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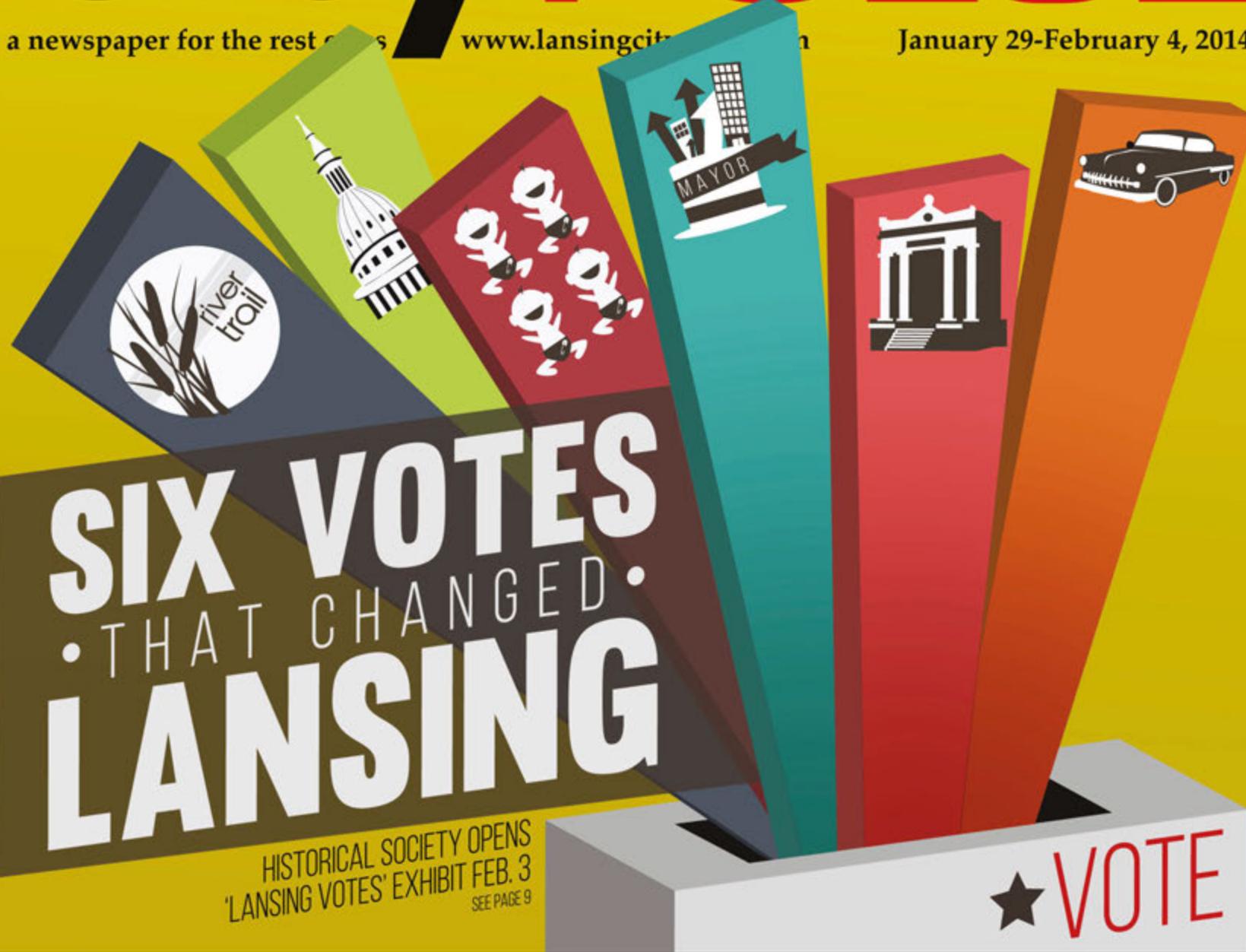
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FREE



SIX VOTES
• THAT CHANGED •
LANSING

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPENS
'LANSING VOTES' EXHIBIT FEB. 3
SEE PAGE 9



PAGE 5

How Republican legislators
went from reluctant to
clamoring for a medical
marijuana dispensary bill



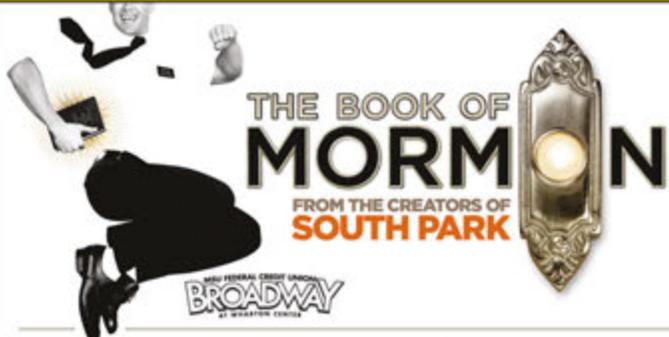
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Interview with Pulitzer
Prize-winning playwright
Tony Kushner, coming to
Wharton Center



PAGE 22

BAD Brewery in Mason
finds success in
experimentation



THE BOOK OF
MORMON
FROM THE CREATORS OF
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THIS WEEK: Lansing School District

CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS



Hosted by **Berl Schwartz**

PETER SPADAFORE

LANSING SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT



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FLIGHTS OF FANTASY

Feedback

Celebrate Chicano History Week

I am a long time Chicano from Lansing involved in various ways with various groups in promoting and/or celebrating Chicano interests and causes. Right now I am working with a coalition of Chicano and Latino organizations to promote activities to commemorate the upcoming Chicano History Week in Michigan, Feb. 2-8, 2014. I hope the City Pulse can help.

The commemorating of Chicano History Week in Michigan was inaugurated far back in the 70's by Michigan Chicanos who requested then Gov. William G. Milliken to sign an executive declaration recognizing Feb. 2-8 as Chicano History Week in Michigan. This was done in observance of the historically important date of Feb. 2, 1848, when the Treasury of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, thereby ending the war between the U.S. and Mexico

It is my understanding that the state of Michigan holds the honor, therefore, of being among the first states in the nation to commemorate Feb. 2-8 as Chicano History Week. The intent of the formal commemoration of Chicano History Week in Michigan was to develop a greater awareness of, and to place educational emphasis on, the ancestry, heritage, and history of Chicanos. I hope your readers will enjoy reading about this event of importance to Chicanos.

— Margarito J. Garcia III
Lansing

Report on all absences

I was glad to see that Walt Sorg reported in last week's City Pulse who was present and absent for the ceremonial city inauguration. I hope that he continues to report each week on who was present and absent for actual City Council meetings, where local officeholders perform the work they were elected to do. I look forward to Sorg holding elected officials' feet to the fire—even those who supported his 2012 state House campaign or danced with him at charity events. It may not make him popular with his political allies, but good journalists never are.

— Thomas Morgan
Lansing

Need more than Facebook

During the power outage, Nathan Triplett used his private Facebook page to share updates with his "friends." Sam Singh, and

some in the media, think this was a good thing.

To the contrary, for the (council-selected) mayor to communicate about what might have been important public safety information during an emergency to those subscribing to a private Facebook list, instead of making sure the city used all available means of communications (which includes Facebook and Twitter, as well as a phone list and local stations for those relying on battery-powered radios) was totally inappropriate and self-indulgent. All citizens, not just "friends" of a politician, are entitled to equal access. Instead of celebrating, Singh and the media should realize this act of selective communication is grounds for recall, especially since it is part of a pattern of Mr. Triplett failing to separate his personal political maneuvering from his public duties.

— Eliot Singer
East Lansing

Fourth Ward still in dark

If you live in the 4th ward you might still be in the dark, in a sort of way, weeks after the BWL's flat-footed response to the ice storm and power outage.

I say that only because I have heard nothing back from the 4th ward BWL commissioner despite emails and a letter to her, nor have I heard from the 4th ward city council person, despite emails and a letter to her.

Maybe they are busy shopping for generators or cover for the Mayor or head of the BWL?

— Bradley A. Vauter
Lansing

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, last week's sustainability column on making instruments incorrectly stated Alex Smith's alma mater. He attended East Carolina University.

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

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.
 - E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
 - Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- 2.) Write a guest column:
 - Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061

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

CityPULSE

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Sorg: Economist says Snyder's call for balanced federal budget is an 'exceptionally bad idea'

PAGE 6



Old Town gets young in February with NEXT exhibition

PAGE 14



THE SCREENING ROOM: Review of uplifting social worker comedy/drama "Short Term 12" p. 16

PAGE 16



SIX VOTES by RACHEL HARPER

COVER ART

CITY PULSE



THIS WEEK

- State Rep. Mike Callton, R-Nashville
- Playwright Tony Kushner
- Mike McDaniel, chairman of BWL Community Review Team
- Valerie Marvin, president, Historical Society of Greater Lansing



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

IF THE WATER SUPPLY FOR 300,000 PEOPLE WERE POISONED BY TERRORISTS, IT WOULD BE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

WE WILL ADDRESS THIS CRISIS WITH EVERY RESOURCE AT OUR DISPOSAL! THE PURITY OF HOMELAND DRINKING WATER WILL BE PROTECTED AT ANY COST!

NOW PLEASE STAY INSIDE AND DUCT TAPE YOUR FAUCETS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

FRIGHTENED AMERICANS WOULD EMBRACE WHATEVER NEW SECURITY MEASURES WERE RUSHED INTO LAW.

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I NEVER TRUSTED THOSE TYPES ANYWAY!

A LOT OF VERY SERIOUS THINKERS WOULD INSIST THAT WE NEEDED TO BOMB SOMEBODY.

HOW ABOUT IRAN? THEY'D BE A GOOD TARGET!

SURE, THERE'S NO EVIDENCE LINKING THEM TO THE ATTACK--

--BUT WHO CARES? WE JUST NEED TO MAKE A STATEMENT!

THE ASSAULT ON CIVIL LIBERTIES WOULD SHIFT INTO OVEDRIVE.

THE NSA MUST SCOOP UP EVEN MORE METADATA--IN ORDER TO KEEP YOU SAFE NEXT TIME!

MAYBE. ALSO WE SHOULD DRONE SNOWDEN, JUST BECAUSE.

AND OF COURSE CABLE NEWS WOULD BE ON THE TOPIC 24/7.

SO YOU SEE, WATER IS TWO PARTS HYDROGEN AND ONE PART OXYGEN!

FASCINATING! AND WOULD YOU SAY IT'S ESSENTIAL TO LIFE AS WE KNOW IT?

NO QUESTION! WATER IS VERY VERY IMPORTANT!

THERE YOU HAVE IT--THE SCIENTIFIC PERSPECTIVE!

BUT SINCE A CORPORATION DID IT, NO BIG DEAL.

EH, STUFF HAPPENS. WHAT CAN YOU DO.

NO POINT IN CRYING OVER SPILLED 4-METHYL-CYCLOHEXANE METHANOL, THAT'S WHAT I ALWAYS SAY!

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Dais shuffle

Breaking practice, City Council President A'Lynne Boles shuffles the city clerk and city attorney to the end of the dais. They object.

For as long as anyone can remember, Lansing's city clerk and city attorney have sat on either side of the president during City Council meetings.

No more.

The Council's new president, A'Lynne Boles, has bumped the clerk and city attorney to opposite ends of the dais.

And the clerk, Chris Swope, isn't happy about it. Nor is the city attorney, Janene McIntyre. She even issued an opinion saying Boles can't do it without a vote. Boles has done it anyway.

Boles said the move is so she can be closer to Judi Brown Clarke, the vice president and newest member of the Council. The two sat next to each other at last week's meeting for the first time this year.

When asked why she wanted to sit closer to her, Boles said, "Because that's my choice of how meetings will be run."

The move appears to have disgruntled Swope and annoyed McIntyre.

"I'm still in disbelief it has taken on the life that it has," McIntyre said, adding that she's spent "more time than what I should have" researching the issue.

McIntyre said it doesn't matter to her where she sits, but that Swope had indicated he prefers sitting next to the president.

Swope said Tuesday that before and after last week's Council meeting, "I expressed to (Boles) that I didn't think it made sense. There's a lot of communication that goes on between the clerk and the president historically." He cited examples of helping call public speakers to the podium and running the time clock, which is "convenient" for speakers if it's in the middle of the dais.

"It just seems like a logical place to fulfill my role," Swope said. "I don't think it's the right decision."

McIntyre's opinion says that "as long as memory serves," the city clerk and the city attorney have sat immediately to the president's left and right, respectively. Besides bumping Swope and McIntyre to the ends of the dais, Boles has moved the chief deputy clerk off the dais. All of the Council members shifted one or two seats over. The internal auditor also moved.

"We have a new vice president, and I would very much like those conversations to be in a contiguous area," Boles said, referring to Brown Clarke. "Running a meeting is not something I require assistance on" from the city clerk.

However, in the opinion she issued Tuesday, McIntyre said the Council president can't unilaterally change the seating arrangement. She wrote the

Council can change it by a majority vote.

"No single Council member has authority over another, unless they are granted that authority by the Charter or the Council as a whole," she wrote — which she says it does not.

Despite objections from Swope and McIntyre, Boles said the seating change will stick for its meeting Thursday. She seemed bothered to even be contacted about the story, wondering how it came to light.

Boles also took issue with previous City Pulse stories that pointed out she dropped her married name, Robinson, following a divorce. She accused the paper of being "sexist" because she didn't know of other examples of that happening. (Boles is the first Council member since City Pulse started publishing in 2001 to change her name while in office.)

Boles asked for a list of instances in the past five years in which that's happened to anyone in the paper. When she was turned down, she said, "I'm going to FOIA that." As a private business, City Pulse isn't subject to the state Freedom of Information Act. (Editor's note: Boles is welcome to come into the office and research it herself. Copying is 10 cents a page.)

"We've agreed to disagree and not be disagreeable," Boles said of Swope. As for McIntyre's opinion: "It's just that, an opinion."

— Andy Balaskovitz

Safe access

How Republican lawmakers went from reluctant to clamoring for a medical marijuana dispensary bill

Less than two years ago, state Rep. Mike Callton, R-Nashville, struggled just to get his conservative colleagues to discuss medical marijuana dispensaries.

He introduced a bill that year to allow local municipalities to regulate, or ban, dispensaries. It appeared months before a state Supreme Court ruling that effectively shut down most of them across the state.

"It was like pulling teeth just to get two co-sponsors," Callton said, referring to his Republican colleagues' apprehension to sign on to such an idea. At the time, he said, many saw the law itself as a way of simply getting legally

high. The bill died by the end of the year. But the reluctance wouldn't last.

"A year later, people are climbing over their seats to co-sponsor it. In just an hour, I got eight Republicans and eight Democrats to co-sponsor," Callton said. "People were saying, 'How can I get on that?' One representative even said he wants to be on it because he 'wants to be on the right side of history.' That's an interesting thing to say."



Illustration by Jonathan Griffith

In December, Callton's provisioning centers bill had support from 87 percent of the House of Representatives, with 95 voting in support and 14 against. What the hell happened?

"A couple years ago, people thought there's no way it was going to get 51 percent of the vote. That's a lot of momentum," Callton said Monday. "I definitely think we succeeded in reframing the discussion."

That discussion, Callton said, shifted from perceiving the state law as a ruse for getting high to bringing patients with serious medical needs before lawmakers. A strategic plan behind the scenes helped, he said, as lobbyists met face-to-face with legislators. "I think that did wonders, instead of playing guitars and shouting in microphones on the (Capitol) lawn where legislators don't hear it anyway. It was much



Property: 1203 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, Grand Trunk Railroad station

Owner: Lansing Board of Water and Light

Sitting back from South Washington Avenue and in the shadows of the Board of Water and Light's new cogeneration power plant and headquarters, this building once served as a depot for the Grand Trunk Railroad. Designed in the Tudor Revival style by the Detroit-based architecture firm of Spier and Rohns, it was built in 1903 to serve a new R. E. Olds automobile factory south of the train tracks. Although the auto plant is gone, its presence is echoed in the BWL's new cogeneration plant nearby.

An imposing stone and brick tower dominates this robust building. Its battered walls, built of thin Roman brick, are topped by a crenellated parapet, giving it the look of a medieval castle. The cut stone water table and numerous limestone accents complete the building's solid composition. The steeply pitched clay tile roof terminates over deep eaves, supported by heavy wooden brackets.

Inside, the depot's main waiting room is a soaring, barrel-vaulted space featuring exposed wooden beams. A large group of west-facing windows admits generous light into the great room. Visitors should look for the whimsical light fixtures, added during the recent restoration.

Since 1971, when Grand Trunk ended its passenger service through Lansing, the former depot has housed several dining establishments. It now serves as the meeting room for the BWL's board of commissioners.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

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

Pot

from page 5

more savvy.”

A third peg is the nationwide shift on marijuana. Two states, Colorado and Washington, have legalized it. A Gallup poll from October showed, for the first time ever, that a majority of Americans (58 percent) say it should be legalized. Just last week, conservative Texas Gov. Rick Perry announced his support for “policies that start us toward decriminalization and keeps people from going to prison and destroying their lives.”

“I’ve seen this attitude now starting to prevail that it’s coming anyway,” Callton said. “It’s coming, let’s grab the bull by the horns.”

If Callton’s bill sustains the momentum from 2013, this will be the year dispensaries return, presumably in a more formal and regulated fashion. Advocates say don’t expect a proliferation of them, as was the case about four years ago. Cities such as Lansing, Ann Arbor, Detroit and Ypsilanti are likely to adopt local ordinances to regulate them, but “probably more will ban them outright than allow them,” said Robin Schneider, an advocate for the National Patients Rights Association. Schneider has been working closely on the Callton bill.

Along with having the “local option,” the bill prohibits provisioning centers from sharing office space with a physician and on-site consumption. It also requires product testing for contaminants such as mold, alarm systems for dispensaries, record-keeping for up to 90 days and annual inspections that adhere to food-safety laws.

“I look at these rules as a scenario that will actually put more controls in place,” Schneider said. “I don’t think they’re quite as controversial as people would think.”

Callton’s bill was referred earlier this month to the Senate Committee on Government Operations, which is chaired by Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville, R-Monroe. A second bill, which gained even more support in the House, which would allow for marijuana-infused food products called edibles, also was referred to the committee. Callton and activists are optimistic they will pass the Senate. The Michigan Municipal League is neutral on the dispensaries bill, but Samantha Harkins, the group’s director of state affairs, said, “We like the local control aspect of it. Certainly we appreciate the fact that we are letting communities make decisions about what’s best for them.”

Repeated attempts to reach Richardville’s press secretary, Amber McCann, were unsuccessful.

She told MLive.com on Jan. 10 that she was unsure of a plan to move on those bills,

What is a dispensary?

Dispensaries provide a site for legal medical marijuana patients to access the drug who otherwise don’t grow it themselves. Supporters of allowing dispensaries, or provisioning centers, to operate in commercially zoned areas contend that it offers a safe, open access point for patients. Supporters also say they move the drug trade out of residential areas. Under state Rep. Mike Callton’s bill, facilities would be inspected and meds would be tested for contaminants, such as mold.

but that Richardville has been “very open to having hearings on anything to do with that topic, obviously. Don’t rule that out.”

At least one state senator is still skeptical. State Rep. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, said on “City Pulse Newsmakers” in December that while he’ll “listen to the debate, I’m very concerned. I don’t want to see Lansing or any city go back to what we had before.”

The bills passed the House with support from House Speaker Jase Bolger, R-Marshall, whose press secretary indicated a desire among the Republican caucus to clarify what’s allowed under the 2008 Medical Marijuana Act.

“Speaker Bolger and the House Republican Caucus are working to help implement medical marijuana laws approved by Michigan voters,” Ari Adler, Bolger’s press secretary, said in a statement. “One of the key things we’ve learned is that while many people seem to support the use of medical marijuana, they are concerned with inappropriate exploitation of that law and understand the difficulty local municipalities have had in trying to address medical marijuana centers. I think you’ll see our caucus continue to support initiatives that help bring clarity to the haze caused by the current medical marijuana provisions approved through voter initiatives.

“I don’t think it’s been a shift for the Republicans’ opinion so much as an increased focus on the need to deal with the issue,” Adler said in a follow-up email.

Maybe so, but at least one group that formally supported Callton’s bill — Conservative Christians for Cannabis Reform — wants Republican voices heard in the discussion.

“There was a lack in having conservative perspective in the cannabis movement,” said Joe Brown, a 40-year-old based in Grand Rapids who co-founded the organization. “What we want to do is ultimately have a taxed and regulated cannabis program ... because we know it’s going to drive drug cartels out of this business and keep it out of the hands of kids.”

— Andy Balaskovitz

BWL Watch

Keeping an eye on Lansing’s publicly owned utility

About that rate increase ...

In Monday’s Lansing State Journal, Lindsay VanHulle reports that while the BWL will be able to make its \$20 million payment in lieu of taxes to the city and hire new people, it will still eventually need an \$18 million rate increase from customers.



The BWL shelved plans after the December ice storm for the increase because of the way it would have appeared to customers. “Disingenuous,” is how BWL Commissioner Dennis Louney has put it. The increase, first proposed in November and subject to Board of Commissioners’ approval, would have taken effect March 1.

In the past few city budget cycles, Mayor Virg Bernero warned the City Council that increasing the BWL’s annual payment in lieu of taxes would inevitably lead to passing those costs on to ratepayers. We’re seeing that happen as the city planned to get \$8.1 million more this year compared to 2012.

Singh: BWL needs new communications leader

State Rep. Sam Singh, D-East Lansing, appearing on WKAR’s “Current State” Thursday morning, called for “new leadership” in the utility’s communications department.

“As you rebuild the communications side of the BWL, for the future I think you need new leadership,” Singh said in a follow-up interview with City Pulse. Singh also supports the BWL’s hiring local PR firm Martin/Waymire — under a reportedly \$45,000 contract — to improve communications.

Singh said it should be up to BWL management and the Board of Commissioners on who exactly gets the axe. When asked multiple times if he was referring to communications director Steve Serkaian, Singh declined to say specifically.

MLive, City Pulse FOIA requests rejected, LSJ’s past due

MLive.com’s Melissa Anders reported over the weekend that the BWL rejected the news outlet’s open-records request for emails, text messages and other communication documents during a six-day period in December for being “overly broad.”

A more specific follow-up request also was denied. BWL FOIA coordinator Brandie Ekren said emails don’t exist and texts are not subject to the state Freedom of Information Act.

“Texts are transitory communications by their nature, and do not establish or memorialize LBWL policy or procedures. They are a mere convenience, more akin to conversa-

See BWL Watch, Page 7

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ingham County seeks services of a Monumentation Surveyor for 2014. All work shall be performed under the guidelines & conditions set forth in P.A. 345 of 1990. Project #16-14 bids due 2/5, 11AM. Info: <http://pu.ingham.org>, under Current Bids link.

CP#14_024

Notice of Public Sale

In accordance with Michigan State Law Storage Facility Act No. 443 and to satisfy an operator’s lien, the contents of the following units will be sold at public auction on **February 9, 2014 at 10:00am** for units located at **4200 Hunsaker Dr. East Lansing, MI 48823**

Unit#	Tenant Name
1240	Martha Gonzalez

The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes and appliances. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Compass Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

CP#14_021

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 **February 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1325, an Ordinance to amend Article III - Property Maintenance Code - of Chapter 6 - Building and Building Regulations - of the Code of the City of East Lansing by making further local changes to the International Property Maintenance Code, 2006 Edition, known as the Property Maintenance Code of the City of East Lansing, as adopted at Section 6-171 and amended by Section 6-175 by amending Section 304.7 to prohibit the drainage and discharge of sump pumps onto neighboring property so as to create a nuisance.

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 1-800-649-377.

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#14_025

BWL Watch

from page 6

tion. Because of their ephemeral nature, the LBWL has no policy requiring retention of text messages, and does not routinely do so. Public officials use text messaging today in the same manner they would have picked up the telephone a decade ago," Ekren responded in part.

However, Jane Briggs-Bunting, president of the Michigan Coalition for Open Government, said the utility is obligated to turn over such records.

"Bottom line is, hiding and failing to respond doesn't solve the issue, it just makes reporters dig deeper, because citizens want to know, and citizens frankly have a right to know," she told MLive.

City Pulse was notified Tuesday morning of similar news. It requested "All records, including but not limited to email, phone records, and documents between J. Peter Lark and Lansing (Mayor) Virg Bernero, the Office of the Mayor, employees and board members of BWL, or other city officials" during the time Lark left town for New York City. The BWL "was unable to identify any records that are responsive to your request" and that

it is not required to create new records.

In other FOIA news, the State Journal reported on Thursday that the BWL had not responded to its request for documents in the allotted time under state law. Under law, a public entity has five days to respond and can seek a 10-day extension. The Journal reported that the BWL said it would respond with records after 13 days from requesting the extension.

In 2003, Lark stressed communications

In a piece last week for MLive, columnist Steve Miller digs up a 2003 report co-authored by then-chairman of the Michigan Public Service Commission J. Peter Lark (now the BWL's general manager) about the importance of a timely and accurate crisis communications plan for state government.

The BWL's response to the ice storm was anything but, Miller writes, before going after Lark's employment contract and other "eye-popping" salaries for dozens of other employees. He cites the work of local watchdog Steve Harry, who in 2009 published the salaries of BWL employees on his website.

Miller alleges that up until now, the BWL — public as it may be — has operated in a bubble.

"Raises in secret, unreturned calls to its

public and a leader who forgot the importance of what he wrote in 2003," Miller writes. **McDaniel wants 'openness'**

Retired Brig. Gen. Michael McDaniel visited City Pulse's TV show, "Newsmakers," last week to outline his plan for an independent review of the BWL's storm response and to give preliminary suggestions of the utility's shortfalls.

Particularly, he believes the BWL's emergency response plan was not "community based," but rather "organizational based" and lacked basic tenets of keeping the public informed.

He said Lark's leaving Lansing for New York City over a couple of days around Christmas "does make a difference," comparing it to an army general being absent during battle.

McDaniel also clarified that the nine-member Community Review Team will do its best to operate publicly (even though it's not subject to the Open Meetings Act) — unless it is dealing with classified or sensitive material.

The team, made up members from greater Lansing, held its first organizational meeting in Lansing on Thursday. Three public hearings are scheduled for Feb. 4 in Lansing (Pattengill Middle School); Feb. 5 in East Lansing (Hannah Community Center); and Feb. 6 in Delta Township

(location to be determined). All are scheduled for 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. McDaniel plans to issue a final set of recommendations to Mayor Virg Bernero by March 31.

For these topics and more, the episode is available for viewing at lansingcitypulse.com.

Ode to the outage, "A Nice Storm"

Lansing-area folk band Jackalope recorded a five-minute, lighthearted track to memorialize the BWL's handling of the ice storm. Hooking up generators, the power grid "going straight to hell," freezing houses, hiring plumbers and Lark's vacation to New York all make the cut. Here's a sample verse:

And with the masses
of all their freezing asses
the elements we did grapple.
When we were finally defeated
back to mothers we retreated
But Peter went to the Big Apple.
(What?) Yeah, Peter Lark went to the Big Apple.

Thanks to East Lansing resident Alice Dreger for sharing the song. You can listen for yourself at reverbNation.com/jackalopes or by searching "A Nice Storm" on YouTube.

— Andy Balaskovitz

Uncertainty in BWL's management

BWL's review team must grapple with the "people problem"

For the community review team investigating the Lansing Board of Water and Light's botched response to the December ice storm, determining what went wrong is easy.

The BWL didn't hire enough emergency repair crews. Its communications plan was weak and badly executed. And the boss, General Manager Peter Lark, flew off in the middle of the crisis for a family vacation in New York.

But why it happened and what to do about it will be harder. With any business, adjusting systems and procedures is easier than dealing with people problems, and it may be that BWL's leadership team, however broadly it's defined, just isn't that good.

Compared with most Michigan power companies, the BWL is an odd duck. Unlike hard-edged commercial utilities like Consumers Energy Corp. or DTE Energy Co. which are beholden to the exacting rigors of the financial markets, the BWL exists in the cocooned world of Lansing city politics, a stew of alliances and enmi-

ties, clubby relationships and paybacks, budget subsidies, unions and, somewhere in all of this, ratepayers.

While a company like Consumers competes internationally for investor dollars, the BWL competes locally for political patronage. It's playing high school ball in a business populated by major leaguers.

It's possible that the review team may find that the BWL simply lacks the institutional discipline of investor-owned utilities, that its culture and management is (and this is the last sports metaphor) soft.

Underlying the review process is the expectation that a power company ought to have a meaningful disaster plan. Granted, the ice storm caused significant damage to power lines. But as disasters go, what knocked down the BWL could have been so much worse.

What if ice disabled 100 percent (not 40 percent) of the BWL's power lines? Or a tornado destroyed most of its equipment? Or a fire leveled headquarters or generating plants? What if a grave illness or attack decimated the workforce? Unlikely. But wouldn't a prudent utility start with end-game catastrophes and back into lesser, though still serious, calamities?

What is utterly striking is how quickly the BWL addresses shortcomings that prolonged the power outages and angered customers. It says that it has increased by "three-fold" the number of crews available to assist during a catastrophic storm, that it will triple the number of tree-trimming crews and is hiring more full-time line workers and dispatchers. It set up a toll-free phone number to report outages and has a web-site map to track them.

All of this in just four weeks, which suggests a cavalier, institutional approach to its primary mission: reliable electric service. Lark's escape to New York merely reinforces this perception, as does the many-pronged customer-service collapse.

Ultimately the post-storm mission for the volunteer review team and the utility's befuddled board of directors is restoring confidence in the BWL. The panel organized by Mike McDaniel at the behest of Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero plans to operate openly, ignoring a predictable ruling by Lansing City Attorney Janene McIntyre that it can act in secret if it so chooses. This is encouraging ... and necessary for the team's credibility.

As for the BWL's board of directors, it's time for meaningful oversight, which means digging into the numbing legal, managerial and technical complexities that govern utilities.



MICKEY HIRTEN

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On January 22, 2014, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

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

December 10, 2013 Regular Meeting
January 7, 2014 Regular Meeting

ELIZABETH LEGOFF
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS
TOWNSHIP CLERK
CP#14_023

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, February 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**, Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1319, a City-initiated Ordinance to amend Section 50-36, and 50-37, of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the Code of the City of East Lansing.

- To require that the elevations/façade treatment plan submitted and approved as part of a Site Plan and/or Special Use Permit application not be changed without additional review and approval.
- To implement a tiered process for review and approval of changes to an approved plan based on the significance of the proposed modification.
- To place the burden of conformance with the approved elevation/façade treatment plan on the owner of the property and makes nonconformance a violation under Section 50-33 of Chapter 50.

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_022

NOTICE

The Board of Review of the City of Lansing will meet in regular sessions in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, City Hall for five days March 10, 11, 12, 13, & 14 2014 at 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON and 1:30PM to 4:30PM. **EXCEPT** for Wednesday, March 12 from 1:30PM to 4:30PM and 6:00PM to 9:00PM to review and correct the assessment roll made by the City Assessor. The Board will hold open sessions, during which time any resident taxpayer may be present to make appeals and be heard in person. Taxpayers are permitted to file his or her protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. Protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An appointment is necessary and must be scheduled before 4:30 PM, March 12, 2014. Letter appeals must be **received** in the Assessor's Office by 4:30PM, March 13, 2014. If you wish to contact the City of Lansing Assessor's Office, you may do so by calling (517) 483-7624.

RATIO AND TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTORS FOR 2014

INGHAM COUNTY

	RATIO	FACTOR
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

EATON COUNTY

COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

CLINTON COUNTY

	RATIO	FACTOR
AGRICULTURAL	50.00	1.00
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
DEVELOPMENTAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

Subject to revisions by:
Board of Review, County Equalization, State Tax Commission

City Assessor's Office

CP#14_020

Political notes from around town

Economist says Snyder's call for balanced federal budget an 'exceptionally bad idea'

Gov. Rick Snyder may have warmed the hearts of Republicans with his support of a federal balanced budget amendment in his State of the State message, but Michigan State University economist Charles Ballard calls the concept "an exceptionally bad idea, the low point of his speech."

In an interview on City Pulse's radio show last week, Ballard said a federal constitutional requirement for a balanced budget would "turn the next recession into a Great Depression" by requiring either higher taxes or less spending in a recession. Either choice, he said, would amplify an economic slowdown. (The interview is available at lansingcitypulse.com.)



WALT SORG

He compares a federal balanced budget requirement to requiring a family to have a balanced budget. If families couldn't go into debt, he noted, few people would be able to buy a home.

Ballard is equally dismissive of legislative calls to use a projected \$900-million-plus state surplus to fund an election-year tax cut. He noted that Michigan is near the bottom of states in its support for higher education and in the percentage of adults with college degrees. Multiple studies have shown a direct correlation between median income and education attainment.

He also cited the state's crumbling transportation system and major reductions in local revenue sharing as priorities that would suffer even more with an election-year tax cut.

Bolstering Ballard's assessment of Michigan is a new study by Politico.com ranking Michigan as the 36th "best state" (with New Hampshire No. 1 and Mississippi the worst). Michigan ranked last among the Great Lakes states on the Politico list; Minnesota leads the region and was ranked second nationally.

Politico considered state metrics including high school graduation rates, per capita income, life expectancy and crime rate to compile its rankings.

Report ranks Ingham County low for voting access

A new report from the Center for American Progress has local elections officials scratching their heads. The report ranks Ingham County as one of the state's worst for voting access. The rankings are based on percentages of voter turnout, voter registration, provisional ballots cast, provi-

sional ballots rejected, absentee ballot rejection and voter registration removal rate.

The average of those rankings placed Ingham County as the state's seventh worst.

Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope noted that clerks have no control over how many people register.

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum said she agreed there are state rules that obstruct voting access "for millions of Michiganders," but added that the report does not "reflect the real issues with access." The tabulation for voters being removed from the rolls, she said, likely reflects the transient nature of MSU's 45,000 students, which make up 16 percent of the county population.

"Students are often removed from the voter rolls when they graduate and move to a new county or state," Byrum said.

Troubling findings on optical scanning voting systems

Another election-related report, from the Michigan Election Reform Alliance, questions the accuracy of vote counts when optical scanning systems are used. MERA audited sample precincts in the 2008 and 2012 elections where optical systems were used and found vote-count errors of up to 0.48 percent. More than a dozen races statewide were decided by a margin of less than 1 percent.

The organization is calling on the Legislature to transition to a "more transparent, accurate, and verifiable tabulation system" for future elections. In the interim, MERA urges "implementation of a program of random hand count audits to verify the accuracy of machine-produced results." (Full disclosure: I am a member of the MERA council.)

East Lansing voting statistics guru Mark Grebner calls the MERA findings troubling. "Imagine if a bank couldn't keep track of deposits better than \$1 per \$200," he said, "or if the Department of Corrections wouldn't fine a half percent of the inmates at any given time."

Conservative blog getting mothballed

One of the most prominent conservative blogs in Michigan is shutting down, at least for now. According to RightMichigan.com editor Jason Gillman: "Alice doesn't live here anymore. The lease is up, the rent is too high, and it's time to find new digs. As of February 10, 2014, RightMichigan.com will be mothballed."

Gillman, a former Grand Traverse County commissioner, has been editor and chief writer for the blog since 2010. RightMichigan.com, which Gillman says gets thousands of hits daily, was founded in 2007 by Nick DeLeeuw, who stepped aside when he joined Mike Cox's unsuccessful 2010 campaign for governor. Gillman said it's possible it could be reactivated.

Gillman regularly skewers Democrats, but he's not bashful about taking on fellow Republicans. His most recent posts include criticism of Snyder's call for immigration reform, leading his commentary with this observation: "The Nerd is sounding more like Obama by the day."

THE CHAIR, THE BABIES AND THE MAYOR'S TIES

'LANSING VOTES' MEANDERS THROUGH
SIX MOMENTS IN THE CITY'S HISTORY

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Courtesy Photo
The only chair left from City Hall's original lobby design has returned to the lobby for a historic exhibit after decades of exile in a third-floor men's room.



The most underhanded political ad in the history of the universe is quietly tucked into "Lansing Votes," the new pop-up exhibit from the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

"Carl A. Morlok for City Constable," reads the ad, dating from 1931, among the items on display at the Lansing Civic Center beginning Monday.

Underneath Morlok's serious mug and scary name — fine assets for a city constable — appear the adorable, oh-my-God-they're-like-little-snow-peas faces of four identical baby girls. In 1931, everybody knew that Lansing's famous Morlok quadruplets, only a year old, needed new shoes and ribbons and whatnot.

The words "We will appreciate your support" float above the girls' four identical tufts of hair. Morlok's opponent never had a prayer.

But more on Morlok anon.

"Lansing Votes" features six moments where a "vote" of some kind made history in Lansing, starting with the Michigan Legislature's vote in 1847 to make Lansing the state capital. (It had been Detroit.) Other hallmark votes covered by the exhibit are the creation of the Carnegie Library, the creation of the Lansing River Trail, keeping the General Motors plant, Mayor Crego's landmark urban renewal project and electing the aforementioned father of four. It's a loose concept, loosely handled, but a great excuse to stroll through some local history.

It makes more sense when Valerie Marvin, president of the historical society and mastermind of the exhibit, is around to explain.

"Some projects, like the 1902 vote to fund the Carnegie Library, came up as the result of a direct popular election," Marvin said. "Others came about as we elected City Concilmembers or mayors."

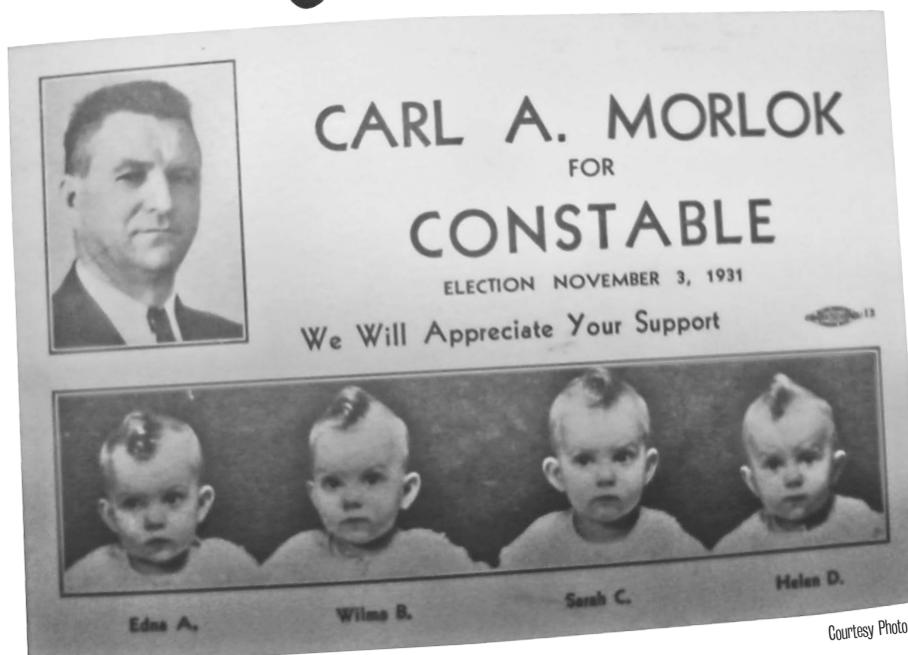
One of the more poignant items is a cracking, mustard-hued vinyl lobby chair, held together with clear tape. Once the acme of "Mad Men" modernism, the chair was found a few weeks ago, unchained from a wall in the third-floor men's room at City Hall and returned to the lobby for this exhibit.

It's the sole lobby chair left from of the glory days of Lansing's City Hall, a modernist slab of glass and steel erected in 1958 in the International Style.

Nobody voted for that chair — or the new City Hall, for that matter — but Lansing did elect a strong proponent of urban renewal, Ralph Crego, as its longest-serving mayor, from 1943 to 1960.

A garish red and orange painting of the Civic Center by local artist Dorothy Durst Barden catches the spirit of Crego's reign, when the city's growth seemed like it would go on forever.

Lansing Votes
Opening 5-7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3
Historical Society of
Greater Lansing
Lansing City Hall
Through April 30
Guided tours
Wednesdays at noon
info@lansinghistory.org
(517) 282-0671



Carl A. Morlok shamelessly drafted his identical 1-year-old daughters, Lansing's famous Morlok quadruplets, into campaign duty when he ran for City Constable in 1931. He won handily.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Valerie Marvin, president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, looks at artifacts from Lansing's 1902 vote to pay for the maintenance of a Carnegie Library. The librarian's desk is about a century old.

Lansing Votes

from page 9

(Barden signed her name in gender-neutral nom de plume of Barden Durst to give her work more credibility in the male-dominated architectural world.)

The Crego section of "Lansing Votes" is heaped with memorabilia from the era of urban renewal. Programs and posters for concerts (including two by Dennis Preston), circuses, an ice show and even a wedding conjure the heyday of the old Civic Center, built in 1955 under Crego's aegis to replace the old Prudden Auditorium.

Lansing's growth slowed in the 1970s. The Civic Center was demolished in 1999. Modernism yellowed in the rays of time, turning City Hall itself into a wraparound exhibit for "Lansing Votes." The sharp chair went into shabby exile.

But Crego reshaped the city. The implicit message of "Lansing Votes" is that elections have consequences.

"So many people feel that their vote has

no value," Marvin said. "We're trying to show that it does."

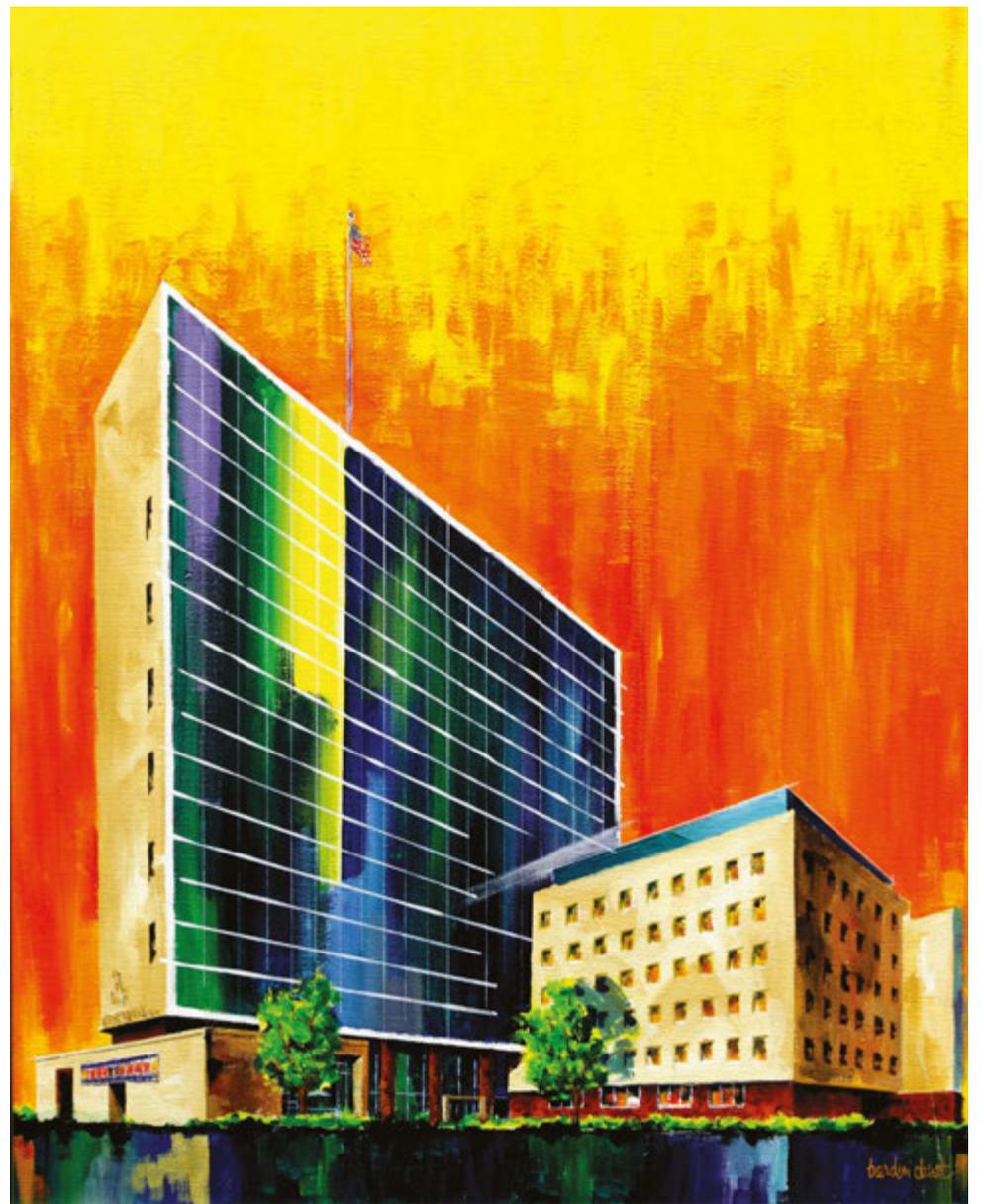
One of the exhibit's historic "votes" was spearheaded by people who couldn't vote.

In 1902, Andrew Carnegie offered to build Lansing a library worth about \$35,000, if the city provided the space and agreed to pay to operate it. Several thousand people turned out for a Saturday election at City Hall. The measure passed by a 3-to-1 margin.

The exhibit has a lot of interesting material from the period, including a rough-hewn but elegant century-old librarian's desk with books and supplies.

The irony of the library vote is that women were in the lead on the issue, but most of them couldn't vote. Mary Spencer, librarian for the state of Michigan, applied to Carnegie in the first place. Before that, women's groups worked to establish a library for decades. The exhibit also features an elaborate \$5 share in the "Lansing Library and Literary Association" dating from the 1870s.

"Women pushed this issue, but unless they had property in their name, they couldn't vote on it," Marvin said. "You just had to cajole your husband, I suppose."



Courtesy Photo

Architect Dorothy Durst Barden made Lansing City Hall look even brasher and bolder in this 1960s painting than it did in real life. (She signed it "Barden Durst" to head off gender bias.)

Another exhibit in "Lansing Votes" honors the persistent efforts of Lansing's City Council in the 1970s to buy up the riverfront, clear it of decades of industrial abuse and piece together the Lansing River Trail.

The trail's beginnings go back farther than most people think.

"Lansing Votes" includes a rare copy of an

expansive 1922 city plan by St. Louis expert Harland Bartholomew. The plan advised the city to stop manufacturers from building on the Grand River and suggested a pleasure drive linking Lansing parks. (Pleasure driving was big back then.) Moores River Drive, which links Moores Park and Frances Park,

See Lansing Votes, Page 11



BLAKEMORE TRIO

Carolyn Huebl VIOLIN
Felix Wang CELLO
Amy Dorfman PIANO

Plymouth Congregational Church

Okemos native, Felix Wang, returns to the Lansing area with his chamber group from Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music. The critically-acclaimed Blakemore Trio will perform works by **Beethoven, Schoenberg** and **Brahms!**

TUESDAY 7:30 PM
FEBRUARY 11, 2014

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\$10 STUDENTS

COMING UP! **LIGHTS, CAMERA...THE OSCARS!**
 FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14 8 PM WHARTON CENTER

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Courtesy Photo

Lansing's City Hall was the acme of "Mad Men" modernism when it opened in 1959.

Lansing Votes

from page 10

is an artifact of the plan.

But along most of the Grand River, the plan was never followed. The river became a back-door dump for large and small industry for decades until the process began to reverse in the 1970s with the slow growth of the River Trail.

The tug of war between the industrial hub and "city in the forest" takes its most recent turn in the exhibit's last part. A modest table of objects marks the city's all-out drive under Mayor David Hollister to keep General Motors from pulling out of the city after the demise of Oldsmobile in the 1990s.

While gazing at two of Hollister's themed "car ties" and a window sticker for the very first Cadillac CTS in 2003 (19 mpg in the city, 26 on the highway), it's easy to forget that no popular vote was directly involved in this episode, either. In fact, many westside residents, upset by decades of toxic fumes from GM's paint booth, would have relished a crack at the ballot box.

Nothing in exhibit hints at the bitter fight over environmental permitting that came with keeping GM in Lansing.

"That's certainly part of the story, but we don't have a good artifact that tells that exact piece," Marvin said.

"Lansing Votes" doesn't delve into contro-

versies — at least not live ones. By now, it's pretty well settled that libraries are a good thing, women should vote, urban renewal was a bust, the river trail is a gem and we're glad Lansing was picked for the capital. And one more thing — we love cute babies.

The Morlok vote is the least consequential in "Lansing Votes," but it's the most entertaining.

When Sarah (Sadie) Morlok gave birth to four identical quadruplets at Lansing's Sparrow Hospital on May 19, 1930, the blessed event was splashed in papers around the world. Everything about them was news-bite size. The quads were named Edna A., Wilma B., Sarah C. and Helen D., for "Edward W. Sparrow Hospital." The middle initials indicated their birth order.

Under the strange logic by which the public bestows its largesse on a freakishly fertile couple, provided all the births happen at once and the parents are white, a slew of benefactors stepped up to help the family. Mayor Laird Troyer hired the girls' unemployed father, Carl Morlok, to the vacant office of city constable. A local dairy donated milk. The city leased a home to the parents for a year for free.

When Morlok stood for reelection in 1931, the cute curls of the quads made it a landslide. The proud papa, who was working as a part-time janitor a year earlier, took 37 of 39 precincts. Elections do have consequences. Thousands smiled and said, "Awww."

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PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO FILL OUR BIENNIAL READERSHIP SURVEY AT

WWW.LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

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

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

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

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

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Angels and unbalanced washing machines

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner on his body of work, same-sex marriage and spending time with Abraham Lincoln

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Last year, President Barack Obama presented Tony Kushner with the National Medal of Arts, the highest individual honor given for achievement in the arts. The award crowned a lifetime of groundbreaking work, which has encompassed a variety of media, including essays, books, operas and screenplays. But Kushner said he still favors the format that motivated him to start writing more than 30 years ago.

"Plays still come first for me," he said. "I always like to try and push what I think theater is capable of doing."

On Feb. 10, Kushner will speak at the Wharton Center as part of the World

Tony Kushner

World View Lecture Series
7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10
\$20/FREE for MSU staff
and students
Wharton Center, Cobb
Great Hall
750 W. Shaw Lane, East
Lansing
(800) WHARTON,
whartoncenter.com

View Lecture Series about his career in entertainment and activism. Or, really, whatever the audience wants to talk about.

"Audiences enjoy (the Q and A part of my lectures) the most," Kushner said by phone from

his office in New York. "So I've decided to make that the whole ball of wax."

Kushner, 57, received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1993 for his career-defining opus, the epic two-part play "Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes." It won the Tony for Best Play two years in a row (one for each half), and served as a well-timed icebreaker to spur a national conversation about the growing AIDS epidemic and gay rights.

"In theater, you have certain kind of permission where form insists that you focus very intensively on the dialectics of (an issue)," he said. "It's kind of an embodied argument."

In 2003, Kushner adapted those scripts into the HBO miniseries, "Angels in America," which smashed ratings that year and swept up Emmys and Golden Globes. That led to work with Steven Spielberg; first in 2005, when Kushner co-wrote the screen-

play for "Munich," and again in 2012 when he wrote "Lincoln." Kushner was nominated for an Academy Award for each one, and learned about the advantages of film.

"When you're working in film or TV, you're much more focused on narrative (and the incredible power of illusion those things create," Kushner said. "Narrative becomes more important than in the theater, where the ability to construct plausible illusions is very limited. But that's what becomes the power of theater: It moves the impulse away from pure narrative into something more focused on conflict and debate."

But that debate comes with a price. Kushner is known for spending years working on his scripts, which sometimes run to lengths that challenge the limits of the human butt's sitting time. The first draft for "Lincoln" was reportedly north of 500 pages; if it had been shot in its entirety, it would have clocked in at over eight hours.

"It was so thrilling spending time in (Lincoln's) company," Kushner said. "But he's gotten pushed to the side."

Taken together, "Angels" comes in at a whopping 240 pages, or about five times the length of an average show. And even if it is done, he's always tempted to tinker.

"I think there are some plays that feel finished and some plays that aren't," he said. "All the different component parts in some fall into place and match up with one another,

"I'm not unhappy when I wind up with a play that I think is going to haunt me for the rest of my life, but when it turns into that, as long as I feel like it's something valuable for an audience to sit through (and) entertaining, I'm fine with it."

— Tony Kushner, playwright

er, and that's nice when that happens. And then there are plays that are always going to be a little bit wonky and sloppy and they give you a chance to move the pieces around because they don't lock into place as efficiently.

"(There) will always be something asking me to pull it apart again and put it back together. I've come to learn that (some

of my) plays are not worse than the plays that feel finished, but there's a kind of life and vitality in their lack of completion and their asymmetry that make them a little out of balance. One washing machine is humming very efficiently and quietly and this other one is banging around, (which) is certainly dramatic."

He said the fluid nature of theater lends itself to this kind of playing.

"I've made tiny changes in the first part of 'Angels' (and) I did much more extensive work on the second part. I'm sure that if in another 20 years if I revisited the second part of 'Angels,' I'd still want to play around with it. There's a great tradition — there are four versions at least of 'Hamlet.'"

In 2008, the openly gay Kushner legally married his husband, Entertainment Weekly columnist Mark Harris; they were the first same-sex couple to be featured in the Vows section of The New York Times. And he has a message for our state, where gay marriage is still illegal.

"Gay people in Michigan have great reason to hope," Kushner said. "It's disappointing that places like Michigan are still behind the times. The movement to make gay marriage legal is so unmistakable and absolutely unstoppable and irreversible. It seems to me ... downright wicked to continue to withhold rights on a state-by-state basis. It's really only a matter of time until this recognition, which is now absolutely beyond question, be extended to the LGBT community (and) becomes a national fact."

Kushner blames politics. "Why make a few people in a few states suffer ... to score political points?" he said. "(These politicians) still hang on to what is absolutely becoming clear to everyone else that opposition to gay marriage is a form of



Photo courtesy Joan Marcus

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner speaks at Wharton on Feb. 10.

bigotry that is no more appetizing or acceptable than racism or anti-Semitism. Some people feel that we need to pretend otherwise because they aren't sure their electorate will continue to elect them. To those people I say: Lead. Help make progress rather than spend the rest of your political life running to catch up with it, so you don't go down in history books as a troglodyte.

"It's coming. No one can deny that where we are now is something that we could have anticipated even 10 years ago. Progress has been so much more rapid and I see nothing that is going to stop that. No force is as powerful than an idea whose time has come. And the time has come."

Up next is another script for Spielberg. He's said he's also finishing an opera about the death of Eugene O'Neill for the Metropolitan Opera, another series for HBO and "a couple of things I hope turn into plays." He's not ready to talk about his legacy just yet, but he does have a driving philosophy.

"I want to get at some version what seems to be true and find an entertaining way to share it with an audience," he said. "At the end of your life, if you don't feel you've used your time on Earth well, then you didn't have a high enough standard for what being a good person means."

'Every note was important'

Influential MSU composition professor H. Owen Reed dies at 103

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Montana composer David Maslanka, now a grey eminence in the music world at 70, was still searching for his musical voice in the 1970s when he came to Michigan State University. His life changed when he found a kindly but demanding teacher with a gentle Missouri accent, H. Owen Reed.

"It's one of those huge accidents of fate," Maslanka said. "He was monumental in my growth as a composer."

Reed died Jan. 6 in Athens, Ga., at age 103. He taught at MSU from 1939 to 1976 and remained a vital presence almost until his death.

Two years ago, Reed made the case for an addition to the MSU Music Building in a taped interview, pointing out that he was around when the building was built in the 1930s.

"I'm 102," Reed said. Don't make me wait any longer."

Composers are notorious for pushing their tastes on their students, but Reed thrived on new input. His cream center was the neo-Romantic American sound of Aaron Copland and Howard Hanson, but Reed loved jazz, studied Mexican and Native American music and was open to avant-garde styles and odd forms of notation. In the 1970s, Reed brought the first Moog synthesizer, the granddaddy of electronic instruments, to MSU. He even wrote two pieces for winds and percussion inspired by the '70s vogue for J.R.R. Tolkien: "The Awakening of the Ents" and "Of Lothlórien."

For many young composers, Reed's inclusive mind was an alternative to East Coast snobbery. Charles Ruggiero, a composition and music theory professor at MSU since 1973, is a transplanted Easterner who gravitated to Reed and stuck around. As a grad student, Ruggiero struggled to resolve a complicated, atonal piece until Reed sug-

gested that he add some jazz elements.

"I was surprised. I thought that was basically forbidden," Ruggiero said. But Reed knew Ruggiero loved jazz. "That was the best thing anyone could have said to me to help me develop my own voice as an artist."

As a kid in the 1920s, Reed spent a lot of time hanging with "the gals" who played pop tunes on pianos for sale at Woolworth's Department Store in Kansas City, Mo., 30 miles away from his hometown of Odessa.

Odessa's only music teacher (Reed still called her "Mrs. Felts" in a 2001 interview) worked on converting Reed to Bach and Beethoven, with only partial success.

Reed studied creative writing and led a jazz big band at the University of Missouri. Both experiences, he later said, made him want to write music in his own way.

Later, he took private lessons with 20th century titans such as Hanson, Copland, Arnold Schoenberg and Leonard Bernstein.

At MSU, Reed encouraged his students to pursue a disciplined but open-ended quest, as he did.

Maslanka called Reed a "true mentor."

"You're right next to that person, so you can model yourself on that idea, that you, as a person, can also do this," Maslanka said.

Jere Hutcheson, a composition professor at MSU, came to East Lansing just to study with Reed. Reed's meticulous scoring and his familiarity with large ensembles, especially percussion, amazed Hutcheson.

"Owen's music had integrity," Hutcheson said. "I never felt there was any fluff there. Every note was important."

Soon after Maslanka enrolled at MSU, he became Reed's copyist, a big job in the pre-computer age.

The first project Reed gave Maslanka was a revision of his opera, "Michigan Dreams," a vigorous, tuneful epic about lumberjacks in the north country written to commemorate MSU's centennial. The student copied out a 525-page orchestral score by hand. Maslanka called the opera, which has fallen into obscurity, "bright, vibrant Americana" typical of the '50s, with Coplandesque open chords and lively folk melodies.

Reed scored his biggest hit with a half-hour wind band spectacular, "La Fiesta Mexicana," a huge seller on vinyl. "Fiesta" surged with energy and ideas inspired by Reed's stay



Photo courtesy of Athens Banner-Herald

Composer H. Owen Reed on his 103rd birthday, June 2013. (The piece he's holding is "Of Lothlórien," written for winds and percussion in the hobbit-ish 1970s.)

in Mexico in the '40s, and is still a staple of the wind band repertoire.

Nowadays, it's no big deal for wind bands to tackle big, serious pieces the same way symphony orchestras do. Next month, MSU's wind ensemble goes to Carnegie Hall to play John Corigliano's massive "Circus Maximus." On YouTube, you can find wind bands and marching bands across the nation blasting out meaty stuff from Dmitri Shostakovich to Carl Orff.

Reed helped make that world. Maslanka called "Fiesta" a "marking point in the world for the wind ensemble movement."

Back in the '70s, Reed told his students they could only write one piece for wind

ensemble. Write two, he told them, and you lose your cred for good. Reed broke that rule, and others followed. Maslanka is one of the few living composers in active rotation at symphony and band concerts across the country.

Hundreds of Reed's works were published and performed, but he never cherished any illusions about getting rich as a composer. Over the years, he was asked many times for the one piece of advice he would give to a young composer starting out. The tart sound bite was always ready, sweetened by his Missouri lilt.

"If you would rather compose than eat, compose!" he said.

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NEXT time

Old Town gets young in February with art, music, comedy exhibition

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Lansing's Old Town district is a textbook example of transforming a formerly undesirable neighborhood into a thriving arts community, but that doesn't mean it still couldn't use some tweaking. And Henry Brimmer, 68, professor of advertising and public relations at MSU, launches NEXT

"NEXT"

4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1
(exhibition launch)
11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 2
(noise brunch)
MICA Gallery, 1210 Turner
St., Old Town, Lansing
FREE
(517) 371-4600
micagallery.org, nextexhibit.
tumblr.com

this weekend, the February exhibition at MICA Art Gallery. NEXT will be a month-long series of pan-artistic events that Brimmer hopes will spark something bigger.

"My feeling is whenever I go to Old Town, I see the same group of people with similar art exhibits," Brimmer said. "I usually have to drag my kids there. So when I was approached to do the February show at MICA, I thought we could take the opportunity to focus on a younger crowd."

Brimmer said the seed for NEXT was planted last summer when he had the idea to turn his son's high school graduation party into a one-day art exhibit. His son, Matias Brimmer, 19, a freshman in MSU's Art Department, said that although he likes Old Town, he's on board with his dad's plan to shake things up in the gallery district.

"It's very stale and less open to new ideas and new art," Matias Brimmer said. "This series ... will usher in a younger community of artists. People don't know that they can

make money in the arts, and they get excited when local artists make it big."

The NEXT launch includes musical performances by the band Cicadas at 4 p.m. Saturday and, starting at 11 a.m. Sunday, there will be an event inspired by Detroit called a "noise brunch" (essentially, a music jam session held over orange juice and bagels). The latter event is being organized by Augusta Morrison, an MSU education student — who's also an artist and musician — working in Detroit this semester. Henry Brimmer met Morrison, 23, at one of the Broad Art Museum's music events last summer. When he proposed the idea of NEXT to her, she immediately got on board.

"Augusta is plugged into the experimental music scene," Brimmer said. "She's a perfect example for what NEXT is all about."

Brimmer said that originally, he was hoping to rotate his son's pieces out as other artists introduced their work, but he said no one has stepped forward yet. Other NEXT events will include fashion exhibits by Cody Sehl and standup comedy by the event's emcee, Stephanie Onderchanin. Brimmer also hopes poets will step forward to take advantage of the space.

"What I'm hoping is for it to become a



Courtesy Photo

One of the pieces by artist Matias Brimmer, the featured artist at MICA Gallery's February exhibition, NEXT.

catalyst for the kids to make it a place that they want to make theirs," said Brimmer. Although he wasn't there when Old Town underwent its renaissance about 25 years ago, Brimmer said he's of "the same generation that kicked it off," and he wants to make sure the next generation gets its chance.

"It's a good idea to start with a solid group," he said. "The older adults can get out of the way, and then the kids can do what they want. These are younger people that have crossed paths before. I don't think you can artificially make people want to go to a place."

"Pockets of effervescence grow from the roots up. You can't say, OK, we're going to make 'old town, young town'; what you can do is provide a venue and see if it takes."

Brimmer has another NEXT event planned for MICA this summer and hopes to introduce the concept to other areas.

"This would work well in REO Town too — we could turn (NEXT) into a nomadic circus event," Brimmer said. I don't know where it could end up. That's up to these kids — let them take the next step."

Nicole Halverson contributed to this story.

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EagleMonk Pub and Brewery Handcrafted wooden canoe/kayak paddles by Allen Deming of Mackinaw Watercraft. **Reception: 3-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2.** Hours: 3-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; noon-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. 4906 W. Mt. Hope Highway, Lansing. (517) 708-7350.

East Lansing Public Art Gallery "The Folk Festivals: A Hands-On MSU Museum Tradition," a look back at East Lansing folk festivals since 1987. **Reception: 1-2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2.** Hours: 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 894-2166.

Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum "Sabachthani," by Margaret Evangeline and works by conceptual architect Lebbeus Woods. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday & Saturday-Sunday; noon-9 p.m. Friday; closed Monday. 556 E. Circle Drive, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-3900.

Gallery 1212 Old Town "Homebound," works in various mediums by artist Nicolas V. Sanchez. **Reception: Noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2.** Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

Grove Gallery and Studios "Works on Fabric," by textile artists Lynn Krawczyk and Jacqueline Lams. **Reception: Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2.** Hours: Noon-6 p.m. Thursday-Friday; noon-4 p.m. Saturday; noon-5p.m. Sunday. 325 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 333-7180.

Mackerel Sky "Making Marks: The Joy of Randomness & Meaning," new drawings and calligraphic paintings by Kate Darnell. **Reception: Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2.** Hours: 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday. 211 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2211.

MICA Gallery "NEXT," a month of art, music, and poetry by various artists. **Reception: 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb 1.** Hours: Noon-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; noon-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600.

MSU Museum "Revisiting Verger's Dahomey: A Photographic Contrast," featuring the photography of Pierre Verger and Darcy Greene. **Reception: 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2.** Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. 409 W. Circle Drive, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370.

Saper Galleries "Paintings of Love," by artist Hessam Abrishami. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 1 p.m.-4 p.m. First Sunday. 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-0815.

Ongoing

Decker's Coffee Variety of work by local artists. Hours: 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 220 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 913-1400.

Great Lakes Artworks Diverse works by featured artists. Hours: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. First Friday. 306 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-4293.

Lookout! Art Gallery "Love Economy," by Tomashi Jackson. Hours: 1-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. Residential College in the Arts and Humanities at MSU, 362 Bogue St., Room C210, East Lansing. (517) 355-0210.



"Love Birds" by Hessam Abrishami at Saper Galleries.

Lansing Art Gallery "Japan Meditations: The Soul of a Moment," by Owosso artist Linda Beeman. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 1-4 p.m. Saturday and First Sunday. 119 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-6400.

Ledge Craft Lane Pen & ink artwork by artist Ann Dyer. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. 120 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-9843.

Neighborhood Empowerment Center Various works by local artists including Joyce Macrorie, Sonya Rykel, Bruce Thayer and Doug DeLind. Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980.

Riverwalk Theatre Paintings by Michigan artist Carolyn Damstra. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and during performances. 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-9812.

(SCENE) Metrospace "Presence: A Michigan State University MFA Showcase," featuring various artists. Hours: 2-5 p.m. Thursday; 2-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday. 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

Shiawassee Arts Center Various works by artists Mary E. Andersen, Bob Crawford and James Eaton. Hours: 1-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. (989) 723-8354. shiawasseearts.org.

Gallery 1212 OLD TOWN

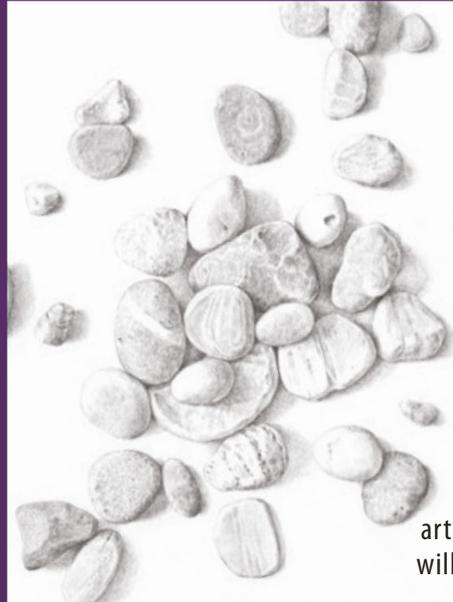
Gallery 1212 Old Town is thrilled to present a truly unique show by Lansing native, **Nicolas V. Sanchez**. The exhibition, Homebound, will feature Sanchez' vibrant art in a spectrum of mediums including: oil painting, pastels, charcoal, and colored ballpoint pen. Sanchez explores the ideas of inheritance, identity, and legacy from his bi-cultural experiences growing up.

Please join us on February 2, from 12 noon to 5pm, for this special First Sunday Gallery Walk.

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THE SCREENING ROOM

by ALLAN I. ROSS

The social network

'Short Term 12' follows the unsung heroes of social work

You have to be tough as nails, both physically and emotionally, to be a social worker. On any given day, you could have to wrestle a frenzied teen to the ground or mop up the blood from a suicide attempt. The indie drama "Short Term 12," part of

the East Lansing Film Series at Studio C!, believably depicts the highs and the lows of a group of college-age workers helping emotionally damaged teens. The film also works as an ode to the resiliency of the human spirit and the transformative power of art — but, you know, in a cool way.

Most of the film is set in a California residential facility that's run like a well-oiled low-security prison. Rules are strictly enforced: bedroom doors must remain open at all times, no swearing, no sharp objects. Risk is high, pay is low and the staff is constantly at odds with a legal system that's slashing their funding even as it limits the actual care they can give. It seems a thankless, brutal profession, but Grace (Brie Larson), the facility's alpha female counselor, has got this down to a science.

Her wards range in age from 11 to 17, most of whom constantly test her limits like the raptors in "Jurassic Park" test the electrified fences, testing for weaknesses. Grace calmly, deftly maintains boundaries with the skill and intelligence of someone twice her age, yet her relative youth allows her to connect in a unique way with even



Courtesy Photo

The genre-defying "Short Term 12" shows the hardships and the rewards of social work.

the most withdrawn residents. She seems too good to be true ... at first.

But as Grace's layers begin to reveal themselves, she turns out to be just as wounded. Her relationship with fellow counselor Mason (John Gallagher Jr.) is in dire straits because of the painful secret she's keeping from him. On top of that, her own past is beginning to haunt her after the arrival of a new girl, Jayden (Kaitlyn Dever), whose personality and history mirror her own.

Writer/director Destin Cretin coaxes intense, natural performances from all the actors, including those without any actual dialogue. He also manages to inject a vibrant sense of humor into this other-

wise dark material, defying all genres. Is it a drama? A teen movie? A romantic comedy? Incredibly, it manages to be all of the above. This is Cretin's first narrative feature (based on an earlier short film that won top honors at Sundance), and he shows a gift for showing, not telling. The handheld camera work gives the film a documentary-like look, which, thankfully, softens up even the harshest moments. Anything "cleaner" would have seemed fake, somehow even to the fictional teens in the film, who can smell fake a mile away.

Film depictions of emotionally damaged teenagers are usually limited to either unredeemable sociopaths or third act soul resurrections where abused kids learn to (sniff) let themselves be loved. "Short Term 12" rises far above such maudlin representations of the real-life pain suffered by so many abused and abandoned young people. Objectivist poet Carl Rakosi wrote, "I fell in love with social work, and that was my undoing as a poet." Walking out of this film, you may have a better understanding of why social work remains such a powerful calling — and how crucial it is.

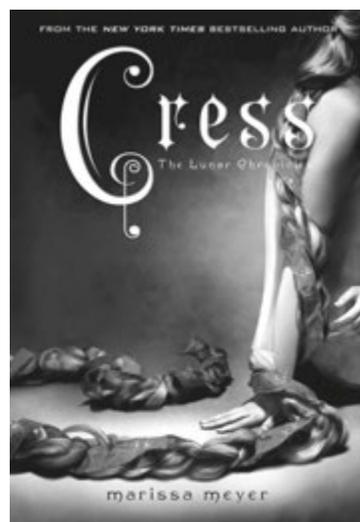
"Short Term 12" is part of the East Lansing Film Series, and plays exclusively at Studio C! in Okemos through Feb. 20.

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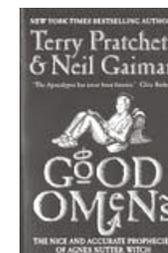
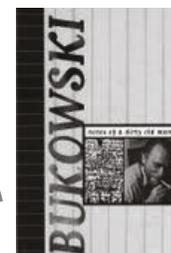


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Wednesday, January 29

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EVENTS

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

Farmers Market at Allen Market Place. 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.

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

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

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

See Out on the Town, Page 19

THURSDAY, JAN. 30-SUNDAY, FEB. 2 >> "BIG LOVE," BY PEPPERMINT CREEK THEATRE CO.



It's common for women to be nervous on their wedding day, but the 50 brides at the heart of this play have a right to take the cake — they're being forced to marry their cousins. They flee, but, not to be deterred, the husbands-to-be ambush them by helicopter. If you're curious to see how they're going to fit all that action onto a theater stage, then you can find out this weekend when Peppermint Creek raises the curtain on "Big Love." The show is based on Ancient Greek playwright Aeschylus' script for "The Suppliants," but this update takes a modern look at gender politics, love and domestic violence. 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30-Saturday, Feb 1; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2. \$15/\$10 students and seniors. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016, peppermintcreek.org.



THURSDAY, JAN. 30 >> BREW & VIEW SERIES: "GROUNDHOG DAY"

Craft beer and existentialist cinema go together like ... well, we're not sure what they go together like, but if you want to find out, you can check out Midtown Brewing Co.'s Brew and View event this Thursday, featuring the 1993 Bill Murray comedy "Groundhog Day." The event serves as a kickoff of sorts to April's Capital City Film Festival. There will also be two short films from last year's Fortnight Film Contest and live music by AKDJ. This is the first of three planned Brew & Views, which will also be held on the last Thursday of February and March. FREE. 7 p.m. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 Washington Square S., Lansing. (517) 977-1349, capitalcityfilmfest.com.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

Jan. 30- Black History Month Opening Ceremony.

5:30-7 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-1546.

Feb. 2- 'The Giant of Jazz Saxophone.'

Jazz classics by John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Sonny Rollins, Dexter Gordon, and more. Featuring guest artist Tom Jones with the LCC Faculty Jazz Quartet (Dennis Therrian, Jon Gewirtz, Ed Fedewa, Mike Daniels). 4 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-1546.

Feb. 4- Black History 101 Mobile Museum.

Curated by Khalid el-Hakim, highlights 15 people of African descent who have received the Nobel Peace Prize. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, third floor atrium.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JAN. 31-FEB. 1 >> 12TH ANNUAL MID-WINTER SINGING FESTIVAL



Mid-Michigan has plenty of music festivals, but the Mid-Winter Singing Festival is the only one that makes you — yeah, you — the featured attraction. It has become an annual tradition that has inspired other music festivals to add singing events to their schedules. Starting off the festival at 8 p.m. Friday is a

community sing led by Ysaye M. Barnwell, one of the founders of the music group Sweet Honey in the Rock.

"She is the goddess of gospel and African-American music," festival founder Sally Potter said.

The audience is still welcomed to sing with her, but only if you know the words. Rocking out at 11 a.m. Saturday is Lake Effect with a free children's concert. Tiyi Schippers, Dave Bunce and

Family will also perform. Barnwell will teach a workshop noon-4:30 p.m. Saturday. Six additional workshops will be held during the afternoon.

At 8 p.m., Robin & Linda Williams take the stage along with Joel Mabus for the Saturday night community sing. The Williamses specialize in bluegrass, folk, old-time and acoustic country. Mabus will add his flare of traditional and modern folk music. The sounds of banjo picking, guitar strumming and vocal melodies will fill the room. Lyric sheets will be provided for these performances.

"The magical night will be Friday, and the really fun Americana night will be Saturday," Potter said. "Everybody shows up and sings songs we all know and love."

East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. Prices and times vary; check singingfestival.com or full details.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31 & SATURDAY, FEB. 1 >> ART & CRAFT BEERFEST

Wet your whistle with 20 exclusive craft beers from Michigan's Right Brain Brewery. These brews are usually exclusive to Right Brain's taproom in Traverse City, but the brewery decided to share some samples with local beer lovers. While knocking back your brew on Friday night, you can check out sculptures from local artists through the bottom of your mug; Saturday's festivities feature local paintings and photography. Acoustic rock, blues and country will give you something to bop your head to. The event's goal is to expand Michigan's craft beer awareness while raising money for REO Town's AA Creative Corridor, formerly known as Art Alley. Tickets sold out last year, so if you're interested, don't dilly-dally. 6-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31; Saturday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, \$25-30.VIP tickets get you early entrance and more drink tickets. AA Creative Corridor, 1133 S. Washington, Lansing. artandcraftbeerfest.com.

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



THU. FEB 6TH

Klaw Mark Kittens

TEASE-O-RAMA AT SPIRAL

Thursday, Feb. 6 @ Spiral Video & Dance, 1247 Center St., Lansing. 21+ is \$5, 18+ is \$10. 9 p.m.

The next Tease-O-Rama, Spiral Video & Dance Bar's regular burlesque and drag show, happens Thursday, Feb. 6. The Valentine's Day spectacular is produced by Autumn Luciano and DJ Sammy Courtney and hosted by Ace DeVille. It includes music, drag performances and classic burlesque stripteases. Performing are The Klaw Mark Kittens, a burlesque troupe known for Bettie Page-style wrestling skits. Other performers are: Vivacious Miss Audacious, Veronica Scott, Sadie Sparkles, Buttercup Velvedere, La'May Psylis and Glitter La'May. "It's a night of decadence, good humor and naughty, yet classy, fun," Luciano said. "We're hoping to grow the event and eventually book huge names in the burlesque and drag communities."

MIDTOWN BEER CO.'S FREE SHOW



FRI. JAN 31ST

Jackpine Snag

Friday, Jan. 31 @ Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. FREE, all ages, 9 p.m.

Midtown Beer Co. has booked a string of free all-ages rock 'n' roll and punk shows over the past few months. Friday it hosts some heavy local rock bands: The Jackpine Snag, Nocturnal Aviators in Action and Slumlord Radio. Jackpine Snag is promoting a Kickstarter fundraiser for its second EP. The modest goal is \$500 and will be used to press the tunes on vinyl. It will be the follow-up to the band's debut record, the "Omega Stump" EP (a limited edition of 200 7-inches). A perk of attending a rock show at a brewing company are the custom Michigan beers on tap: Local brewer Brandon Cook releases four new Midtown beers at this show: JackOak Sour Stout, Sadness Pale Stout, Fragile Pale Ale and Nemesis IPA.

TOM WAITS TRIBUTE AT THE AVENUE



THU. FEB 6TH

Friday, Feb. 7 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$5, all ages, 8 p.m.

"Blue Valentine: Lansing Loves Tom Waits" is a tribute night to the gravelly-voiced crooner. Set to perform covers are Jen Sygit, Dylan Rogers (Of Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle), Nick Merz, Jason Dawdy, Stephen Cowles and Jonah Whaley. Do you have a Waits cover you've mastered? Local songsters with a passion for Waits can sign up for the open-mic portion of the event; signup begins at 8 p.m. So, why Tom Waits? "He was an easy pick," said organizer Steve King. "We just love the guy. He is the songwriter's songwriter. We thought it would be interesting to do it close to Valentine's Day and fit it to the theme 'Blue Valentine' ... he's not exactly the cheeriest of songwriters."

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.	Lansing Mix-Tape, 9 p.m.		Jake Down & the Midwest Mess, 9 p.m.	Dark Psychosis, 9 p.m.
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.	Soulstice, 9 p.m.	DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Roux, 9 p.m.	Roux, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 E. N. East St.		Scott Long, 8 p.m.	Scott Long, 8 p.m.	Scott Long, 8 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	The Plurals, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.	The Blue Haired Bettys, 8 p.m.	The Knock Offs, 8 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	Ladies Night, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Griff & the Electrocats, 8:30 p.m.	From Big Sur, 8:30 p.m.	Global Village, 9 p.m.	Mix Pack, 9 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Fried Egg Nebula, 9 p.m.	Hometown Throwdown, 6:30 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.				Wayne Zalinski, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic, 10 p.m.	Cash O' Riley, 9:30 p.m.	Zydecronch, 9:30 p.m.	
Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.	Water Pong, 11 p.m.	Karlee Rewerts, 9 p.m.		
Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.	Well Enough Alone, 9 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			Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 7 p.m.	DJ, 7 p.m.	DJ, 7 p.m.	Kris Hitchcock, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

Out on the town

from page 17

MUSIC

Open Mic. Open mic at Moriarty's Pub. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287. moriartyslansing.com.

Thursday, January 30

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh in, 6 p.m. Meeting, 6:30 p.m. FREE to visit. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080. stdavidyslansing.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.
iPad Basics. Learn to use your iPad. 2:30-4 p.m. \$45, \$30 for members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

EVENTS

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

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

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

Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. Lessons,

FRIDAY, JAN. 31 >> READINGS BY THE BROAD MSU WRITING RESIDENTS

Graduate students at MSU will conduct readings to accompany artwork at the Broad Art Museum. Readings will occur one at a time so every story can be heard and each art piece examined. This program allows graduate students to practice a writing style that incorporates art and art history. Themes are used from the upcoming exhibition, "Postscript: Writing After Conceptual Art." Visitors should meet in the Education Wing of the museum. FREE. 6-7 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 East Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-3900, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

Author Visit: Jim Constandt. Historian discusses stories from Olympics past, 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Tavern 109 Hideout Beer Dinner. Five-course dinner paired with craft beer. 7-9 p.m. \$55. Tavern 109, 115 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 655-2100. tavern109.com.

Bath Farmers Market. Twelve vendors and year-round veggies. 3-6 p.m. FREE. Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath. (517) 712-2171. facebook.com/BathTownshipFarmersMarket.

Lansing Home Buyers Club. Workshop for potential home buyers. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-2550. centerforfinancialhealth.org.

MUSIC

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

Cash O' Riley. Live performance at Moriarty's Pub. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287. moriartyslansing.com.

Friday, January 31

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Brown Bag Presentation. "What Occupational Music Reveals about...Health." 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, 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.

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

EVENTS

Teen Advisory Group. Teens plan programs and more. 5-6 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

Art & Craft BeerFest. Art, beer and music. 6 p.m. \$25-\$30. REO Town, 1100 block of S. Washington Ave., Lansing. artandcraftbeerfest.com.

Singles TGIF Party. Weekly singles party with fun, food and dancing. 8 p.m.-midnight \$12. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 281-6272. singlestgif.com.

MUSIC

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

An Evening of Chopin. Chopin music concert with pianist Panaysis Lysis. 8 p.m. \$15, \$5 for students.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

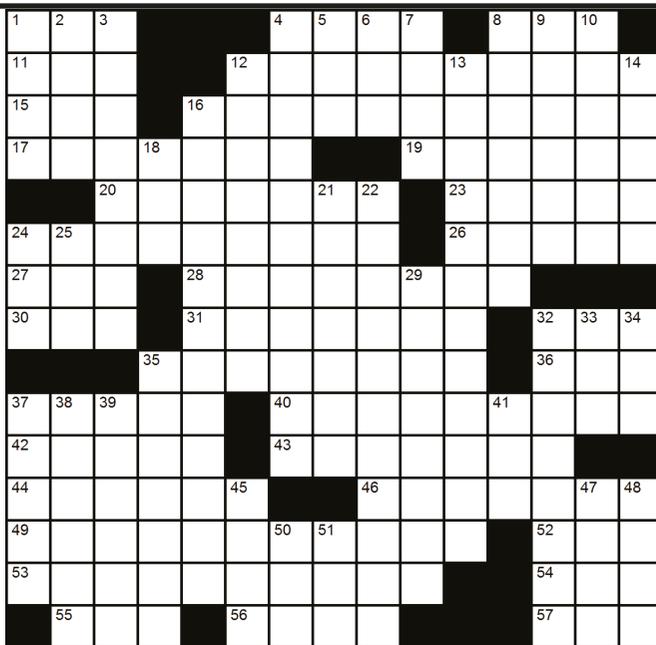
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Large and in Charge"--craaaaazy freestyle time.
Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Like Twiggy's fashion
- 4 Mild lettuce
- 8 Old French Communist Party of Canada initials. (hidden in EPCOT)
- 11 HBO character Gold
- 12 Old soap, sometimes
- 15 Give it the gas
- 16 Unwilling to move
- 17 Unit of electrical charge
- 19 Tom's wife
- 20 Tibetan Buddhist practice
- 23 Checks a box
- 24 Howitzer of WWI
- 26 "___ the Beat" (Blondie album)
- 27 A, in some games
- 28 Substance that may darken your pasta
- 30 Series end at Downtown Abbey?
- 31 As of riiiiiiight.... now
- 32 Z3 or X5 maker
- 35 Mission of "Pee-wee's Big Adventure"?
- 36 Anatomical eggs
- 37 NASA astronaut Leroy ___
- 40 Minor Arcana card
- 42 Opening opening?



- 43 DMV requirement
- 44 "C'est magnifique!"
- 46 Vitamin-B complex nutrients
- 49 Indivisible division figure
- 52 Sine ___ non
- 53 Wish for the trip back
- 54 Thurman of "The Producers"
- 55 All the same
- 56 Cautious (of)
- 57 Go down
- 6 Canadian singer/songwriter ___
- 7 Naked
- 7 Baseball's Powell
- 8 Washing machine cycle
- 9 Television host
- 10 Brunch staple
- 12 "All Quiet on the Western Front" author
- 13 Scared beyond belief
- 14 "Am not!" comeback
- 16 Kid with no commute
- 18 "Chocolate" dog
- 21 Temple of films
- 22 Posted to your blog, say
- 24 "Moulin Rouge!" director Luhrmann
- 25 Drink machine freebie
- 29 Active
- 32 Little shop
- 33 AL award won by 7-Down in 1970
- 34 Never-___ (not even a has-been)
- 35 Anti-heartburn brand
- 37 Horse sounds
- 38 Bit of cheer
- 39 As we go about our days
- 41 Palindromic trig function
- 45 Not tons
- 47 Unable to sense
- 48 Car that sounds like it's crying
- 50 Week-___-glance calendar
- 51 Mangy mongrel

DIVORCE FAMILY LAW

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Child Support
Alimony
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SUDOKU

		7		5				
	1					2		
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			1					4
		1		8	6		3	

INTERMEDIATE

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 21

Out on the town

from page 19

Absolute Gallery, 307 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 281-2851. absolutemusiclansing.org.

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

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Teen Book Club. Ages 13-18. Call to register. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31 >> BROWN BAG PRESENTATION

"Our Daily work, Our Daily Lives," a Brown Bag lecture series at MSU, has been enlightening audiences on such topics for nearly two decades. This Friday, the series continues with "More than a Paycheck: What Occupational Music Reveals about Worker Health," with guest speaker Ysaye Barnwell. Barnwell is an instrumentalist and vocalist of the Grammy Award-winning band Sweet Honey in the Rock. Co-directed by John P. Beck of the MSU School of Human Resources and C. Kurt Dewhurst of the MSU Museum, the series explores the many facets of the working world and how it shapes us as well as its influence on culture throughout the world. 12:15-1:30 p.m., MSU Library, Room 449W, East Lansing. FREE. (517) 432-3982.

Saturday, February 1

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Tai Chi in the Park. 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

Valentine Card Making Class. Card making and stamping. Call to register. Noon-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

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

Art & Craft BeerFest. Art and music to support local beer companies. 5 p.m. \$25-\$30. REO Town, 1100 block of S. Washington Ave., Lansing. artandcraftbeerfest.com.

MUSIC

Frank-O and the Americans. Live performance at Moriarty's. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287. moriartyslansing.com.

Sunday, February 2

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 Pumpthouse, 368 Orchard St. East Lansing. (517) 485-9190. ruetenik@gmail.com

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

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

Journal Making Workshop. Make a unique journal. 2:30 p.m. FREE. Old Town General Store, 408 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 487-6847. facebook.com/events/584961294907013.

EVENTS

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

Wood Art at EagleMonk. Showcasing Michigan's premier wooden boat builder. 2-5 p.m. FREE. EagleMonk Pub & Brewery, 4906 W. Mount Hope Highway, Lansing. (517) 449-6458. MackinawWatercraft.com.

MUSIC

MSU's 'That's Amore.' Featuring the MSU College of Music's vocal arts. 3 p.m. \$20 adults, \$18 seniors, \$5 students with ID. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Monday, February 3

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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.

Photography Class. Learn to use a camera in four sessions. 6:30-9 p.m. \$55. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.

EVENTS

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. (517) 367-6300. cadl.org.

Sharper Focus/Wider Lens. This is a free lecture forum featuring MSU faculty, 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Union,

ATHENAS DINER/OFILIA'S EL BURRITO

Katy Barth/
City Pulse

Athenas Diner opened last week in south Lansing. It will feature Greek specials and traditional diner fare.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Athenas Diner opened last week in the former home of Big Jon's Country Burgers. Owner/operator Anton Prenaj renovated the former location for **Jon's Country Burgers**, leaving

the eatery's signature tabletop telephones in place. One new addition: a sign hanging over the service window that reads "The Best Place to Be is Together."

For 20 years, Prenaj ran the **Hannah Coney Island** in East Lansing (more info on changes over there next week).

Athenas will feature a full roster of regular diner fare, including a full breakfast menu, as well as a host of Greek specials. The signature dish will be gyros, which will be prepared on a rotisserie.

"We make everything from scratch here," Prenaj said. "These are time-honored family recipes. We try to make (the Greek dishes) as authentic as possible, but we look to the future for inspiration, not the past."

The menu also consists of chicken dishes, reuben sandwiches, veggie stir fries and that old beat-the-winter favorite, lemon rice soup. Prenaj said business has been steady since opening last week, which was downplayed on purpose.

"We want to make sure we've got everything

smoothed out before we start getting too busy," he said. "The most important thing is making sure the customers are happy."

New El Burrito location

After closing her south Lansing location in late December, restaurateur Ofilia Diaz reopened her business, **Ofilia's El Burrito**, inside the Lansing Mega Mall earlier this month. She maintains the Lansing City Market location she opened last year.

Diaz retired from her "day job" in hospital administration last August and has turned her focus to El Burrito full time. She said the Mega Mall is a step up for her.

"My old location had too much overhead," Diaz said. "This is such a better space. I'm still getting situated, but my kitchen's all ready and I've already had some busy days."

Diaz has hired one employee, but said she may hire more if business continues to pick up. Her menu consists of burritos, breakfast burritos, menudo, tacos and enchiladas; last weekend she also added two different kinds of soups. She cooks most of the food at the Mega Mall kitchen, but does some prep work at Lansing City Market.

"I came here because I had no place else to go, but I want to continue to expand," she said. "In the summertime, I do farmers markets where I sell my tamales and wet burritos, but I would eventually like to open

a nice little (brick-and-mortar) restaurant again someday."

Anselmo moves ... but where?

In 2010, Ric Anselmo moved his business, Anselmo Gallery, from East Lansing into the Meridian Mall after the mall gave him a sweetheart deal to fill empty shop space. Last year that deal expired and he moved into a smaller location in the mall, but this week he's leaving for parts unknown.

Anselmo wasn't available for comment, but a woman answering the phone confirmed that the gallery had to vacate the space by Jan. 31. She said a move to a new location is being considered, but the art will be placed into a warehouse location for now.

For nearly three years, Anselmo Gallery was situated next to Craig Mitchell Smith Glass, which recently moved to Old Town.

Athenas Diner

3109 S. Cedar St., Lansing
7 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday;
8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday
(517) 394-0072

Ofilia's El Burrito

(Lansing Mega Mall location)
15487 Old US 27, Lansing
(517) 272-1665
11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday
(Lansing City Market location)
325 City Market Drive, Lansing
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday;
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday
(517) 894-3904

MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-7649. facebook.com/events/205135309679013/.

MUSIC

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

Tuesday, February 4

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

LCS Prospective Families. Learn about our preschool through 12th grade curriculum, meet the

teachers and tour the campus. 7 p.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779 ext. 107. lansingchristianschool.org.

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.

Out on the town

from page 20

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

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

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

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

Transgender Support Group. Discussion for parents and guardians. 7:15 p.m. FREE. MSU LGBT Resource Center, near Collingwood entrance, East Lansing. (517) 927-8260.

Social Media for Senior Citizens. Provides basic info. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$2 per person, Preregistration required. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600. deltami.gov/parks.

Introduction to Mac Computers. Learn how to use your Mac computer. 1-2:30 p.m. \$90, \$60 for members. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

Compassionate Friends of Lansing. Support for parents who have lost a child. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Salvation Army Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 351-6480.

EVENTS

Bible and Beer. Discuss using Scripture in daily events. 6 p.m. FREE. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600. bibleandbeer@ccllansing.org.

Rock Your Registry. Come start your registry. Door prizes and food. 7 p.m. FREE. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 347-6101. Bedbathandbeyond.com.

MUSIC

James Tennant Performing Cello. Tennant-Austin duo performs classical music. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

Wednesday, February 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First

Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954. fcgl.org.

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

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

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

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

Photography Class. Learn to use a camera in four sessions. 6:30-9 p.m. \$55. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

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.

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

Weekly Senior Discovery Group. Coffee, conversation and a guest speaker. FREE. 10 a.m.-Noon. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 367-2468. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

MUSIC

Marshall Music Open Jam. Join other local musicians and "GET HEARD!" 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.

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

City Pulse Classifieds

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

Vendor & Craft Show. Sat. Feb 1st 10am-3pm. 3815 W. St. Joe in Lansing. 45+ vendors. Free admission.

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Jan 29-Feb 4

ARIES (March 21-April 19): On my fifteenth birthday, I finally figured out that eating dairy products was the cause of my chronic respiratory problems. From that day forward, I avoided foods made from cow's milk. My health improved. I kept up this regimen for years. But a month ago, I decided to see if my long-standing taboo still made sense. Just for the fun of it, I gave myself permission to gorge on a tub of organic vanilla yogurt. To my shock, there was no hell to pay. I was free of snot. In the last few weeks, I have feasted regularly on all the creamy goodies I've been missing. I bring this up, Aries, because I suspect an equally momentous shift is possible for you. Some taboo you have honored for a long time, some rule you have obeyed as if it were an axiom, is ripe to be broken.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Psychologist Daniel Kahneman, who won a Nobel Prize in Economics, says that consulting experts may be useless. In his study of Wall Street traders, he found their advice was no better than information obtained by a chimpanzee flipping a coin. Meanwhile, psychologist Philip Tetlock did a 20-year study with similar results. He found that predictions made by political and financial professionals are inferior to wild guesses. So does this mean you should never trust any experts? No. But it's important to approach them with extra skepticism right now. The time has come for you to upgrade your trust in your own intuition.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I'm a big fan of logic and reason, and I urge you to be, too. Using your rational mind to understand your experience is a very good thing. The less stock you put in superstitious head trips and fear-based beliefs, the smarter you will be. Having said that, I recommend that you also make playful use of your creative imagination. Relish the comically magical elements of your mysterious fate. Pay attention to your dreams, and indulge in the pleasure of wild fantasies, and see yourself as a mythic hero in life's divine drama. Moral of the story: Both the rational and the fantastical approaches are essential to your health. (P.S. But the fantastical needs extra exercise in the coming weeks.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sorry, Cancerian, you won't be able to transform lead into gold anytime soon. You won't suddenly acquire the wizardly power to heal the sick minds of racists and homophobes and misogynists. Nor will you be able to cast an effective love spell on a sexy someone who has always resisted your charms. That's the bad news. The good news is this: If you focus on performing less spectacular magic, you could accomplish minor miracles. For example, you might diminish an adversary's ability to disturb you. You could welcome into your life a source of love you have ignored or underestimated. And you may be able to discover a secret you hid from yourself a long time ago.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): *Cosmopolitan* magazine is famous for offering tips on how to spice up one's sex life. Here's an example: "Take a few of your favorite erotically appealing flavor combinations, like peanut butter and honey or whipped cream and chocolate sauce, and mix up yummy treats all over your lover's body." That sounds crazy to me, and not in a good way. In any case, I recommend that you don't follow advice like that, especially in the coming days. It's true that on some occasions, silliness and messiness have a role to play in building intimacy. But they aren't advisable right now. For best results, be smooth and polished and dashing and deft. Togetherness will thrive on elegant experiments and graceful risks.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are not as broken as you may think you are. Your wounds aren't as debilitating as you have imagined. And life will prove it to you this week. Or rather, let me put it this way: Life will *attempt* to prove it to you -- and not just in some mild, half-hearted way, either. The evidence it offers will be

robust and unimpeachable. But here's my question, Virgo: Will you be so attached to your pain that you refuse to even see, let alone explore, the dramatic proof you are offered? I hope not!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Kenneth Rexroth wrote a poem called "A Sword in a Cloud of Light." I want to borrow that image. According to my astrological analysis and poetic intuition, you will generate the exact power you need in the coming weeks by imprinting your imagination with a vision of a sword in a cloud of light. I don't want to get too intellectual about the reasons why, but I will say this: The cloud of light represents your noble purpose or your sacred aspiration. The sword is a metaphor to symbolize the new ferocity you will invoke as you implement the next step of your noble purpose or sacred aspiration.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Every autumn, the bird species known as the Clark's Nutcracker prepares for its winter food needs by burying 30,000 pine nuts in 5,000 places over a 15-square-mile area. The amazing thing is that it remembers where almost all of them are. Your memory isn't as prodigious as that, but it's far better than you realize. And I hope you will use it to the hilt in the coming days. Your upcoming decisions will be highly effective if you draw on the wisdom gained from past events -- especially those events that foreshadowed the transition you will soon be going through.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Can you imagine what it would be like to live without any hiding and pretending? How would you feel if you could relax into total honesty? What if you were free to say exactly what you mean, unburdened by the fear that telling the truth might lead to awkward complications? Such a pure and exalted condition is impossible for anyone to accomplish, of course. But you have a shot at accomplishing the next best thing in the coming week. For best results, don't try to be perfectly candid and utterly uninhibited. Aim for 75 percent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's a favorable time to gather up resources and amass bounty and solicit help and collect lots of inside information. I won't call you greedy if you focus on getting exactly what you need in order to feel comfortable and strong. In fact, I think it's fine if you store up far more than what you can immediately use -- because right now is also a favorable time to prepare for future adventures when you will want to call on extraordinary levels of resources, bounty, help, and inside information.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Extravagant wigs became fashionable for a while in 18th-century England. They could soar as high as four feet above a woman's head. Collections of fruit might be arrayed in the mass of hair, along with small replicas of gardens, taxidermically stuffed birds, and model ships. I would love to see you wear something like that in the coming week. But if this seems too extreme, here's a second-best option: Make your face and head and hair as sexy as possible. Use your alluring gaze and confident bearing to attract more of the attention and resources you need. You have a poetic license to be shinier and more charismatic than usual.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): One of your anti-role models in the coming weeks is the character that Piscean diva Rihanna portrays when she sings in Eminem's tune "Love the Way You Lie." Study the following lyrics, mouthed by Rihanna, and make sure that in every way you can imagine, on psychological, spiritual, and interpersonal levels, you embody the exact opposite of the attitude they express: "You're just gonna stand there and watch me burn / But that's all right because I like the way it hurts / You're just gonna stand there and hear me cry / But that's all right, because I love the way you lie." To reiterate, Pisces, avoid all situations that would tempt you to feel and act like that.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

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Katy Barth/City Pulse

BAD Brewing Co. co-owner Brian Rasdale overseeing the bourbon barrel-aged beer in the brewery's basement. (This outline brought to you by the letter "B.")

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Brewing BAD

Mason craft brewery finds success in experimentation — just don't come hungry

By KATLIN BARTH

Giving your business an off-kilter name could turn out to a mark of ironic genius — Hooters and Fuddruckers laughed all the way to the bank with tongue-in-cheek monikers — but to call your business “bad” seems like a recipe for trouble. For Brian Rasdale and Danielle French, the co-owners of BAD Brewing Co. in Mason, their decision had less to do with the quality of the beer they were producing than it did with the festive environment they were trying to create. And maybe poking a little fun at Rasdale's alternate personality.

“An ‘after dark’ TV show comes on after midnight because it's not appropriate for children,” French said. In their case, it's Rasdale who gets a little R-rated after the sun goes down. “BAD is named after Brian when he starts having a little too much fun: Brian-After-Dark.”

French, 28, uses her 10 years of restaurant experience to run the saloon; Rasdale, 29, keeps all 14 of the brewery's taps flowing with hand crafted beer, all made in-house. Between the two of them, BAD, the 1,700-square-foot enterprise they launched in summer 2012, has grown into both a destination spot for travelers on the Michigan beer trail and a local watering hole with a dedi-

cated following.

Rasdale's passion started with beginner beer kits a decade ago, which soon took over his basement. He was laid off from the Lansing Police Department in summer 2012. He called it “a blessing in disguise,” however, because it gave him time to focus solely on opening his dream brewery. He was called back to the force six months later and worked both jobs, but retired last August to make brewing his full-time occupation. And he said he's working more now than ever before. Four days out of the week he's brewing a new batch of something, which means the taps are constantly changing.

“We're beer people, and we make beer for beer people,” he said. “You never know what's going to be on tap.” But even with all of the rotation, four of the 14 taps stay consistent with the brewery's stand-bys: Ash Street Amber, Wicked Wit, No Stout About It and Brothel Brown, a playful nod to the building's reputed former life as a bordello. The building was stripped to its original worn brick interior (circa the mid-1800s) when BAD moved in, giving it a lived-in, historic feeling.

Rasdale said a benefit of having a smaller brewing system is the freedom to create mixtures with an uncertain outcome. He said by now he's sure he'll produce a good beer when trying a new recipe, but he can't promise that it won't need modification.

“We follow the rules,” Rasdale starts to say. “But we stretch them,” finishes French.

A brew might make several appearances or it might be poured once and never again. Krackin IPA, a staple beer at BAD, was the first beer Rasdale brewed from an extract kit. He said he's modified it about 30 times since then, with no dis-

See Brewing BAD, Page 23

Brewing BAD

from page 22

tinguishable traces of the original. Rather than relying on the kit's sugar formula, Rasdale now relies on grains to produce the sugar. The hops and malt combinations have also changed, and Rasdale said it has evolved into a malt-forward IPA with a smooth finish. And sometimes he takes requests: This winter, Rasdale said his customers demanded a Black IPA, which he developed in short order.

On a recent Friday, two new beers made an appearance at the start of the day, and two more had a potential of being tapped before night's end. The rich smell of a Chestnut Brown ale, made with Michigan chestnuts, filled the room. One patron was at the bar chatting with French and sipping a beer from a custom-made turquoise mug, the mark of the BAD mug club member. French said she and Rasdale can put a name to nearly all of the 362 mug owners; most of the time, French said, she can grab your mug before you sit down. Mug club members receive four additional ounces in their 20-ounce handcrafted mug. It all adds to the Cheers-like, everybody-knows-your-name vibe the owners have cultivated.

"I love being out here and seeing people coming together and knowing we're the reason why that happened,"

French said.

"We'll be sitting here and there will be 10 people at the bar, and only a couple of people know each other, and by the end of the night they'll be passing food up and down the bar," Rasdale added. But please note: If you're hungry, this is a BYOF (bring your own food) kind of place. BAD is missing a kitchen, with intention.

"We're beer first," says Rasdale. He said they want to keep their focus on making the beer. Customers are welcome to bring in food from home or down the street, but he's considering teaming up with a local food truck. It will be open the same hours as the bar and serve artisan style meals, with a majority of the product being locally produced.

Coming soon: Rasdale has a few batches of bourbon barrel beers aging in the brewery's basement (try saying that five times fast). These beers are stored in the in freshly dumped bourbon barrels, meaning they've only been bourbon-free for less than a week before being filled with beer. The beer will take on vanilla flavors from the oak, bourbon flavors and the charred flavor of the barrel. Rasdale says these are going to be "big beers," with 8 to 12 percent alcohol. Some beers will age for two months, while others with stay down there for a year.

"We're always trying to get ahead of the game and have new stuff coming," he said.

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1116 S Holmes St	3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths	1,248 Sq. Ft. \$88,900
1122 W Allegan St	3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths	1,360 Sq. Ft. \$74,500
1139 W Maple St	2 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths	945 Sq. Ft. \$69,900
1142 Camp St	2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	883 Sq. Ft. \$54,900
115 E Mason St	3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	977 Sq. Ft. \$74,900
1204 Reo Rd	3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths	1,240 Sq. Ft. \$83,000
121 S Walnut Ct	3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	1,728 Sq. Ft. \$117,500
1216 W Ottawa St	5 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths	2,064 Sq. Ft. \$82,900
1225 Allen St	3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	1,011 Sq. Ft. \$59,900
1241 Shepard St	4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths	1,932 Sq. Ft. \$82,900
1409 W Mt Hope Ave	3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	1,009 Sq. Ft. \$64,000
1427 N Jenison Ave	3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths	1,248 Sq. Ft. \$104,500
1605 Illinois Ave	3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths	1,110 Sq. Ft. \$72,500
1616 Coleman Ave	3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths	1,210 Sq. Ft. \$64,900
1617 Ohio Ave	2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	696 Sq. Ft. \$49,900
1715 Bailey St	2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	944 Sq. Ft. \$64,900
1738 Maisonette Dr	2 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths	998 Sq. Ft. \$53,500
1751 Maisonette Dr	2 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths	998 Sq. Ft. \$53,500
1806 Vermont Ave	2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	833 Sq. Ft. \$54,900
209 Reo Ave	4 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths	1,364 Sq. Ft. \$74,900
2110 Beal Ave	2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	640 Sq. Ft. \$60,000
2219 Newark Ave	3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	960 Sq. Ft. \$72,000
326 Isbell St	3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths	1,080 Sq. Ft. \$68,300
3325 W Holmes Rd	3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths	1,397 Sq. Ft. \$88,500
548 Norman St	3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	1,425 Sq. Ft. \$72,900
6042 Valencia	2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	768 Sq. Ft. \$70,000
6145 Scotmar Dr	2 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths	990 Sq. Ft. \$53,900
730 Chicago St	4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths	1,476 Sq. Ft. \$79,500
734 Cawood St	2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	616 Sq. Ft. \$47,800
737 Princeton Ave	3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths	1,344 Sq. Ft. \$92,900
806 Larned St	3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	1,152 Sq. Ft. \$69,800
815 Riverview Ave	2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	978 Sq. Ft. \$59,900
842 Edison Ave	2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath	756 Sq. Ft. \$49,500
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