have a really good time."

Wopat said his concerts are often a mix-

ture of different types of fans.

"People are fairly hip to the singing thing," he said. "(But) there's still a certain percentage of 'Dukes' fans who show up for curiosity's sake. By the end of the evening they are thinking of me as a singer, I'd like to think."

His latest "Mad Men"-era album received a glowing rating from AllMusic. A deluxe edition was pressed on a retro, yet increasingly hip, format.

"We actually put out a vinyl version in October," Wopat said. "It's a double vinyl and has all of the songs from 'I've Got Your Number,' along with six songs from the previous album, 'Consider it Swung.' I haven't had a vinyl record out in 20 years."

When he's not belting out jazz tunes, Wopat still picks up acting gigs. In

See Tom Wopat, Page 15

CURTAIN CALL

Anger management

Courtroom drama cuts like a dagger

By PAUL WOZNIAK

“Twelve Angry Men” depicts an optimistic, if not idealistic vision of the American judicial process. The myth of a man changing his peers’ opinions through reason is the jury room equivalent to Wyatt Earp taming the West. Henry Fonda’s iconic portrayal of the heroic juror in the 1957 film adaptation only adds to that mystique. As Riverwalk Theatre’s production beautifully demonstrates, “Twelve Angry Men” is more than a collection of universal themes framed as a good-versus-evil showdown; it’s an entertaining, instructional drama that transcends setting and time.

A judge’s voiceover sets the stakes from the beginning; a teenage defendant faces certain execution if found guilty for murdering his father. With the exception of one

juror, the rest of the jury returns with guilty votes with barely a discussion. The arguments that follow play out like a classic mystery that dramatically shift the jurors’ — and the audience’s — understanding of truth and justice from black and white to textured shades of gray.

Reginald Rose’s script is simultaneously a joy and a nightmare to stage; 12 men essentially sit around a giant table and talk for two hours. The setting of a single room cleverly omits typical pacing pitfalls like entrances, exits and set changes, but conversely demands every actor to deliver compelling performances throughout. Rose wrote each character with a rich distinction that makes all their voices essential to the final outcome.

Jeff Magnuson plays Juror #8, the sole dissenter in the room. As a moral compass this character is arguably the most challenging role to play. Like a talking Bill of Rights, Juror #8’s dialogue reveals little about who he is beyond being unbiased. The strength of the show relies in a large part on the actor’s ability to make this character relatable, which Magnuson achieves.

As #8’s direct opposition, Juror #3 (Michael Hays) is the villain audiences loves



Photo by Luke Anthony Photography

The cast of Riverwalk Theatre’s “Twelve Angry Men” packs some commanding performances.

to hate. Hays prowls the stage like a sentinel hound ready to pounce on any dissenting opinion. He uses his intimidating stature to full effect, staring metaphorical daggers across the room and, at one point, wielding a real one with palpable menace. Todd Heywood plays Hays’ unofficial second-in-command, Juror #4. As the more eloquent spokesman for the arguments of guilt, Heywood displays a focused passion that grounds his character’s arguments and keeps the audience from jumping prematurely to acquittal.

Other notable performances come from Alex Freeman as the gum-chewing, unprincipled Juror #7, John Liskey as an older voice of wisdom, James Houska as a particularly loud and ugly bigot and Leo Poroshin as a European immigrant who cites the outsider’s view of American democracy. Ultimately every character gets a moment to shine as he breaks from conformity. The entire cast

makes their respective moments gleam.

The show’s greatest strength is the commitment of director Bob Robinson, who ensures that the dramatic beats resonate authentically. The show starts off stuffy, with actors seemingly afraid to take pauses, but once the story starts rolling the production hums like a fine-tuned engine with contained explosions that drive the play to the finish.

The best part about the script and story of “Twelve Angry Men” is its universality. One could easily take the drama off the meticulously detailed retro set, designed by Robinson and Bob Nees, and stage the play in the present day. Examples of prejudice and unfounded bias occur daily on television, radio and Facebook chat walls. But Riverwalk’s production is worth seeing to witness those arguments play out in real time, reminding audiences of where we were and how far we still have to go.

Tom Wopat

from page 14

2012, he portrayed Marshall Gill Tatum in Quentin Tarantino’s “Django Unchained.”

“Quentin is a real character,” Wopat said. “He’s an old-school kind of director. He sits right by the camera and shoots film, which is kind of unique in the business. Everybody else is doing digital but he shoots film because he likes the quality and vibe of it. When you run into guys like that who are passionate about their craft, it’s exciting.”

The CMT network is airing commercials for “The Dukes of Hazzard” in high definition. Wopat said he was unaware of the promotion.

“No! They’re not going to show it in hi-def,” he said with a chuckle. “That’s amazing. I’ll have to check it out.”

And according to Wopat, fans haven’t heard the last from Bo and Luke.

“John Schneider (who played Bo Duke) and I are working on a Christmas record for next year,” Wopat said. “We remain best of friends. We do some gigs together; he’s a great singer (and) we have an inordinate amount of fun together. We’re also getting together for an ad campaign ... as the Dukes, so you’ll be seeing us again.”

Premium Russia

Lansing Symphony makes hearts sing at latest MasterWorks concert

By UTE VON DER HEYDEN

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra sounded great at its MasterWorks 4 concert, “Tchaikovsky & Beyond,” at the Wharton Center Saturday night. The all-Russian program began and ended with suites from two of Tchaikovsky’s ballets, “Sleeping Beauty” and “Swan Lake,” and included another, less performed ballet suite from Igor Stravinsky: “The Fairy’s Kiss.” The program also featured a performance of Dmitri Shostakovich’s Cello Concerto No. 1 by guest soloist David Requiro.

The theatrical, romantic tones of the two Tchaikovskys were the highlights of the evening, and although the complex, more contemporary pieces by Stravinsky and Shostakovich were more difficult to take in, as an entity, this was an exciting evening of music.

The program began strong with the rich, enchanting harmonies of “Sleeping Beauty,” with the percussions and harp adding even more substance and sparkle than what was already offered. “This makes my heart sing,” someone in the audience whispered.

Of the four selections, this piece is probably the most familiar, and can conjure up all kinds of magical images. What wom-

an hasn’t danced to the “Waltz” movement alone in her kitchen with an imaginary prince in perfect three-quarter time? (Yes, I am one of them.) The orchestra played the piece with such crisp freshness and finesse that I felt like I was hearing it for the very first time.

Soloist Requiro, an artist in residence in cello and chamber music at the University of Puget Sound, came next. He tackled the cello concerto with serious intent and obvious technical skill but little feeling, a surprising approach to a piece in which intense, passionate emotions play such a big part.

It was clear that the award-winning Requiro deserves his rising star reputation and that conductor Timothy Muffitt was wise to invite him here early in his career before he becomes too hard to get. But somehow he failed to connect with the audience — except for a group of people who loudly hooted and hollered every time he appeared on stage, managing to annoy many in the mostly older crowd. Lansing Symphony audiences have a reputation for granting enthusiastic, spontaneous standing ovations, but Requiro’s was slow and reluctant in coming, in sharp contrast to the one the orchestra received at the end of the program.



Requiro

The Stravinsky suite from “The Fairy Kiss” opened the second half of the program. It was lavish and fervent, but had so much going on at one time that it was difficult to grasp. It appeared that Stravinsky had woven so many different musical vignettes into the piece that I found it disorienting. Nevertheless, it was definitely appreciated by the discerning audience that was not confused. It also helped that the orchestra played the work with total confidence and conviction.

The crowning glory of the evening was “Swan Lake.” Mesmerizing the audience into a virtual motionless state, it featured extensive solo work for harp, violin and cello, all brilliantly played by the principals in each area and flawlessly supported by the orchestra.

The rousing last minutes of the “Waltz” movement were nothing short of heart stopping. Even though entranced, it occurred to me to wonder how Muffitt might be feeling. No one could blame him if at that moment he were bursting with pride (not for himself, but for his musicians) and thinking to himself: “Hey, people, right here, right now, this is the best of Tchaikovsky and this is the best of your symphony orchestra.”

THE SCREENING ROOM

by ALLAN I. ROSS

Illusions of life 'Her,' 'Inside Llewyn Davis' have some existential fun

With full acknowledgement to Tyler Durden, the idea that everyone's a beautiful and unique snowflake is classic, all-American hokey. But why would anybody choose to buy into a reality where the world is an unfair, arbitrary place when self-deception is infinitely more palatable? Two movies, new this week to Lansing audiences — the Coen Brothers' sardonic "Inside Llewyn Davis" and Spike Jonze's sci fi fairytale "Her" — take

a crack at unraveling the mystery of life, the universe and everything through inventive storytelling, clockwork script construction and the hottest sex scene you'll never see.

In Ethan and Joel Coen's 16th writer/director collaboration, "Inside Llewyn Davis" follows a couch-hopping Greenwich Village folk singer (Oscar Isaac) hanging on by his last frayed guitar string. The titular protagonist has begged, borrowed and, we can only assume, stolen from everyone who's ever shown more than a passing interest in him or his music. He's damned good with his music — raw, soulful, elegiac — but he's also just damned; a string of random, yet seemingly predestined incidences seem to be steering him away from his musical career.

The film's bleak, desaturated color palette and winsome soundtrack belie the film's inherent comedy. Isaac, in a breakout role, reveals his character's amazing capacity for selfishness and self-defeat scene by uncomfortable scene, a de-evolution that's so pathetic it actually becomes funny. Llewyn lets you down each time he lets himself down until you actually find yourself, much like his sister and his ex, rooting against him.



Courtesy Photo

Oscar Isaac is the titular starving artist in the Coen Brothers' "Inside Llewyn Davis."

If you're not talented, you can always get lucky. If you don't have talent or luck, hard work will sometimes do it. Llewyn Davis has the raw talent but nothing else — except for his flair for mooching, which, ironically, may be the very thing holding him back.

In Spike Jonze's "Her," the main character has a different impediment; Theodore's (Joaquin Phoenix) impending divorce is so painful that he's withdrawn emotionally from human interaction. But where the brash Llewyn Davis lashes out at the unfairness of his existence, the sweet, sensitive Theodore has accepted his banality.

The film is set in the near future where early adopters can buy artificially intelligent

personal operating systems that work like a personal assistant. He quickly bonds with his OS, who names herself Samantha (dulcetly voiced by Scarlett Johansson) and quickly adapts her personality to complement his.

She playfully rouses him out of bed in the morning, manages his emails and his personal calendar and goads him into dating again. She begins to have feelings, and then feelings about her feelings, which lead to the first stirrings of love between the two that manifests itself into a sexual encounter so erotic the screen goes completely black for most of it. I'll bet the MPAA still considered an NC-17 rating.

Jonze's ingenious script cleverly deconstructs concepts like identity and deception, even getting into the metaphysical aspects of being an emotional superintelligence and the illogicalities that arise from being in a committed relationship.

Of course, this is a commentary of our increasing descent into a technology-based existence, where Match.com and Skype have either facilitated or destroyed (depending on your view) human-to-human interaction. Yes, Samantha doesn't actually exist as a flesh-and-blood person, but that doesn't make her any less than real. And what's more real than love?

SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

AUTHOR EVENTS

Wine & Cheese Release Party JODY VALLEY

Debut Lansing author of
A Venomous Cocktail

Don't miss the chance to meet newcomer Jody Valley, an exciting new voice in Lesbian fiction, and pick up her page-turning story of murder, love and justice!

Wed. January 22. 7 p.m.
Lansing Location.

Girls' Night Out

MSU Profs Lisa Fine
& Kristen Fermaglich
present *The Feminine
Mystique*

Meet the co-editors of the first annotated edition of Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, released for the 50th anniversary of the original publication of the feminist classic.

Thurs. January 30. 7 p.m.
Lansing Location.

For more information, visit
www.schulerbooks.com

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, January 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Universal Symbolism Discussion. Can a symbol be universal? 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

Paper Management. How to organize your bills, records and paperwork. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

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

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

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

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

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

EVENTS

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

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

Clergy Forum MLK Celebration. Clergy Forum MLK Keynote: Dr. Marvin McMickle, Ph.D. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Union Missionary Baptist Church, 500 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Lansing. (517) 614-3705.

MUSIC

Snarky Puppy at The Loft. Presented by MSU Spartan Jazz Collective. Doors 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m. \$15 advance, \$20 at the door. The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (616) 340-2855. brownpapertickets.com.

Philip Sinder Tuba Recital. MSU Faculty Recital, 7:30 p.m., \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE for students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

David Geringas Cello Recital. MSU Guest Recital. 7:30 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE for students. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu

See Out on the Town, Page 19

THURSDAY, JAN. 16 >> MIKE BIRBIGLIA AT THE WHARTON CENTER



Comedian/storyteller Mike Birbiglia comes to the Wharton Center, and just in the nick of time: Nothing warms you up like a good belly laugh. Birbiglia last graced the Wharton Center stage in 2012 with his one-man show "My Girlfriend's Boyfriend"; his new show, "Thank God For Jokes," tells the joy and pain that comes from his profession. Birbiglia crosses all socially acceptable lines as he makes fun of allergies and describes the difficulty of being the follow-up performer to a Muppet act. 7:30 p.m. \$35/\$22 for the first 500 students. Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY EVENTS

Friday, Jan. 17 >> Music of the Dream

A concert featuring performances by Brian Hurst, Kim Burrell and Tye Tribbett. Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17.

Sunday, Jan. 19 >> MSU College of Music Pays Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.

The MSU College of Music will take part in the campus-wide celebration commemorating the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. with two free concerts: "Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest." The theme of the concert is women in jazz. The concert is part of MSU's year long initiative, "Project 60/50," which commemorates two of the 20th Century's watershed civil rights events: the 60th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education, and the 50th anniversary of the passage and signing into law of the Civil Rights Act. In addition to MSU'S Jazz Orchestras, directed by Rodney T. Whitaker, other performers include the MSU Children's Choir and the Earl Nelson Singers, as well as vocalists Twyla Birdsong, Ramona Collins, Rockelle Fortin, Kimmie Horne, Mardra Thomas and Jasmine Hamilton-Wray. Two performances: 3 p.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19. FREE. Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, 750 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 353-9958.

Sunday, Jan. 19 >> Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.

St. Matthew A.M.E Church. 4 p.m. 522 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 482-5329.

Monday, Jan. 20 >> 29th Annual MLK Celebration Luncheon.

The theme is "Our Lives Begin to End the Day We Become Silent about Things," featuring speaker Ernest Green. Green was one of the first students to walk through the doors of Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., after segregation was declared illegal. J. Moss will be the guest vocalist for the program. 11 a.m. \$35/person or \$280/table of eight. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-7400.



SATURDAY, JAN. 18 >> LANSING ENTERTAINMENT ART FAIRE AT THE GREEN UNION

Artists from around the Great Lakes will showcase their works, including Lansing recycling artist Tom Sherrin. Live music will be provided by 250 Calories, Northern Throne, Steve Usey, Jo Taylor, Justin Holcomb and Fade to Black. There will also be local vendors dishing out grub. Think Live Music is a Lansing-based production company that opened last year, based in an 8,500-square-foot studio. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Think Live Music, 1200 Marquette St., Lansing. FREE, but you must RSVP by Thursday, Jan. 16 on the event's Facebook page or by calling (517) 420-1873.

MONDAY, JAN. 20 >> BEER AND BACON PAIRING

Beer and bacon come together for one special night. Tickets include five 4- or 6-ounce Michigan crafted beer samples and bacon pairings with each sample. The first round of pairings, at REO Town Pub features beer from Odd Side Ales and bacon from Jerome Country Market. (There will be another at 7 p.m., Jan. 27 at BAD Brewery, 440 S. Jefferson St. in Mason.) You'll have a chance to try bacon flavors Willy Wonka couldn't even imagine like cherry, pineapple or jalapeno bacon. 7 p.m. \$20. REO Town Pub, 1147 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-4863, imabeerhound.com.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22-SUNDAY, JAN. 26 >> "PETER AND THE STARCATCHER" AT THE WHARTON CENTER



Figure out why Captain Hook is such a grouch and where Tinkerbell comes from. Even though "Starcatcher" is a "grownup version" of the story of Peter Pan, it still remains mystical. "It speaks to the child in adults," says Nathan Hosner, who plays Lord Aster, one of the good guys in the show. "It's about dreams coming true and how people can inspire one another to become more than they thought they could." Hosner got his professional start and received his equity card at BoarsHead Theatre in Lansing. "It feels like I'm coming home," he said. "Our show in particular has a lot of humor in it that appeals to adults. It's really delight the audiences we've had so far across the country." "Peter and the Starcatcher," presented by the Wharton Center for Performing Arts. \$27-\$62/\$25 Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.



TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICHTUPICA



FRI. JAN 17TH

THE TOASTERS AT MAC'S BAR

Friday, Jan. 17 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., \$14, \$12 adv., all ages, 9 p.m.

Formed in 1981 on the Lower East Side of Manhattan by British guitarist Rob "Bucket" Hingley, the Toasters played thousands of gigs across the world and became a global act during the '90s. While the third-wave ska band was initially influenced by classic acts like the Specials, it has garnered a huge following of its own. Billboard Magazine even dubbed them ska pioneers, and Clear Channel Radio named the band one of CBGB's 20 core bands. The band plays an all-ages gig Friday at Mac's Bar; opening are The Mushmen, Matt Wixson's Flying Circus and Catalina Wine Mixer. In the commercial realm the Toasters have recorded jingles for AOL, Anheuser-Busch and Coke, and recorded movie and television scores.

OFF THE LEDGE AT THE AVENUE



FRI. JAN 17TH

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$8, 8 p.m.

Off the Ledge play an album fundraiser show Friday at The Avenue Café. The local group, which blends rock 'n' roll with funk, jazz and folk, features Matt Shannon (vocals, guitar, melodica), Tab Wakley (guitar), Ian Wallace (bass) and drummer Chip Herbert. The band is working on a nine-song album; money from this fundraiser will pay for studio time. The album, tentatively titled "Wrong Way Down A One Way," is being recorded locally at Elm Street Recording. The band hopes to hire John Krohn, owner of Deep Deep Pink Recording Studio, for the mastering. Off the Ledge will launch a crowdfunding campaign to pay for the CDs. Opening at The Avenue show are Cat Tongue Grip, East Harvest and Days In The Arctic.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT AT 'THE FIDDLE'



FRI. JAN 17TH

Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St, East Lansing. \$15, \$12 members, \$5 students. 7 p.m.

Three of Michigan's busiest female singer/songwriters share the "Girls Night Out" bill Friday at The Ten Pound Fiddle. The acoustic, Americana-filled night features Rachael Davis, May Erlewine and Stella!, featuring Lansing's own, Jen Sygit. Davis, who's based out of Nashville, started performing in the early '00s. In that time she's released four albums, including one Shout Sister Shout album, a collaboration with Steppin' In It. Her latest album was 2008's "Antebellum Queens." Erlewine debuted with 2003's "Sleepless" LP on Earthwork Music, her longtime label. On top of playing and recording with her husband under the Seth & May moniker, she's released a pile of solo records, including 2012's "The Long Way Home."

MID-MICHIGAN BLUEGRASS & FOLK JAM



SUN. JAN 19TH

Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing. Donations welcome.

For those looking to hear and/or perform roots music, the Mid-Michigan Bluegrass & Folk Jam at Woldumar Nature Center might be just the ticket. The concert series, held each third Sunday through April, combines spontaneous round-robin jam circles and main-stage acts. This week features the Luke Lenhart Band and Kari Ann & Lost Creek. Lenhart is an all-around instrumentalist and has mastered the mandolin, guitar, banjo, fiddle and doghouse bass. The New Salem, Mich., native has participated in the National Flatpicking Championships in Kansas and has performed in front of the International Bluegrass Music Association. The Mid-Michigan Bluegrass & Folk Jam often focuses on traditional Americana but all styles and skill levels are welcome.

MAN MAN AT THE LOFT



WED. JAN 22ND

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15, \$13 adv., 7 p.m.

The emerging indie-rock band Man Man headlines Jan. 22 at The Loft; opening the all-ages show is Xenia Rubinos. Lead by front man Honus Honus (vocals/keys) and drummer Pow Pow, Man Man is known for its harmonious singles, like its new song "Head On (Hold On to Your Heart)" and 2008's piano-driven ditty "Rabbit Habits." Since the Philly-based band debuted in 2004 with "The Man in a Blue Turban with a Face," the group has developed and honed its sound into a hybrid of '50s rock, psych-rock, vintage soul and hints of hip-hop. The band's latest record, the "Oni Pond" LP (Anti/Epitaph), has earned the band airplay on alternative radio stations across the map.

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 7:30 p.m.	Open Mic, 7:30 p.m.	Off the Ledge, 7:30 p.m.	Rachel Brooke, 7 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.	Young Geezers, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 E. N. East St.			Taylor Williamson, 8 p.m.	Taylor Williamson, 8 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Summer of Sol, 8 p.m.	The New Rule, 8 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Snarky Puppy, 7 p.m.	Hometeam, 6 p.m.	Phutureprimitive, 9 p.m.	Hometown Throwdown, 6:30 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			The Toasters, 9 p.m.	Wisaaal, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic, 10 p.m.	Hopening Quartet, 10 p.m.	The Dewaynes, 9:30 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9:30 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.	Karl Rewerts, 8 p.m.		
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Well Enough Alone, 8 p.m.		
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Untamed 8:30 p.m.	Untamed, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Allen Craig Miller, 9 p.m.

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

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

WHAT 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 17

Thursday, January 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

East Coast Swing. Can be danced to rock, jazz or blues. 3:20 p.m. \$50 members, \$74 non-members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Night Club 2 Step. Learn to dance to popular ballads. 4:15 p.m. \$50 members, \$74 nonmembers. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

One-Room Country Schoolhouses. Celebrated by Capital Area District Libraries. 11 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Aging: Dr. Dennis Perry. Seminar to answer questions about getting older. 6 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

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

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

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

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

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

Events

SoupGrant Lansing. Discuss community projects over a soup dinner. 6:30 p.m. \$5. Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. soupgrantlansing.wordpress.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.

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

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

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

MUSIC

Rally In The Alley Open Mic. Open mic. Acoustic round table. All welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. American Legion Post 48, 731 N. Clinton St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1232. facebook.com/RallyInTheAlley.

Marshall Music Drum Circle. Hand drums provided, all ages and levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700.

THEATER

Mike Birbiglia: Thank God for Jokes. Performance by filmmaker, author and comedian. 7:30 p.m. \$38. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Friday, January 17

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.

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

Mind, Body and Soul in Motion. Exploring interpretive dance, pilates and tai chi. 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$5. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

EVENTS

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

Ditch Your Resolution Party. Donate old athletic shoes for a \$5 discount. 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Smokey Bones, 2401 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing.

Latin Xplosionar. Featuring Djs E-NYCE, JdAIESE and MOJITO. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5. The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 487-3663. latinxplosionar.com.

MUSIC

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

Tom Wopat. Tony-nominated Broadway star performs. 7:30 p.m. \$38. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. (517) 541-5690. cpacpresents.com.

Saturday, January 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Intro to Beekeeping. Backyard basics, equipment and safety. 12:30-2 p.m. \$10 donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

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

Tai Chi in the Park. Free class for beginning and experienced tai chi players. Now at winter location. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

EVENTS

The Green Union Presents LEAF. Lansing Entertainment Arts Faire. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. FREE. 1200 Marquette St., Lansing. (616) 690-4423. fDig The Past. Hands-on introduction to archaeology. 1-3 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-

THEATER

Mike Birbiglia: Thank God for Jokes. Performance by filmmaker, author and comedian. 7:30 p.m. \$38. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

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2372. mu.seum.msu.edu.

Bridging The Gap Between Women. Conference for women. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$20. Comfort Inn, 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos. (800) 439-1570 ext. 801. w2wdm.org.

Juicy J Live. Live hip hop music concert. 6-10 p.m. \$30, \$25 students. MSU Auditorium, 150 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 410-2921. ceppresents.com.

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

Clifford Storytime. Join us as we welcome Clifford the Big Red Dog. 1 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437. bn.com.

Winter Warm-Up Kick-Off, Rally. Activities, displays to promote healthy living. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 347-3377. CAHealthAlliance.org.

MUSIC

The Music of Philip Bennett. Phillip Graham Bennett performs. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

EVENTS

Open House. Learn about CMS and its great musical programs. 3-5 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

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

Sunday, January 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous. Third

Jonesin' Crossword

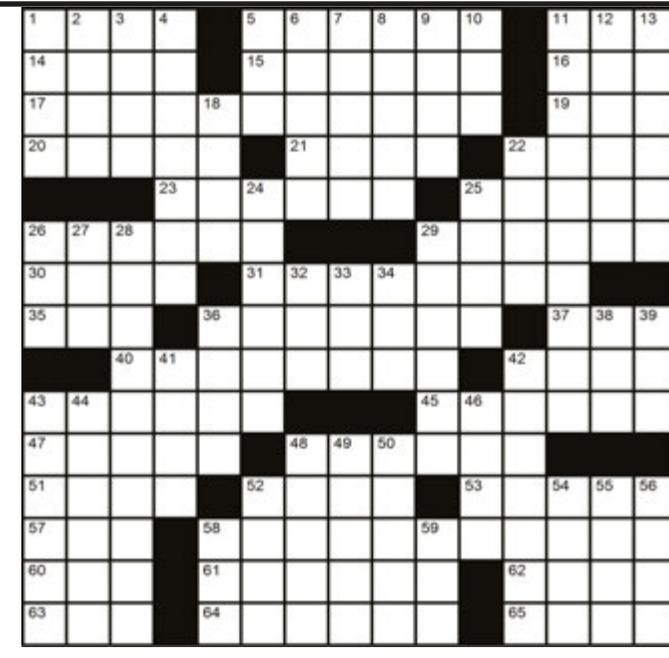
By Matt Jones

"A PX Upon You"--the same from start to finish.

Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Salon cut?
- 5 More crafty
- 11 "Batman" fight scene word
- 14 1995 role for Kenneth Branagh
- 15 Jumpsuit hue
- 16 Chapter of history
- 17 House funding?
- 19 "Excitebike" gaming platform
- 20 Put some muscle into cleaning
- 21 No-wheel-drive vehicle
- 22 It may be used in a pinch
- 23 Occupation with its own category of jokes
- 25 Disloyal
- 26 Smoothie ingredient, often
- 29 On the agenda
- 30 Winter exclamation
- 31 Barely make it
- 35 Compete like Ted Ligety
- 36 "Her" star Joaquin
- 37 Meadow murmur
- 40 Stuffed animal of the '80s
- 42 Dix or Knox
- 43 First game
- 45 "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" author Sherman
- 47 Like pickle juice
- 48 Moved like a crowd, with "about"
- 51 "___ of Anarchy"
- 52 Strip in the news
- 53 Anthony Edwards, in "Top Gun"



- 57 Pet Shop Boys song "West ___ Girls"
- 58 Cause of subzero temperatures in the US in 2014
- 60 Fr. holy title
- 61 Cheese in some bagels
- 62 "Take ___ from me..." team
- 64 Bond's martini preference
- 65 Just meh
- 8 Latin for "between"
- 9 Posh exclamation
- 10 Harrison of "My Fair Lady"
- 11 The sin bin
- 12 "Otherwise, I might do something you'll regret!"
- 13 Trashed
- 18 "Electronics, Cars, Fashion, Collectibles, Coupons and More" website
- 22 Swedish car brand founded in 1945
- 24 Laundromat fixture
- 25 Show off "these bad boys"
- 26 "Frontline" network
- 27 Early boat
- 28 Economist's average
- 29 Quarterback's pass, hopefully
- 32 Corn-centric zone?
- 33 "Riddle-me-___" (line in a children's rhyme)
- 34 Gasteyer of "Subur-
- 36 The hunted
- 38 Onassis' nickname
- 39 Took in take-out, e.g.
- 41 Curry and Wilson
- 42 Hipsters' hats
- 43 Get way too into, with "over"
- 44 Now if not sooner
- 46 Block you don't want to step on in bare feet
- 48 Radiance, to the Secret Service
- 49 "The Compleat Angler" author Walton
- 50 Onion rings option
- 52 "Heavens!"
- 54 "The Simpsons" character always shown wearing a walkman
- 55 Six of Juan?
- 56 Former Montreal baseball player
- 58 Faux ___
- 59 Actor Max ___ Sydow

SUDOKU
BEGINNER

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

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.

To avoid erasing, pencil in your possible answers in the scratchpad space beneath the short line in each vacant square.

Answers on page 21

Out on the town

from page 19

MUSIC

Mid-Michigan Bluegrass and Folk Jam. Listen, perform and jam. Bring your instrument(s). 2-6 p.m. \$4, \$2 Seniors, FREE Kids. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 482-2382.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Writing Hip Hop Lyrics Seminar. LPC to hold Hip Hop Lyrics Seminar at MICA Gallery, 2 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 402-5229. sites.google.com/site/lansingpoetryclub.

Monday, January 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Job Seekers Support Group. Find the right job or career. 10 a.m.-Noon, FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

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.

Restorative Yoga. Helps you relax and renew. 6:45-8 p.m. Class prices vary. Good Space Yoga,

2025 Abbot Road #300, East Lansing. (517) 285-2782. goodspaceyoga.com.

EVENTS

IHOP Pancake Eating Contest. WAI-IAM & IHOP Restaurant Pancake Eating Contest. 5 p.m.-9 p.m. FREE. IHOP, 2771 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 819-6569. wai-iam.com.

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

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

Club Shakespeare. 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL

See Out on the Town, Page 21

KIRABO FAIR TRADE/OLD TOWN BUSINESSES

Katy Barth/
City Pulse

The owner of the fair trade store Kirabo in East Lansing is selling her business. She said she's willing to stay on and train the new owner.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

After six-and-a-half years of selling fair trade items at Kirabo, her store in East Lansing, owner/operator Gail Catron is selling the business.

But it's not for a lack of commerce. "Kirabo has been growing continually since we opened," she said. "We started with six suppliers, expanded to 26 and we've got over 4,000 customers in our customer list. I'm just ready to do something else. I also need more weekend free time."

The fair trade industry helps producers in developing countries to make better trading conditions and promote sustainability. Kirabo carries a wide range of merchandise, including art, jewelry, toys, lamps, clothing and coffee.

The artisans she buys from come from the worst parts of the world and are working hard on their craft. "We pay much higher rates than if they sold it where

they live. We're making a difference in the world, and we've educated many people on authentic fair trade. It feels good knowing that some people have shifted some of their shopping because of us. Every week, two or three people thank me that they can buy things not made in a factory."

Catron hopes to sell before her lease expires at the end of April. She said the business will go for \$50,000, but the merchandise will sell separately. (She has about \$30,000 in inventory, but that should go down over the next two months.)

So what kind of person would make a good successor?

"Someone who understands and is passionate about fair trade and wants to work in a retail store," she said. "Usually fair trades are volunteer-driven with a paid manager, so it's very student-friendly."

But that's not the best part. "Working here is like having Christmas every day," she gushed. "You get to open a new package, hear the story behind it and share this

connection with someone so far away."

Old Town's losing two businesses

Two Old Town businesses have called it quits. **Portable Feast and Friends** ended its lease adjacent to the Creole Gallery earlier this month. Owner/operator Sharon Hind couldn't be reached, but Louise Gradwohl of the Old Town Commercial Association confirmed the news.

Nearby, the recently rebranded **Gallery 1212 Old Town** will close at the end of March. Partner Mike Scieszka, who's been with the gallery for two years, said the decision was "primarily financial." He said the other three partners and he are saddened, but are looking forward to making their own art again.

Kirabo

225 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Winter hours: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday
(517) 337-8000, kirabofairtrade.com

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www.CapMac.net

January 23 - February 23, 2014



The legendary story of King Henry II of England, and the battle between his fiercely competitive sons to be chosen next in line for the throne.

Directed by John Lepard

Featuring: Michael Barbour, Sandra Birch, Andrew Buck, Andrew Head, Katie Maggart, John Manfredi and Blaine Mizer

Williamston Theatre
122 S Putnam St., Williamston

517-655-7469
www.williamstontheatre.org



Pay-What-You-Can
Preview
Thurs., Jan. 23 @ 8PM

\$15 Previews

Jan. 24 @ 8pm
Jan. 25 @ 8pm
Jan. 26 @ 2pm
Jan. 30 @ 8pm

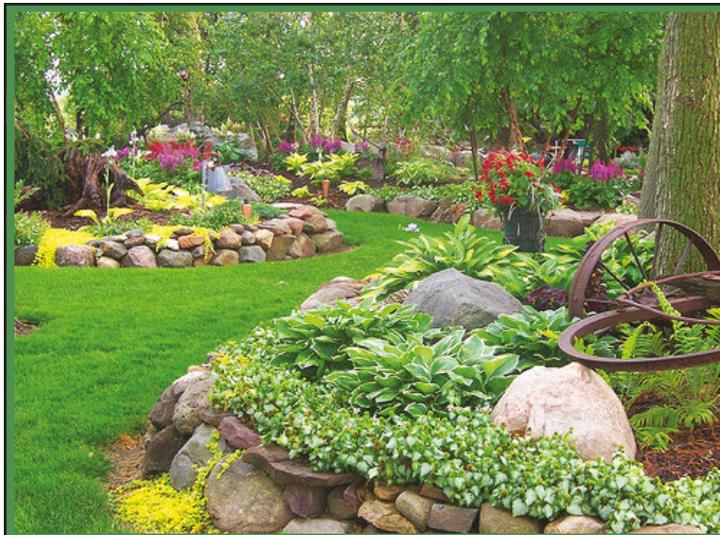
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We can help you with design, installation and maintenance

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theplantprofessionals.com gardens@theplantprofessionals.com 16886 Turner St., Lansing



Out on the town

from page 20

Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. cadl.org.

Beer and Bacon Pairing. Odd Side Ale's beers paired with bacon. 7 p.m., \$20. REO Town, 1100 block of S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-4863. imabeerhound.com.

MUSIC

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

Tuesday, January 21

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.

5:45-6:45 p.m. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5599. becauseeverybodyreads.com.

Healing Hearts. For those who have lost a loved one. 4-5:30 p.m. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163. womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

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

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

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

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

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

EVENTS

Bible and Beer. Bring your own beer and discuss faith. 6 p.m. FREE. Christ Community Church of Greater Lansing, 227 N Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-0600.

Wednesday, January 22

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

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

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

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

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

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

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

EVENTS

Farmers Market at Allen Market Place. 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.

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

MUSIC

Ukulele Workshop. Learn to play, all ages and levels welcome. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

THEATER

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

Jan 15-21

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Whose enemy are you? Are you anyone's adversary or obstructionist or least favorite person? Answer honestly, please. Don't be in denial. Next question: Do you derive anything useful from playing this oppositional role? If your answer is yes, that's fine. I won't try to talk you out of it. Continue to reap the benefits of being someone's obstacle. But if, on the other hand, you get little value out of this negative relationship, now would be a good time to change it. You have more power than usual to free yourself from being an antagonist.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You Tauruses are customarily more grounded than the rest of us. But this week, I'm wondering if you will be tempted to escape the laws of gravity and rebel against the call of duty. I suspect that your dreams, at least, will feature uninhibited forays into the wild blue yonder. While you're sleeping you may float weightlessly in an interplanetary spaceship, become an eagle and soar over forests, wear a futuristic jet pack on your back and zip through the sky, sail across the Serengeti Plains in a hot-air balloon, or have a picnic on a cloud with a feast of cotton candy and sponge cake and mint tea. Would you consider bringing this kind of fun into your waking life?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): What part of your life is too small, and you want to make it bigger? Is there a situation that's overly intense and dramatic, and you wish you could feel more light-hearted about it, less oppressed? Are you on a quest that has become claustrophobic, and you'd love to find a way to make it more spacious and relaxed? If you answered yes to any of those questions, Gemini, there's good news. Very soon now, you will have a close encounter with the magic you need to open what has been closed and expand what has been narrow. Be alert for it. Be crafty as you gather it in and harness it for your use.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In her poem "Catch a Body," Ilse Bendorf says she dislikes the advice "Don't ever tell anybody anything." On the other hand, "Tell everyone everything" isn't the right approach, either, she says. Judging from your astrological omens, Cancerian, I surmise that you're wavering between those two extremes. You're tempted to think you've got to do one or the other. Should you cultivate the power that comes from being silent, and keep people guessing about your true feelings? Or should you seek greater intimacy but risk giving away your power by confessing all your inner thoughts? I suggest you take a middle path. Tell the vivid truth, but carefully and incrementally.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If a substance has been burned, it can't be burned again. There's no flammable stuff left to feed a fire. That's simple physics. Now as for the question of whether a person can be burned more than once -- we're speaking metaphorically here -- the answer is, unfortunately, yes. Some folks don't learn from their mistakes and don't have enough emotional intelligence to avoid the bullies and manipulators who burn them again in the future. But I'm confident that you aren't one of these types, Leo, or that at least you won't be in the coming days. You may have been burned before, but you won't be burned this time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "People who don't take risks generally make about two big mistakes a year," said author Peter Drucker. "People who do take risks generally make about two big mistakes a year." In general I agree with that assessment. But I think it needs to be altered for your situation in the coming months. Here's the adjusted version of the formula: Virgos who don't take risks in 2014 will make an average of 3.1 big mistakes. Virgos who do take risks in 2014 will make, at most, a half a big mistake.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "You know what the greatest tragedy is in the whole world?" asks novelist Terry Pratchett. "It's all the people who never find out what it is they really want to do or what it is they're really

good at. It's all the people who never get to know what it is that they can really be." If that description applies to you even a little, Libra -- if you're still not completely sure what you're good at it and what you want to do -- the coming months will be prime time to fix that problem. Start now! How? Open your mind to the possibility that you don't know yourself as well as you someday will. Take vocational tests. Ask smart people you trust to tell you what they think about your special aptitudes and unique qualities. And one more thing: Be wildly honest with yourself about what excites you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In his book *Schottenfreude: German Words for the Human Condition*, Ben Schott dreams up new compound German words for use in English. Here's one that would serve you well in the coming week: *Fingerspitzentanz*, meaning "fingertips-dance." Schott says it refers to "tiny triumphs of nimble-fingered dexterity." His examples: fastening a bracelet, tightening a miniscule screw, unknotting, removing a recalcitrant sticker in one unbroke peel, rolling a joint, identifying an object by touch alone, slipping something off a high shelf. Both literally and metaphorically speaking, Scorpio, you now have an abundance of this capacity. Everything about you is more agile and deft and limber than usual. You'll be a master of *Fingerspitzentanz*.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The four elements that compose cocaine are the same as those that make up TNT, caffeine, and nylon: hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen. The combinations and proportions of elements are different in each substance, of course. But the point, for our purposes, is that the same raw materials lead to different results. I foresee a similar drama unfolding in your own life, Sagittarius. How you assemble the ingredients you currently have at your disposal could produce either a rough and ragged high, a volatile risk, a pleasant stimulation, or a useful resource. Which will it be?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Metaphorically speaking, you have recently come into possession of some new seeds. They are robust. They are hardy. They have the potential to grow into big, strong blooms. So when should you plant them, metaphorically speaking? I'm going to suggest that you wait a while longer. It wouldn't be bad for them if you sowed them right now, but I think their long-term vitality will be even greater if you postpone the planting for at least a week. Two weeks might be better. Trust your intuition.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The Flemish artist Jan van Eyck (1385-1441) was renowned for his innovative mastery of oil painting. He signed many of his works not just with his name but also with his motto: *Als ick kan*. Its idiomatic translation is "The best I can do." What he meant was that he had pushed his talent and craft to the limit, and then stopped and relaxed, content that he had given all he could. I invite you to have a similar attitude as you wrap up the projects you're currently involved in, Aquarius. Summon all your passion and intelligence as you create the most excellent outcome possible, but also know when to quit. Don't try *too* hard; just try hard.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's an excellent time to rise up and revolt against conventional wisdom. I urge you to immunize yourself against trendy groupthink as you outwit and outmaneuver the status quo. Have fun and activate your playful spirit to the max as you create workarounds to the way things have always been done. At the same time, Pisces, stay acutely attuned to your compassion and common sense. Don't be a quarrelsome intransigent. Don't be rebellious just to please your ego. If you follow these guidelines, you will be able to pull off a graceful insurrection that both soothes and stimulates your soul.



HE ATE

SHE ATE



Pleasant surprises await at low-key Huapei

Everybody loves Ray

By **MARK NIXON**

Some folks will take one look at Huapei Restaurant and keep going. Its inconspicuous location next to a shuttered Shell gas station is one reason. Its exterior appearance, which gives you the feeling that maybe the place is closed for good, is another. The interior has all the charm of a storage room.

Yes, I had my doubts, but here I am, rooting for this hole in the wall. Why? Because Huapei has something so lacking in many restaurants. Heart.

My humble advice: Give Huapei a chance.

Huapei (pronounced "wah-pay") is a drab little building, but there is a sincerity about the place and what it serves, embodied by the only staff person I encountered in my two visits. I don't know his name, but since my daughter and her friend instantly and in near-unison said "he sounds just like Ray Romano," I'll call him Ray.

He is definitely a ray of sunshine in this little place, and his kindness is genuine. On my second visit, when he saw me writing in my notepad while looking at the menu, he returned with a menu that I could take with me, and told me, "I saw you writing and I thought I would save you some work."

On separate visits I ordered sizzling rice soup and hot and sour soup. Both arrived piping hot, a fine antidote for the cold snap we've had. The sizzling rice soup was made with a clear broth and bits of shrimp and crab. It had subtle garlic overtones, which I love.

The hot and sour soup was made with a rich chicken broth, laced with chunks of black mushrooms, tofu and a scattering of freshly chopped scallions. The menu says this soup contained willow tree fungus. Uh, OK. It was good, whatever was in it.

I'm a soup hound, so it was easy to pick the soups as my favorite foods at Huapei. On separate visits I tried Huapei's namesake chicken dish, the fried tofu and Chiang Pao Chicken. These were too spicy for my palate, but I was outvoted by others at our table who declared the dishes wonderful.

On the other hand, for a lunchtime visit I ordered sweet and sour pork, and was not disappointed. The pork was lightly battered, unlike the over-battered, over-sauced pork chunks you see on a steam table at a Chinese buffet. The sauce struck the right balance between sweet and tangy.

I also sampled my granddaughter's Seafood Udon Noodle Soup. Delicious.

Huapei has been around for years, and

See He Ate, Page 23

Huapei Restaurant

401 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing
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Sunday; closed Monday
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Dramatic dishes

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

I love sushi and the occasional order of General Tso's chicken (the likes of which was enjoyed on our unexpectedly dark Christmas Eve this year), but neither Chinese nor Korean food figures prominently in my takeout rotation. I hadn't been to Huapei in a while, and although a girlfriend of mine who knows food sings the praises of the restaurant, I wasn't totally convinced that it was still in operation.

Over the course of a few recent visits I was happy to learn that Huapei is indeed alive and well, offers exceptional quality and quantity of food for reasonable prices and is a charming and independent place off the beaten path. Yes, structural issues remain after the restaurant was hit by a car. But the kitchen is fully functional, the restaurant itself sparkling clean and the staff is eager to please.

For our first visit, we stopped in for a Friday night dinner. We started with egg rolls, fried dumplings and sizzling rice soup. The vegetable egg rolls were hot and fresh and the browned dumpling wrappers were stretched around a generous portion of minced pork, cabbage and bright green spring onion. While both appetizers were slightly heavy handed on the salt, I've come to think of that characteristic as something that is intrinsic in Chinese food.

Our server came to the table with a big bowl of chicken soup and a plate of fried rice, which she promptly poured into the soup. When the hot, puffed rice met the broth, there was a sudden snap, crackle, and popping. I'm not sure if it was the dramatics of the dish or the comforting mix of chicken, shrimp, beef, crab and mushrooms, but the soup was my highlight of the meal.

For his entrée, the boyfriend chose sweet and sour pork. The deep fried chunks of pork were tossed with sliced onions, peppers, crunchy cabbage, snow peas and a light, slightly sweet brown sauce. He added some white rice to soak up the sauce and remarked that he was happy with the vegetables. The snow peas and cabbage in particular retained some of their snap, which he liked.

My sheng chow chicken kicked up the heat a bit. Chunks of fried chicken, roasted red pepper, green pepper, onion and slices of carrot were tossed in a soy-based sauce that sent me reaching for my water glass, but not so much that I couldn't enjoy the dish. If you can eat hot salsa, you can safely order the items printed in red on the Huapei menu.

See She Ate, Page 23

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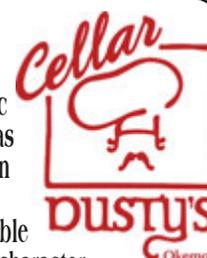
January 24: 6:30-8:30 PM, January 25: 6:30-8:30 PM

Light appetizers will be offered with the wine, space is limited, advance purchase is highly recommended. This is a stand up walk around tasting. Ten wines for \$10.

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January 31: 6-8 PM

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He Ate

from page 22

it's clear from reading online reviews that this unassuming place has a devoted local following. It's the Chinese restaurant equivalent of a working class bar.

And it appears to operate on a working class budget. From what I could tell, there was "Ray" and one other person working the kitchen — and that was the entirety of the staff roster. We heard someone chopping vegetables or meat in the kitchen, and on our first visit there was a baby fussing in the kitchen. So childcare was probably involved.

In short, these folks are busy, and despite manpower challenges, the service was relatively prompt.

But in a place with minimal help and presumably a modest budget, some

things don't always click. On one visit, we arrived slightly after 5 p.m. to find a darkened restaurant. Huapei's posted hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays, then it closes and reopens from 5 to 9 p.m. On my next visit, I arrived a little past noon, and thought it was closed. Wrong. But I was the only customer.

Then there's the entrance ...

While Huapei is not a drive-through restaurant, some distracted driver attempted to make it one in mid-2013. The car plowed into Huapei's entrance, Ray explained. I thought this was a recent event, but was later informed the crash happened last year. Repairs are ongoing. As proof, a stepladder stands inside the door, serving as a makeshift barrier to prevent customers from tripping in the construction zone.

I don't know Chinese cuisine well enough to claim Huapei's is authentic. It strikes me as food you would eat in a Chinese home. In any case, the portions



Gabrielle Johnson/City Pulse
Chunks of fried chicken, onion, carrots and roasted red and green peppers are tossed in a soy-based sauce for Huapei's sheng chow chicken, one of the Asian fusion restaurant's spicier dishes.

are generous and the prices are a bargain. For lunch I had tea, an egg roll and a plate of sweet and sour pork that came with rice and a cup of soup. All for \$7.16.

Looks can be deceiving, and Huapei is Exhibit A in that regard. I like this place because it tries, it cares and, though forlorn looking, has a true heart.

She Ate

from page 22

I thought the sauce was slightly too thick, but I'm traditionally not a fan of heavily sauced dishes.

Our entrees all arrived steaming hot and obviously freshly made, and the service was timed perfectly, with our table never being inundated with plates. We leisurely enjoyed our appetizers and hot green tea (which may have a touch of cinnamon) before our main dishes came out. A regular at another table started chatting with us about the restaurant, which opened in Mason years ago before relocating to its current location close to downtown. He told us to mix together the three sauces that

our server had brought with our entrees — the vinegar, soy sauce and hot oil combined to make a knockout dipping sauce that had the acidity that the sweet and sour pork needed and the heat that I crave.

On a return visit for lunch, I was happy see that the menu offers affordable specials that all come with soup. The offering that day was egg flower soup, which was substantially similar to egg drop with the genius additions of cubed tofu, zucchini and scallions. On one of the coldest days this winter, the egg flower soup was a bull's-eye. The house wontons that we ordered were inexpensive (\$3.50) and plentiful, with 10 to an order; there wasn't a lot of filling in them, however, and they were mostly crispy wonton wrapper, which I discarded.

I chose the Szechuan beef special with fried rice for lunch. The thinly sliced beef was accented with green onion and red pepper and topped with copious amounts of a sweet and mild brown sauce. It was difficult to taste anything but sauce. My companion's beef with broccoli sent me into entrée envy as I gazed at the hearty amount of

green on his plate and the much lighter sauce. I snuck bites from his plate, but we still took home leftovers.

I could tell you that I will eat Chinese food more frequently, but I'm not sure that that will happen. I can promise that the next time I order Chinese takeout, it will be from Huapei. The place has its charms, none of which were lost on me.

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