

CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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March 12-18, 2014

FREE



OUT OF LEFT FIELD

GILLESPIE, CITY, LUGNUTS SEEK TO BUILD APARTMENTS INSIDE THE BALLPARK

SEE PAGE 9



LANSING BUDGET

In run-up to budget season, Lansing's finances looking good — for now | page 5



MSU'S NEW \$750,000 OUTDOOR VENUE

MSU's Summer Circle Theatre moves to new site for 2014 | page 12



ST. PATTY'S WEEKEND GUIDE

St. Patty's Day 2014 will be a quieter affair... maybe | page 13

Photo by Jeremy David

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THE
SERPENT LADY

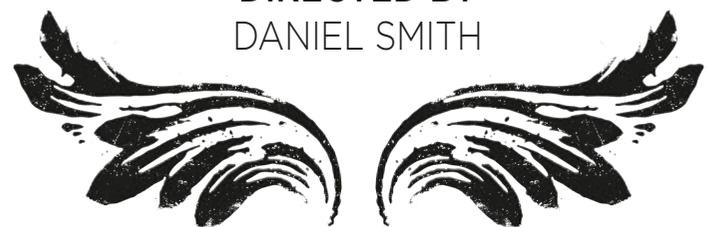
BY CARLO GOZZI

TRANSLATED & ADAPTED BY DANIEL SMITH & VALENTINA DENZEL

MARCH 18-23, 2014
STUDIO 60

The Serpent Lady, Cherestani, the queen of a magical land, must test her husband's love. Will he recognize his beloved when she turns into a snake? This fairy tale by Carlo Gozzi is told in the style of commedia dell'arte, with masks, puppetry, and physical comedy.

DIRECTED BY
DANIEL SMITH



FLIGHTS OF FANTASY

Feedback

'Hometown' utility includes communities outside Lansing

Mickey Hirten, in his March 5 column, chides the residents of townships and cities outside of Lansing served by the Board of Water and Light for wanting to be represented on the Board. He scoffs at criticism of the annual payments made by the utility to Lansing because the payments "essentially compensate for BWL's tax exempt status."

I fail to see how compensating a city with 65 percent of a utility's customer base, for whatever reason, is fair to the other communities served by the utility who get no benefit from the payments. If the payments somehow were used to improve the utility's system or its communication planning efforts, the other communities would not complain. But this is not the case. The payments are made to address Lansing's budget shortfalls, a luxury which other communities not represented on the Board are unable to enjoy.

Article VII, section 24 of the Michigan Constitution provides that a municipal utility is limited to selling and delivering electricity "in an amount not exceeding 25 percent of that furnished by it within the corporate limits, except as greater amounts may be permitted by law." Michigan Compiled Laws 124.3, enacted in 1974, allows BWL to serve townships, villages and cities that were contiguous to Lansing on June 20, 1974. In 1974, BWL did not exceed the 25 percent cap, but it clearly does now. Although the 1974 Act may be used to justify greater service to contiguous communities than that permitted by the Constitution, those communities clearly have an argument on equitable grounds that, based on the intent of the Constitution, they should be represented on the BWL.

As a former MPSC Commissioner, I agree with Mr. Hirten that communities should not use the threat of leaving BWL for Consumers Energy to leverage seats on the Board. Despite recent problems, BWL does provide reasonably priced and generally reliable power (not all of BWL customers can afford a generator like Mr. Hirten). However, the growth in cities and townships contiguous to Lansing since 1974 fully justifies that they be represented on the board of their "hometown" utility.

— Robert Nelson
East Lansing

Mickey Hirten's column says customers of BWL who are not Lansing residents should not have representation on its Board of Commissioners. His reason? He doesn't give one except for one sentence about other communities not making their case for representation. However, he doesn't make his case for why we should not have representation.

Most of Hirten's column is devoted to showing that non-Lansing customers are better off with BWL than with Consumer

Energy. He writes as if everyone calling for non-Lansing representation is itching to go to Consumers Energy if that does not happen, and then lays out why that is neither desirable nor feasible. That misses the point.

Many of us would prefer to stay with BWL than switch to Consumers Energy, for many of the reasons he lays out in his column. But it also makes sense that communities outside of Lansing who use BWL should have some representation on the board. I am certainly open to changing my mind if someone could give me some persuasive arguments for why non-Lansing communities should remain unrepresented, but after re-reading Hirten's column three times I could find no such argument.

— Peter Ruark
Delta Township

Preserve Eastern's name

With all the talk about Lansing's Eastern High closing and Pattengill becoming the new high school, how about asking the school board to change the name of Pattengill to Eastern? That way we can keep Eastern's history, honors, trophies and teams intact. Pattengill's name can join the ranks of West Jr., Walter French, and Otto.

Don't say it can't be done. The names of Logan Street and Main Street were changed. I say keep Eastern High alive in a new building.

Eastern has a very strong alumni association.

It would be in the school district's best interest to consider this name change.

— Brent Robison
Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information:
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com
or (517) 999-5061

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

CORRECTIONS

Due to a reporting error, last week's story on a planned Lansing Arts Commission incorrectly said which City Council committee will take up a proposed ordinance to encourage public art. It is the General Services Committee.

Due to an editing error, a Feb. 26 story on glass artist Craig Mitchell Smith incorrectly listed the address of his new gallery. It is at 1220 N. Washington Ave.

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New In Town: Steakhouse Philly Bar & Grill opens after massive revamp

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He Ate She Ate: A review of farm-to-table diner Fork in the Road

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"THE OUTFIELD" courtesy of GILLESPIE GROUP

COVER
ART

CITY PULSE



THIS WEEK

- Ken Darga and Susan Grettenberger, Democratic candidates for 8th Congressional District
- City officials on "The Outfield" development proposal



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays

IMPACT
89FM

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Budget skies clearing

In run-up to budget season, Lansing's finances looking good — for now

Lansing may have turned a corner on its annual budget woes — at least in the short term.

For the first time in a decade, the administration will propose a budget for the next fiscal year that doesn't involve cuts to resolve a deficit.

Rebounding home values and an increase in personal income appear to be contributing to increased property and income tax revenues, which represent over half of the city's budget.

"I am aware we are going to start the fiscal year without a deficit," former Mayor David Hollister confirmed Monday. Hollister heads the Financial Health Team appointed by Mayor Virg Bernero to study short- and long-term solutions to the city's fiscal health. Bernero has tapped Hollister and team again to work on long-term budget solutions. Hollister said to expect an announcement from Bernero on a "series of initiatives" to address fiscal challenges. Hollister said the team will be briefed on the details before Bernero presents his budget to the City Council on March 31.

Last week, the Council participated in one of three workshops led by Michigan State University researcher Eric Scorsone, who also worked on the Financial Health Team. Bernero attended the training.

The earliest indications came from Bernero in January, when he announced in his State of the City speech "that our FY15 budget will start in balance — rather than in deficit — for the first time in a decade," though he has since not provided details.

This year's budget is \$112 million. The administration has cumulatively trimmed \$60 million since he took office and reduced the citywide workforce by 30 percent.

He presents his next fiscal year budget to the City Council at the end of the month. The proposed budget book is essentially a prediction of how much money the city will take in and spend

between July 1 and June 31, 2015. Each year since he took office in 2006, Bernero has had to balance the city's ledgers to bring expenditures in line with anticipated revenues. It's unclear yet whether the city will end this fiscal year with a surplus, or by how much revenues may exceed expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year.

However, Bernero plans to work with the Financial Health Team he appointed in 2012 to continue addressing long-term budget issues, such as legacy health care costs and regionalizing services.

The city faces more than \$600 million in unfunded liabilities for pension and retiree health care, which the Financial Health Team has recommended the administration start contributing to annually.

"We will be engaging the (Financial Health Team) early and often, I can

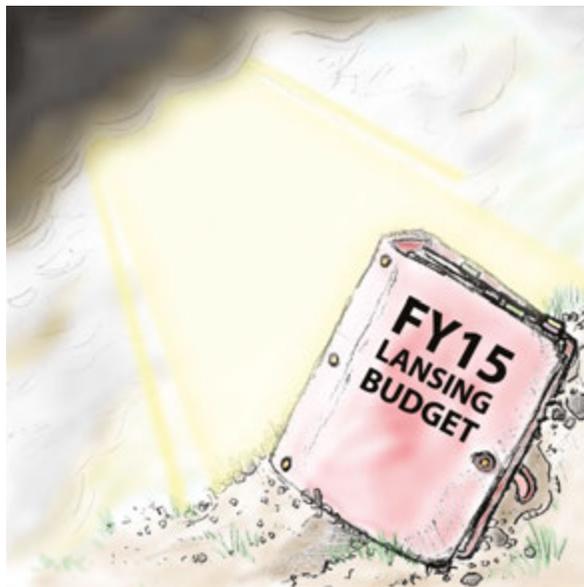


Illustration by Jonathan Griffith

tell you that," Bernero said in an email last week. "We need to be as vigilant in good times as in bad — maybe even more so. There is a temptation to just focus on short-term needs, which are real, but we cannot take our eye off long-term financial health. So while we will address areas of need that may have been neglected due to budget constraints, it will NOT be business as usual, by any means. And that is why we've asked Mayor Hollister and the FHT to stay engaged with us. We are determined to stay on the path to financial sustainability as we make necessary strategic investments to maintain and grow a healthy city."

In his State of the City speech, Bernero reported 27 straight months of job growth in the city and rebound-

ing home sales and values, with the median price of a home sold increasing from \$67,000 to \$95,000.

"Extremely encouraging" is how Council President A'Lynne Boles described the run-up to this year's budget presentation. "We need to sustain the momentum, if not increase it."

The first half of this fiscal year's budget shows a slight increase in the amount of property taxes collected than was predicted, according to a second-quarter General Fund status report presented to the Council on Feb. 24. Property taxes make up a third of General Fund revenues. The city brought in about \$300,000 more in property taxes by Dec. 31 than is annually budgeted.

Income tax revenues, which make up 25 percent of the city's revenue, "have shown sustained strength this fiscal year," according to the report. In both cases, the revenues were higher than the average of the three previous fiscal years at this point.

The third significant source of revenues, which are statutorily distributed by the state, also are on target, according to the report.

While there was a slight dip in smaller revenue sources, such as fees for services and licenses and permits, overall expenditures are, so far, below the budgeted target.

Councilwoman Carol Wood is more guarded, saying the administration hasn't provided more specifics about next year's budget.

"Right now, we don't have any idea," she said. "All we're being told is that the second-quarter numbers are within budget."

Yet for the short-term optimism, the next challenge is resolving long-term, structural budget problems that can threaten the city's solvency. For instance, the city's Tax Increment Finance Authority, or TIFA, required a \$1 million influx from the General Fund this year to a balance a deficit there. Health care costs, if not addressed, could continue ballooning.

"He still has a problem long term," Hollister said of Bernero and his budget. "He still has the legacy issues — health care, retirement, some regional things you've got to be thinking about."

— Andy Balaskovitz



Property: 122 S. Grand Ave., downtown Lansing

Owner: Summit Associates II, LLC

Assessed value: \$334,700

Owner says: Wants to demolish it for a surface parking lot

Vibrant cities exhibit buildings with varied degrees of refinement, from grand monuments to simple background structures. However, buildings can be attractive and notable, even if they do not rise to landmark status. The memory of an agreeable, unassuming building may still be found in this background structure. Its modest, unaffected brick mass features pleasant proportions and minimal, but attractive details, particularly at the cornice. However, at some point in the building's life, it was left in the care of someone who was altogether too fond of round top windows. Although the window arches echo the building's main entrances, they draw attention away from and diminish these special entry details, while clumsily closing off the street level storefronts. Left in place, its minor aesthetic shortcomings might be addressed and corrected.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

But that's not what the building owners have planned. On Feb. 24, Jason and Ryan Granger — sons of developer Gary Granger — presented a plan to the City Council that includes demolishing the 76-year-old building for ... wait for it ... a surface parking lot. While the Grangers can demolish the building if they choose, they need a special land use permit from the city for the surface lot. They told the Council it's been vacant for 30 years. The short-term goal is to "clean the site," while ultimately marketing the parcel for future development. Granger Group owns the

See Eyesore, Page 6

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ingham County solicits proposals from qualified and experienced firms specializing in environmental consulting services for the purpose of entering into a contract to provide mold remediation services. Info: <http://pu.ingham.org>, under Current Bids link.

CP#14_058

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On March 5, 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.

February 18, 2014 Regular Meeting

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK
CP#14_057

CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION

ORDINANCE NO. 1313

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 50 – OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1313 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at the regular meeting of the Council held on March 4, 2014, and will become effective 7 days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1313

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

A zoning code amendment to make updates and minor corrections under sections 50-4, 50-6, 50-7, 50-33, 50-37, 50-38, 50-572, 50-592, 50-632, 50-673 and 50-755 of the City Code.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1313 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

CP#14_059

CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE NO. 1324

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 28-33 OF CHAPTER 28 AND SECTION 36-82 OF CHAPTER 36 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO PROHIBIT THE DEPOSIT OF YARD WASTE IN PARKS, STREETS AND OTHER PUBLIC PROPERTY

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 28-33 of Chapter 28 and Section 36-82 of Chapter 36 of the Code of the City of East Lansing are hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 28-33. Waste to be deposited in containers; household waste; animal feces; yard waste.

No person shall place or deposit any garbage, glass, glass bottles, cans, plastic, paper, or miscellaneous waste in any park, except in containers provided for that purpose. No person shall deposit household waste in park refuse containers. No person shall bring any dog or animal feces into any park for disposal in any park container, or otherwise. No person shall place or deposit any lawn clippings, leaves or other yard waste in any park

Sec. 36-82. Prohibited deposit of rubbish, garbage and yard waste.

No person shall deposit, throw, or place any rubbish or garbage in any alley, street, river, other public places or private premises or allow such rubbish or garbage to be kept on private premises except for collection by the city in accordance with the provisions of this article or any other applicable provisions of the City Code. All rubbish and garbage placed for collection shall have been generated from the specific East Lansing property from which it is to be collected. No person shall transport or bring garbage or rubbish for collection or deposit to any property within the city from any other property whether within or without the city. No person shall permit any rubbish or garbage to accumulate on any premises owned or controlled by him/her for a period longer than the interval between the collection days established for the neighborhood. No person shall deposit any yard waste in any alley, street, river, or other public place except for collection by the City in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. No person shall deposit any yard waste in any public drain. No person shall deposit any yard waste in any public drain easement that will result in the waste entering the drain or otherwise interfering with the proper operation of the drain. No person shall deposit any leaves in any street except during those time periods when the City's fall bulk leaf collection is in effect.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_062

Eyesore



from page 5

adjacent surface lot at Grand and Michigan avenues.

The Council was scheduled to vote on the SLU at Monday's meeting, but it was removed from the agenda after the Grangers asked to revisit the plan, Council President A'Lynne Boles said Monday.

However, the Grangers might have

avoided a foregone conclusion. The city's Planning Board recommended denying the SLU because a surface lot "is not compatible with the essential character of the surrounding area," among other contributing factors. The Council resolution agrees with the Planning Board's determination. The Downtown Neighborhood Association is also against more surface parking downtown.

— Andy Balaskovitz



Photo courtesy of Jeff Smith

LEAP director of talent and communications Sara Graham (right) watches as M. Cole Jones, a software developer from Atlanta, shares Google Glass photos with members of her team last weekend at South by Southwest.

Tech ambassadors

LEAP representatives promote Lansing at SXSW, look for ideas

Last weekend, three members of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership flew to Austin, Texas, to attend the annual music, film and technology showcase South by Southwest. Steve Willobe, director of business development, Sara Graham, director of talent and communications, and Jeff Smith, director of the new economy division, joined over 24,000 people from 73 countries for three days of networking, new gadget ogling and riding on Miley Cyrus' wrecking ball. Seriously.

"I wanted to ride it, but I didn't think that was a good idea being a representative of Lansing," Smith said. "A lot of people were taking pictures. That kind of thing can get out."

And with tech enthusiasts from around the world equipped with smart phones and Google Glass, showing up in someone's social media feed was a matter of when, not if — but that was the plan. Smith said LEAP partnered with the Michigan

Economic Development Corp. to run the Pure Michigan booth, which promoted state and local business and housing growth.

"There are hundreds of IT jobs in Lansing and the housing market is booming," Graham said. "All the things are in place that an urban professional would want. Our goal was to reach out to people who may have moved away from Michigan or had preconceived notions of what Lansing is like."

LEAP created the "Escape to Lansing" campaign, positioning Lansing as a disaster-free zone. They also unveiled a newly created website, escapetolansing.com, and gave out T-shirts with stylized drawings depicting natural disasters inside a red circle with a slash through it.

"We have no volcanoes, no sharks, no hurricanes," Graham said. "No Justin Bieber. We were giving people reasons to look to Lansing if they're thinking of starting up a new company." (Notice she didn't say anything about snow.) Smith said he thinks the campaign worked.

"A lot of people came by the booth who had left the state, telling us how proud

See SXSW, Page 7

SXSW

from page 6

they were to see us representing Michigan. We gave out almost 200 T-shirts in the first 10 minutes. We changed the minds of a lot of people.”

Smith attended a teleconference featuring WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who was Skyping from London. He also saw Shaquille O’Neil, rode a Boosted Board (a self-propelled, battery powered longboard controlled by smartphone) and made a new friend.

“I was wearing Google Glass and I met this other guy, M. Cole Jones, a software developer from Atlanta,” Smith said. “Steve suggested we take a picture of each other and send it to each other, and that started a conversation.”

It turns out Jones is heavily involved in the Atlanta tech startup scene and had some advice for Smith. Smith said he’s going to remain in contact with Jones and maintain that relationship. Smith was also able to check in with representatives from the Triangle Research Park in North Carolina he met last year.

“If one person relocates to the Lansing market as a result of us being (at South by Southwest), that’s a huge win,” Smith said. “If one person tweets about our shirts, that’s a huge success. That puts Michigan on a whole new stage. We start to look like Boulder and Phoenix and Austin. Lansing could be a hotbed of start up activity.”

— Allan I. Ross



The general jobs at BWL

Lots of information, but not enough answers

You’ve got to give Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero credit for ordering up a hard-nosed look at what happened at his power company during the December ice storm.

While he’s a staunch defender of the Lansing Board of Water and Light and its management, Bernero knew there were serious problems and asked for a unvarnished post mortem. Which is what he’s going to get ... and maybe more.



MICKEY HIRTEN

Hints of where the community review team’s investigation is heading surfaced

during a five-hour meeting with the BWL’s senior management on Monday. Questioning was polite but pointed. Did union work rules affect how the utility staged its outage recover opera-

tion? (Management said they didn’t.) Why didn’t the BWL ask the city to declare an emergency? Who makes decisions and how do they do it? How come no one called officials outside of Lansing with power restoration updates?

The very first question, directed to BWL General Manager J. Peter Lark, dealt with his ill-timed vacation Christmas vacation in New York. “Let’s do this once and get it over with,” review team chairman Michael McDaniel said. “What were you thinking?”

Lark, to his credit, acknowledged once again that leaving town was a mistake, but he reminded the committee that he was working continually while in New York, receiving emails and texts. But this only served as a reminder that Lark destroyed much of his digital communications and that the BWL only belatedly found supposedly missing emails. McDaniel is a military man, a former brigadier general in the Michigan National Guard. He has said that a good commander sticks by his troops.

Much of the hearing focused on the BWL’s gamble that its flawed Outage Management System wouldn’t be tested seriously until its technical staff and supplier, General Electric, could resolve well-documented problems. The OMS is used to receive outage calls, track down wires and other troubles reported by BWL’s customers and staff. It’s what a utilities use to tell customers when power should return.

We now know that this system was still in what BWL calls a “project” phase, and that functions like outage maps, web reporting, links to other systems and another dozen items didn’t work. What the panel didn’t ask was who bought the failed system and why. But the review will surely address the issue. And it’s likely to question why with all of the problems, BWL didn’t keep its old outage management system operating as a back-up until the new system worked.

Throughout the session BWL managers stressed that the OMS failure didn’t meaningfully affect how quickly they restored electricity. Rather, it frustrated customers who couldn’t determine whether the utility knew about their problems or when they might be resolved.

It was the communications breakdown that prompted one of the sharpest lines of questioning, a challenge to Lark and his managers to acknowledge what former East Lansing Councilwoman Beverly Baten called a “privilege list.” Elected officials like Lansing Councilwoman Carol Wood and commissioners of the publicly owned utility forwarded customer complaints and questions to Lark, who fielded their calls and got them answers.

“If a BWL commissioner is a privileged person, I want to be one,” Baten told Lark, who defended his actions as pure customer service. “It’s incumbent on me that when she (Wood) or any entity called me to get that information to the T&D (transmission and distribution) people,” Lark said.

But as Lark acknowledged during the hearing, many public officials have his

private phone numbers. Those are the people who call the general manager of a utility for updates.

Members of the review team — all volunteers — clearly are serious and prepared for the exhausting job of dissecting BWL’s performance.

Stacks of materials provided by the utility fill two large binders and weigh in at 11 pounds. There are piles of emails and other documents. Although he is flooded with documents, McDaniel isn’t an easy sell and isn’t at all certain that Lark and his managers get the spirit of the inquiry. He was particularly annoyed that a 54-point document outlining key issues and BWL’s response — held aloft by managers as a commitment to improvements — wasn’t shared with the review team. They had to ask for it.

“Why don’t they just provide it,” McDaniel said after the meeting. He questioned Lark about BWL’s record retention policy. Despite assurances that it had been provided, McDaniel didn’t get a copy until Monday.

It’s probably not a good tactic to annoy the general. Still, most committee members were pleased with the session, saying they learned about the nature and complexity of the issues facing BWL during and after the ice storm.

The review team had hoped to have its report finished by the end of March — a look back, as much as a look forward. But this isn’t likely to happen. What’s called for is a thorough review. A delay makes no difference.

Rethinking MSU’s endowment

Some ideas on how MSU’s \$2 billion endowment might be spent to benefit the local economy

The public relations team at Michigan State University did a fine job getting out the word about the school’s growing endowment recently. And the State Journal genueflected nicely towards its financial success in an editorial.

But like many who play in the financial casinos of the world, they pay little heed to what is left in the wake of their own financial gain. About 5 percent of MSU’s more than \$2 billion treasure chest is used annually to fund a variety of worthy efforts, including student financial aid.

But the question of what the other 95 percent of the endowment is doing in the world other than growing MSU’s pot of gold is rarely considered. Are we subsidizing the sale of landmines or supporting corporate scofflaws or tobacco conglomerates?

See Link, Page 8

SUSTAINABILITY



TERRY LINK

MY18-TV! 9 A.M.

Every Sunday

Hosted by
Berl Schwartz

THIS WEEK: BWL Storm Response

CITYPULSE NEWSMAKERS

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

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COMCAST

Lansing/East Lansing/Holt.....Ch. 8

Jackson.....Ch. 18

Summit/Leoni Township.....Ch. 8

MILLENNIUM

Bath, Charlotte/Williamston/others.....Ch. 6

Vermontville.....Ch. 12

Grass Lake.....Ch. 11

CABLE PROPERTIES

Rives Junction.....Ch. 18

Springport.....Ch. 18

Watch past episodes at vimeo.com/channels/citypulse

Link

from page 7

MSU was once a leader in investment circles when it became the first public university to divest from companies doing business with apartheid South Africa. That wasn't an action that the Board of Trustees dreamed up on its own. It was, of course, driven by committed students and faculty members answering the call of their oppressed brothers and sisters in South Africa.

Today the loudest call for divestment is aimed at fossil fuel companies. Colleges, cities and foundations are beginning to shift their funds away from fossil fuels for both climate, financial and social reasons. Some Socially Responsible Investing, or SRI, funds are keeping a small amount of fossil fuel holdings so that as shareholders they can push the companies to move their operations in more climate-friendly directions. MSU sits on the sidelines.

But it is one thing to focus solely on

divestment and another to find better, more prosperous activities that benefit all humans and the natural world we share to invest in. I am drawn to the emergence of new ideas. Our human and environmental condition calls for some significant new approaches — to our economy, our politics and our education systems, to name just a few. Redirecting how we invest our money and our time could help us shift away from trajectories that lead to increasing poverty and inequality, ecological destabilization and general global insecurity.

What if, instead of debating this or that with the idea of one side winning, we used different approaches whereby winning meant finding the best idea, perhaps one not quite visible yet? How would that feel? What energies might it unleash? Why is competition always the preferred and often only approach considered to improve performance?

As readers of my blog might know, I am intrigued by ideas from various arenas and how they can be joined together to create something new, something better for the commonwealth of this amazing planet we

inhabit and are unwittingly unraveling.

So how might an institution like MSU, which is a powerful anchor in this community, improve its financial position AND build a more socially equitable and environmentally sustainable future? Let's float some ideas and see which ones might gather some speed.

What if MSU directed that a minimum of 10 percent of its endowment be invested in the tri-county area? This could be in businesses, bonding infrastructure improvements, social entrepreneurship venture capital — a mix, as most good investment vehicles advise. That would be \$200 million working to enhance the quality of life in the community, which would make MSU and the Lansing area more of a magnet for others to want to live and work here.

What if, as a state-sponsored institution, it took another 20 percent, or \$400 million, and invested it within the state, especially in entities that call Michigan home? The income generated by those firms and their communities builds the tax base from which MSU gets some of its revenue. Most

of the students come from families who live and work here. Circulating more of the money closer to home makes sense on many levels. For example, what if we invested in supply chains that collect a higher percentage of waste paper and transform it into recycled products that we all need and use, whether that's newspaper, cardboard, tissue or printing papers?

Between our healthy forests and ample waste streams, there are business opportunities waiting for us to stimulate and invest in that benefit all of us.

This is only a beginning list of possibilities. I'm not certain any of them will work. But I have a hunch that we need to create environments that stimulate creative thinking and possibility beyond the winning-is-everything battles we're so used to engaging in. Possibilities emerge from ideas. What are yours?

Consultant Terry Link was the founding director of MSU's Office of Campus Sustainability and is a senior fellow with the U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development. He can be reached at link@lansingcitypulse.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE NO. 1326

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 38-127 OF CHAPTER 38 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO REQUIRE CLEARING OF SIDEWALKS WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE BEGINNING OF A SNOWFALL FOR SNOW SHOWERS THAT OCCUR ON MORE THAN ONE CONSECUTIVE DAY, TO MAKE EACH DAY A SEPARATE OFFENSE, AND TO ESTABLISH AN ABATEMENT PROCEDURE

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 38-127 of Chapter 38 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 38-127. Snow, ice, rubbish or other obstructions.

(a) No owner of any house, building, or lot, shall fail to maintain the sidewalks adjoining the property in accordance with the following standards:

- (1) Rubbish, including broken bottles and glass, filth, obstruction, or other nuisance shall be removed within 24 hours or as specified by chapter 14 of this Code if the provisions therein are applicable and require sooner removal.
- (2) Ice shall be removed within 12 hours after the same has formed or salt, sawdust, sand, or other abrasive shall be strewn thereon.
- (3) Snow that accumulates before noon on a sidewalk, as the result of a snowfall, shall be cleared from the sidewalk so as to afford reasonably unimpeded passage by the public by midnight of that date and any snow accumulating after noon on a sidewalk, as a result of a snowfall, shall be cleared to the same extent by midnight of the following day. For snow showers that occur on more than one consecutive day, snow shall be cleared by the above stated times or within 48 hours after the first snowfall began, whichever is sooner.
- (4) Snow that accumulates on a sidewalk as the result of plowing or drifting shall be cleared from the sidewalk so as to afford reasonably unimpeded passage by the public within 24 hours.

(b) Each day that an owner fails to maintain a sidewalk in accordance with these standards shall constitute a separate offense.

(c) Failure to timely comply with this section shall constitute a public nuisance and the City Manager may, if he or she determines the condition endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the public, cause to be posted on the property a notice of the intent of the City to abate the condition with the costs of the abatement assessed to the property owner in accordance with Sec. 26-4 of the City Code. The City may abate the condition and assess the property owner the costs if the condition is not remedied in accordance with the above standards within 24 hours of the abatement notice.

(d) This Ordinance is to take effect on October 1, 2014.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_061

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**, Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1323, a City-initiated ordinance to amend Section 50-80 of Chapter 50 – Zoning of the Code of the City of East Lansing to define residentially zoned property.

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_060

On February March 4, 2014, the City of East Lansing, adopted Ordinance No. 1308, amending the City Code. A complete copy of this ordinance may be obtained or viewed free of charge at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI or at www.cityofeastlansing.com. The following is a summary of the ordinance:

CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE NO. 1308

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLES II AND III AND TO REPEAL ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 6 - BUILDING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING.

To summarize, this ordinance does the following:

- Removes the building official as a non-voting member of the building board of appeals
- Confirms the timing of decisions and the requirements for variances to state law
- Requires fees to be established by the City's budget resolution.
- Incorporates Appendix G of the State building code to regulate swimming pools and repeals the pool regulations under Article IV by repealing that Chapter.
- Corrects outdated references to the "department of code enforcement" and "code official" throughout Chapter 6.
- Alters the wording for the posting of dangerous structure signs.
- Alters the definition of Chief Code Official, defines Code Official and Department.
- Incorporates the Michigan Residential Code into the definitions of the plumbing and mechanical codes
- Clarifies department records are reviewed pursuant to the FOIA.
- Clarifies the effect of expired licenses on nonconforming rental units
- Deletes the requirement that the City send an acknowledgement of acceptance of a license application.
- Allows the use of first class and electronic mail to deliver notices in certain instances.
- Eliminates certain requirements for owners to have someone else appear for inspections.
- Allows authorized representatives to appear for owners or legal agents at licensing hearings.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_063



Courtesy Photo

Left: A July 4, 2012, game at Cooley Law School Stadium. A \$22 million public/private development plan announced today by city officials, Lugnuts owner Tom Dickson and developer Pat Gillespie will transform the outfield, including 80 apartment units and a year-round restaurant to be built on the stadium grounds.

IF YOU BUILD IT...

APARTMENTS INSIDE COOLEY LAW SCHOOL STADIUM? WHY NOT, CITY OFFICIALS ASK

By **ANDY BALASKOVITZ**

For the past year, the Lansing Lugnuts and its host city have been working on a plan that makes \$10 million worth of stadium maintenance and upgrades a whole lot sexier.

“The Outfield,” as it’s called, couples those renovations with a roughly \$11 million private apartment development *within* the stadium on a narrow strip of land behind the outfield fence.

Lansing developer Pat Gillespie and Lugnuts owner Tom Dickson want to partner on the housing side. Before May 1, the developers and city officials will present a development agreement — in conjunction with a new bonding proposal and tax incentives — for City Council approval. The public and private portions would be paid for separately, but happen in tandem.

Officials say the aging stadium is in need of repair before public perception toward it goes from attraction to dump.

The thinking goes like this: If the city bonds for \$10 million to pay for the infrastructure upgrades on the 18-year-old stadium — new field, new roof, picnic facilities, locker room renovations and laying new cement, to name a

few — why not let the private side take it a step further? Economic development officials even predict a net cost saving for the city with the addition of more than 100 new residents, higher game attendance and increased annual lease payments from the team.

“More for less,” is how Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, characterizes it.

“The thing is, you don’t want a facility to reach a tipping point where it’s obsolete,” Trezise said on the necessity of upgrading. “You don’t want to wake up one day and suddenly it’s not such a nice place to go to.”

He says Cooley Law School Stadium could become one of the premier Mi-



Dickson



Gillespie

See Gillespie, Page 10

HIGHLIGHTS OF ‘THE OUTFIELD’

Developer Pat Gillespie, Lugnuts owner Tom Dickson and the city of Lansing propose entering into a public/private partnership that would upgrade the stadium and build 80 to 100 apartment units within it, overlooking the field from the grassy area and playground beyond the fences. Under this plan:

- Lansing would issue about \$10 million in bonds to pay for infrastructure improvements at the stadium, including laying new cement, a new roof, locker-room upgrades, a new field and lights. The Lansing Lugnuts would put in \$1 million for a new scoreboard.
- The team’s lease agreement with the city, under which it pays about \$350,000 a year, would be renewed for 20 years.
- Gillespie and Dickson would put up roughly \$11 million for apartments and an

onsite restaurant, stretching across the outfield between Cedar and Larch streets. The apartments would range from \$875 (one-bedroom) to \$1,200 (two-bedroom) a month.

- The city’s vacant Central Garage immediately north of the stadium would be demolished for a surface parking lot.
- The city would sell air rights to the developers to build the apartments for \$100,000, even though the rights were appraised at \$500,000.
- The project requires City Council approval for issuing the bonds and approving the development agreement and tax incentives. Officials hope that happens by May 1, with a final completion date by opening day 2016.
- The Lansing Economic Area Partnership predicts 75 jobs will be created by the restaurant.

Gillespie

from page 9

nor League Baseball facilities in the country under the proposal. Most housing featured as part of ballpark designs is typically across the street; it's rare for it to be built as part of the stadium, he said.

"We determined we needed about \$10 million worth of work to get back up to speed and make it competitive with facilities around the country," said Lugnuts owner Tom Dickson. "Instead of just leaving it at that, we entered into some discussions with LEAP and the city. If we're going to put that

kind of money into a stadium to renovate, why not make it better?"

For Trezise, the leader of the regional economic development agency, the stakes are high. He said the stadium drew 334,000 people last year and that it's the biggest attraction into the city for Michigan State University students. ("Thirsty Thursday" night during the season helps.) It builds upon the neighborhood growing around the City Market, which is being led by Gillespie's Stadium District apartments and the forthcoming Market Place.

"I think this is about placemaking," Trezise said. "I see this on par with the (Ottawa) power station and the Knapp's building, on that scale." The Accident

Fund Insurance Co. of America renovated the decaying Lansing Board of Water and Light facility on Grand Avenue. The Eyde family is restoring and repurposing the old Knapp's Department Store in downtown Lansing. "The Outfield" may add another hundred or so residents to downtown.

But the project faces a tight timeline and an unpredictable reception by the City Council, particularly because it involves another Gillespie project in the area just east of downtown. Some Council members have fought Gillespie unsuccessfully because he won't guarantee union wages.

Trezise isn't worried about the Council.

"We presume they're going to love this project," he said.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE

The overall plan is two parts: the public side, which would be paid for by issuing bonds, and the private side, funded by Gillespie and Dickson. With Council approval, public improvements would start this year. Both portions would be completed by opening day, 2016. Construction will be staged around baseball season.

The city, which owns the stadium, would end up covering about \$9.5 million in renovations through the bond, while the team will put up \$1 million for a new high-definition scoreboard. Right field includes a new, covered patio area and the concourse would be redesigned so you could walk a full 360 degrees around the park, which isn't possible now.

The stadium originally cost about \$18 million to build, Dickson said. The timing of the proposal is intentional. Within the next year, the city will have paid off its original bond payments to build the stadium, which

"WE DETERMINED WE NEEDED ABOUT \$10 MILLION WORTH OF WORK TO GET BACK UP TO SPEED AND MAKE IT COMPETITIVE WITH FACILITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY. IF WE'RE GOING TO PUT THAT KIND OF MONEY INTO A STADIUM TO RENOVATE, WHY NOT MAKE IT BETTER?"

**TOM DICKSON,
LANSING LUGNUTS OWNER**

Trezise said is about \$800,000 a year.

"We wanted to come online as soon as the city's debt went away," Dickson said. "That's the public portion."

Additionally, the proposal would extend the Lugnuts' lease agreement to keep them in the city for the next 20 years. The current lease expires in six years. The annual lease payments to the city are roughly \$350,000. While that amount is subject to fluctuate because it's based on a percentage of overall revenue (a series of rained out Thirsty Thursdays might make a difference, for

See Gillespie Page 11

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The Lugnuts are the Single A affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays. The 11,500-capacity ballpark opened in 1996 during the Hollister administration. Original naming rights went to Oldsmobile but were rebranded in 2010 as Jackson Field at Thomas M. Cooley Law School Stadium. The ballpark is owned by the city, which shares a percentage of revenues with the team as part of a lease agreement. That agreement is scheduled to end in six years, though this new proposal is for 20 years, effectively extending the agreement by 14 years.

The team is owned by husband and wife Tom Dickson and Sherrie Myers under Take Me Out To The Ballgame LLC, the Lugnuts' parent company. According to the official website of Minor League Baseball, Dickson has developed nine new minor-league stadiums across the country at a cost of more than \$250 million. Dickson and Myers also own a sports consulting company and a concession catering company.



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Gillespie

from page 10

example), Trezise said the new agreement could increase that by 25 percent. The team and the city share profits at the park on anything from tickets to hot dogs, which is included in the \$350,000.

The last ballpark renovations were “fairly modest,” Dickson said, and took place in 2005. The \$3 million spent included new seats, the addition of a bar and restaurant on the suite level and some HVAC work.

While the latest upgrades call for more structural changes to the roof, field, lights and clubhouse, Dickson also said they include “some amenities to the ballpark to keep up with what’s going on” at minor-league stadiums elsewhere.

Trezise said one of the main reasons for coupling the public project with a private one is the potential to generate new tax revenue for the city to offset some of the costs of paying down the bonds. Also, a more attractive ballpark, the thinking goes, increases revenue coming into the team and therefore the city. Trezise said the new bond payments for the stadium repairs would be about \$1 million a year without the development presumably bringing in more revenue. He anticipates the new bond payments would be the same if not less than the original.

On the private side, Gillespie and Dickson want to build 80 to 100 market-rate apartments that rise four stories and span the outfield, nearly connecting Cedar and Larch streets. Rents will likely range from \$875 for a one-bedroom to \$1,200 for a two-bedroom. Half would face the ball field with patios, the other half would face north. Gillespie said those facing the north side will have access to an “entertainment suite” for watching games.

A year-round restaurant is planned for the left-field corner at the ground level, which would be accessible from outside the stadium and have a patio overlooking the field. Gillespie declined to give details about the restaurant.

The design of the apartments and restaurant, however, would crowd out green space that’s used as lawn seating and a play area for children.

Dickson said it’s possible some grass would be kept in the final design for seating, though “to be honest with you, they’re not terribly attractive areas in the ballpark. Generally they’re the last seats people buy. ... The improvements we’ll make far outweigh taking away grass. The last thing I want to do as a team owner is take away from the fan experience.” Ticket prices would “absolutely not” be affected under the plan, he added.

Scott Keith, president and CEO of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority, said there are ongoing discussions about where to put family-oriented amenities on the concourse down the foul-pole lines. LEPPFA would serve as the project manager.



Courtesy Photo

Looking south from the north side of “The Outfield,” half of the apartment units will face the ballpark, while the other half face northward. Developer Pat Gillespie said residents not facing the ballpark will be able to watch games from an “entertainment suite.”

“I think it’s time to find out what’s the next thing people expect at a facility like that for that interactive, family entertainment,” he said. “As we get dense and try to incorporate the next phase of amenities people want ... we want to figure out what that is.”

The city would sell air rights to build on the property for \$100,000, even though Trezise said a verbal appraisal pegged the value for the air rights at \$500,000.

However, without support from the Lugnuts, “This is an unbuildable piece of property,” Trezise said, adding that he disagreed with the \$500,000 price tag. “It’s ridiculous to think anything else will be built on it.” Also, Dickson’s agreement with the city gives him development rights in the stadium property.

Trezise also said the project depends on the developers’ receiving tax incentives, particularly being reimbursed for the costs of cleaning up contaminants from former industrial uses.

Several years ago, Gillespie proposed plans for Ball Park North, which would

have included mixed-use retail and apartments where the city’s vacant Central Garage sits beyond the left- and center-field fences. However, those plans were abandoned after that property became reserved under the development agreement for the proposed casino adjacent to the Lansing Center, Trezise said.

ON TO THE COUNCIL

If there’s any Council backlash about the city’s going with Gillespie on a private housing development in the Stadium District, Trezise said he wasn’t the only developer the city approached.

In fact, three others passed: One didn’t return his call, a second met with him and said “no way,” while a third met several times with Dickson and walked away.

“What am I to do?” Trezise asked. “Yes, I called Pat Gillespie.”

He also avoided opening it up to others with a Request for Proposals because the site is so small and that, overall, “the project is very, very marginal.”

Getting the ball rolling will require six votes on the eight-member Council to move forward with issuing bonds for the public portion. The Council will also be asked to approve selling air rights to the developers and a brownfield tax incentive.

Trezise plans to have these proposals up for a Council vote by May 1. Ultimately, for him, the project is not only about maintaining a public asset at risk of deterioration, but for making it better.

“I don’t want people to wake up” and find the stadium in disrepair, he said. “It can be a domino and fall this way or that way.”

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'This porous rubber O'

MSU's Summer Circle Theatre moves to a new site for 2014

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Shakespeare had his “wooden O,” the Globe. This summer, MSU's Summer Circle Theatre will clamber out of the Red Cedar floodplain to a spiffy new outdoor venue that will be — cue Sir Anthony Hopkins — “wired for sound and ringed with seats of porous rubber.”

The three-tiered \$750,000 plaza, funded by private donors, will start taking shape in the plaza between the former Kresge Art Center and the MSU Auditorium as soon as the snow melts. The theater won't be able to stage “The Tempest” with real floods and freshly hatched riparian mosquitoes anymore, but the tradeoff is probably worth it.

The big push for the project came from MSU alumnus Sam Austin, a physics professor who headed MSU's cyclotron for eight years.

Austin got the idea after attending an outdoor play at Lansing Community College and “seeing how nice their outdoor theater was compared our crummy set-up.”

Austin noticed that a lot of time and attention was spent on set-ups and teardowns.

“People spent a lot of time doing infrastructure instead of concentrating on the plays themselves,” Austin said. MSU Theatre Department Chairman Kirk Domer vigorously seconded that notion.

“The audio and electrical system will be plug and play for evening events,” Domer said. “We've never had that for Summer Circle. Now we can focus on creating the art with our students and not the space itself. That's the big thing for me.”

Austin and his wife, Mary, have been going to Summer Circle productions for almost 40 years. They've given a lot of support to the arts community over the years and are the lead donors on the Summer Circle project.

“The arts don't always have the same continuing stream of income, outside the university, that the sciences do,” Austin said. “Being Depression kids, we've always been frugal, and it seems like an appropriate way to use some of the money we've saved up.”

The Austins and other private donors have raised \$650,000 so far. A support group, Friends of Theater at MSU, has committed to raising \$100,000. Domer said he was amazed by donor support, especially from community members who aren't associated with MSU.

Over the years, MSU's summer theater has operated in several places, beginning with Demonstration Hall in 1961.

In the 1970s, the theater moved to the same Kresge Art Center plaza where the new venue will be built this year. The free plays at the plaza, beginning with an adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut short stories, were so popular that wooden risers had to be built. (“The crowds



Rendering by Deb Kinney. Right: Courtesy photo

MSU's new Summer Circle Theatre will be positioned between the MSU Auditorium and the Kresge Art Museum. Groundbreaking is expected as soon as the snow melts, with the first performance scheduled for June. (Right) An undated archive photo of the former outdoor theater location, which suffered from poor sound, uncomfortable seating and incessant mosquitoes.

trampled the petunias,” crows an official history on the theater's website.)

When the wooden bleachers rotted away, the theater was left with fiberglass bleachers that didn't fit inside the Kresge court.

So the troupe moved its rickety risers and 2-by-4 Forests of Arden to the banks of the Red Cedar River, as deep in the floodplain as you can get, where it stayed until last year.

It was a storybook spot, nestled between the steep banks north of the MSU Auditorium and the river's swampy shallows, but it had its problems — periodic flooding, for one. It was hard for handicapped and older folks to reach, and the mosquitoes were supernumerary.

In 2010, shortly after Summer Circle Theatre celebrated its 50th anniversary, Austin approached MSU's Theatre Department with the idea of creating a landscaped outdoor space for summer theater.

Domer, campus landscape architect Deb Kinney and other MSU officials looked around for a suitable site on campus. They quickly zoomed in on the courtyard between the former Kresge Art Center and the Auditorium.

The venue will center on a circular sub-stage that will support the temporary scenery for each production. Three tiers of built-in seating with an open design, much like LCC's, will be accessible to handicapped patrons and congenial to portable lawn chairs and picnickers.

Domer said the venue will seat over 400, “which is a humongous audience for us” Audiences typically hover between the 250 and 300. A special porous rubber surface will feel warm and soft to the posterior and let



rainwater through.

When thespians aren't treading the boards, Domer expects the new venue to host graduations, art projects and other outdoor events.

“Setting the Stage,” a fundraising kickoff event, is set for May 7.

The company plans to mount five plays in summer 2014, beginning with a world premiere of “The Summer Circle,” written by Rob Roznowski, MSU Theatre Department head of acting and directing. A June start is planned, even though a deep March blanket of snow is inhibiting preliminary work on the plaza.

The Austins look forward to enjoying this summer's plays. “We grew up in a one-room schoolhouse, and our early arts experience was completely lacking,” Austin said. “Maybe when you don't have it as a youth, you appreciate it more as you get older.”

Mary Austin hopes the new venue will help Summer Circle take its rightful place among the area's cultural jewels.

“The cyclotron lab has become a real magnet for scientists all over the world,” she said. “Scientists are not one-dimensional people. They want to go to a place that has art, music and theater.”



GREEN AND SOBER

ST. PATTY'S DAY 2014 WILL BE A QUIETER AFFAIR ... PROBABLY

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Freezing temperatures and a highly undesirable Monday time slot point toward a lower-key St. Patrick's Day 2014. Those fair weather Irish lads and lasses with their green beer and obscene T-shirts have class and/or work this year, most likely putting a dent in bar traffic and binge drinking. (Either that, or a whole lot of flex days will not so mysteriously be racked up early next week.)

St. Patrick's Day is not, of course, all about drinking irresponsibly. It's a cultural celebration of a vital segment of America's immigrant population, and this year is a good opportunity to think about that. So why not take some time to reflect on Irish traditions?

If you're looking for something a little more culturally enriching, look to Lansing's neighbor to the west: Grand Ledge. Since 2002, Grand Ledge has dedicated the weekend before March 17 to Irish-themed events. What started as a neighborhood festival has morphed into a citywide celebration of Gaelic culture, including mid-Michigan's only St. Patrick's Day parade.

From 6 p.m. to 11 Friday, the Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., will host Irish music food and drinks (\$5 at the door). An Irish stew contest gets things rolling at 11 a.m. Saturday at the American Legion Hall, 721 N. Clinton St., followed by the downtown parade at 2 p.m. and more festivities at the Opera House.

For a full list of Grand Ledge events, check out glstpats.org. Or if you prefer to celebrate with dyed light beer and novelty plastic leprechaun hats, read on for a full listing of local events and specials.

ST PATTY'S EVENTS & SPECIALS

THE AVENUE CAFÉ: Baby Guinness shots, green PBR, Irish-themed menu. Hours: 3 p.m.-2 a.m. 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550.

BAD BREWING CO.: Green blonde ale on tap. Hours: 3-10 p.m. 440 S. Jefferson St., Mason. (517) 676-7664.

BARN TAVERN: St. Patrick's Day party on Saturday. Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 207 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 622-8686.

BEGGAR'S BANQUET: \$5.99 breakfast sandwich or burrito with green beer before 2 p.m.; \$5.99 corned beef sandwich or stew with green beer, Irish flight of draft beers, whiskey. Hours: 10 a.m.-2 a.m. 218 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-4540.

BUDDIES GRILL (OKEMOS): Lucky-tinis, Dirty Irishmen and more drink specials. Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 1937 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 347-0443.

BUDDIES GRILL (EAST LANSING): Lucky-tinis, Dirty Irishmen and more drink specials. Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 3048 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing.

(517) 333-9212.

BLUE GILL GRILL: Corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew and green beer. Hours: 7 a.m.-2 a.m. 1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett. (517) 339-4900.

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Friday-Saturday. 2900 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 484-2523.

COACH'S ALL AMERICAN PUB AND GRILL: Green beer, corned beef and cabbage, DJ. Hours: 11 a.m.-1 a.m. 6201 Bishop Road, Lansing. (517) 882-2013.

COLONIAL BAR AND GRILLE: Corned beef and cabbage, live music. Hours: 10 a.m.-2 a.m. 3425 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 882-6132.

CRUNCHY'S: Green eggs and ham, green beer. Hours: 7 a.m.-2 a.m. 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506.

DAGWOODS TAVERN & GRILL: Corned beef and cabbage. Hours: 11 a.m.-1 a.m. 2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 374-0390.

DUBLIN SQUARE IRISH PUB: Hours: 7 a.m.-2 a.m. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2222.

EDMUNDS PASTIME: Free breakfast for Lansing 1st Responders, 8-11 a.m. Irish beer and green beer specials. Hours: 7:30 a.m.-2 a.m. 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517)

See St. Pat's Events, Page 14

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St. Pat's Events

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371-8700.

THE EXCHANGE: \$4 drink specials, complimentary corned beef and cabbage starting at 4 p.m. Hours: 3 p.m.-2 a.m. 314 East Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 319-4500.

FIRESIDE BAR & GRILL: Corned beef and cabbage, green beer and drink specials. Hours: 11 a.m.-midnight. 6951 Lansing Road, Dimondale. (517) 882-7297.

FRANK'S PRESS BOX (EAST): Corned beef and cabbage, green beer. Hours: 11 a.m.-midnight. 2314 Woodlake Drive, Okemos. (517) 347-8810.

FRANK'S PRESS BOX (WEST): Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 7216 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 886-1330.

GREEN DOOR BAR & GRILL: Live music starting at 1 p.m. Hours: 10 a.m.-2 a.m. 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376.

HAREM URBAN LOUNGE: No cover, green beer, Irish car bombs, DJ music. Hours: Noon-1 a.m. 414 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing. (517) 267-7898.

HARRISON ROADHOUSE: Irish food, green beer. Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. 720 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. (517) 337-0200.

HARRY'S PLACE: Corned beef dinner. Hours: 11 a.m.-midnight. 404 N. Verlinden, Lansing. (517) 484-9661.

HOBIE'S CAFÉ AND PUB: Corned beef sandwiches. Hours: 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. 930 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-3800.

HOPCAT EAST LANSING: Breakfast buffet proceeds benefit Haven House, \$5 March Madness IPA. Hours: 7 a.m.-2 a.m. 300 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 816-4300.

HOUSE OF EDEN ROCK: Fifty cent green beer pints start at 7 a.m., going up every hour until noon; \$5 breakfast buffet includes free first pint of green beer free; full Irish menu. Hours: 7 a.m.-2 a.m. 205 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-1300.

JIMMY'S PUB: Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 324-7100.

KELLY'S DOWNTOWN: Green beer specials, corned beef, Irish stew, Irish soda bread. Hours: 11 a.m.-1 a.m. 220 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 708-2007.

LEROY'S CLASSIC BAR & GRILL: Hours: 7:30 a.m.-2 a.m. 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

THE LOG JAM: Corned beef and cabbage. Guinness specials. Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 110 W. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-4300.

LOU & HARRY'S SPORTS BAR: Hours: 11 a.m.-midnight. 16800 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-0899.

MAC'S BAR: Hours: 3 p.m.-2 a.m. 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

MARK'S WATERSHED: Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 5965 Marsh Road, Haslett. (517) 999-7433.

MAYFAIR BAR: Shamrock shots, Guinness, green beer; \$9 corned beef dinner Saturday; \$6 corned beef sandwiches Monday. Hours: 10:30 a.m.-2 a.m. 1585 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett. (517) 339-3880.

MIDTOWN BREWING CO.: Pickle-fest, featuring locally made pickles. Drink and food specials. Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 997-1349.

MORIARTY'S PUB: Corned beef and cabbage, Reuben sandwiches, Mulligan stew, drink specials, bagpipers and dancers. Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

NUTHOUSE SPORTS GRILL: Drink specials, green beer, DJ Shannrock and DJ Slavin, free photo booth. Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6887.

PEPPINO'S PIZZERIA & SPORTS GRILLE: Drink

specials. Hours: 7 a.m.-2 a.m. 213 Ann St., East Lansing. (517) 332-8300.

PRESTON'S BAR: Drink specials and green beer. Hours: 11 a.m.-2:30 a.m. 201 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-2066.

REO TOWN PUB: Smoked corned beef brisket, cabbage, potatoes and pickle back shots. Hours: 10 a.m.-2 a.m. 1145 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 485-4863.

RENO'S EAST: Drink specials. Hours: 9 a.m.-2 a.m. 1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7366.

RENO'S WEST: Drink specials, corned beef and cabbage, DJ music. Hours: 9 a.m.-2 a.m. 5001 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 321-7366.

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SMITTY'S PLACE: Hours: 11 a.m.-midnight. 117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale. (517) 646-9188.

SPENCER'S KITCHEN & BAR: Custom Celtic menu, corned beef specials, green beer, no cover. Hours: 7 a.m.-midnight. 313 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 853-3033.

SPIRAL DANCE BAR: Friday: Lucky Charms 2, featuring 11 DJs including Kevin Reynolds (9 p.m.-3 a.m.); Saturday: Green drink specials, performance by Delicious (9 p.m.-2 a.m.); Monday: St. Patty's Day party (7 p.m.-2 a.m.) 1247 Center St., Lansing. (517) 371-3221.

STOBER'S BAR: Green beer. Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 487-4464.

SUITS TAVERN: Drink specials. Hours: 7 a.m.-2 a.m. 210 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 702-9150.

TAVERN 109: Brunch specials on Sunday, food and drink specials, green beer. Hours: 11 a.m.-11 p.m. 109 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 655-2100.

TAVERN ON THE SQUARE: Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-5555.

THE TIN CAN (LANSING): Hours: 3 p.m.-2 a.m. 401 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 708-3441.

THE TIN CAN (WESTSIDE): Hours: Noon-2 a.m. 644 Migaldi Lane, Lansing. (517) 925-8658.

TRIPPERS: Drink specials. Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 336-0717.

THE UNICORN BAR & GRILL: Hours: 9 a.m.-2 a.m. 327 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9910.

WATERFRONT BAR & GRILL: Hours: Noon-2 a.m. 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 267-3800.

WHAT UP DAWG?: Green beer. Hours: 11 a.m.-3 a.m. 317 M.A.C Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-3294.

WILLIAMSTON BUCKET: Corned beef and hash, Irish burger, corned beef sliders. Hours: 11 a.m.-midnight. 132 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 992-5060.

ZOOBIES: Hours: 3 p.m.-midnight. 611 E. Grand River, Ave., Lansing. (517) 48

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CURTAIN CALL

'Butterflies' affects Timeless themes keep period piece fresh with Starlight romance

By PAUL WOZNIAK

When community theaters stage 40-year-old plays, the results can be as stale as a

Review forgotten bag of chips. But Starlight Dinner Theatre's production of "Butterflies Are Free" feels fresh, lively and contemporary. Unlike Starlight's standard lineup of broad farces, this polished revival of Leonard Gershe's 1969 script draws its abundant laughs

"Butterflies are Free"

Starlight Dinner Theatre
7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday,
March 14-15 (6:30 p.m. dinner)
Waverly East Cafeterium, 3131
W. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
Dinner reservations required
48 hours in advance. Show
and dinner: \$33/\$28 seniors
and students/\$20 children 12
and under. Show only: \$15/\$10
seniors, students and children.
(517) 243-6040,
starlightdinnertheatre.com

from the intimate
pau of reality.

Jeffrey Kennedy plays Don Baker, a blind aspiring musician with an overprotective mother (Terry Minor). Don has recently moved out of his childhood home

where he instantly clicks with his neighbor, Jill Tanner (Amelia Rogocka), recently divorced and extremely spontaneous. After Jill and Don's encounter turns romantic, Don must navigate around unrealistic expectations and heartbreak.

Gershe's script spends considerable time poking holes into the stereotypes and misconceptions of blindness. Jill has never met a blind person before Don, and remarks he seems "so adjusted."

"As long as you don't move anything, I'm as good as anyone else," Don retorts.

The marvel of their banter is its universality. As Don's character frequently reminds Jill, and later his mother, his lack of vision does not make him an alien — just a normal person without sight.

As a sighted actor, Kennedy is especially convincing in his role. There's no need for indoor sunglasses or trademark gestures; Kennedy simply plays Don as a nice, tidy guy with a searing sense of humor. Similarly, Rogocka avoids any ridiculous accents or attempts to "play a hippie" in 1969; she brings Jill to life by simply embracing the world of an impulsive, sheltered 19-year-old. Their combined chemistry simmers beautifully throughout.

Minor does excellent work as Mrs. Baker, laying down blistering commentaries on Don's apartment and lifestyle. ("Perhaps it's a blessing you can't see what you're living in," she sneers.) In Act II, Minor gently transitions from a rude and judgmental disciplinarian to a mother who cares deeply for her only child. Finally, Adam Pruden kills in his walk-on role. As Jill's latest lover Ralph Austin, Pruden exudes conceited cockiness with swagger and a checkered suit. It's a small role, however Pruden leaves a big impression.

Considerable credit should clearly go



Photo by Steve Scarborough

Jeffrey Kennedy (left) and Amelia Rogocka in "Butterflies are Free."

to director Linda M. Granger and assistant director Angela Dill for the strong acting, smooth scene transitions and coordination of all technical elements of the production. It is impossible, however, to overstate the value and selection of a good script. In this case, Granger and her company give "Butterflies" flight with great preparation and care.

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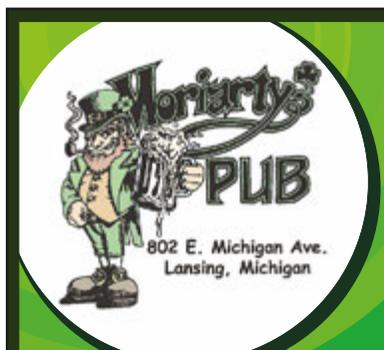
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Plussier and plussier

Cello Plus festival brings banquet of diverse chamber music to MSU

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Cello Plus is an unpretentious name for an ambitious series of chamber music concerts, but that's just part of its Spartan appeal. For the past 14 years, MSU cello professor Suren Bagratuni has quietly built a top-drawer local music festival where musicians play airs but don't put them on.

Anyone who thinks classical music is for jewelry janglers hasn't experienced the generous week of cheap or free March concerts when Bagratuni and his MSU colleagues, far-flung cronies and enthusiastic students get together and roll in musical clover.

This year's festival includes top guest artists, including boundary-ignoring pianist Stephen Prutsman, Armenian composer

Cello Plus chamber music festival

Monday, March 17- Sunday, March 23
 7:30 p.m. Monday: Russian Gems (music of Glazunov and Tchaikovsky)
 7:30 p.m. Wednesday: Music of Vache Sarafyan
 5 p.m. Thursday: All-Bach concert (FREE)
 7:30 p.m. Thursday: Music of Bach, Couperin and Ravel
 5 p.m. Friday: Bach and Vivaldi (FREE)
 8 p.m. Friday: "Bach and Forth" with guest pianist Stephen Prutsman
 3 p.m. Sunday: Music of Schumann and Brahms \$5-15
 MSU Auditorium's Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing (517) 353-4340, music.msu.edu

re-worked MSU Auditorium.

Bagratuni started the festival in 1997 when he was on the faculty at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

"With all the great musicians we had, we had a fantastic ability to create something, but we didn't have money," Bagratuni said.

He called on high-powered pals like Robert Chen, the concertmaster of the

Chicago Symphony, and Randolph Kelly, the principal viola player at the Pittsburgh Symphony, for help. He invited them to stay at his house and spend a week making music with local faculty and students.

Symphonic gigs are often a slog for a professional musician, but almost any of them happily play chamber music for free, especially with a host like Bagratuni.

"It started boiling," Bagratuni said. They came, they played and the music making was sublime.

By the time Bagratuni came to MSU in 2000, College of Music Dean James Forger got wind of the goings-on in Indiana and asked Bagratuni

to keep the festival going here — he even kicked in some money.

It took some effort to make a dent in the culture at MSU; at first, some of the concerts were sparsely attended, but word of mouth spread and the concerts began to fill Cook Recital Hall. Last year sponsorship money began to come in. Bagratuni said he hopes this year's move to the bigger MSU Auditorium will grow the audience further. The auditorium's world-class acoustic makeover and its easier parking can't hurt.

Last week's rehearsals with the student orchestra glowed with a deep collective spirit among guest artists, MSU faculty and students. Piano Professor Deborah Moriarty, for example, will be hardly visible as she soldiers away at the piano inside the student orchestra for the world premiere cello concerto by Sharafyan, commissioned by Bagratuni.

It's not a standard back-and-forth concerto. The cello is folded into an unusual mix of winds, piano and a battery of three percussionists.

"It's a modern piece, but the melodic lines are in my head right now," Bagratuni said.

Sharafyan's melancholy music will take on an extra weight Wednesday. The concert will be dedicated to the memory of the man who would have conducted that night, Aram Gharabekyan, an Armenian conductor and close friend of Bagratuni's who died unexpectedly in January at age 58.



Bagratuni

See Cello Plus, Page 17



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Cello Plus

from page 16

Bagratuni didn't want to cancel the concert, so he asked retired MSU Symphony conductor Leon Gregorian to return to the podium. There will be two more world premieres that night, and Sharafyan himself will play some of his new piano works.

Every Cello Plus festival tries to balance novelties like the Sharafyan excursion with more familiar fare, but next week, even the warhorses aren't all that tired. Monday's all-Russian concert is a rare chance to hear Alexander Glazunov's String Quintet, a seldom-heard 19th-century gem, along with a Tchaikovsky trio. Sunday afternoon's concert promises just plain ravishment. "I have to give people their favorite music," Bagratuni said. "They are two most beautiful piano quartets ever, by Schumann and Brahms."

In both concerts, Bagratuni will play with two frequent chamber music partners, Pittsburgh's Kelly and Ruggero Alliffranchini from the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

"We get together two or three times a year and play just for fun," Bagratuni said.

The "plus" in "Cello Plus" gets plussier each year. This year, David Rayl, MSU's choral director, brings a chorus to special concerts Thursday and Friday, when all forces make a pilgrimage to the fountainhead of Western music, Johann Sebastian Bach.

There will be two concerts, including a free 5 p.m. concert, both days. The idea is to show Bach in all his wondrous variety, with a cantata (with Rayl and the State Singers), an orchestral suite, the Brandenburg Concerto No. 6, chamber music and more.

The Bach programs will diversify to include music from other great musicians of Bach's time, including Telemann, Couperin and Vivaldi, and later composers who wrote music inspired by Baroque types, including the luscious "Tombeau de Couperin" by French Impressionist Maurice Ravel.

To really spice up the festival, for the 8 p.m. Friday concert, Bagratuni will bring Prutsman, who has worked with artists as diverse as Tom Waits, Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Redman and Jon Anderson of Yes.

Bagratuni called Prutsman "the best American pianist today." Last year, Bagratuni was knocked out by a string quartet Prutsman wrote to accompany Buster Keaton's two-reel masterpiece, "Sherlock Jr.," and resolved to get him into the "plus" column.

"The guy is everywhere, composing, arranging for the Kronos Quartet, and he's a brilliant pianist," Bagratuni said. Prutsman might juggle a Bach prelude and fugue with jazz, funk, an Indian melody or bluegrass.

"He just mixes them up," Bagratuni said. "I can't wait to hear it." Bagratuni is already scheming to get Prutsman back for next year's Cello Plus and screen the Keaton film, with a live performance of the score. That ought to be a plus.

March 20 - April 29, 2014



by Terrence McNally

This bittersweet comedy combines poignancy and laughter as it traces the improbable romance that develops between two middle-aged "losers".

(For Mature Audiences: Contains adult language/references and nudity.)

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MONDAY, MARCH 17 • 7:30 P.M.
Russian Gems (RES)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 • 7:30 P.M.
A Composer and His Music, Vache Sharafyan, guest composer, piano (RES)

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 • 5:00 P.M. AND 7:30 P.M.
Bach Plus Day 1
5:00 p.m. Concert (FREE)
7:30 p.m. Concert (RES)

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 • 5:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M.
Bach Plus Day 2
5:00 p.m. Concert (FREE)
8:00 p.m. Bach and Forth, a crossover concert including works of Bach and many different styles (RES)

SUNDAY, MARCH 23 • 3:00 P.M.
Chamber Music Favorites (RES)

(RES) = \$15 Adults; \$12 Seniors (age 60 and older); \$5 Students.
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THE SCREENING ROOM by ALLAN I. ROSS

Jiro dreams of flying

Anime feature captures the joy of imagination, the rush of true love

The power of animation comes from its ability to create dreamlike pocket universes where the real and the fantastic coexist in harmony. Want your everyman character to take flight? Just have him push off the ground, flap his arms and up he goes

— no strings or green screen required. The rise of CGI has blurred this line, but its use in live action is still very much you-got-your-giant-robot-in-my-comic-book-movie, not a seamless blend.

Old school animated features have been rendered all but extinct by animation studios that have gone digital (sad fact: Disney laid off the last of its pen-and-ink department last year). Acclaimed anime writer/director Hayao Miyazaki boldly goes retro in the epic biopic/romantic drama, “The Wind Rises,” the story of a man and his flying machines. And it’s a flight worth taking.

Miyazaki, the maestro behind “Howl’s Moving Castle” and “Spirited Away,” creates a fictionalized biography for early 20th century Japanese aeronautics engineer Jiro Horikoshi, a visionary who revolutionized Japanese aircraft design. Leading up to WWII, Horikoshi worked on a series of wartime airplanes, which at the time were among the worst in the world. By incorporating natural elements into his designs — the gentle curve of a mackerel bone, the flexibility of a



Courtesy Photo
“The Wind Rises” is based on the life story of a renowned Japanese aeronautics engineer. Acclaimed anime filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki says this film will be the final work.

working joint — he gave them life. As depicted in this film, Horikoshi’s exuberance for engineering was only matched by his capacity for love, and “The Wind Rises” pays dues diligence to both.

Compared to your typical Pixar fare where millions are spent to render realistic fur, hair and steel, anime on the big screen does seem a little ... cartoony. There’s certainly no mistaking the characters as being firmly planted in the world of anime, with their bulbous noses, giant watery eyes, and great flapping mouths. The lushly vivid backdrops of “The Wind Rises,” however, give you the feeling that you’ve strolled from the manga aisle into the Impressionism wing of an art museum.

The voice actors keep the film grounded in drama. Joseph Gordon-Levitt gives Jori a subdued, elegant charm, and Stanley

Tucci, Mandy Patinkin and Werner Herzog (!) provide solid back-up, giving a Western tinge to this distinctly Eastern art form.

The story does get a little syrupy at times — imagine if Nicholas Sparks wrote “Tucker: The Man and His Dream.” This isn’t an airplane movie — it’s a love story. Even as the gears of Jiro’s imagination spin, trying to figure out a way to transform these cumbersome steel beasts into organic, elegant flying creatures, his love blossoms and quickly deepens for a young woman he meets while on holiday.

The lines between dream and reality are blurred (great chunks of the movie are set in Jiro’s thoughts where he interacts with his hero, Italian airplane designer Giovanni Caproni), and Miyazaki sends the movie barrel rolling into whimsy with his imaginative sound design: Nearly all the movie’s sound effects are made using human voices — the “pkkkkhhhhh” of an earthquake, the “pocketa-pocketa-pocketa” of a propeller, the “foooooohhhh” of wind as a character stands on the tip of an airplane wing.

Unfortunately Miyazaki claims that this, his 11th feature film, will be his last. The way the wind is blowing, this movie is probably one of the last of its kind, to be phased out for the newer models.

“The Wind Rises” (PG-13, 135 min.) is now playing at NCG Eastwood Cinemas, 2500 Showtime Drive, Lansing Township.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, March 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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.

Spiritual Practices Discussion. What are the options for a spiritual seeker? 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

Business Plan Basics. Learn the basics of writing a business plan. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-1921. sbdcmichigan.org.

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

EVENTS

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

Mother Son Dance. Includes photos, gifts and refreshments. 7-9 p.m. \$10-\$12 per person- pre-registration required. Crowne Plaza Lansing West, 925 S. Creyts, Lansing. 517-323-8555. deltami.gov/parks.

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

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

Mia McKenzie Black Girl Dangerous. Speaking engagement with author Mia McKenzie. 6 p.m. FREE. MSU Union, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-1635. wrc.msu.edu.

Game Night. Cards and board games of all kinds! 7 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

See Out on the Town, Page 22

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12 >> IAN&ANI

Russian-born cellist Ian Maksin earned his classical chops from Mstislav Rostropovich, and he has played with the likes of Sting, Snoop Dogg, P. Diddy and Andrea Bocelli. (Now there's a dinner party.) In 2011 he joined with Bulgarian pianist Ani Gogova to form the duo iAN&ANi, playing an eclectic mix of music to critical acclaim, earning them a slot on NPR's "Worldview" and selling out the Chopin Theatre in Chicago. The duo comes to Lansing's with a scorching tango set featuring music of Astor Piazzolla, Alberto Ginastera, Manuel De Falla, Gaspar Cassado, Maurice Ravel, and Rodion Shchedrin. 7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. \$7-15. For more information call (517) 482-0668

THURSDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 13-16 >> 'A SHOT IN THE DARK' AT RIVERWALK THEATRE



Parlor maid Josefa Lantenay is found naked and unconscious at the scene of her lover's murder. Investigating this crime is Paul Sevigne (Evan Pinnsnault), an Inspector Clouseau-like detective on the French police force. Confessions, denials and doe-eyes from Lantenay has Sevigne feeling like he's on a spinning merry-go-round. While he works on the case, you'll keep busy trying to figure out who's sleeping with whom, which is a mini-mystery in itself. \$9-15. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com. (Run continues March 20-23)



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16 >> 'THE FANTASTICKS' AT CHARLOTTE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



"The Fantasticks" is the world's longest running musical — the show's original off-Broadway production ran for 42 years and 17,162 performances — but that doesn't mean it's stuck in the past. In the final show of Charlotte Performing Arts Center's 10th anniversary season gives "The Fantasticks" a retro-futuristic tweak by going steampunk. When two meddling fathers try to get their children to fall in love with each other by pretending to feud, their temporary success goes awry when their kids catch wise to the plot. What seems like a straightforward farce gets twisty with a pair of fantasy dream sequences as each grows increasingly disillusioned. 2 p.m. \$35/\$10 students. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. (517) 541-5691, cpacpresents.com.



FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MARCH 14-15 >> 'DYLAN' BY LCC PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Years before a certain American wordsmith named Dylan stole the folk hero spotlight there was another Dylan (first name, this time) who left his indelible mark on the world of poetry. Lansing Community College presents "Dylan," the story of Dylan Thomas, which delves into Welsh poet's struggles with his craft and with alcoholism. Though laden with tragedy, "Dylan," directed by John Lennox (who played the titular role at Western Michigan University in 1987), blends humor and romance, exploring Thomas' many complexities, including his conflicted marriage to his wife Caitlin. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 14-15 (continues Friday-Saturday, March 21-22). \$10/\$5 students and faculty. LCC Black Box Theatre, Room. 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.



SUNDAY, MARCH 16 >> TAO: PHOENIX RISING

Be awed by the costumes, choreography and energy that is TAO: Phoenix Rising. Intensely trained in the mountains of Japan, the performers combine tradition with modernism in a fusion of precision, power and stamina that present a unique take on customary Japanese drumming. Before the performance, Wharton will host an Insight Preview for audience members to learn about the performance from experts. 3 p.m. \$15-\$35. Cobb Great Hall, 750 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.



TUESDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 18-23 >> 'THE SERPENT LADY' AT MSU AUDITORIUM



Marriage vows often close with the promise to remain faithful, "in sickness and in health, until death do us part." However, do the rules change when your beloved turns into a snake? Cherestani transforms into a slithering, split-tongued reptile to test Farruscad's devotion to her, which he struggles with. Will Farruscad receive a peck or a bite by the end of this fairytale? This is a commedia dell'arte fairy tale, which means the actors wear masks and use puppetry and physical comedy to tell the story. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Post-show discussion on Thursday, March 20; pre-show discussion at 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, March 23. Studio 60 Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON, whartoncenter.com.



TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



SEX PISTOL & NEW YORK DOLL AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$12, \$10, all ages, 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 19.

Two punk gods are headed to Lansing to perform an all-ages rock show. Glen Matlock of the Sex Pistols and Sylvain Sylvain of the New York Dolls bring their band, the Sex Dolls, to The Loft. Opening the show is the Plurals. Matlock, 57, has a career that's spanned three decades, first as the original bassist and founding member of the iconic Sex Pistols. Since then the Englishman has worked with Iggy Pop and in 2010 replaced the late Ronnie Lane in the revamped lineup of the Faces. Sylvain, 63, played rhythm guitar with the punk-pioneering New York Dolls from 1971 to 1977 along with the notorious Johnny Thunders and vocalist/actor David Johansen, aka Buster Poindexter of "Hot Hot Hot" fame.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY AND SING-ALONG

The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$10, 8 p.m., Friday, March 14.

The Lash and Sally Potter will lead a sing-along of Irish selections, complete with lyric sheets. Tunes include "Irish Rover," "Go Lassie Go," "My Wild Irish Rose," "Wild Rover" and "The Risin' of The Moon." At 8:30 p.m., the Lash takes the stage, performing Irish songs all night. The band plays a "world beat" style of Celtic-rooted music. They also dabble in alt-country, including the accordion, whistle, banjo and cittern with percussion in their set. The Lash has played across the country and shared stages with traditional Irish acts like The Clancy Brothers, as well as with contemporary acts like Hootie and The Blowfish and the Waco Brothers.

FRI. MAR 14TH



ST. PATTY'S DAY PUNK PARTY

The Avenue Café, 2021 E Michigan Ave., Lansing. FREE, 18+, 9 p.m., Saturday, March 15.

Hex Bombs headline The Avenue Café's free St. Patrick's Day party. 1592 (Detroit-based reggae/ska) will warm up the stage and the Devil's Cut (Lansing roots-punk) will perform a stripped-down acoustic set. Hex Bombs, a Kalamazoo-based five piece, is signed to East Grand Record Company and describes its sound as "proletariat punk with a classic punk rock-revival attitude." Led by vocalist Mike Mann, Hex Bombs formed in 2006 and quickly developed a distinct anthemic sing-along hook style of punk rock. The band has albums under its belt, including "We Are Rock 'n' Roll" and "Get Back to Work," along with several other EP/compilation releases. Fans of the Misfits, Social Distortion or Bouncing Souls might want to check out this show.

SAT. MAR 15TH



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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 9 p.m.	Diana Lawrence, 9 p.m.	The Lash, 8 p.m.	The Hex Bombs, 9 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Smokin Guns, 9 p.m.	Smokin Guns, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 E. N. East St.		Mike Merryfield, 8 p.m.	Mike Merryfield, 8 p.m.	Mike Merryfield, 8 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	The DeCamp Sisters, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Blue Wednesday, 8 p.m.	Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Life Support, 8 p.m.	Summer of Sol, 8 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	DJ Dazzlin Dena, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Jam, 8 p.m.	Stan Budzynski, 8:30 p.m.	Soulstice, 9 p.m.	Still Rain, 9 p.m.
Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave.			Jack Clarkson Band, 7 p.m.	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Lydia, 6:30 p.m.	Kaleido, 8 p.m.	The Sex Dolls Tour, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Stikyfut, 9 p.m.	The Crane Wives, 8 p.m.	A Sleepless Malice, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic, 9 p.m.	Stella, 9 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9 p.m.	Zydecrunch, 9 p.m.
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Waterpong, 11 p.m.			
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.			
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Second Nature, 8:30 p.m.	Second Nature, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive			Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 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 20

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Teen Tech Week. Participate in STEAM programs. Ages 13 and up. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Thursday, March 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

English Country Dancing. Lessons and live music. 7-9:30 p.m. \$4-\$6. Snyder/Phillips Hall, The intersection between Grand River Avenue and Bogue Street on MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 321-3070. msu.edu.

Family Education Day. FREE for families with kids to learn nutrition! 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7400. lansingcitymarket.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.

Restorative Yoga. Enhance well-being with gentle yoga techniques. 6:45-8 p.m. \$10. Good Space Yoga, 2025 Abbot Road #300, East Lansing. (517) 285-2782. goodspaceyoga.com.

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

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

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

Craft Night Social. Work on a project, create a quill box, make a dance shawl or do a peyote stitch. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777. nokomis.org.

Starting a Business. Beginning steps for starting a small business. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921. sbdcmichigan.org.

EVENTS

East Lansing Citizens Concerned. Forum. Perspectives for the future of Downtown East Lansing. FREE. 7 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott Rd., East Lansing. (517) 332-3106

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.

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

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.

Festival of Listening. Untranslated poetry reading. 7-

8:30 p.m. FREE. Scene MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 884-1932. poetry.rcah.msu.edu.

Ingham County Animal Control & Shelter Humanitarian Awards. 6-9 p.m. \$50, dinner included. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 242-7440.

Ingham County Genealogical Society. Presentation on "FamilySearch.org." Business meeting follows. 7 p.m. Vevay Township Hall, 780 Eden Road, Mason. (517) 676-7140.

MUSIC

Rally In The Alley Open Mic. 6:30 p.m. FREE. American Legion Post 48, 731 N. Clinton St. Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1232.

[REVOLUTION] at Tavern. A weekly electronic music event for ages 21 and up. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. NO COVER. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-5555.

Stella. Live performance. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

THEATER

"A Shot In The Dark." Sex, murder and true love get cross-examined. 7 p.m. \$14/\$12 Seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Teen Tech Week. Participate in STEAM programs. Ages 13 and up. 1-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2420. elpl.org.

Friday, March 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Brown Bag Presentation. Uncovering Religion in a 1950's Automobile Factory. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

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

Real Talk. Girls age 11-13 discuss real life problems. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-372-9163. womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

Starting a (Food) Business. Small food-business development workshop. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. (517) 999-3923. allenmarketplace.org.

EVENTS

One-on-One Business Counseling. Call (517) 483-1921 to register. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. Delta

See Out on the Town, Page 23

FRIDAY, MARCH 14 >> 'CRYPISIS'

The student film "Crypsis" was shot on location at MSU's Broad Art Museum. It's a noir-inspired transfiguration of H.G Wells' novel, "The Invisible Man." Jack Griffin, an exiled scientist is seeking vengeance, but he's not the only one on the hunt. Join the filmmakers for a Q&A to follow. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu, badtripfilms.com.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Eeeeeevil"--what can I say? It's crossword #666. Matt Jones

Across

- 1 ___ Bator (Mongolia's capital)
- 5 Part of a war plane
- 11 Italian or Swiss summit
- 14 Fantasy sports option
- 15 Jiddah's leaned
- 16 ___ Paulo (Brazil's most populous city)
- 17 Bathrooms brimming with lawn clippings?
- 19 Fashion world star Anna
- 20 Words prior to "touche" or "tureen"
- 21 Obvious disdain
- 23 Wheat bread Pitt almost took away for 2011
- 26 Appomattox initials
- 29 Country musician Axetone
- 30 Just ____, skip and jump away
- 31 Scandinavian fans of Wiggum's kid (in Simpsons-iana)?
- 34 Quantity of bricks?
- 35 Two from Tijuana
- 36 Stir things up
- 37 British artist William with a 1745 portrait of him and his pug dog
- 39 Hands out
- 43 Bangkok bankroll
- 44 Utmost ordinal
- 45 Wood that flavors bourbon
- 46 Thousand dollar bills that fly and roost?
- 50 1052, to Tacitus
- 51 Last half of a tiny food contaminant (with first half of, um, you know...)
- 52 "Two Virgins" musician Yoko

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54				55		56	57	58				
59				60	61	62				63	64	65
66				67						68		
69				70						71		

- 53 Folks who Owen Meary films, say
- 54 Pang or misgiving
- 56 Military turndown
- 59 Big poet for java
- 60 Location of what to ditch from all long solutions (and from Across/Down hints) for this all to work
- 66 Yahoo's stock in 1996, for short
- 67 Start to unify?
- 68 Pinocchio, notoriously
- 69 Brand ldes
- 70 "Grande" Arizona attraction
- 71 Vigorous
- 55 Feat POTUS
- 6 Jason's mythical craft
- 7 Road tripe quorum
- 8 "I dunno," in day books
- 9 "___ for igloo"
- 10 "Mama" of 1960s pop
- 11 Part of ASAP
- 12 Hill who sang "Doo Wop (That Tee-heeing)"
- 13 Toepieces of discussion
- 18 "___ Gang" (film shorts with kid "Rascals")
- 22 Potful at cook-offs
- 23 "Right hand on holy book" situation
- 24 "Buzz off, fly!"
- 25 Capitol Hill gp.
- 27 Took a hop
- 28 Bad guys pursuant of peace, man
- 31 Latvian-born artist Marek
- 32 Mila's "That 70's Show" costar
- 33 Code and sea-lemon, for two
- 35 Transylvanian count, informally
- 38 Bubbling, in a way
- 40 Pro tour sport
- 41 Unworldly sort
- 42 Things worn to go downhill fast
- 46 Fined without fault
- 47 Hour for a British cup, traditionally
- 48 Gaucho's grasslands
- 49 How you might wax nostalgic
- 50 Works of art on walls
- 53 Auction node
- 55 Meanly, in nouns (abbr.)
- 57 City on a fjord
- 58 Prompt jaws to drop, say
- 61 UFC fighting classification, for short
- 62 Holm of filmdom
- 63 Quick shot of brandy
- 64 Williams with a "Mortal City" album
- 65 Cook bacon

SUDOKU

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

BEGINNER

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 25

Out on the town

from page 22

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

Haslett American Legion Post Friday Fish Fry. Battered cod and more. Public is welcome. 5-8 p.m. \$9. \$7 seniors and children 7 and under. American Legion Post #269, 1485 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 381-8762.

Singles TGIF Party. Weekly singles party with fun, food and dancing. 8 p.m.-midnight, \$12. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 281-6272. singlestgif.com.

St. Patrick's at Tavern 109. St. Patrick's Weekend at TAVERN 109. March 14-17. Tavern 109, 115 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 655-2100. tavern109.com.

MUSIC

Smooth Daddy. Live performance. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. , FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

MSU Symphony Orchestra. MSU Honors Solo Competition winners perform. 8 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE for students. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

MSU Jazz Orchestras I, II, III. 8 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE for students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Matt LoRusso Trio. Jazz-inspired original music and original compositions. 9 p.m.-midnight, Suits Tavern, 210 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 702-9150.

THEATER

"A Shot In The Dark." Sex, murder and true love get cross-examined. 8 p.m. \$14/\$12 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

"Butterflies Are Free." Retro comedy. 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show, \$15 show only; \$31, \$28 dinner students and seniors. Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com.

"Dylan." About the later years of writer/poet Dylan Thomas. 8 p.m. \$15; \$5 students, \$10 seniors, LCC staff and alumni. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546. lcc.edu/showinfo.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Froggy Storytime. Join Froggy for stories, crafts and a photo. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Saturday, March 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Seed Starting and Transplanting. Tips for growing from seeds. 12:30-2 p.m. \$10 donation. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

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

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

EVENTS

Art Reception. Celebrate this month's featured exhibit. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library,

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

Cinderella's Closet 2014. Prom dresses for underprivileged kids. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Eastwood Towne Center, 3000 Preyde Blvd., Lansing. (517) 394-7272. jennifertaylor@townsquaremedia.com.

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

Maple Syrup Festival. Fenner Nature Center's annual Maple Syrup Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

Starving Artists Sale. Local artists put work up for sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. SmittenDust Studio, 257 Bridge St., Dimondale. smittendust.blogspot.com.

Headshots for Hope. Headshots to benefit the Alzheimer's Association, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$50 suggested donation, all donations welcome. Old Town Medical Art, 1106 N. Cedar St., Lansing. (614) 266-0852.

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. Advance tickets only. 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$12, \$6 children 10 and under. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139. mayflowerchurch.com.

MUSIC

Zydecronch. Live performance. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

Matt LoRusso Trio at Troppo. Jazz-inspired original music and original compositions. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

Music with My Mind is Electric. Come join us at the barn for live music! 11 a.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

THEATER

"A Shot In The Dark." Sex, murder and true love get cross-examined. 7 p.m. \$14/\$12 Seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

"Butterflies Are Free." Retro comedy. 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show, \$15 show only; \$31, \$28 dinner students and seniors. Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040. starlightdinnertheatre.com.

"Dylan." About the later years of writer/poet Dylan Thomas. 8 p.m. \$15, \$5 students, \$10 seniors, LCC staff and alumni. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546. lcc.edu/showinfo.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Explore Science! Explore Lab Science Team from MDCH. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Bilingual Japanese Storytime. Cultural activities, stories, crafts, food and fun. 2-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Sunday, March 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation & Silent Prayer. 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing

See Out on the Town, Page 24

STEAKHOUSE PHILLY BAR & GRILL

RJ Wolcott/City Pulse
 Steakhouse Philly Bar & Grill, formerly the Best Steak House, opened this week after nearly two years of construction.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

After 20 months and a \$200,000 interior/exterior overhaul, **Steakhouse Philly Bar & Grill** opened this week on Lansing's east side. Since 1967, the building was home to the

Best Steak House, a diner that closed in summer 2012 for the massive revamp, which includes a full bar and a new menu.

"This was something we've wanted to do for a while," said Demo Tassopoulos, who co-owns/operates the business with his brother, Andy Tassopoulos. "Times had changed and people had different expectations. I think this is something that's going to appeal to a wider range of people."

The original layout included an open kitchen and a cafeteria-style set up, where you picked out your cut of steak, type of potato and built your salad as you slid your tray down a line. That's all gone, replaced with hardwood half walls, a new bar with a full liquor selection, a new enclosed kitchen and a carryout area.

It looks completely different, but Tassopoulos said he had no idea the process would take that long.

"We ran into one problem after another," he said. "This building was constructed in the late '50s, so there were all kinds of surprises when we started digging in. We had issues installing our new (oven) hood, and when the Grand River flooded last September it took out our brand new floor, so we had to start over there."

The new look comes with a new menu as well. Most of the steaks are gone, except for the ribeye and sirloin, which he called "the foundation" of his customer base.

"Originally this was a factory town, so our menu was just meat and potatoes," he said. "Beef prices are so high now, so our menu focuses on something we had come to be known for in recent years — our Philly cheesesteaks."

The Steakhouse Philly comes with marinated steak, sautéed onions, provolone on buttered bread, served with either hand-cut fries or the homemade potato skins. Variations on the theme include the Greek Philly

(with gyro meat and tzatziki sauce), Windy City Philly (with spicy Italian sausage) and the self explanatory Bacon, Egg and Cheese Philly.

The new liquor license has enabled them to get creative on that front as well. The house drink is the Spartini, a green drink (just in time for St. Patrick's Day) made with citrus vodka, Midori, sour mix and Sprite.

After being closed for nearly two years, Tassopoulos said pent-up demand has led to a rush of customers, causing some hiccups this week.

"We've had 47 years of loyal customers, and they've been patient as we've been figuring things out" he said. "We've been busy as hell since we reopened on Monday. I can't believe people stuck with us. They're happy we're finally open. I am too."

Steakhouse Philly Bar & Grill

3020 E. Kalamazoo St. Lansing
 11 a.m.-late (based on business)
 (517) 337-2210
facebook.com/steakhousephilly

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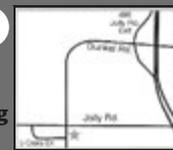
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Out on the town

from page 23

Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201. SelfRealizationCentreMichigan.org.

Haslett American Legion Post Sunday

Breakfast. Variety of breakfast foods offered. Public is welcome, 9 a.m.-noon. \$6, \$4.50 seniors and kids under 7. American Legion Post #269, 1485 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 381-8762.

Michigan's First Farmers. How food production evolved in upper Great Lakes. 3 p.m. FREE. Williamston Depot Museum, 369 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 655-1030. williamstonmuseum.org.

Vocal Scholarship Competition. Ethel Armeling Vocal Scholarship Competition Final. 6 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 388-3898. steinerchorale.org.

EVENTS

Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing. Presentation on Raptor rehabilitation and potluck. 2-5 p.m. \$2 per person. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 482-8357, 321-2674.

Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance. Lessons 6-6:45 p.m. Dance at 6:45. \$8 dance, \$10 dance and lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

MUSIC

Tao: Phoenix Rising. Modern take on traditional Japanese drumming. 3 p.m. \$15, \$25, \$35. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Saxophone Recital. Featuring Jon Gerwitz on

sax and Stephanie Gerwitz on piano. 4 p.m. FREE. Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1546. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Who's Your Daddy Tour. The Night Off and more performs. 5 p.m. \$7, \$5 adv. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 489-6090. facebook.com/events/1451457748401561/.

Lansing Symphony Jazz Band. Performance of classic and contemporary pieces. 7 p.m. \$20. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001. lansingsymphony.org.

Lansing Organ Guild Recital. Local Organ Guild performs variety of repertoire. 4 p.m. FREE. First United Methodist Church, 411 Harrison St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-3256. glc-ago.org.

THEATER

"The Faststicks." Romantic comedy musical in Steampunk fashion. 2 p.m. \$35, \$5 students. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. (517) 541-5690. cpacpresents.com.

"A Shot In The Dark." Sex, murder and true love get cross-examined. 2 p.m. \$14/\$12 seniors. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

St. Patrick's Poetry Reading. LPC to hold St. Patrick's Day poetry celebration. 2 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 402-5229. sites.google.com/site/lansingpoetryclub/.

Literacy Celebration. Stage show, storytellers, activities and characters. 1-3:30 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

LEGO(R) Makers Club. Drop in to make a LEGO(R) creation. Ages 4 and up. 2-4 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East

Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Monday, March 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Brown Bag Presentation. Presenting "A Case Study in Solidarity Unionism." 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

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. womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

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

Preschool Prep. Classroom experience for children under age 5. 9 a.m. \$400 two days/week, \$600 three days/week. Play, 4972 Northwind Drive, East Lansing. (517) 708-8746. playeastlansing.com.

Saints, Sinners and Cynics. An open conversation to share about life, faith, etc. 6:30 p.m. FREE to attend, purchase own refreshments. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Road, #13, Holt. (517) 882-9733. saintmichaellansing.org.

EVENTS

Kid Zone. Ages 5-8. Firefighter-inspired activities. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtldl.org.

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

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

Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

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

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

MUSIC

Open-Mic Blues Mondays. Solo, duo, band and spoken-word acts welcome. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Suits Tavern, 210 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 702-9150.

MSU Cello Plus: Russian Gems. Including Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio in A minor. 7:30 p.m. \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$5 students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Woldumar Folk and Bluegrass Jam. 2-6 p.m. \$4 adults, \$2 seniors, children FREE (amounts are suggested donation). Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. re-news.net/mmb.

Tuesday, March 18

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. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559. coda.org

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

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

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.

See Out on the Town, Page 25

"Though lovers be lost, love shall not; And death shall have no dominion."

DYLAN

BY SIDNEY MICHAELS
DIRECTED BY JOHN LENNOX

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SATURDAY, MARCH 15 >> THE STUART HALL PROJECT

Cultural theorist Stuart Hall, who died last month at 82, created the school of thought known as British cultural studies, a theoretical approach of how media messages are produced, disseminated and interpreted. Hall had a major influence on media studies, including formulating the encoding/decoding model of communication that theorized mass media messages, specifically in television. These are interpreted differently by people based on their individual backgrounds. Filmmaker John Akomfrah charts Hall's influential body of work in the movie "The Stuart Hall Project"; this screening is part of the Black Film as Social Activism series and will be followed by a discussion. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY, MARCH 18-23 >> 'PORGY AND BESS' AT WHARTON CENTER

You can get a much-needed taste of "Summertime" at the award-winning Broadway tour of "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess," coming to the Wharton Center for a six-day run. This iconic American folk opera, based of the novel by DuBose Heyward and featuring the music of George and Ira Gershwin, tells the story of the denizens of Charleston's fictitious Catfish Row. Porgy, a crippled street beggar, tries to rescue the beautiful Bess from the clutches of her violent lover. This acclaimed show also features the songs "It Ain't Necessarily So" and "I Got Plenty of Nuttin.'" 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Sunday. \$37-\$72/\$25 students. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 W. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

Out on the town

from page 24

HERO: Window Treatments. Homeowner Education Resource Org. tutorial. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980. glhc.org.

Learn to Play the Ukulele. Learn to play the Ukulele with Ben Hassenger. 3:30-4:30 p.m. \$60 members, \$75 non-members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Today's Special Program. Free cooking demo and nutrition tips! 5-6 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

EVENTS

Bible and Beer. Discussion of Scripture's power in daily events. 6 p.m. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washingotn Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600.

RHS Monthly Luncheon. Everyone who attended RHS at any time is invited. Noon, RobinHill Catering, 16441 US 27 Highway, Lansing. (517) 525-0146. robinhillcatering.com.

THEATER

The Gershwins' "Porgy and Bess." Classic love story musical. 7:30 p.m. \$32, \$57, \$67. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Community Quilt Project. Drop-in quilting night for library fundraiser. 6:30-7:30 p.m., FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Wednesday, March 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

Native Shrubs for You and Your Friends. 7 p.m. FREE and open to the public. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 887-

0596. wildoneslansing.org.

EVENTS

DTDL Book Club. Discuss "Life After Life" by Kate Atkinson. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtldl.org.

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

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

Architectural Styles. A discussion of prominent architecture. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtldl.org.

Designer: Brad Baer. Artist talk presented by MSU Art Department. 7 p.m. FREE. 107 S. Kedzie Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-3961. art.msu.edu/content.

Game Night. Card and board games of all kinds! 7 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

THEATER

The Gershwins' "Porgy and Bess." Classic love story musical. 7:30 p.m. \$32, \$57, \$67. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Tween Book Club. Ages 9-12. Call to register. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtldl.org.

City Pulse Classifieds

Interested in placing a classified ad in City Pulse? (517) 999-5066 or adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com

Trivia Buffs Get Paid Quizzo Pub Trivia is coming to Lansing and we need hosts. If you are fun, outgoing, and able to read over a microphone, this could be the gig for you. Typical night is 3-4 hours of work, \$65-\$85 cash per night, mostly weeknights. Apply online at www.quizzodetroit.com/employment.html Questions call: (586) 202-4489 or email: mikay@quizzodetroit.com

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Hey girls R U sick of Bars and Internet Jerks? Mid-Aged SWM 6'11" 190#, slightly OK endowed, needs H/Wt approx. OK fire/air sign open-minded females to live-in and love. Call (517) 290-9952 or drnatural@myway.com.

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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsky

Mar. 12-18

ARIES ARIES (March 21-April 19): "There was another life that I might have had, but I am having this one." So says a character in Kazuo Ishiguro's novel *The Unconsoled*. At this juncture in your life story, Aries, it might be healing for you to make a similar declaration. Now is an excellent moment to say a final goodbye to plot twists that you wished would have happened but never did. To do so will free up stuck energy that will then become available for future projects. You may even awaken to exciting possibilities you haven't imagined yet.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In May 2011, two Nepali men reached the top of Mt. Everest after a six-week climb. Lakpa Tsheri Sherpa and Sano Babu Sunuwar had prepared an unprecedented way to get back down off the mountain. Strapping themselves to a single parachute, they leaped off and paraglided for 45 minutes, landing near a Sherpa village thousands of feet below the summit. I suggest you look around for a metaphorical version of a shortcut like that, Taurus. Don't do the next part of the journey the same way you did the previous phase. Take a more direct route. Enjoy an alternate adventure. Give yourself a fresh challenge.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Seeking wisdom and chasing after pleasure are polar opposites, right? You must devote yourself to either one or the other, correct? You can be an enlightened servant of the greater good or else an exuberant hedonist in quest of joy, but not both. True? No. No. No. False. Wrong. Here's the bigger truth: Now and then, grace periods come along when you can become smarter and kinder by exploring the mysteries of feeling really good. Can you guess when the next of these grace periods will arrive for you, Gemini? Here's the answer: It's here now!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Humans walked on the moon before anyone ever had the simple idea to put wheels on suitcases. Unbelievable, right? Until 1972, three years after astronauts first walked on the lunar surface, travelers in airports and train stations had to carry and drag wheelless containers full of their belongings. I suspect that a comparable out-of-sequence thing may be going on in your own life, Cancerian. In some ways you are totally up-to-date, and in other ways you are lagging behind. Now would be a good time to identify any discrepancies and start correcting them. Metaphorically speaking, I'd love you to have rolling luggage by the next time you take a journey.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Have you ever heard of the sasquatch, also known as bigfoot? You know, one of those big, hairy, humanoid beasts that walks upright and lives in dense forests? Scientists assure us that there is no such thing. But then they used to say the same thing about the platypus. It was a myth, they declared; a figment of explorers' vivid imaginations. A duck-billed, egg-laying mammal simply could not exist. When the respected British zoologist George Shaw claimed there was indeed such a creature, he was mocked by his contemporaries. Eventually, though, the truth emerged and Shaw was vindicated. I suspect that you Leos will soon experience an event akin to the discovery and confirmation that the platypus is real.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): *Kyoka* is a Japanese word that means a flower reflected in a mirror. I suggest you use it as a metaphor to help you understand what's happening in your life right now. Here are some clues to jumpstart your ruminations. Are you more focused on the *image* of what you love than on what you love? If so, is there anything wrong with that, or is it perfectly fine? Are you more interested in ephemeral beauty that you can admire from afar than in tangible beauty you can actually touch? If so, is there anything wrong with that, or is it perfectly fine? Should you turn away from a dreamy surrogate and turn toward the real thing? If so, why?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A British researcher

poured 300 million facts into a computer program designed to determine the most boring day in history. The winner was April 11, 1954. It was selected because almost nothing important happened except an election in Belgium. I'm wondering if you Libras might reach that level of blah sometime soon. The astrological omens suggest it's a possibility. And frankly, I hope that's exactly what happens. You need a break from high adventure and agitated activity. You would benefit from indulging in some downtime that allowed you to luxuriate in silence and stasis. The time has come to recharge your psychic batteries.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You won't be the recipient of good luck in the coming days. Nor will you experience bad luck or dumb luck or weird luck. No, Scorpio. The serendipitous slew of synchronicities that will slip and slide into your sphere requires a new word, which I have coined for this occasion. That word is "shluck." Shluck is a cracked yet plucky sort of backwards luck that provides you with an abundance of curious slack. Shluck slings your way a series of happy accidents and curious coincidences that give you experiences you didn't even realize you needed. To take maximum advantage of shluck's benefits, you have to dispense with your agendas and drop your expectations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In the old fairy tale "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," the poor woodcutter Ali Baba is collecting firewood in the forest when he spies a gang of thieves bragging about their exploits. Observing them from a hiding place, he hears them chant a phrase, "open sesame." This magically unseals the opening to a cave that happens to be full of their stolen treasure. Later, when the thieves have departed, Ali Baba goes to the cave and says "open sesame" himself. The hocus-pocus works. He slips into the cave and steals a bag of gold from the robbers' plunder. This story has resemblances to an adventure you could enjoy sometime soon, Sagittarius. I suspect you may discover your own version of "open sesame." It will give you access to a less literal and more legitimate bounty.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your ability to heal rifts and bridge gaps is unusually high. You could connect seemingly irreconcilable elements and forge apparently impossible links. Former allies who have become estranged might be moved to bond again through your compassionate intervention. I'm not promising amazingly miraculous feats of unification, but I'm not ruling them out, either. You have a sixth sense about how to create interesting mixtures by applying just the right amount of pressure and offering just the right kind of tenderness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): My friend Harry said he wanted to teach me to play golf. "Are you kidding?" I asked him incredulously. "The dullest game on the planet?" He tried to convince me that it would provide lots of interesting metaphors I could use in writing horoscopes. "Name one," I challenged him. He told me that "Volkswagen" is a slang term that describes what happens when a golfer makes an awkward shot that nevertheless turns out to be quite good. "Hmmm," I replied. "That is exactly the theme I have decided on for the Aquarius horoscope."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do you remember being in your mother's womb? Probably not. But here's what I know about that time: In the first few weeks after you were conceived, your body grew at a very rapid rate. Once you were born, if you had continued to expand and develop with that much vigor, you would literally have grown to be as big as a mountain by now. So let's be thankful you slowed down. But I do want to sound an alert and let you know that you are currently in a growth spurt with some metaphorical resemblances to that original eruption. It's basically a good thing. Just be aware that you may experience growing pains.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

U	L	A	N	T	A	C	T	I	C	A	L	P
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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



HE ATE

SHE ATE



If you happen upon Fork in the Road, take it

Tell me about the rabbit

By **MARK NIXON**

The farm-to-table movement is so prevalent that it risks becoming a cliché. Who knows? Our local McDonald's may one day brag about free-range Chicken McNuggets raised on a McFarm in McEaton County.

For a local perspective, though, let's rewind the calendar. A few years back, not many area restaurants made in-season, local ingredients their priority. But two local farm-to-table pioneers were ahead of the pack.

They began as food wagons and have since put down brick-and-mortar roots. On the east side: Red Haven, a high-end restaurant with outstanding cuisine. On the west side: Fork in the Road Local Artisan Diner, a long-winded name for a place that prides itself on simplicity — and can be justly proud of its menu.

We reviewed Red Haven a year ago, so we were overdue to dig into the menu of its modest-looking counterpart, tucked between the industrial brownfields that once were home to General Motors plants.

Before you walk in, there is palpable proof of Fork's dedication to local food: A large mural homage to garden produce. Below it, the diner's herb garden stands at the ready, once this godawful winter decides to leave.

Inside, the most prominent "art" is a list of area farms, bakeries and producers that provide Fork with everything from arugula to shrimp. Yes, shrimp. Far from the salt seas, an Okemos shrimp farm provides the eatery with those comma-shaped crustaceans.

The four of us were obvious virgins to the Fork scene. We sat about 10 minutes without being asked for our orders. Only after inquiry did we pick up on what you're supposed to do: 1.) Grab a menu, stand in line at the cash register; 2.) place your order and pay; and 3.) pick a table and wait for a server to bring the food.

We shared three appetizers and four entrees. The highest marks went to a side of Crispy Ambercup Squash (\$5.50). The pieces were thinly sliced, lightly fried and dusted with sea salt, placed on a bed of dainty sunflower shoots with dabs of horseradish sauce, maple syrup and ricotta cheese. Salt, sweet, crisp, tang — some kind of wonderful.

In descending order, I'd rank these entrées accordingly: Pork Mac (\$11.50), Meatloaf (\$15.50), Fried Chicken (\$13.50) and Shrimp & Grits (\$19). All were quite good. Brett's fried chicken was lightly

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See He Ate, Page 27

Nice buns

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

When I went to Sexton High School, we had an hour for lunch and everyone was allowed to leave campus. We would frequent the food court in the Lansing Mall, all of the fast food places on West Saginaw and the few nearby convenience stores. While we wouldn't have been able to afford daily lunches at Fork in the Road, I for one would have saved up and splurged on Fridays.

Fork in the Road started as one of Lansing's first food trucks, a faux wood thing aptly named Trailer Park'd. In the early days (way back in 2011), I would hunt it down for the burgers and grilled asparagus. I was tickled when the stand-alone restaurant was announced and eagerly arrived early to fight the lunch crowds for my Ballin' Ass Tacos. After a few visits, I took a hiatus from Fork in the Road. It was too expensive. The portions were too small. I'm not enough of a hipster to fit in.

I went back a few Saturdays ago for breakfast. Biscuits and Gravy (\$9) are one of my weaknesses and I was ready to order immediately after spotting them on the menu. My concerns about portion size seemed to have been overcome and my eyes widened at the sight of my platter of food. The biscuits were fluffy and a little bit crispy, as if they had been seared on a buttered griddle. I smeared them with pork sausage gravy and poked holes into the yolk of my fried egg, my mouth watering as I watched the yellow ooze out onto my buttery biscuit. I couldn't finish my meal, which is saying a lot: I've taken a bronze medal in Olympic eating.

While my meal was gargantuan, the Fork in the Road portion size increase doesn't seem to have extended to all the menu items. One of my companions had the Ballin' Ass Scramble (\$9.75), a plate of scrambled eggs, potatoes and spicy crumbled chorizo topped with queso fresco, cilantro and lime wedges. Tortillas come on the side for eaters to roll up their own breakfast burritos. She liked it, but the hot sauce offered to her by the waitress should have come with a warning label.

Another companion had the olive burger (\$11.25), which was bigger than a slider but smaller than a Big Mac. He gobbled it up, commenting that he really liked the "very tasty" bun. (OK, it was my dad — his strengths don't lie in food description.) For the price, it would have been nice to see a side of tater tots instead of the sparse pickled vegetables on the plate. As it stands, the tots are \$5 and were cooked a little past crispy.

The boyfriend ordered the Beef

See She Ate, Page 27



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He Ate

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battered, juicy inside and not grease-encumbered. My meatloaf was infused with subtle smokiness, which came with wisp-like slivers of fried red onions and pickled mushrooms.

Judy's Pork Mac held a creamy blend of bleu, smoked cheddar and mozzarella cheeses. Locally, I've only found one better — the mac and cheese with charcuterie at Gracie's Place in Williamston.

Lisa's shrimp and grits proved a surprise. The shrimp still had their heads attached, underscoring that these weren't processed and flash-frozen in a trawler off the Louisiana coast.

Before my entrée, I tried the curried parsnip soup. I love curry and parsnips, but found this to be all about the curry; it was more like curried porridge. Chevre (goat cheese) and apple chunks layered on top were a good choice, though. The Fork folks seem enamored of chevre, since it appears throughout the menu. Obviously they've discovered a great little goat farm because this chevre is superior to what I've found in supermarkets.

On the second visit, Judy had Rabbit

Broth soup (\$4) made with white beans and chunks of rabbit. Along with chevre, rabbit takes a prominent place on Fork's menu. I give the Rabbit Broth a C+. Our friend Bruce ordered biscuits and gravy (\$9). It landed looking like the mother ship of all biscuits and gravy platters, topped with a sunny-side up egg. He ate his fill; two-thirds was left uneaten.

I was underwhelmed by my lunch choice, the strangely named Ballin' Ass Tacos (\$8). Chorizo-filled flour tortillas are topped with that splendid Mexican cheese, queso fresco, along with fresh lime and cilantro. The toppings were tasty but the chorizo was too spicy. And though the menu said it came with molé verde, I tasted no evidence of that.

There are noteworthy little extras at Fork in the Road. Hot tea comes with a little hourglass timer — three minutes for proper steeping. Restrooms have graffiti boards jammed with messages. My favorite: "921 Evergreen for all the fun." There are marker pens so you can add your own message. Good luck finding a spot.

Will I go back? Absolutely. Heck, I'd go back for the Backward Float (\$5): Sassafras gelato bobbing in a foamy mug of Faygo Creme Soda.

That's DETROIT-made Faygo, in case you didn't know.



Gabrielle Johnson/City Pulse

The olive burger at farm-to-table diner Fork in the Road.

She Ate

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Pastrami Sandwich (\$11), which sounded promising considering the proffered braised cabbage and sweet onion, roasted lemon mustard and mozzarella. If the meat had been left off the sandwich it would have been an improvement — a good third of it was inedible gristle, stuff that I would have thrown away if I were making it at home.

The wait after we ordered was substantial, which was fine because I was attempting to teach my dad how to use Facebook (to no avail). If it had been a weekday lunch, however, the time crunch would have sent me into panic mode.

I returned a few weeks later for that weekday lunch with a girlfriend. She drank a Hummingbird Nectar Iced Tea (a whopping \$2.50) with her olive burger. I'm not sure what was in the tea, but it tasted like flowers and honey and springtime, a welcome respite after the completely depressing weather we have been battling for months.

She liked the olive burger just as much as Dad did. While I have a serious aversion to olives, I tasted this one and was impressed with the juiciness of the meat. Again, the bun got rave reviews.

I had the Smoked Meatloaf'wich, an intimidatingly tall meatloaf sandwich on thick slices of seeded bread. The bottom piece of bread was slathered with a thick

layer of mashed potatoes, which was a nice thought but didn't hold together very well. I was happy I'd covered my lap with more than one napkin. The meatloaf itself was tomatoey, but unremarkable. Thick chunks of cheddar cheese made holding the sandwich difficult and overpowered the taste of the meatloaf and the red onion marmalade.

A gourmet diner is a great idea, but I think the typical Lansing eater might be better situated and more inclined to pay actual diner prices, at least when they're getting boutique-sized food.

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MEN'S **ACTIVEWEAR**



Meet Jasper.

A native New Yorker, Jasper grew up on the Lower East Side. From a young age, he began discovering international cuisine in New York City. During Jasper's youth he was fond of exploring farmers markets throughout the city. His fascination with food grew through his adolescence, and while working at the restaurant underneath his family's apartment, he became serious about pursuing a career in cooking. He still loves discovering new restaurants, especially hole in the wall gems. Jasper is currently studying culinary arts, wholly embraces sustainable cooking and hopes to move to Paris after graduation to immerse himself in French cuisine. He is pictured the Classic Sweatpant and Hoodie.

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