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February 13-19, 2013

FOR SALE

WHY NOT?

EXPLORING THE BWL SALE

SEE PAGE 9



VALENTINE'S DAY

PICK-UP LINES, EVENTS, SEE PAGE 12

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VALENTINE'S DAY

Special Menu

w/ Champagne Toast



\$100.00 CASH PRIZE FOR BEST DRESSED COUPLE
* ONE LUCKY COUPLE WILL WIN A **32" TV**

FEATURING LIVE

DJ JOHN BELTRAN

18 and older (must be 21 to purchase alcoholic beverages)
* TV DRAWING AT 10 PM, MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

'City Pulse Newsmakers' joins my18 lineup

"City Pulse Newsmakers," a half-hour local news interview program, will be broadcast weekly on WHTV at 10 a.m. Sundays starting this week.

The show, which has been on the air for nearly a year, will continue to be shown on Lansing and Meridian Township public cable TV channels and be taped at the Lansing Public Media Center.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity, both for City Pulse and the Lansing Public Media Center, to have the show on

a commercial station with a huge signal," said editor and publisher Berl Schwartz, who hosts the program. "Every community needs a local newsmakers show, and my18 is going to provide it."

WHTV, a UHF station, is channel 18 over the air. It is also widely available throughout mid-Michigan on cable, including Comcast channels 8 in Lansing and East Lansing.

The show will move to 9 a.m. Sundays on Comcast Channel 16 in Lansing and be rebroadcast at 11:30 a.m. Sundays. The show continues to be aired at 11:30 a.m. Sundays on Comcast Channel 30 in Meridian Township.

Feedback

Unnecessary details

What earthly purpose was there for interjecting into the 2 page account of John Pollard's life ("A regular passes," 1/30/13) a tasteless reference to some phantom issue about his college football ring? In this society where there is a death of genuine heroes and even fewer real-life role models, why is there such a determined effort to denigrate the reputation of ANYONE who possesses admirable qualities?

First of all, if this "non-issue" was really that important to someone, why wasn't John asked point blank about it while he was alive to provide the requested information?

Secondly, as for "bragging" about it, John was proud of his MSU affiliation just like any fan. It wasn't ego, it was ordinary satisfaction for an accomplishment in his

college years. Believe me, every single player on the team who goes to the Super Bowl will brag about it whether they saw a minute of time on the field or not. And every player gets paid whether or not they play. As for the winning team, each person gets a ring even if they sat on the bench.

Finally, it's ludicrous to think that John Pollard — the embodiment of research and accuracy — would make a statement carelessly, knowing how easily facts can be weighed.

While I'm at it, I'd also like to point out that his belief that Kathie Dunbar should be focusing on her 4 children rather than City Council also proved to be correct. No one can do EVERYTHING: her SLCDA non-profit, her comedy career, council duties, home, husband and children. Something is going to suffer. Our favorite champion of women's equality, Sen. Gretchen Whitmer, gave a dramatic example of this philosophy by setting aside the opportunity for a governorship in favor of raising her family.

So, long live the memory and good example of the "Peacemaker."

—Kathi Raffone
Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

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

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

<p>STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT INGHAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT FAMILY DIVISION</p> <p>NOTICE OF HEARING</p> <p>FILE NO. 07-002101-GA</p> <p>In the matter of Marvin Lockridge</p> <p>TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 2/28/2013 at 10:30 AM, at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Garcia for the following purpose(s):</p> <p>Hearing for successor guardian.</p> <p>If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.</p> <p>Date: 2/12/2013 Talaina Cummins 5303 S. Cedar St. Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 887-9661</p>	<p>STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT INGHAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT FAMILY DIVISION</p> <p>NOTICE OF HEARING</p> <p>FILE NO. 13-170-GA</p> <p>In the matter of Richard Hoyt</p> <p>TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 3/7/2013 at 11:00 AM, at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Economy for the following purpose(s):</p> <p>Hearing for guardian.</p> <p>If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.</p> <p>Date: 2/12/2013 Talaina Cummins 5303 S. Cedar St. Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 887-9661</p>
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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, February 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, adding Section 206.25 to Chapter 206 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by requiring transparency in the bidding and opening of bids for projects that receive certain economic incentives approved by the Lansing City Council. For more information please call 517-483-4177.

Interested Persons are invited to attend this Public Hearing

CHRIS SWOPE, LANSING CITY CLERK

CityPULSE

VOL. 12
ISSUE 27

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com



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Column: An analysis of 2013 City Council, mayoral candidates



PAGE 14

ArtGasm fails to achieve climax, but shows "big city" promise



PAGE 30

Food Fight tackles Michigan original — olive burgers



COVER ART

BILLION DOLLAR BWL by RACHEL HARPER

CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

THIS WEEK
Brad Shafer, assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 109 in Okemos
Judi Browne-Clark, at-large City Council candidate
Walt Sorg, City Pulse political columnist
Katherine Draper, executive director of the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 101 with Professor Droney

HELLO CLASS!

TODAY WE'LL BE DISCUSSING THE LEGALITY OF ASSASSINATING AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN DECLARED ENEMIES OF THE STATE!

IN SHORT, IT IS VERY, VERY LEGAL!

NOT TO MENTION ETHICAL AND WISE!

SURE, THE CONSTITUTION DOESN'T SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT ITS CLAUSES ON DUE PROCESS AND TREASON CAN BE DISREGARDED WHEN DEALING WITH A REALLY BAD GUY--

--BUT WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPLIED.

YOU SEE, SOMETIMES THE DANGER IS IMMINENT! AND BY "IMMINENT" WE MEAN THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT SOMETHING BAD MAY HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER.

IT'S A LEGAL THING.

BUT OUR SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES CAN'T BE DISREGARDED! THAT'S WHY ALL SUCH DECISIONS MUST BE APPROVED BY AN INFORMED HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL!

THEY'RE VERY TRUSTWORTHY!

WHOEVER THEY ARE!

WELL--SINCE THE LEGAL MEMOS ON TARGETED KILLING REMAIN CLASSIFIED--THAT'S IT FOR NOW!

I COULD TELL YOU MORE--BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU!

HEH HEH! JUST A LITTLE DRONE HUMOR THERE!

CLASS DISMISSED!

WHEN THE PRESIDENT DOES IT, THAT MEANS IT IS NOT ILLEGAL!

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Pole barn tempest

Council members push city attorney to decide if Niowave violated its zoning permit

Lansing City Councilman Brian Jeffries and Council President Carol Wood have asked the City Attorney's Office to investigate whether Niowave violated its zoning permit when it built a controversial pole barn next to its Walnut Street School headquarters.

Jeffries, who chairs the Development and Planning Committee, and Wood say Niowave's 14,000-square-foot pole barn violates the 2006 special land use permit the company received in order to convert the school to laboratory use.

"The use cannot change the essential character of the surrounding neighborhood. It has to be keeping with the natural environment of the lot. It has to protect and preserve the residential neighborhood and not have negative impacts on the quality of life for the residents," Jeffries said as he listed off terms of the SLU. "It doesn't meet any of those conditions."

Wood agreed with Jeffries and said the permit had been violated.

The opinions of Wood and Jeffries fly in the face of what Lansing zoning administrator Susan Stachowiak said at the Development and Planning Committee meeting on Feb. 6. She said the use of the pole barn — not the appearance — is dictated by the SLU.

"Use has always been and still is in compliance with the SLU," she said. "Use has never been an issue. Appearance is not addressed anywhere in the SLU."

To settle the debate, Jeffries has asked Don Kulhanek, the interim city attorney, to look into the matter. The Walnut Neighborhood also sent a letter to the City Council asking for the same thing late last year. Kulhanek said in an email Tuesday that the only condition of the SLU involved dealing with playground equipment that was formerly on the site.

Jeffries appears to refer to a list of findings that Stachowiak has said only applies to the original school



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

This saga isn't over: Two Lansing City Council members believe Niowave violated a special land use permit with a 14,000-square-foot pole barn, which flies in the face of the administration's opinion. Meanwhile, a proposed ordinance to prevent something similar from happening in other neighborhoods has stalled in committee and Walnut Neighborhood residents have retained their own lawyer.

building.

Jeffries said if Niowave is found to have violated the SLU, it could be pulled from them. Niowave could not be reached for comment.

At this point, residents of the Walnut Neighborhood are not only frustrated with Niowave — they're starting to get fed up with delays from City Council. A one-page ordinance that would prevent Niowave-like situations has stalled for the last two months. The ordinance would mandate Council notification and public hearings on proposed SLU construction over 1,000 square feet.

"It's always been about two issues from the very beginning," said Mary Elaine Kiener, a Walnut Neighborhood resident who's been at the forefront of the struggle. "First was fix the façade — do something for the neighborhood that's stuck with this. Second, make sure other neighborhoods are protected so that this doesn't happen to them. And we're still there, we're still frustrated."

The ordinance began to take shape late last year, but with former City Attorney Brig Smith's departure coupled with the hiatus of the holiday season, Kulhanek said in committee that there has been some catching up to do.

But Jeffries isn't having any of that. He said he's been "very disappointed with the process"

"Any further delay is unacceptable — period," Jeffries said. "We've kicked it around, clearly vetted it, now it's just

a matter of putting pen to paper and drafting an ordinance. It's only one page, we're not asking for wholesale revision of SLU ordinance. All we're asking for is an amendment to the existing ordinance, and that should not require the time it has taken. It's clear what the issue is, all we need to do is get it up for a vote."

Jeffries said he wants to get the ordinance done before the Council starts to tackle the city's budget. Running parallel with the ordinance is Niowave's personal property tax exemption request, which is worth about \$230,000. Niowave pulled the request late last year but it's back on the table. Jeffries said the Development and Planning Committee will set a public hearing on the exemption at the next committee meeting on Feb. 20.

Due to inaction from the city and Niowave's silence since Thanksgiving, Kiener decided to lawyer-up and hire someone to look into the SLU matter herself. In early January, she retained Charles Drayton of Fraser, Trebilcock, Davis and Dunlap to see whether she and the neighborhood had a "legal leg to stand on."

Drayton, who was at the Development and Planning Committee on Feb. 6, said Niowave may be violating of some city ordinances.

— Sam Inglot



Property: 403 N. Sycamore St., Lansing
Owner: Robert and Gretchen Cochran
Assessed value: \$63,800

A cupola allows a house to reach skyward, filling it with light and air. A relatively rare feature seen in contemporary residential design, the cupola was all the rage during the mid- to late-19th century when Italianate architecture was at the height of fashion.

Robert and Gretchen Cochran's home, 403 N. Sycamore St., is one of the finest Italianate houses in the area, complete with its own enviable cupola. Gretchen Cochran is the president of Preservation Lansing and recipient of the Lansing Neighborhood Council's 2013 Bea Christy Award. Built in 1875, this stunning example of 19th century architecture was almost lost in the early 1990s. With vision and passion, the Cochrans restored nearly every inch of the house, from foundation to that fairy tale-like cupola.

All too often, cupolas — like porches, gable details and decorative brackets — are removed to avoid maintenance. The Cochrans' cupola is the third in the history of the house; Robert Cochran built it with the help of a neighbor to closely resemble the original. Not only does it complete the house visually, but they say that the view of the fireworks during the annual Silver Bells in the City festival is simply fabulous.

— Amanda Harrell-Seyburn

"Eye candy of the Week" is our weekly 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.

'If'

Personnel Committee chairwoman says meeting minutes are inaccurate as the mayor's chief of staff says they border on libel and slander

Lansing City Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar's computer continues to be a topic of discussion this week at City Hall. Now the administration has stepped up its criticism of the way its being handled, saying a Council committee unnecessarily implicated a department head in the debate.

It wasn't even 9 a.m. and the fireworks were flying in the Council conference room Tuesday morning.

Randy Hannan, Mayor Virg Bernero's chief of staff, appeared at the Council's Personnel Committee meeting to say that weeks earlier Council members A'Lynne Boles-Robinson and Jody Washington made comments about the city's Information Technology Department director that were "categorically false."

"Our administration is hesitant to weigh in on Council's internal political strife ...," Hannan began. Boles-Robinson interrupted him: "Yet you're here doing it."

Hannan continued: "When certain members of this Council attempt to bring in our employees. It has come to our attention that in several meetings of this committee, Council member Washington and you, Council member Robinson, made statements about our IT Department that are categorically false."

Hannan quoted from Jan. 29 meeting minutes when Washington was quoted as saying: "The IT Department cleaned up the computer, fixed it and gave it back to the Councilmember. She feels that there was a grossly out of line (sic) in tampering with a computer that was misused and that they ignored Council's request to secure the computer and keep it in the condition that it was turned in as."

"I'm pretty sure we're not talking about cosmetic cleaning," Hannan said.

"Let me stop you there," Boles-Robinson said to Hannan, who was sitting across the room. She was adamant that the meeting minutes say that Washington was suggesting "if" that were happening with a Council member what the consequences would be — not stating that that's what happened. Washington is out of town on vacation and was not at Tuesday's meeting. She could not be reached by phone.

Last week, Dunbar alleged the committee created a "cloud of suspicion" around a damaged computer she said was the result of an

argument from a former marriage. On Jan. 17, IT Director Eric Tumbarella responded in a memo to Council President Carol Wood's questions about when Dunbar's computer was returned to the Council office; what damage and repairs were done; had the "hard drive been manipulated or erased"; and a "statement from Kathie made to Eric or staff about the computer." Tumbarella said the laptop was turned in around Dec. 11 and returned the next day; the screen was damaged; the hard drive was put in another "workstation"; he did not know whether the hard drive was "manipulated or erased" and that it was now in working condition; and he didn't recall any details about how the damage happened.

"There was an 'if' before that Council member's comments that need to be added to those comments," Boles-Robinson said. "She said it twice. And my quote was about if that happened. We had no proof and no idea what had happened" between the IT Department and the computer. She said the minutes would be amended at the committee's next meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for late February.

Hannan then asked if he could continue. "Certainly you can continue. I wanted to make sure you're proceeding factually," she said to Hannan.

"Take your own advice," he replied. "If you're going to level such outrageous charges against our people, you better bring evidence to support it. It attacks the character and integrity of our staff through libel and slander. You're walking on thin ice."

"So are you," Boles-Robinson replied. (This went on for about five to 10 minutes.) She insists that Personnel Committee has been meeting for nearly a month to update the Council's computer usage policy, which hasn't been amended since 2003 when a sexual harassment case against former Councilman Lou Adado led to the creation of the policy. She said updating it is a result of new Council staffers who need a policy in place with computer usage issues. She said the Dunbar issue is "an example" that's surfaced of why the policy needs updating.

"We're coming together to fix something and we're being attacked," she said.

Meanwhile, Council members are not saying why there's interest in the contents of Dunbar's computer. Wood, who sent the memo to Tumbarella, declined to comment.

And this brings us back to the two closed sessions in January — which Wood has said related to Dunbar — and a "confidential legal opinion" discussed there.

Fourth Ward Councilwoman Jessica Yorke said publicly at Monday night's Council meet-

ing that "there's an issue we've been dealing with in closed session that I don't think we should be dealing with in closed session," referring to the "legal opinion."

Council members Derrick Quinney, Brian Jeffries, Dunbar, Wood and Boles-Robinson declined to comment why, citing advice from the city attorney. Washington and Tina Houghton could not be reached for comment.

— Andy Balaskovitz



The campaign finance files

Several problems with campaign filings of two LCC trustee candidates

Robin Smith, secretary of the Lansing Community College Board of Trustees, owes her running mate a couple of thousand dollars and the Ingham County Clerk's office some important paperwork — both of which are campaign finance law violations.

Smith and Joe Manzella ran as a team for two spots on the LCC Board in the fall election. Smith, the incumbent, won back her seat, while Manzella didn't make the cut. But election debts still need to be settled between the two.

Manzella said he fronted the cost of campaign mailers that featured both himself and Smith in October. The total cost was \$5,232.23. Manzella had planned on Smith's reimbursing him half the cost before the end of the election, but Manzella wound up stuck with the entire bill.

After trying unsuccessfully to collect the debt, Manzella said he was forced to report the money Smith owed on his campaign finance reports after the election. In his post-general election campaign finance report, Manzella wrote that "Robin Smith for LCC" still owed him \$2,432.23 as of Dec. 13.

Neither the cost of the mailers nor the debt to Manzella was listed on Smith's campaign finance reports.

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum said candidate committees are not allowed to lend each other money. Her office sent out letters to Manzella and Smith outlining the errors in their reports on Feb. 7. She said they have until Friday to address the issue.

Byrum said the two should have paid for the mailers separately, but Smith still needs to pay Manzella back.

"It's clearly an expense, but unfortunately it was done incorrectly," Byrum said. "But as long as there is disclosure so that the public knows what occurred" and the records are fixed, there shouldn't be any penalties.

The debt owed to Manzella isn't Smith's only problem. She has not signed a "Post-Election Campaign Finance Compliance Statement," an affidavit required for elected officials before taking office, Byrum said. It states that all campaign filings are in order

with no outstanding fines. Failure to file the form is a misdemeanor.

Byrum said if Smith doesn't fix the errors in her campaign filings, pay Manzella back and sign the affidavit by Friday then the issue could be turned over to the Attorney General's Office.

Smith blamed the errors and violations on ignorance. She said she never had to file in her last election because she didn't raise or spend over \$1,000, so this was her first time.

"I didn't really have the understanding of working on a campaign together and how to separate things," she said. "I will work with their office to make sure I do so. I'm meeting with them on Friday to get this all sorted out."

She said she was planning a fundraiser to help pay back Manzella. The three other candidates — Todd Heywood, Lawrence Hidalgo and John Roy Castillo — did not have any campaign finance errors.

In other campaign finance news, Lansing City Councilwoman A'Lynne Robinson has paid back the \$500 she owed to the state for failing to file a post-primary election report for her state House campaign last year. She was originally fined \$1,000 by the state, but a spokesman for the Bureau of Elections said it was later reduced to \$500 based on the amount Robinson raised. City Pulse first reported the fine on Jan. 9; it was paid on Jan. 28.

— Sam Ingot



Let the games begin

Don't look now, but Lansing is already in another election cycle. And it looks like it is going to be nasty.

The gloves came off 10 days ago, more than 10 months before the General Election.

At-Large Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar angrily denounced fellow at-large members Brian Jeffries and Carol Wood for "dragging sensitive, personal matters pertaining to my separation into the realm of Council politics," specifically her contentious divorce following 18 years of marriage. Mayor Virg Bernero publicly shared Dunbar's outrage,

telling a crowd of 50 at a Dunbar fundraiser that "these people [Jeffries and Wood] will stop at nothing to win" and promising to campaign tirelessly on Dunbar's behalf, as well ward Councilwomen Tina Houghton and Jessica Yorke.



WALT SORG

The primary target will be Jeffries, who, in tandem with Wood, has been a perpetual thorn in Bernero's side. The beneficiary of Bernero's efforts to defeat Jeffries will likely be political newcomer Judith Brown-Clarke, wife of District Judge Hugh Clarke Jr., who announced her candidacy for one of the two at-large positions two weeks ago.

Bernero starts from a position of political strength. He goes into 2013 as a strong favor-

PUBLIC NOTICES



Ingham County seeks proposals for the Ingham County Department of Transportation and Roads for the purpose of furnishing Processed Road Gravel and 2NS Sand and for the purpose of furnishing and delivering Slag 29A and 29A Crushed Natural Aggregate. See bid documents online at <http://pu.ingham.org> under the Current Bids link and assigned #21-13 and #22-13. Proposals are due by February 21.

Ingham County seeks proposals from vendors experienced in providing overflow call services for a Message Center Service on behalf of the Ingham County Health Department's Bureau of Health Plan Management Services Division. Ingham County is also requesting vendors experienced in providing directory assistance on behalf of the Ingham County Health Department. See bid documents online at <http://pu.ingham.org> under the Current Bids link and assigned #9-13. Proposals are due by February 25.

Sorg

from page 6

ite for a third term. He will campaign on a record of economic success in the city that has far exceeded the recoveries of the Michigan and national economies. With longtime nemesis Wood not running for mayor a second time, Bernero's likeliest opponent is second-term Councilwoman ALynne Boles-Robinson (who has not announced her intentions).

If she runs, Robinson's strongest issue could well be Bernero's ambition. Four years ago, Bernero surprised just about everyone by running for governor within weeks of being reelected mayor. With Sen. Gretchen Whitmer's decision against running in 2014, there is widespread speculation that Bernero might try again — but only after being safely reelected mayor. The speculation is accelerated by a December poll showing Bernero would beat Rick Snyder in a rematch with stronger numbers than potential rivals U.S. Rep. Gary Peters and former U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer.

Although Robinson was reelected to Council in 2011 with 55 percent of the vote, her viability as a citywide candidate is open to question. Her 2012 campaign for the state House in the 68th district, which includes most of Lansing, ended with just 18 percent of the vote, a distant second in the seven-candidate field to Andy Schor's 43 percent.

Already on the ballot is 93-year-old retiree Donald Krepps. Self-employed handyman John Boise is collecting nominating petition signatures. Boise ran as a write-in candidate for mayor four years ago, receiving eight votes.

Beyond the personal animus underlying the Council campaign, the debate for the four Council seats will be set by the report of Bernero's Financial Health Team. The panel, chaired by former Mayor David Hollister, will make recommendations on how to close a \$9 million budget deficit plus another \$9 million in unfunded retirement liabilities. Combined, that's about 15 percent of a budget that has already been slashed annually in response to falling revenues.

The recommendations will have a negative impact on every city resident. How they are handled and justified by incumbents Dunbar, Jeffries, Yorko and Houghton will be at the core of the campaign. (Full disclosure: Houghton and Dunbar both endorsed my candidacy for state representative in 2012.)

With three months left before the filing deadline for the August primary, Dunbar and Jeffries face at least two challengers for the at-large seats. In addition to Brown-Clarke, Lansing casino advocate Ted O'Dell has started campaigning.

Brown-Clarke is best known for her athletic achievements. The East Lansing High School alumna was an All-America track star at Michigan State University and won an Olympic Silver Medal at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in public administration at Western Michigan University. She serves as diversity director at

MSU's BEACON Center, an outreach arm of the National Science Foundation.

O'Dell is best known for his advocacy of casino gambling in Lansing. He headed up a petition drive to bring a Native American casino to downtown, collecting more than 5,000 signatures. O'Dell's work was separate from the Bernero administration's deal with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. O'Dell is interim executive director of the Michigan Library Association. Like Robinson, O'Dell ran for the 68th District state House seat, finishing last in the seven-candidate field with 2.4 percent of the vote.

Yorko's reelection bid in the 4th Ward could also bring fireworks. Longtime

political activist Chong-Anna Canfora is endorsed by Council members Derrick Quinney and Jody Washington, as well as several local labor leaders. A former staffer for both state Senate Democrats and U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Canfora works for Michigan Progress, a liberal statewide organization closely aligned with organized labor and the Democratic Party. Her husband, Luke, is political director with the Service Employees International Union.

Also in the 4th Ward race is retired Marine Corps Major Bert Carrier. The 38-year-old Iraq War veteran (helicopter pilot) is an attorney who says he is running in large part because of his love for down-

town Lansing and a desire to accelerate the growth of the area.

The 2nd Ward race could be the friendliest campaign. Frank Ferro, a longtime state economic development official, is mulling a run against Houghton. Ferro cites the fractious relations between Council and the Mayor's Office as a primary reason to run, believing he can bring a spirit of cooperation to the 10th floor of City Hall. He describes Houghton as "a good friend," has talked with her about his possible candidacy and promised she will be the first to know if he decides to run.

(Sorg can be reached at sorg@lansingcitypulse.com)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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, **March 5, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.**, Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering Ordinance 1291, an ordinance to amend the Zoning Use District Map to rezone a portion of the Ardsen Heights Addition, Glencairn No. 1, and Glencairn No. 3 subdivisions, into the R-O-1 Residential Rental Restriction Overlay District. The proposed District generally lies south of Saginaw Street, west of Roxburgh Avenue, north of Wildwood Avenue, and east of Harrison Road. The rezoning includes the following properties:

No.	Street	Tax Parcel ID	No.	Street	Tax Parcel ID
801	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-414-004	601	NORTHLAWN AVE	33-20-01-12-415-001
806	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-415-012	602	NORTHLAWN AVE	33-20-01-12-405-006
816	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-415-013	606	NORTHLAWN AVE	33-20-01-12-405-007
830	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-415-014	615	NORTHLAWN AVE	33-20-01-12-415-019
837	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-414-003	706	NORTHLAWN AVE	33-20-01-12-404-007
VCT	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-415-015	712	NORTHLAWN AVE	33-20-01-12-404-008
909	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-414-002	716	NORTHLAWN AVE	33-20-01-12-404-019
912	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-415-016			
920	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-415-017	809	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-415-011
925	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-414-001	821	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-415-010
930	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-415-018	831	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-415-009
1001	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-404-006	839	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-415-008
1020	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-405-008	903	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-415-007
1023	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-404-005	911	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-415-006
1030	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-405-009	915	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-415-005
1037	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-404-004	929	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-415-004
1040	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-405-010	937	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-415-003
1049	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-404-003	947	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-415-002
1050	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-405-011	1025	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-405-005
1061	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-404-002	1041	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-405-004
1070	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-405-013	1057	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-405-003
1071	GLENHAVEN AVE	33-20-01-12-404-001	1065	ROXBURGH AVE	33-20-01-12-405-014
720	N. HARRISON RD	33-20-01-12-429-001	709	SOUTHLAWN AVE	33-20-01-12-429-002
818	N. HARRISON RD	33-20-01-12-414-013	724	SOUTHLAWN AVE	33-20-01-12-414-005
830	N. HARRISON RD	33-20-01-12-414-012			
900	N. HARRISON RD	33-20-01-12-414-014	640	WILDWOOD DR	33-20-01-13-200-002
940	N. HARRISON RD	33-20-01-12-404-011	716	WILDWOOD DR	33-20-01-13-200-001
946	N. HARRISON RD	33-20-01-12-404-012			
1000	N. HARRISON RD	33-20-01-12-404-013			
1010	N. HARRISON RD	33-20-01-12-404-014			
1024	N. HARRISON RD	33-20-01-12-404-017			
1030	N. HARRISON RD	33-20-01-12-404-018			



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. McKenna
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE NO. 1292

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 26-401, 26-402, 26-405 AND 26-406 AND TO REPEAL SECTIONS 26-403, 26-404, AND 26-408 OF DIVISION 5 - SMOKING AND DISTRIBUTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS - OF ARTICLE VI - NUISANCES - OF CHAPTER 26 - OFFENSES - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN, TO CONFORM THE PROHIBITION OF SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES TO STATE LAWS AND TO PROHIBIT ANY FUTURE TOBACCO SPECIALTY RETAIL STORES OR CIGAR BARS FROM ALLOWING SMOKING ON THEIR PREMISES

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Sections 26-401, 26-402, 26-405 and 26-406 of Division 5 - Smoking and Distribution of Tobacco Products - of Article VI - Nuisances - of Chapter 26 - Offenses of the Code of the City of East Lansing, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-401. - Prohibited smoking declared nuisance; smoking prohibited in city facilities.

(a) No person shall smoke in a public place or in an office work place, except as permitted in this division. In addition to the penalties set forth in Sec. 26-411, a violation of this prohibition is hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

(b) No person shall smoke in any city owned, managed, operated, and/or leased facility.

Sec. 26-402. - Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this subdivision:

Authorized city official means a police officer, a code compliance officer, the city manager or his or her designee, or the fire chief or his or her designee.

Cigar means any roll of tobacco for smoking, irrespective of size or shape and irrespective of the tobacco being flavored, adulterated or mixed with any other ingredients, where such roll has a wrapper made chiefly of tobacco.

Cigar bar means an establishment or area within an establishment that is open to the public and is designated for the smoking of cigars, purchased on the premises or elsewhere.

Cigarette means any roll of tobacco for smoking, irrespective of size or shape and irrespective of the tobacco being flavored, adulterated or mixed with any other ingredients, where such roll has a wrapper made chiefly of paper or other material except tobacco.

City owned, managed, operated, and/or leased facility includes city hall, the city jail, the 54-B District Court and any other building owned, managed, operated and/or leased by the city, and all areas within, including, but not limited to, private lounges, libraries, mail rooms, elevators, supply/equipment storage areas, inside loading dock areas, park pavilions and shelters, reception areas, restrooms, hallways, stairways, garages, and all lobbies and enclosed entrances, all areas within 50 feet of all entrances, and any building managed and/or operated by authorities created pursuant to law, excluding, however, streets and sidewalks and open areas within city-owned parking ramps other than booths and offices within the ramp facilities.

Employee means any natural person who is employed by an employer in consideration for any direct or indirect monetary wages or other consideration.

Employer means any person who employs the services of another individual person.

Enclosed means closed in by a roof and four walls with appropriate openings for ingress and egress.

Exit means a continuous and unobstructed means of egress to a public way and shall include intervening aisles, doors, doorways, corridors, ramps, stairways, smokeproof enclosures, horizontal exits, and exit passageways.

Health facility means a health facility or agency licensed under article 17 of the Michigan Public Health Code, except a home for the aged, nursing home, county medical care facility, hospice, or hospital long-term care unit.

Office work place means any enclosed area of a structure or portion thereof intended for occupancy in a "place of employment" by two or more employees of any employer who will provide primarily clerical, professional, educational, or business services.

Place of employment means any enclosed area under the control of a public or private employer, including charitable, educational, or nonprofit organizations, school districts, and facilities maintained or operated by public agencies of the city or county, which employees normally frequent during the course of employment.

Public place means any of the following:

(a) An enclosed, indoor area owned or operated by a state or local governmental agency and used by the general public or serving as a meeting place for a public body, including an office, educational facility, home for the aged, nursing home, county medical care facility, hospice, hospital long-term care unit, auditorium, arena, meeting room, or public conveyance.

(b) An enclosed, indoor area that is not owned or operated by a state or local governmental agency, is used by the general public, and is any of the following:

- (1) An educational facility.
- (2) A home for the aged, nursing home, county medical care facility, hospice, or hospital long-term care unit.
- (3) An auditorium.

- (4) An arena.
- (5) A theater.
- (6) A museum.
- (7) A concert hall.
- (8) Any other facility during the period of its use for a performance or exhibit of the arts.

(c) Unless otherwise exempt under this code, a place of employment.

A private residence is not a "public place" except when used as a licensed child care, foster care, or health care facility.

Smoke or *smoking* means the lighting, inhaling, exhaling, or burning, or carrying of any lighted cigar, cigarette, tobacco, weed, plant, or other similar article or combustible substance in any form.

Tobacco specialty retail store means an establishment in which the primary purpose is the retail sale of tobacco products and smoking paraphernalia, and in which the sale of other products is incidental. Tobacco specialty retail store does not include a tobacco department or section of a larger commercial establishment or any establishment with any type of liquor, food, or restaurant license.

Sec. 26-405. - Exceptions for existing tobacco specialty retail stores and cigar.

A tobacco specialty retail store or cigar bar in existence, doing business within the city limits, on the effective date of Ordinance 1292, that meets all of the requirements of MCL 333.12606a is exempt from the smoking prohibition of section 26-401 and may allow smoking on its premises. To qualify for this exemption, the tobacco specialty retail store or cigar bar must be located on premises that are physically separated from any areas of the same or adjacent establishments in which smoking is prohibited and where smoke does not infiltrate into those nonsmoking areas. As used in this subdivision, "physically separated" means an area that is enclosed on all sides by any combination of solid walls, windows, or doors that extend from the floor to ceiling. The tobacco specialty retail store or cigar bar must prohibit entry to a person under the age of 18 during the time the tobacco specialty retail store is open for business. A tobacco specialty retail store or cigar bar that does not meet the requirements of this section or violates this section is not exempt from the smoking prohibition of section 26-401 and shall immediately prohibit smoking on its premises. No new branches of an existing tobacco specialty retail store or cigar bar may open within the city and no specialty retail store or cigar bar in existence outside the city limits on the effective date of this section qualifies for this exemption. A tobacco specialty retail store or cigar bar in existence, doing business within the city limits, on the effective date of this section, that meets all of the requirements of MCL 333.12606a may, however, relocate from location within the city to another location within the city if the new location complies with this section.

Sec. 26-406. - Posting of signs and other requirements.

(a) The owner, operator, manager, or person having control of a public place, a food service establishment, shall do all of the following:

- (1) Clearly and conspicuously post "no smoking" signs or the international "no smoking" symbol at the entrances to and in every building or other area where smoking is prohibited under this act.
- (2) Remove all ashtrays and other smoking paraphernalia from anywhere smoking is prohibited under this act.
- (3) Inform individuals smoking in violation of this act that they are in violation of state law and subject to penalties.
- (4) If applicable, refuse to serve an individual smoking in violation of this act.
- (5) Ask an individual smoking in violation of this act to refrain from smoking and, if the individual continues to smoke in violation of this act, ask him or her to leave the public place, food service establishment, or nonsmoking area of the casino.

(b) The owner, operator, manager, or person in control of a hotel, motel, or other lodging facility shall comply with subsection (a) of this section and section 26-409. It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution or civil or administrative action for a violation of this section that the owner, operator, manager, or person in control of a hotel, motel, or other lodging facility where smoking is prohibited under this section made a good faith effort to prohibit smoking by complying with subsection (a). To assert the affirmative defense under this subsection, the owner, operator, manager, or person shall file a sworn affidavit setting forth his or her efforts to prohibit smoking and his or her actions of compliance with subsection (a).

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING FURTHER ORDAINS:

Sections 26-403, 26-404, and 26-408 of Division 5 - Smoking and Distribution of Tobacco Products - of Article VI - Nuisances - of Chapter 26 - Offenses of the Code of the City of East Lansing, are hereby repealed.

Sec. 26-403. - Designation of smoking areas in public

Repealed.

Sec. 26-404. - Regulation of smoking in office work places, health facilities, child caring institutions and private practice offices.

Repealed.

Sec. 26-408. - General exemptions; granting of exceptions and modifications.

Repealed.

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

SELL BWL?

EXPLORING AN
UNPOPULAR SOLUTION TO
LANSING'S BUDGET DEFICIT

BY ANDY BALASKOVITZ



When Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero says “everything is on the table” to fix the city’s budget problems, it’s not entirely true.

An idea that’s surfaced from the mostly Bernero-appointed Financial Health Team as a long-term budget solution — privatizing the publicly owned Lansing Board of Water and Light — was rejected by the mayor more than a month before the team makes formal recommendations. The team has even stopped exploring the idea because of the lack of support, both from Bernero and members of the City Council, and it’s unlikely the recommendation will be made in the final report. It feels like this sacred cow can’t even be discussed.

Indeed, only one person interviewed for this story — a city employee who’s also a local union steward — supports considering the idea. Neutral parties say publicly owned

“YOU COULD DO A LOT OF STUFF WITH A BILLION DOLLARS. THEN AGAIN, IT WOULD BE A REAL LOSS: WE’D LOSE CONTROL OF RATES AND HOMETOWN PRIDE WOULD BE DIMINISHED. IT’S A TRADE OFF.” DAVID HOLLISTER, HEAD OF THE FINANCIAL HEALTH TEAM

utilities have positives and negatives compared to privately owned utilities. And a wave of public officials, BWL officials and union representatives join the mayor in saying, “It should be off the table” because it’d be a one-time cash influx at the expense of superior customer service and lower utility rates.

BWL’s assets are valued at over \$1 billion and increasing. Most of its liabilities are made up of long-term debt of nearly

\$400 million. How much of that \$1 billion would actually go to the city’s coffers in the event of a sale is uncertain because the Financial Health Team has stopped short of a detailed analysis in light of the opposition.

Simply put, supporters have an uphill battle to convince the administration and the Council to sell the utility to private investors. Lansing voters would also have to approve a City Charter amendment, the document that gives BWL “the full and exclusive management of the water, heat, steam and electric services and such additional utility services of the City of Lansing.” Opponents fear rate increases, loss of local control over BWL policies and diminished customer service should the BWL be sold.

“You could do a lot of stuff for a billion dollars,” said former Lansing Mayor David Hollister, who heads the Financial Health Team. What it can’t do is solve the \$9 million deficit the city faces next fiscal year, as something so complicated could take years to negotiate. Hollister declined to give his personal opinion of the idea, saying it would “prejudice” the recommendation process. He could only deliver the pros and cons.

“Then again,” Hollister says, stating the chief con, “it would be a real loss: We’d lose control of rates and hometown pride would be diminished. It’s a trade-off.”

IN SUPPORT

Paul Dykema, manager of forestry and grounds for the city’s Public Service Department, spoke in support of considering the idea at a Jan. 31 public forum held by the Financial Health Team.

Dykema, a union steward for Teamsters Local 214, said while it’s “understandable” that people may not want to give up local control of board policies, “a billion dollars in the coffers is awfully attractive.”

“Please consider it,” Dykema said to members of the Financial Health Team. “I know it’s not popular. But you’re not here to do something popular. You’re here to make very difficult recommendations.”

As for possible rate increases, Dykema reminded opponents that privately owned utilities’ rates are regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission, whose members are appointed by the governor. BWL commissioners are appointed by the mayor and are subject to Council approval.

Several opponents claim that BWL’s rates are some 20 percent lower than its investor-owned competitors. Rates



Hollister

fluctuate depending on the time of the year. BWL General Manager Peter Lark said that in December, BWL’s rates were roughly 13 percent lower than the nearest investor-owned utility. For a snapshot of electric rates this month for investor-owned utilities, cooperatives and cooperatives, see page 10.

Still, the Financial Health Team is backing away from the idea due to lack of support. Hollister said last week, “I don’t know anybody

who’s promoting” the idea. He’s “not sure of the value in putting it in the recommendations,” given the political backlash already.

While he was mayor, Hollister said a utility company in California expressed interest in acquiring the BWL from the city. “We weren’t facing the same financial difficulties then. We decided not to do it — we weren’t in a crisis. It just wasn’t rational,” he said.

Steven Liedel, an attorney who leads the Financial Health Team’s subcommittee on long-term solutions, said the subcommittee is not “going to spend any more time considering” the idea. “It’s not something that is likely to occur, and given the mayor’s position, it’s not something we’ll focus on further.” He said the team “never proceeded beyond” the question of whether the choice would be a “cost or benefit to the city.”

IN OPPOSITION

Shortly after the Lansing State Journal listed privatizing the BWL in a Jan. 27 story on the Financial Health Team’s recommendations, Bernero rejected the idea wholesale at his State of the City speech the next day. “Not on my watch,” he told the audience.

Lansing City Council President Carol Wood is on the same side of the issue as Bernero.

“I absolutely do not support selling it whatsoever,” Wood said three days later after Bernero’s speech. “I see this as a one-time influx of money into the General Fund and what comes with that in terms of rate increases. I just don’t see this as an option whatsoever.”

BWL

from page 9

Wood and others also believe that the BWL is an important economic development driver via its rates.

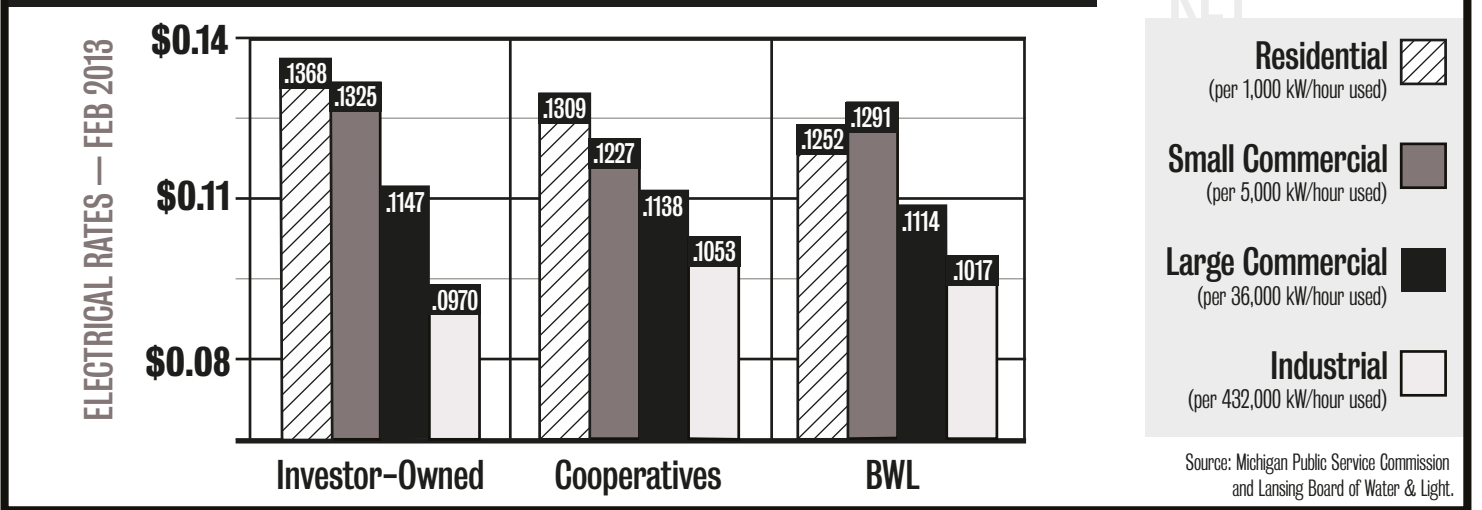
Jim Weeks, executive director of the Michigan Municipal Electric Association, said, "I don't really see any pros" to the proposal. He predicts rates would increase, lowering the amount of money residents contribute to the local economy; customers would have less interaction with their electric regulators if they have to go before the Michigan Public Service Commission instead of the BWL Board of Commissioners; and that profit motives for private utilities solely benefit shareholders.

"Sometimes public policy for a municipal utility is not going to be driven by profit or a bottom line, it's going to be driven by the community," he said. "I think you would lose that voice."

Weeks pointed to the lengthy public process that led to BWL's decision to build a new cogeneration electric and steam plant in REO Town as an example of serving the public, not necessarily shareholders. It will run on natural gas that will reduce the utility's greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent.

BWL and union officials are also resisting the idea. Sandra Zerkle, chairwoman

Electric Rates for Michigan Investor-owned utilities, cooperatives and BWL



Rachel Harper/City Pulse

A snapshot of electric rates for investor-owned utilities, cooperatives and the Board of Water and Light for February 2013, based on kilowatt per hour usage. The investor-owned figures are an average of the 10 utilities regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission. The cooperative figures are an average of the three regulated by the MPSC.

of the BWL Board of Commissioners, said while the board has not taken an official position on the idea, she is "personally strongly opposed to the idea."

"Our main concern is maintaining adequate services at reasonable prices," she said. "If it's a private entity, they might have some of those, but the main goal would be profit. That profit would not end up being the profits of the city."

In the last fiscal year, the BWL paid just over \$12 million to the city in lieu of taxes. The City Council approved a 1 percent increase of those payments in June, which was not enough for Council members Brian Jef-

fries, Jody Washington, A'Lynne Robinson, Derrick Quinney and Wood, who approved a 1.5 percent increase that was ultimately vetoed by Bernero. The administration estimates the five-year agreement will bring in an additional \$3.5 million for the city. Wood said she's "absolutely" interested in revisiting the issue of raising the return on equity payment to the city.

Ron Byrnes, business manager for International Brotherhood of Electric Workers Local 352, shared the concerns of Weeks and Zerkle.

With so much opposition built against the idea, under what circumstances would selling the BWL look attractive? How bad would the city's finances need to get for it

to be considered, if at all? Weeks said that when customers feel they're no longer receiving an affordable product, or if the company becomes less responsive to their needs, they may have an argument to privatize the BWL.

"That could happen," Weeks said. "But it's not happening here today."

'VERY RARE'

While not unprecedented, it's very rare for private investors to acquire public utilities. Weeks said that of over 2,000 public utilities in the country, three have gone to investor-owned

See BWL, Page 11

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2013 APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION FOR INGHAM COUNTY

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the 2013 Ingham County Budget on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at the Courthouse, 3rd floor, Mason, Michigan at 6:30 p.m. The hearing is for the purpose of receiving comments on a proposed increase of 0.01 mills to the Indigent Veterans Support Millage prior to its adoption. The property tax millage rate required to generate the necessary funds to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Questions on the proposed amendment may be addressed to Mary A. Lannoye, County Controller/Administrator, P.O. Box 319, Mason, Michigan 48854.

PUBLIC NOTICES

B/13/062 VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEMS as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until **3:00 PM** local time in effect on **FEBRUARY 28, 2013** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Darleen Burnham, CPPB at (517) 483-4129, email: Darleen.Burnham@lansingmi.gov, or for content and purpose of this bid contact Michael Hamel, EMD Chief at (517) 483-4186, email: Michael.Hamel@lansingmi.gov, or go to www.mitn.info.

The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE NO. 1290

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 28-36 OF ARTICLE II - USE OF PARKS - OF CHAPTER 28 - PARKS AND RECREATION - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING; AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IN VALLEY COURT PARK

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 28-36 of Article II of Chapter 28 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 28-36. Alcoholic beverages.

No person shall possess or consume any alcoholic beverage in a city park except that beer and wine may be possessed and consumed in Patriarch Park with a permit issued by the city manager or his designee under the rules adopted pursuant to section 28-40.

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

BWL

from page 10

utilities and 10 were bought by cooperatives in the past 13 years, he said. Or, about one a year. There are also examples of investor-owned utilities going to municipal owned, he said, and he's heard some interest of doing so in Michigan.

In June, voters in Hercules, Calif., northwest of San Francisco approved, 77 percent to 23 percent, selling its municipal utility with the net proceeds paying off debt and going into the city's General Fund. Unlike BWL, though, the Hercules Municipal Utility was hemorrhaging hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, which was made up by the city's general fund. It was also a much smaller and younger utility than BWL.

Jan Beecher, director of the Institute of Public Utilities at Michigan State University, said she's "generally agnostic" on the issue of privatizing public utilities.

"You have to be aware of the tradeoffs. There are advantages and disadvantages to each model," she said. Privatization "can be enticing, especially in times of fiscal stress as a one-time windfall depending on the value of the assets. But that's always going to be a matter of determination and can be rather complex to decide."

One of the "perceived advantages" of privatizing is "infusing private capital into the utility," which is particularly attractive if infrastructure improvements are needed.

"At the same time, cities often perceive that they're giving up some amount of control over their utilities."

And doing so "would definitely be a very substantial shift," she said — not to mention "very rare."

For now, selling the BWL is off the Financial Health Team's radar. It will instead focus on which city services the city continues to provide, the management of recreation facilities and pension and health care costs, Liedel said.

"PLEASE CONSIDER IT. I KNOW IT'S NOT POPULAR. BUT OU'RE NOT HERE TO DO SOMETHING POPULAR. YOU'RE HERE TO MAKE VERY DIFFICULT RECOMMENDATION."
PAUL DYKEMA, CITY OF LANSING EMPLOYEE AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL 214 STEWARD

"There's no practical way for the proposal to advance," Liedel said, adding that it could take a place like Lansing a "multi-month study" to figure out true costs and savings.

So, it appears not everything is on the table to solve long-term budget deficits?

"We've heard the first exception to the mayor's general rule," Liedel said.

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Thursday, Feb. 21 • 6:30 p.m.

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Capital Area District

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

SLU-7-2012, 2405 E. Mt. Hope Avenue
Special Land Use Permit – Church

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 11, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, to consider SLU-7-2012. This is a request by Kaleo Church of Lansing to utilize the building at 2405 E. Mt. Hope Avenue for a church. Churches are permitted in the "D-1" Professional Office district, which is the designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

For more information about this case, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, March 11, 2013, at the City Council Offices, Tenth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933 1696.

Chris Swope, City Clerk

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Comcast Ch. 30 Meridian Township: 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17; 5 p.m.

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Sweetheart Deals for Valentine's Day

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Beautiful Roses \$49.95 <i>Arranged with foliage, filler, and hearts</i> • 6 Beautiful Roses \$29.95 <i>Arranged with baby's breath and a heart pick</i> • 3 Beautiful Roses in a Bud Vase \$15.00 <i>With foliage and bow</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red, Pink and White Valentine Arrangement \$25.00 <i>With fresh flowers and hearts</i> • Mug O' Love Coffee Mug \$15.00 <i>Filled with red and white flowers and hearts</i> • Teddy Bear Bud Vase \$20.00 <i>Stuffed bear with 2 red roses and baby's breath</i>
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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

Was it good for you?

ArtGasm fails to achieve climax, but shows 'big city' promise

BY SAM INGLOT

It had live music, spoken word performances, fire spinning and half-naked women serving as paint canvases, but multiple organizing snafus made ArtGasm — an experimental event that was held in a REO Town warehouse on Feb. 8 — more of an outlandish party and less of the bona fide festival it was supposed to be.

ArtGasm was organized by local artist Geoph Aldora Espen, real name Jeffrey Scott Handley Jr. If that name rings a bell, he was the one who spray-painted graffiti on the Capitol building and a nearby war memorial last September (for which he was charged with a felony and two misdemeanors — he pleaded guilty and received fines and probation three months later). He said at the time that the vandalism was in retaliation to the City of Lansing, which shut down his planned Haunted Art Exhibition the week before. Lansing police were issued to the event site, the former School for the Blind, after he publicly announced he was planning on trespassing into one of the campus's abandoned buildings to stage a haunted house/art show.

ArtGasm was Espen's second attempt at creating a themed art festival. At least he wasn't trespassing this time.

Through his contacts at REO Town's Reach Studio Art Center, Espen, 21, was

put in touch with the warehouse's owner, John Sears. It sits on the 700 block of E. South Street, about half a mile east of S. Washington Avenue. For weeks, Espen teased the event on Facebook as a "full sensory interactive art experience."

Espen said he pocketed about \$250 from ticket sales, which were \$5 online or \$10 at the door. The event went from 8 p.m. to about 2:30 a.m. and had two main areas: "the lounge," an intimate room with two couches, some of Espen's paintings, a vase full of peacock feathers and an orb with red and blue lights that hung from a pipe in the ceiling; and the main performance area, which had a bi-level stage that shot laser lights through the hangar-sized room.

Espen said the event didn't go off as planned because several aspects had to be scrapped at the last minute due to lack of manpower. He also promised a mock crucifixion, but that also never happened.

"The only thing we were successful at throughout the night was the very bare minimum of what was needed for an event," Espen said. "I'm looking forward to executing the details better in the future."

Throughout the large garage there was a series of fire and light-up poi twirlers, a girl who made banana pancakes for 50 cents a pop, canvas painting, a guy selling glass pipes and a lot of smoking and beer swilling. The crowd, which numbered between 75 and 100, was as eclectic as the music, with the guests ranging in age from teenagers to a woman who looked old enough to be someone's grandmother.

The highlight of the evening was the



Espen



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

Sarah McCarty was one of the "living canvases" at the Feb. 8 ArtGasm event.

"living canvas" painting on the main performance stage. Three bikini-clad women stood on the stage as a beat-boxer burped out robotic and computer-like beats. Espen walked onto the stage, dipped a brush in body paint and started making designs on her arm. He then turned the brush over to the assembled throng of young men and women who eagerly took over as he left the stage. The group huddled around the girls with paint and brushes like a tribe of druids huddling around an idol, as house and trance music blared through the speakers. It was a moment of unbridled, sexy spirituality.

Lansing native Sarah McCarty, 24, who was one of the "living canvases," said she was thrilled.

"This is the kind of stuff that happens in big cities," McCarty said. "Lansing is a cool city, so it's great to see that kind of thing happening here."

However, there was a conflict, as attendees parking in the road outside the

building were blocking a thoroughfare used by truck drivers in the warehouse district. Just after 2 a.m., the Lansing Police Department received a call that a semi-truck was blocked in by cars. LPD Spokesman Robert Merritt said several cruisers were dispatched to the scene to get the cars moved, but there were no citations written or arrests.

Notably, the ticketed event did not have a license, nor was it insured. After the event, Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope said, based on the description of the activities, that he believed the show needed to have two licenses — a show license and a pyrotechnics or firework license.

If there's ever going to be an ArtGasm 2, it most likely won't be in the same location. On Monday afternoon, three days after the event, Sears said a door was broken and trash and empty booze containers were littered about the warehouse.

"It wasn't great," Sears said. "I think they were just out to throw a party."

Courtesy Photo

A sassy lounge singer evades gangsters by hiding out in a convent in "Sister Act: A Divine Musical," based on the hit 1992 movie starring Whoopi Goldberg.



'Sister' superior

Movie makes seamless slide to stage in musical comedy

By ALLAN I. ROSS

This was the first time I can remember the curtain falling down at the end of Act I and thinking, "That's it?" As in, "Are we already halfway thr— oh yeah, I guess we did get a lot done there. Wow, that was fast!"

And that's the only thing bad I can possibly say about "Sister Act: A Divine Comedy," playing through Sunday at the Wharton Center: It's over too soon. Well, the sound did have some problems, but we can get back to that later.

Not a single moment is wasted in the show, which opens the show by dropping you into the middle of a boisterous showpiece. The songs by Alan Menken allow you to skip though the storyline that is, much like the

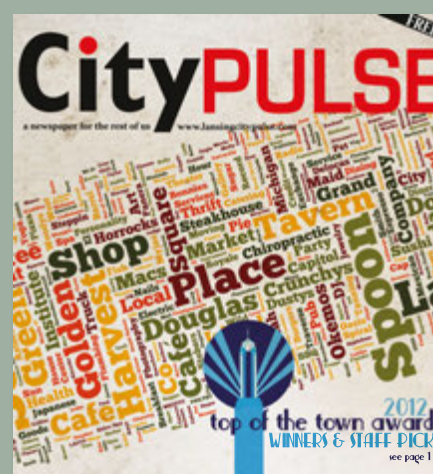
See Sister Act, Page 20

CityPULSE

The weekly paper Lansing reads | RATE CARD 2013

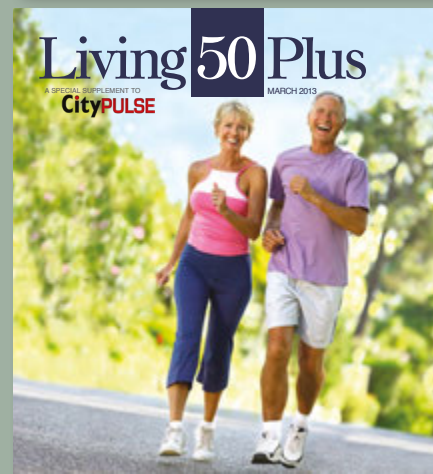
City Pulse is a weekly alternative newspaper based in Lansing, Mich. Founding publisher Berl Schwartz conceived City Pulse as "A Newspaper for the Rest of Us," dedicated to covering issues and opinions overlooked or downplayed by the local mainstream media. City Pulse provides a unique service by producing challenging, intelligent coverage of news and the arts in mid-Michigan.

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- Bridal Issue
- Top of the Town
- St. Patrick's Day
- Living 50 Plus
- Michigan Pride
- Gift Guide & MORE



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WEB STATS

60,000 PAGE VIEWS PER MONTH
30,000 UNIQUE VISITORS PER MONTH
OVER 3,000 FACEBOOK LIKES, **REACHING 20,000**
OVER 3,000 TWITTER FOLLOWERS

SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS

ONE COLUMN AD
1/4 Page Vertical
2.4375" W x 11.25" H

FEBRUARY **2013**
Feb. 6 PUBLICATION
Feb. 13 Pet Adoption Page
Feb. 20 SCHEDULE
Feb. 27 First Sunday Gallery Walk

MARCH
March 6 Top of the Town: Final Five Voting Issue
March 13 St. Patrick's Day Issue; Pet Adoption Page
March 20
March 27 Mid-Michigan Antiquarian Book Show section; First Sunday Gallery Walk

APRIL
April 3 Summer Camp Guide
April 10 Pet Adoption Page
April 17 Living 50 Plus Issue
April 24 First Sunday Gallery Walk

MAY
May 1
May 8 Pet Adoption Page
May 15 Lawn & Garden Issue
May 22
May 29 First Sunday Gallery Walk

JUNE
June 5
June 12 Pet Issue; Pet Adoption Page
June 19 Farmers Market Issue
June 26 First Sunday Gallery Walk

JULY
July 3 Beer Issue
July 10 Pet Adoption Page
July 17
July 24 JazzFest Program Issue
July 31 Primary Election Preview; First Sunday Gallery Walk

AUGUST
Aug. 7
Aug. 14 Pet Adoption Page
Aug. 21 Michigan Gay Pride Issue
Aug. 28 Welcome Back MSU Issue; First Sunday Gallery Walk

SEPTEMBER
Sept. 4 BluesFest Program Issue
Sept. 11 Pet Adoption Page
Sept. 18 Nonprofit Volunteers Issue
Sept. 25 First Sunday Gallery Walk

OCTOBER
Oct. 2 Halloween Kickoff Issue
Oct. 9 Pet Adoption Page
Oct. 16
Oct. 23
Oct. 30 Halloween Issue; Election Preview Issue; First Sunday Gallery Walk

NOVEMBER
Nov. 6 Annual Art Issue: Broad at 1
Nov. 13 Pet Adoption Page
Nov. 20 Gift Guide Issue
Nov. 27 First Sunday Gallery Walk

DECEMBER
Dec. 4
Dec. 11 Last-minute Gift Guide; Pet Adoption Page
Dec. 18
Dec. 26 First Sunday Gallery Walk

JANUARY 2014
Jan. 2 Bridal Issue
Jan. 9 Pet Adoption Page
Jan. 16
Jan. 23
Jan. 30 First Sunday Gallery Walk

ONE COLUMN AD
1/6 Page Vertical
2.4375" W x 7.5" H

ONE COLUMN AD
1/8 Page Vertical
2.4375" W x 5.625" H

ONE COLUMN AD
1/12 Page
2.4375" W x 3.75" H

ONE COLUMN AD
1/16 Page
2.4375" W x 2.8125" H

ONE COLUMN AD
1" Ad • 2.4375" W x 1" H*
 *available in 1/2 inch increments

FOUR COLUMN AD
1/3 Page Horizontal — 10.25" W x 3.75" H

Retail Display Rates

Square Inch		1X - 3X		4X - 7X		8X - 11X		12X - 25X		26X - 51X		52X	
		B&W	Color	B&W	Color	B&W	Color	B&W	Color	B&W	Color	B&W	Color
45	BACK PAGE	N/A	1302	N/A	1260	N/A	1224	N/A	1172	N/A	1003	N/A	834
45	FULL PAGE	857	1085	830	1052	803	1016	771	977	677	857	546	692
33.75	3/4 PAGE	708	897	685	868	663	840	638	808	522	695	467	592
30	2/3 PAGE	629	796	617	782	599	760	565	718	549	628	420	533
22.5	JUNIOR PAGE	529	670	513	659	492	622	478	605	413	523	350	444
22.5	1/2 PAGE	519	657	503	637	482	611	467	591	402	509	342	434
15	1/3 PAGE	350	444	342	434	331	421	316	400	282	359	233	296
11.25	1/4 PAGE	299	361	277	351	270	341	257	327	212	282	189	239
7.5	1/6 PAGE	202	245	197	238	191	230	182	219	156	190	134	163
5.63	1/8 PAGE	154	187	150	182	146	175	139	168	122	146	103	124
3.75	1/12 PAGE	129	156	126	151	122	146	116	141	101	122	91	110
2.81	1/16 PAGE	103	124	101	122	97	118	88	113	80	97	75	91
4	1" BANNER *	147	171	134	163	127	154	120	153	112	141	104	131
1	1" COLUMN*	39		37		28		28		28		27	

* AVAILABLE IN ADDITIONAL 1/2" INCREMENTS

Frequency Rates: The frequency rate for retail display advertising is based on up to a one-year period with a signed contract. Ads do not

FOUR COLUMN AD
1/4 Page Horizontal
10 1/4" W x 2.8125" H

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified Rates.

1/4 inch - \$10

1 inch - \$39

Over an inch - \$35 + \$10 per quarter inch.

EXTRAS. Boldface Type: Free on the first line, \$.10 per additional word.

Box: \$2. **Blind Boxes:** \$5. **Shaded or reverse box:** \$4.

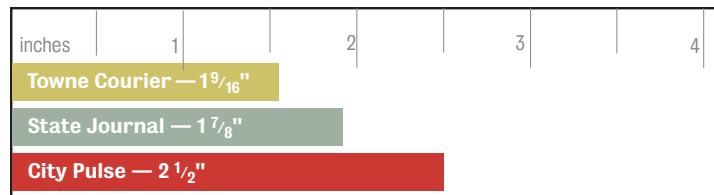
Classified ads also appear online at no extra charge. Deadline for classifieds is 4 p.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday's issue. You can also submit your classified ad online at www.lansingcitypulse.com or through e-mail at classads@lansingcitypulse.com.

SAMPLE CLASSIFIED AD

Apartment for rent

Laundry, Central Air, Two car garage
 Lansing Community College, Co
 Sparrow Hospital and Michigan
 No smoking and No pets. \$600
 includes utilities. (517) 123-4567
lansingcitypulse.com for more info

A column inch is not the same everywhere. City Pulse offers more for your ad dollar.



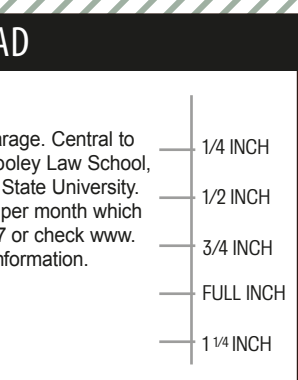
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City Pulse Distribution
By ZIP Code

Dimensions Vertical	Dimensions Horizontal	Dimensions Cubed	Zip Code	Community	Distribution
	10.25 W x 11.25 H		48820	Dewitt	192
5 W x 11.25 H			48823	East Lansing	4480
5 W x 11.25 H	10.25 W x 8.4375 H		48837	Grand Ledge	262
5 W x 7.5 H			48840	Haslett	176
5 W x 7.5 H			48842	Holt	405
12 W x 11.25 H	10.25 W x 5.625 H		48854	Mason	366
12 W x 7.5 H	10.25 W x 3.75 H		48864	Okemos	962
375 W x 11.25 H	10.25 W x 2.8125 H	5.042 W x 5.625 H	48895	Williamston	64
375 W x 7.5 H	5.042 W x 3.75 H		48906	Lansing (N)	1047
375 W x 5.625 H	5.042 W x 2.8125 H		48910	Lansing (S)	1229
375 W x 3.75 H	5.042 W x 1.875 H		48911	Lansing (S)	1094
375 W x 2.8125 H			48912	Lansing (E)	2528
5 W x 1 H			48917	Lansing (W)	2852
A	2.4375 W x 1 H		48933	Lansing (DT)	1481
			Other areas		393
			Total		17,531

not need to run in consecutive issues but must run within the contract period.



PAYMENT

All new advertisers are on a prepay basis unless credit arrangements have been made. We accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover, checks, money orders and cash. Credit terms are net 15 for approved accounts.

Display Ad Specifications

Deadlines. Space reservation deadline: 5 p.m. Thursday for the next issue. Copy Deadline: noon Friday for the next issue. Send copy to adcop@lansingcitypulse.com.

Mechanical Requirements. Printing method is offset and page size is 11 1/4" high by 10 1/4" wide. Line screen is 100 lpi.

Color. Spot color and 4-color process are available. See rate chart for prices.

Pre-Printed Inserts. City Pulse accepts pre-printed inserts. For most inserts, inserting is \$25 per 1,000. Specialized inserts will be priced on a job-by-job basis.

Layout and Design (including scanning photos). City Pulse provides one free hour of labor. Additional labor, including labor for changes desired by the advertiser after approving a proof (unless they are corrections resulting from work by City Pulse), may be billed at \$25 per hour, with a \$12 minimum.

Nonprofit Discounts. Registered nonprofits buying directly and not through an agency will receive a 10 percent discount, which may not be combined with any other discount, provided the advertiser pays within

the agreed-upon terms. For fund-raising events sponsored by registered non-profits, advertising is discounted 50%. City Pulse may include a line that says, "Space donated in part by City Pulse."

Position. Reasonable requests for position will be accommodated whenever possible. However, position cannot be guaranteed without a premium of 15 percent being added to the applicable space rate, with a minimum charge of \$50, and 25 percent, with a minimum charge of \$75, for the following pages: Centerspread (the middle two facing pages), the inside front cover, the inside back cover and the back cover. Charges for position are not subject to discounts.

Electronic Ad Specifications. Spot color and 4-color ads must be submitted in CMYK. Artwork should be at least 200 dpi. Black type 12 pt or smaller must be 100% black. EPS or PDF file formats are preferred. For EPS files, convert all fonts to outlines. Ads should be sent to adcop@lansingcitypulse.com or provided on a disc.

Payment Options. We accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover, checks and, of course, cash.



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BRANDING SPECIAL *Looking for a way to brand yourself?*

TRY OUR BRANDING PACKAGE:

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{ Call Berl Schwartz at (517) 999-5061 for details.

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TWO COLUMN AD
1/4 Page
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TWO COLUMN AD
1/6 Page
5.042" W x 3.75" H

TWO COLUMN AD
1/8 Page
5.042" W x 2.8125" H

TWO COLUMN AD
1/12 Page
5.042" W x 1.875" H

CityPULSE READER SURVEY

a newspaper for the rest of us

City Pulse surveyed 495 readers in December 2011.

Among the findings:

AVERAGE AGE OF READERS: 46.8

AGE OF READERS:

Under 18:	0.3%
18-20:	2.43%
21-34:	27.94%
35-44:	18.42%
45-59:	29.15%
60+:	22.06%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME:

\$20-29,999:	20.9%
\$30-39,999:	11.32%
\$40-49,999:	9.47%
\$50-59,999:	11.93%
\$60-69,999:	7.41%
\$70-74,999:	7.41%
\$75-99,999:	12.35%
Over \$100,000:	19.14%

LEVEL OF EDUCATION COMPLETED:

High School:	14.57%
College:	51.62%
Graduate Degree:	33.81%

GENDER:

Men:	43.03%
Women:	56.79%

MARITAL STATUS:

Married:	51.02%
Single:	26.02%
Partnered:	11.59%
Divorced:	11.38%

HOME OWNERSHIP:

Own homes:	67.81%
Rent:	32.19%

DINING OUT (NOT FAST FOOD):

Daily:	3.43%
2 or more times a week:	31.31%
Once a week:	34.55%
Less than weekly:	17.17%
Less than monthly:	13.54%

GOING OUT FOR LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Weekly:	9.51%
2-3 times a month:	14.37%
Monthly:	28.95%
Quarterly:	19.43%
Less than Quarterly:	27.73%

GOING TO BARS:

2 - 3 times a week:	8.94%
Once per week:	12.22%
2 - 3 times per month:	25.66%
Less than once / month:	53.16%

READING CITY PULSE:

Weekly:	57.09%
2-3 times a week:	9.72%
2-3 times a month:	15.79%
Monthly:	9.72%
Less than monthly:	7.69%

READERS' POLITICS:

Conservative:	15.26%
Moderate:	33.33%
Liberal:	36.76%
Progressive:	14.64%

OBTAIN CITY PULSE:

Pick it up myself	87.7%
Online	6.05%
City Pulse Newsletter	.04%
Spouse/Partner brings it home	3.83%
Co-workers bring it into office	2.02%

SECTIONS FOUND MOST INTERESTING/USEFUL:

News	43.52%
Event Listings	24.9%
Arts and Culture	24.49%
Food Finder	7.09%

OBTAIN LOCAL NEWS:

City Pulse (print/online):	21.7%
Free Community News:	1.62%
Internet	28.8%
Local Radio	9.13%
Lansing State Journal	24.54%
Television	14.2%

STUDENT NOW:

Yes:	13.27%
No:	86.73%

TAKE CITY PULSE WITH YOU TO READ:

Take it along:	76.86%
Don't take:	23.14%

DISTRIBUTION

City Pulse is a free alternative weekly newspaper, more than seventeen thousand copies are distributed every Wednesday to about 475 locations in Greater Lansing. City Pulse has 42,000 to 63,000 readers a week. For a complete listing of all City Pulse distribution points, visit our Web site: www.lansingcitypulse.com. Are you interested in distributing City Pulse at your business? Call (517) 999-5061 for more information.

WEB ADVERTISING & MARKETING

WEB REACH:

60,000 page views per month
30,000 unique visitors per month
Over 3,000 Facebook likes, reaching 20,000
Over 3,000 Twitter followers

CPM = Cost per Mille (Cost per thousand views)

MEDIUM RECTANGLE (300x250px)

VERTICAL RECTANGLE (240x400px)

WIDE SKYSCRAPER (160 x 600 px)

\$8 CPM - Flat rate: \$300 for one month

Appears on every page click in left or right columns.

FULL BANNER (480x60px)

\$10 CPM - Flat rate: \$400 for one month

Appears under the header

LEADERBOARD (728 x 90px)

\$12 CPM - Flat rate: \$500 for one month

Appears at the very top of every page above header, runs width of page

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DIGITAL ADVERTISING, call Rich Tupica at (517) 999-6710 or e-mail him at rich@lansingcitypulse.com

MOBILE, SOCIAL MEDIA, & E-NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

MOBILE DIGITAL AD

Appears on City Pulse's digital edition

\$10 CPM

DAILY E-NEWSLETTER

Target City Pulse readers daily by offering specials or coupons through our newsletter. Ad is linkable to your website for increased effectiveness. The newsletter reaches 4,500 subscribers and is sent out Monday through Friday. This deal will include your ad in all five days of that week. \$99

TWITTER & FACEBOOK - MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE:

50,000 impressions at LansingCityPulse.com with a web ad. Available ad sizes are Medium Rectangle and Wide Skyscraper. (\$400 value)

A promoted ad-post from City Pulse's Facebook, reaching approx 13,000 to 28,000 of our local followers. The ad runs in our newsfeed for three days. Included is a free tweet from our Twitter account, which has over 3,500 followers. (\$199 value).

An ad in our City Pulse newsletter sent Monday through Friday to over 4,500 subscribers, a \$99 value.

All of the above for \$650

SPECIAL:

Buy one print ad, receive a 50% off coupon on your first web ad.

Biggest in their medium

After four decades, the Verdehr Trio 'tapering off' with concert series

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

After 40 years of music making, hundreds of world premieres, 20 CDs and seven spins around the globe, Sunday will be among the last chances for local audiences to soak in the bracing sonic vinaigrette of Walter Verdehr's violin, Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr's clarinet and Silvia Roederer's piano.

Circumspect as ever, violinist Walter Verdehr declined to call the Lansing-based Verdehr Trio's 2012-'13 concert series a retirement or farewell tour, but it probably is one.

Travel is becoming more of a hassle, the Verdehrs' cool modernist digs in northern Michigan are looking more inviting than ever and the capstone

Verdehr Trio

40th Anniversary Concert
3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17
Cook Recital Hall MSU
\$8-10
Under 18 and students
Free
music.msu.edu

is settling on the trio's self-built castle of new music.

"We're certainly tapering off," Verdehr allowed. "We'll be playing until the end of summer and doing some

playing after that, but more ad hoc."

"Tapering Off Tour" doesn't have much of a ring, so that title is out. Besides, an appeal to sentiment would distract from the trio's legacy: over 200 original pieces of music, in a striking variety of styles, commissioned from an A-list of the world's great composers. In the New Grove Dictionary of Music, the Verdehrs share the "V" section with Verdi and Vivaldi as inventors of a new medium.

Verdehr was wise in 1972 to let string quartets saw away at the same old timbre and

cast his lot with his wife's incisive, probing clarinet sound. Since then, the trio's pungent aural blend — no two instruments are from the same family — has inspired composers to write some of their freshest music, without recourse to formula chamber-music gestures or orchestral padding.

"There's something really exciting about digging into a new piece, finding out what it's made of, and trying to communicate it," Verdehr said. "We'd like to make people believe in them, just like a piece by Bach or Brahms."

When Verdehr opens a thick envelope quilted with international postage, he never knows what he's in for. The spiky triangle of clarinet, violin and piano seems to provoke vitality, brevity and even humor in a stuffy lot that's often short on all three.

In "Michigan Trio," by French composer Philippe Manoury — one of the works on Sunday's slate — the clarinetist is told to turn around and blow into the open piano lid, using the piano strings as a resonator. American composer Sebastian Currier added unusual instructions to "Verge," a multi-part piece that's also on Sunday's program: "almost too fast," "almost too mechanical," "almost too little" and "almost too much." Verdehr smiled at the conceit but took it seriously, as a challenge to make music that never quite gets where it's going. ("Verge" inspired Washington Post critic Anne Midgette, in a laudatory review of the Verdehrs' Feb. 4 concert in D.C., to call the trio's current tour "almost a retirement.")

Verdehr is a virtuoso on violin, but he really coaxes all this new music into being with his other instrument, a 1767 Stradivarius telephone (not really) with which he badgers busy composers until they give in. For 13 years, Verdehr chased the Moby Dick of European composers, German modernist Wolfgang Rihm, until Rihm finally came through in 2005 with a surprisingly serene work that echoes Bach and Brahms.

"He finally felt guilty," Verdehr shrugged. "I try to put a guilt trip on people because I have no other way to get it done."

One of Verdehr's latest coups is a tune-



Courtesy Photo
MSU's Verdehr Trio — pianist Silvia Roederer, violinist Walter Verdehr and clarinetist Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr — celebrate their 40th anniversary with a recital Sunday.

ful, lyrical trio from last year's Pulitzer Prize winner in music, Kevin Puts, born in Alma, Mich. The Puts trio is also on Sunday's slate.

While working with Puts, Verdehr got a subtle hint of changing times. On the Verdehrs' office wall is an impressive, floor-to-ceiling array of framed photos, signed and dedicated to the trio by dozens of composers, from Ned Rorem to Gunther Schuller to Giancarlo Menotti to Peter Schickele — but, alas, no Puts.

"All his photos are online," Verdehr sighed.

Since last summer, they have played in China, Peru, New York, Washington and Oklahoma, but they're ready to slow down. Traveling isn't as fun as it was in the early 1970s, when you could show up at the airport five minutes before a flight.

But the trio will leave behind a well-stocked larder for a medium that barely existed in 1972, with only two works (one by Bartok) and a handful of transcriptions.

Now Verdehr is pleased to see other ensembles, including Lincoln Center's chamber group, take up the tricolor. Last month, at Western Michigan University, a French ensemble, the Zodiac Trio, performed a piece by Ned Rorem that was commissioned by

the Verdehrs 20 years ago. Works by Schickele (of P.D.Q. Bach fame), Joan Tower, Libby Larsen and many other composers commissioned by the Verdehrs have cropped up on programs around the country.

The Verdehr Trio has been around so long they've commissioned pieces from a father and son: Indiana composer Don Freund wrote "Trio Music" in 1979, one of the first pieces commissioned by the Verdehrs. Freund's son, Stefan Freund, a founding member of the avant-garde ensemble Alarm Will Sound, wrote "Trio Dances" for the trio last year.

Through it all, the Verdehrs stayed interesting, and interested, because they kept their ears open. While other academics hammered each other for being too conservative or too avant-garde, Verdehr calmly tended a wildly eclectic garden of music, from folksy Americana to harsh Germanic ear spikes. Pointless aesthetic battles aren't his style. Do peonies have to fight tulips? A century ago, he pointed out, Brahms devotees were calling Wagner the Antichrist — and vice versa.

"They had no use for each other, and they were really nasty about it," Verdehr said. "Who cares about that now?"

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Sister Act

from page 14

similar nun-fied, "The Sound of Music," all about the majesty and beauty of making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

You know the story; it was only one of the biggest comedies in the 90s: lounge singer, witness protection, struggling

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church looking for a miracle, lost soul and overprotective biddy save each other in the best way possible. The strong book by Cherie Steinkellner & Bill Steinkeller reflects the pair's masterful ability to compose catchy comedic beats in their previous work with "Cheers" and "The Jeffersons" (the program team should be ashamed of spelling Cherie's name wrong). Likewise, those songs — "Raise Your Voice," "Lady in the Long Black Dress," "Sunday Morning Fever" — are nothing but a continuous series of crescendos that you hit like a jet boat bouncing across the water. That's why it goes by so fast — the show never lets you get your feet

wet.

This is the kind of show that will take the time and effort to rhyme "church apse" and "leather chaps" and then switch it up on you 15 minutes later and get you to think about that "feeling" you get while singing — could be God or the power of the human spirit? Or maybe, just maybe "they're the same."

Ta'Rea Campbell fills the lead role of Deloris Van Cartier with enough sass, verve and powerful pipes to clearly make sure you're in her power with the opening note. Hollis Resnik fills her role of Mother Superior with a realistic love and fear that really brings the character to life. And the heartfelt number by audience favorite E. Clayton Cornelious — who plays "Sweaty" Eddie the friendly, likable cop who's in love with Deloris, has one of the best surprise stage gags I've seen.

But about that sound: bloody awful. A buzzy speaker and a blown-out mic interrupted one of the biggest numbers, taking a little wind out of the habits. But only for a little bit.

It's a big week for Catholics, and the timeliness of the retirement of the pope injects some of the convent jokes with a little extra jolt of humor. And a surprise "celebrity" cameo late in the show almost brought the house to its feet. Or knees. Hard to tell. I was laughing too hard.

Breathtakingly audacious.

Fiendishly cunning.

SLEUTH

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

6:00 - Hors d'oeuvres

7:00 - Curtain

Tickets - \$35

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SLAVERY TO Freedom AN AMERICAN ODYSSEY

PART II

'The status quo does not mean democracy'

By ALLAN I. ROSS

"Slavery to Freedom: An American Odyssey" is an annual lecture series commemorating Black History Month featuring three speakers who have become icons of the African-American struggle for civil rights. Vincent Harding, 81, is the second speaker in the series. Harding is an historian, author and professor. He also wrote speeches for Martin Luther King Jr., including his famous "A Time to Break Silence" speech in 1967 that took a firm stand against the war in Vietnam.

What will you talk about?

I'm going to try to engage the community in discussion rather than have them depend on me to give them a speech with my ideas. It's going to be a dialogue, which is my preferred way of communication. I see myself as having a responsibility as an elder to urge (others) to think of who we are and what our job is. Answers aren't my focus; for me, I think it's much more important to think more deeply about the questions.

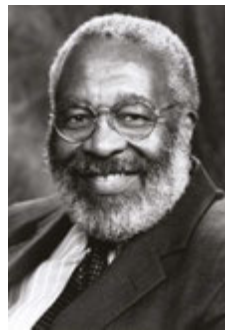
Do you think America is where it needs to be?

Of course not. We are never where we need to be, either as individuals or communities. That's the meaning of the Preamble (to the United States Constitution). We've committed ourselves not to create the perfect solution, but to keep working for "a more perfect union." That assumes there's always a better level toward which we can move.

How did you come to write "A Time to Break the Silence"?

I became very close friends (with King) over the last 10 years of his life. In that time, we talked about many things, including the injustice of the war in Vietnam. He wanted to make a full, clear statement on the issue, but he didn't have the time to craft something of that depth and intensity because of his travel schedule. So he asked me because I knew who he was and where he was coming from

and he knew that. He didn't have to tell me what to write and I didn't have to ask him. The speech was based on those 10 years together — it came from the deepest part of his heart.



Harding

He knew that until we deal with the deep problems in our society, we would always have to face Vietnams of one type or another constantly.

(From "A Time to Break the Silence":

"... (W)e as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a 'thing-oriented' society to a 'person-oriented' society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.")

Do you feel that the Civil Rights movement accomplished all of its goals?

My own understanding of what we were engaged with in the 1960s was the expansion of democracy in America, not just to do things for black people. I see all of us, all colors and backgrounds, still having at this moment to continue to expand democracy. It always needs expansion. My deepest concern is for the education for the poorest children — the ones who are least thought about in the rural and urban areas. There is no democracy if you're constantly leaving people behind.

Every generation has to move past thinking all is well because it's well for them. People like gay, lesbian, transgender — those communities have to use their experiences to make their own contributions. Every generation has to remind the status quo that the status quo does not mean democracy.

Is Black History Month is still relevant in 2013?

You can use the black experience as a way of opening up American history overall — call it the New American History. That's a story that benefits us all. The tendency is that if you're going to be an American, you've got to forget your past. But I say that to create a more perfect union, you have to remember your past so we can get to where we need to go together. I am trying to get us to commit to the building of an America that will be up to the best dreams that our best people have developed.

We've lived together now for hundreds of years, but it's only in the last 50 that we've really tried to live as a multi-cultural nation that celebrates our diversity. In that regard, we still have a long way to go.

January 24 - February 24, 2013

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Born of fire

Local author conjures up historical fiction based on real Lansing tragedy

By BILL CASTANIER

Ghosts, UFOs and other unexplained happenings provide fodder for plenty of spooky mystery novels, but author Barbara Darling Saxena said the central plot for her debut thriller, "Souviens," came to her one night after doing some genealogical research at the Library of Michigan.

Saxena was looking for an obituary in the state archives when she came across the front-page article on the horrific Hotel Kern fire of Dec. 11, 1934. The early morning fire swept through the wood frame hotel on the 100 block of Grand Avenue in downtown Lansing (an historic marker designates the location), catching most of the 215 guests

unaware until the fire alarm sounded.

As flames licked the side of the building, hotel guests scrambled to get out. Thirty-four people died, with many of them jumping to their deaths. Reports at the time said some guests jumped into the freezing Grand River, although this was never substantiated. Eight guests were saved when they jumped into nets held by firemen.

Seven of those who died were Michigan legislators in town for a special session. The Hotel Kern was a popular gathering place serving coffee all night long and, according to newspaper accounts, had "a rollicking bar scene."

Heroic firefighters, one working with a broken back after he was struck by a falling body, helped save the majority of the guests. But when the wreckage was cleared, five victims of the fire were unidentified and buried in a single plot at a local cemetery.

Saxena, 52, said "Souviens" creates a fictionalized account of one of these victims. That's where the story begins and, in some ways, ends. In between, Saxena has created a masterful story in her debut self-published work, which alternates chapters between her modern-day protagonist, Dr. Dakota Graham — who suffers from terrible lifelike dreams of a fire — and the beautiful, young Grace, who has dreams of becoming a doctor.

The author said that after she came across the story of the fire and learned of the unidentified victims, she started to write the story in her head.

"Between the time I laid my head down and fell asleep, the story came to me," she said.

As the plot alternates between Graham and Grace, who is making her way in Lansing in the 1930s, readers learn there may be a connection across time between the two protagonists. As Graham pursues the reason for her strange dreams, she confronts what Saxena calls



Courtesy Photo

Barbara Darling Saxena set her first novel in downtown Lansing, in both the present day and in the 1930s.

"ancestral dreams," or visions that have been passed down across generations. Saxena says that she made that medical characteristic up, but she goes to great lengths in the book to convince the reader it does exist.

She also infuses the thriller with specific detail about local Lansing sites, people and things, both historical and contemporary. So when an unexpected guest talks his way into her modern protagonist's office with a pizza, naturally it's from DeLuca's. Likewise, a 1930s Michigan State College Junior Hop dance, held at the former downtown Lansing Masonic Temple, is described.

Saxena likes to get her facts straight, and when historical accounts of the J-Hop didn't reveal the exact date of the event, she relentlessly pursued that piece of information, finally locating it at the MSU Archives.

The author also describes the complex relationships and mores women faced in the 1930s through Grace, who works as a bank clerk so she can go back to medical school to become a doctor.

Souviens, the name of a medical re-

search organization led by a creepy researcher in the novel, is also central to the plot, along with upset suitors, deceptions and double deceptions. A pivotal scene involves Grace's being called to the reading of a stranger's will, where she learns she is a major beneficiary. (It really gets ugly after that.)

It's a complex plot with numerous switchbacks (perhaps one too many), but Saxena keeps you guessing until the absolute end. She has taken a common feeling of déjà vu and made it into an engaging medical thriller that crosses historical timelines.

Saxena, who was born and raised in Lansing and graduated from Waverly High School, places the characters in "Souviens" in many authentic mid-Michigan settings and captures with precision the medical and scientific aspects of this complex novel. She works as a family practice physician in Grand Ledge, and has degrees in electrical engineering and a doctorate of medicine from MSU.

She said she has incorporated actual landmarks, businesses, cultural events, and collegiate facts into the novel to help illustrate what she calls "the rich tapestry of mid-Michigan life." The author said she is an avid mystery reader and was inspired by authors such as Sue Grafton, author of the Kinsey Millhone alphabet mysteries.

"Souviens" will appeal to both fans of medical thrillers and historical mysteries, Graham is propelled into increasingly dangerous circumstances as she uncovers the cause of the terrible dreams she's having and the reason for the burning sensation on the top of her hand.

Although Saxena said she wrote the book because it was on her "bucket list of things to do," she said she had so much fun writing it that another one is on her list now.

Historical Society of Greater Lansing Guest Speaker

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Barbara Darling Saxena

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OUT ON THE TOWN

Listings deadline is 5 p.m. the THURSDAY BEFORE publication. Paid classes will be listed in print at the cost of one enrollment (maximum \$20). Please submit them to the events calendar at www.lansingcitypulse.com. If you need help, please call Dana at (517) 999-5069. Email information to calendar@lansingcitypulse.com.

Lansing's Rotary Club 2013 Grant Application Deadline March 1

Lansing's Rotary Club is looking for local charities, schools and other select organizations, as part of their 2013 planned giving, to give away anywhere between \$7,000-\$15,000 to. **Deadline for applications is March 1.** Full details and applications can be found on the club's website, www.lansingrotary.com. The Rotary Club funds these grants through their annual Golf Outing and member-funded Christmas appeal.

Wednesday, February 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Drawing Class. All levels with Shirley Hazlett. Pre-registration required. 1-3:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

Community Yoga. For all levels. 6 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

After School Youth Gardening. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

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

Mid-Day Mosaic: Ash Wednesday Healing Service. 12:15-12:45 p.m. FREE. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

Moore's Park Neighborhood Meeting. 6:30-8 p.m. Shabazz Academy, 1028 W. Barnes Ave., Lansing. (517) 374-7525.

Old Everett Neighborhood Association Meeting. 7-8:30 p.m. McLaren-Greater Lansing Education Building, 401 W. Greenlawn Ave., Lansing.

EVENTS

NACW's luncheon. Honorable Judge Amy Ronayne Krause. RSVP. 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. \$20 members, \$25 guests. Walnut Hills Country Club, 2874 Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 332-8647.

Karaoke. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Reno's East, 1310 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7366.

Daddy Daughter Butterfly Ball. For elementary & middle-school girls. 7-8:30 p.m. \$14. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580 ext. 0.

See Out on the Town, Page 25

THU. FEB. 14 >> MY FUNNY VALENTINE

"My Funny Valentine" is a song that's been performed by music legends such as Frank Sinatra and Miles Davis. Modern audiences may not be that familiar with that title — it doesn't get that much radio play these days — but it inspired the name of The Avenue Café's first-ever Valentine's Day event. There will be a special Valentine's Day dinner at 7 p.m., followed by dessert and champagne to get you in the lovey-dovey mood. Then, like every Thursday, the Peter Nelson Quartet will perform at 8 p.m. Call for reservations. 8-11 p.m. \$40 per couple dinner, \$15 per couple dessert & champagne. The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550.

FEB. 14-24 >> 'SLEUTH'

Mystery. Insurance scams. A guy named Milo. Beginning Thursday, Riverwalk Theatre brings Anthony Shaffe's 1970 play "Sleuth" to the stage. The Tony-award winner tells the story of Andrew Wyke, a mystery writer past his prime, as he goes up against young travel agent Milo Tindle, who's dating Wyke's wife. What ensues is a deadly game of cat-and-mouse as two masters of wit and banter battle. If you're into mind games, then this show is for you. Or if you want to see someone in a clown costume — that works too. 7 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. \$10, \$8 students and seniors, Thursdays. \$14, \$12 seniors and students, Friday-Sunday. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.



Photo by: Luke Pline

FEB. 15-24 >> 'OLIVER TWIST'



"Please, sir, I want some more." One of the most famous (and heartbreaking) lines in literature can be heard this Friday, when Mid-Michigan Family Theatre's production of "Oliver Twist" begins its two-week run. For those who don't know the Charles Dickens tale, "Oliver Twist" focuses on the title character as he makes his way out of the workhouse and into a land of pickpockets, mystery and revenge. It's like an episode of "Law and Order," 19th century-style. So what happens to Oliver in the end? Guess you'll just have to see it to find out if he's some sort of prince ... or a pickpocket protégé. 7 p.m. Fridays, 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. \$7 students and adults, \$5 pre-schoolers. Alfreda Schmidt Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 483-6686.

FEB. 15-17 >> SPARTAN STAMPEDE RODEO

The Whiskey Barrel Saloon may have a mechanical bull named Dick, but this weekend guests can see some professional bull riders, and some actual bulls. Starting on Friday, the MSU Rodeo Club will host the 44th annual MSU Spartan Stampede at the MSU Pavilion. There'll be lots of cowboys and cowgirls hanging around, so get your hats and boots ready if you want to fit in. Riders from the International Professional Rodeo Association will put their skills to the test as they participate in a variety of rodeo challenges. Events include barrel racing, roping and steer wrestling. And unlike at Whisky Barrel, there's no thick foam mat to break their fall. 8 p.m. Feb. 15, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Feb. 16, 2 p.m. Feb. 17. \$12 & \$20 thru 2/14, \$15 & \$20 door. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

SAT. FEB. 16 >> FROSTFEST 13

This Saturday, get ready to celebrate snow's BFF, frost, at the annual Frost Fest. At noon, Frosty Feat begins, a six-hour scavenger hunt all over the Greater Lansing area. After running around all day, Frost Fest starts at 6 p.m. There will be a variety of microbrews to keep you warm and toasty, including the exclusive brew of the night: Plaid Penguin Scotch Ale. After you get your mojo going at the beer tent, head on over to hear some live music, with bands Civil Twilight, Lights and Caves and Flint Eastwood. If standing around rocking out to music isn't your thing there will be ice games and the "Cold Butt" euchre tournament. Sorry kiddos — you must be 21 or over to attend. 6-11 p.m. \$15 advance, \$20 at door. Downtown Lansing, 200 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 487-3322. frostfest.org.

SUN. FEB. 17 >> EPIFANY NOW PARTY

In the 2000 film "Pay It Forward" 90's kid star Haley Joel Osment tries to make the world a better place, by performing random acts of kindness, in the hope that others will do the same. Local group ePIFanyNow takes that concept from the big screen and puts it on the streets of Lansing. At 2 p.m. guests will gather and get information and directions, then the group will go out to "pass it forward" to the community. So what exactly are they passing forward? Not cookies or candy — kindness. They hope that one good deed from them will inspire others to do good deeds. There will also be refreshments, and an opportunity to share their day's story. So help an older person cross the street or smile at a stranger. 2-6 p.m. FREE. MSUFCU Headquarters, 3777 W. Road, East Lansing. ePIFanyNow.com.



TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

SAT. FEB. 16TH



STIKYFUT AT THE LOFT

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18+, \$5, \$8 for 18+, 8 p.m.

Detroit prog-rockers Stikyfüt return to Lansing Saturday for a gig at The Loft. The “gypsy art-rock” band takes from a variety of genres, from jazz and Latin, to rock, jam and metal. Fans of Shocking Blue might want to check out this show. Stikyfüt, which originally formed in Kalamazoo, features vocalist Emily Detwiler, Phillip Wrenbeck (guitar), Jared Field (drums) and bassist Jordan Landau. Since the band’s first performance in March 2011, they’ve become known across the state for powerful blues riffs and funky arrangements, blanketed with Detwiler’s soulful vocals. In January 2012, the band self-released its debut six-song EP, “Labels Are For Soup Cans,” which is streamed at stikyfut.bandcamp.com. It’s also available as a free download. Opening The Loft show is Jory Stultz, Chemical Edge and Mr. Denton On Doomsday.

STARFARM AT LOU & HARRY'S



FRI. FEB. 15TH

Lou & Harry's, 16800 Chandler Road, East Lansing, all ages, free, 10 p.m.

For those who prefer the golden age of New Wave, the Starfarm gig this weekend at Lou & Harry's Sports Bar and Grill is the place to be. The colorful, high energy cover band plays a long list of totally '80s pop and rock songs, dressed in Run-D.M.C.-style Adidas tracksuits, topped off with headbands and British Knights shoes. The East Lansing-based band has worked seemingly nonstop since it formed over a decade ago. The group is co-led by vocalists Whitney Spotts and Dan Malnar, and cover a broad range of '80s tunes, including hits from Madonna, Prince and Duran Duran. The band also throws in a few rockers from the likes of The Ramones, Bon Jovi and Journey, and comes equipped with a state of the art sound and light system.

SUPERCHRIST AT MAC'S



SAT. FEB. 16TH

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over \$7, 9 p.m.

While the Chicago-based band's debut album wasn't released until 2002, Superchrist has been playing tried-and-true heavy metal since 1998. Fans of Motörhead, Warfare or Tank might appreciate the band's heavy throwback sound. Saturday Superchrist returns to Mac's Bar. Opening the gig are Dark Psychosis, Isenblast and Dozic. The band's drummer, Ian Sugiarski, is from the Lansing area and is known as a past member of Red Swan and Wastelander. The band released its eighth album, “Holy Shit,” last year – it's available on Hells Headbangers. Fans of Midnight, Speedwolf or Abigail might want to pick up a copy. Superchrist is already writing material for its ninth album and will debut some of the new tracks at the Mac's Bar show.

FOLKY VALENTINE AT PUMP HOUSE



SAT. FEB. 16TH

Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing, all ages, 7 p.m.

Americana duo Annie & Rod Capps host their 9th Annual “My Folky Valentine” Saturday at the Pump House in a concert described as “a celebration of love and music.” The Chelsea-based married duo writes songs with a rootsy twang and a soulful groove, and has released a stack of roots albums, some of which have earned them Detroit Music Award nominations. Also performing at the Pump House are Bill & Kate Isles (Duluth-based acoustic duo), The Ya Yas (folk-pop trio from Mohegan Lake, N.Y.), and The Marvins, a Rochester, N.Y., band that mixes indie rock and folk. The Marvins features the married songwriting couple Peter LeClair and Carmen Paradise, who spent time a few years back performing in Lansing — Paradise also played in the local space-rock band Calliope.

MIRANDA & BENTLEY AT BRESLIN



SAT. FEB. 23RD

Breslin Center, 1 Birch Road, East Lansing, \$28-\$53, 6:30 p.m.

Pop country super stars Miranda Lambert and Dierks Bentley bring their “Locked & Reloaded” Tour to the Jack Breslin Student Event Center Feb. 23. Lambert is a Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter who's also brought home a few CMA and ACM awards. Her newest album, “Four The Record,” made history when it debuted atop Billboard's Top Country Albums chart, making Lambert the first country artist in the 47-year history of the chart to have each of her first four albums debut at No. 1. Bentley is a multi-platinum selling singer-songwriter who combines slick modern-country songwriting with influences of bluegrass and bits of pop rock. Bentley's sixth studio album, “Home,” was released earlier this year and also debuted at No. 1.

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

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Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Stages, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.	Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.	Bill Bushart, 8 p.m.	Bill Bushart, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Bill Bushart, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Mighty Medicine, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 10 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Wine Night, 8:30 p.m.	The Smoking Jackets, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.
The Firm, 229 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	L2L Valentine Dance, 8:30 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Blastica, 9:30 p.m.	Big Willy, 9:30 p.m.	Root Doctor, 9:30 p.m.	The Squids, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Throwdown Finals, 7 p.m.	Stikyfüt, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	The Malah, 9 p.m.	Phourthelove & Rus Darko, 6 p.m.	Pacifier, 9 p.m.	Superchrist, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9:30 p.m.	Big Willy, 9:30 p.m.	Big Willy, 9:30 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sea Cruisers, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Dance Party, 9 p.m.	Live Bands, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Various Artists, 9 p.m.	Various Artists, 9 p.m.	Various Artists, 9 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8 p.m.	Old Town Blues Band, 8 p.m.	Old Town Blues Band, 8 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive	Suzi & The Love Brothers, 6 p.m.	Craig Hendershott, 6 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert	D.J., 9 p.m.	Gunnar & the Grizzly Boys, 9 p.m.	Scott Thompson Band, 9 p.m.	Scott Thompson Band, 9 p.m.

Sunday Karaoke, 9 p.m. Drag Queens Gone Wild, 11 p.m., Spiral Dance Bar; DJ Mike, 9:30 p.m., LeRoy's Bar & Grill; Open Mic, 5 p.m., Open Blues Jam, 7-11 p.m. Uli's Haus of Rock.
Monday Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babies funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange. Open-Mic Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Michigan Brewing Company-Lansing. Monday Funday, 9 p.m., The Firm.
Tuesday Tommy Foster & Guitar Bob, 9 p.m., The Exchange; Neon Tuesday, 9 p.m., Mac's Bar. Jazz Tuesday Open Jam, 9 p.m., Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave.

Out on the town

from page 23

THEATER

"Sister Act: A Divine Musical Comedy."

Musical version of the hit movie. 7:30 p.m. \$32-\$72. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Thursday, February 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Writers Roundtable. Get feedback on your work.

6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.
"Slavery to Freedom" speaker series. Vincent Harding, Martin Luther King Jr.'s anti-Vietnam speech writer. 5 p.m. FREE. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson Road, East Lansing.
Drop-In Art Class. For preschoolers. 10-11:30 a.m. \$1 per child per class. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 323-8555.
Polarity Yoga & 5 Tibetan Rites. Taught by Danelle Hutcheson. Drop-ins welcome. 12:10-12:50 p.m. & 5:45-7 p.m. \$10 per class, \$48 for 6 weeks. ACC Natural Healing & Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing.
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.
Water media. All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.
After School Youth Gardening. Kids Time: ages 5-10. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.
Drawing Class. All levels with Shirley Hazlett. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.
Ingham County Genealogical Society Meeting. Speaker Robert Strobel. 7 p.m. Vevay Township Hall, 780 Eden Road, Mason. (517) 676-7140.
Tarot Study Group. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112. triplegoddessbookstore.net.

(517) 351-9240. creativewellness.net.
Self Defense for Teens. Ages 13-18. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.
Travelogue Series. "Our Wonderful National Parks." 7 p.m. \$2 suggested donation. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4233.
Colloquia Series. Speaker Dr. Kristie Dotson, Department of Philosophy. Room 201. 1:30-3 p.m. FREE. MSU International Center, 169 International Ctr., East Lansing. (517) 353-5040. msu.edu.

EVENTS

Fish Fry. 5 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 kids, FREE 4 and under. Cristo Rey Church, 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 410-0688.
Used Book Sale. Books, records & more. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-9588.
Community Reception. Meet artist Amelia Falk. 7-9 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square, Suite 101, Lansing. (517) 374-6400.
Ruth Hallman's Annual Bday Party. Proceeds to Lansing Police Station Solving Overtime Fund. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. IBEW Local 665, 5205 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing. (517) 897-2506.

MUSIC

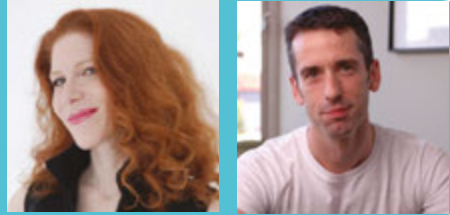
Grand River Radio Diner. Desmond Jones &

See Out on the Town, Page 26

Advice Goddess & Savage Love

CAN NOW BE READ ONLINE

www.lansingcitypulse.com



Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Free to Be"-- more words at large.
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Brick carrier
- 4 1450, to Nero
- 8 Is acquainted with
- 13 Old health resorts
- 15 Gas checked in home safety tests
- 16 Like bad lending
- 17 OutKast member ____ 3000
- 18 Debate attack
- 19 ____ positive
- 20 Co. whose mascot is Nipper
- 21 Deer relative
- 22 Abbr. after a phone number
- 24 "____ Blues" ("White Album" song)

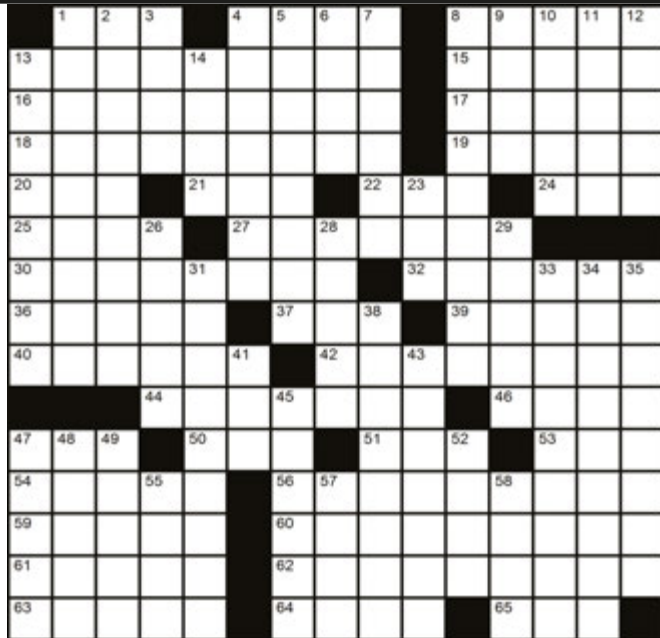
- Spanish
- 51 Firework without the pop
- 53 Seasonal Will Ferrell movie
- 54 Medicine man, hopefully
- 56 Con artist's cube
- 59 ____ 2600 (system with blocky graphics)
- 60 Grocery store number
- 61 Doc in the field
- 62 Clean version of a song
- 63 It's pulled in April
- 64 In ____ (at heart)
- 65 1988 Dennis Quaid remake

Down

- 1 Lollipops and peppermints and such
- 2 Like some catches
- 3 She teamed with

- Eminem in 2000
- 4 1996 kids' movie directed by Danny DeVito
- 5 Anchor that stayed put for many years
- 6 Serious
- 7 They're the target of simple terms
- 8 "Autobahn" group
- 9 Elder relative, to some
- 10 In a strange way
- 11 On the decline
- 12 Billy Idol expression
- 13 More lively
- 14 Not feisty
- 23 "The Mayor of Simpleton" band
- 26 "By the ____ Get to Phoenix"
- 28 Ryan or Boone
- 29 Architect Saarinen
- 31 Deck diversion

- 33 "Yessirree!"
- 34 "Falcon Crest" actress with the real last name Ortiz
- 35 Fuzzy four on the floor
- 38 Scrape covers
- 41 Org. that gives out 9-digit IDs
- 43 It may clash with the rest of the suit
- 45 Draw
- 47 Lovable rascal
- 48 Like shells
- 49 Devil's brand
- 52 ____-Provera (birth control injection)
- 55 PG&E opponent Brockovich
- 57 "Business Goes ____ Usual" (Roberta Flack song)
- 58 Scott who sued to end his own slavery



EVENTS

Paws for Reading. All reading levels. Read to therapy dogs. 11 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.
Spanish Conversation Group. English & Spanish spoken. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.
Euchre. No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.
Karaoke. With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.
Benefit for Ed Lahti. Bucket auction. 4-9 p.m. Salon Karma, 3050 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 336-9000. salonkarmalansing.com.

THEATER

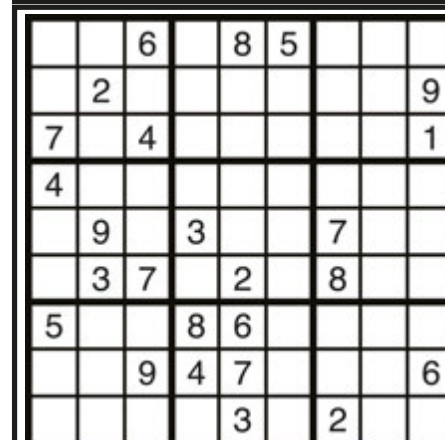
"End Days." A story exploring love, loss and family. 8 p.m. \$20. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.com.
"Sister Act: A Divine Musical Comedy." 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 13.)

Friday, February 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Oil Painting. With Patricia Singer. Pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.
MSU Community Club. Tour of new College of Nursing building. 12:30-2:30 p.m. MSU College of Nursing, 1355 Bogue St., MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 668-6156.
Partner Massage. Tips of massage. Call to register. 6-9 p.m. \$80 per couple. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing.

SUDOKU



INTERMEDIATE

TO PLAY

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

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

Answers on page 27

228 Museum Drive, across from Lansing Center

Riverwalk Theatre

SLEUTH

Mystery by Anthony Shaffer
Directed by Mary K. Hodges-Nees

Intellectual mind games turn deadly when a fading mystery writer takes revenge. *Sleuth* is a thriller whose audacious plot twists create suspense and excitement galore — featuring Jeff Magnuson and Joseph Mull.

RESERVATIONS
482-5700

February 14-17 & 21-24

\$14 (\$12 sr/student/military)

7 pm Thur; 8 pm Fri & Sat; 2 pm Sun.

482-5700 • RiverwalkTheatre.com

EAGLEMONK PUB AND BREWERY



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery, which opened last year, makes nine different types of craft beer, three wines and four types of homemade soda.



By ALLAN I. ROSS

Lansing is in the middle of a brewing renaissance — and the outlook is only getting sudsier. In the last year, we've seen an influx of homebrew supply stores, a flurry of craft beer taps pop up in restaurants all over town and the opening of two new microbreweries — with the promise of two more to come before 2014. So what's the deal — did Homer Simpson find a genie's lamp or something?

The leader of the pack was Dan Buonodono, who opened the **EagleMonk Pub and Brewery** last year with his wife, Sonia. EagleMonk is the only microbrewery in Lansing (for now) and it's quietly been building a following with its handcrafted beer, homemade soda and specialty pizza dough. It works out to be an interesting new phase for Buonodono's life, who retired from working an information technology for the state three years ago.

"It's not just a hobby," Buonodono said. "It's my retirement plan. I started making beer 29 years ago for fun, but now it's my life."

Buonodono's lineup consists of six rotating taps and three full-time brews: the signature Red Eye Rye, Annie's IPA (a British-style India Pale Ale) and the EagleMonk IPA (American-style). There's always either a stout or a porter ready to go (lately, it's been the Marcy Street Stout) and three wines, which are mostly Italian. Coming soon is the Winter Warmer, which he let me sample. It's going to go great with a couple of more inches of snow on the ground.

EagleMonk took over a building that had been many things over the years, including a service station, an ice cream parlor and a party store. Buonodono grew up about a mile and a half from here, on Lansing's west side, but had no memory of the building.

"It was kind of unassuming," he said. "But I put a year of work into this. I think it stand out a little more now."

That kelly green paint job and the big reveal of extra windows certainly makes it more inviting. As for the name, well, that's nothing more than a mash-up of the symbol of these here United States and Buonodono's favorite brewers. So, to speak in symbol talk, EagleMonk means "American Great Beer Maker."

Buonodono subscribes to the whole "rising tide lifts all boats" idea when it comes to the competition. Last fall, **BAD Brewing Co.** opened in Mason, and two more are on the way, but he's all smiles.

"I can't wait for **HopCat** and the **Lansing Brewing Co.** to get here," he said. They're both supposed to open in August. "It's going to attract so many more beer lovers to the area. You watch — Lansing is going to become a beer destination."

And EagleMonk is all about spreading the "made local" love. They get their sandwich bread from **Roma Bakery**, the ice cream comes from the **MSU Dairy Store** and sandwiches arrive with **Better Made Chips**.

Sonia Buonodono says that they're thinking of adding a lunch menu this spring, as well as a beer garden for an authentic beerophile experience. After all, what better way to enjoy an authentic, handcrafted beer than outdoors? After it warms up, of course. That Winter Warmer can only do so much on its own.

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mt. Hope Highway, Lansing
3 p.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday;
noon-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday;
noon-8 p.m. Sunday
(517) 708-7350
eaglemonkbrewing.com

Out on the town

from page 25

Hall and Morgan. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710.

Hap Hazard. 9:15 p.m. Coach's Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Road, Lansing. (517) 882-2013.

Coffee House Music. Brandon Grafius & Randy Roy. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. PilgrimUCC.com.

Boogie Dynamite. 10:30 p.m. Harper's, 131 Albert Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-4040.

Faculty Recital. Rodney Whitaker's birthday celebration. 8 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & those under 18. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing.

Singer/Songwriter's Event. Variety of musicians. Food & drink. 6-10 p.m. Charlotte VFW Post 2406, 695 Lansing Road, Charlotte.

THEATER

Coarse Acting Shows. Shows how good "bad" theatre is. 8 p.m. \$5 student, seniors, LCC staff/alumni, \$10 adults. Black Box, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488.

"End Days." 8 p.m. \$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details Feb. 14.)

"Princess and the Pea" & "Rapunzel." The two classic fairy tales. 7 p.m. \$7 18 & over, \$5 under 17. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580 ext. 0.

"Sister Act: A Divine Musical Comedy." 8 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 13.)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Pizza Party for Ally Carter. "Heist Society" series author. 6 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

Saturday, February 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Saving Your Memories in a Digital World. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393. iteclansing.org.

Partner Massage. Learn tips of massage. Instructor Corey Rivera. 2-5 p.m. \$80 per couple. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. creativewellness.net.

Tai Chi in the Park. Taught by Bob Teachout. 9 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Financial Fitness Session I: Money Management. Register. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 708-2550.

Making the Most of Your Gmail Account. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4392. iteclansing.org.

GarageBand Workshop. 1 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

EVENTS

Art Reception. This month's featured exhibit. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

Mini Chili Cook-Off. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

Mobile Food Pantry. Distribution of food. Must have valid ID. 9-11 a.m. South Church of the Nazarene, 401 W. Holmes Road, Lansing. (517) 483-4477.

Owl Prowl. Bring item from Wildside's Wish list.

Activities. 5-9 p.m. \$5 members, \$8 non-members. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030. woldumar.org.

Victorian Style Fundraiser. Showing "Topsy Turvy." Proceeds sponsor Gilbert & Sullivan sing-along. Noon. \$10. Sun Theatre, 316 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 488-8010. grandledgesun.com.

Used Book Sale. Fill a bag or box for \$5. 10 a.m.-Noon. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-9588.

Jazz 4 the Lil 1s. Featuring Rodney Whitaker Quintet. All ages welcome. 2-3 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

MUSIC

Music at the Market. Taylor Taylor. 1-4 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

An Evening with May Erlewine. 8 p.m. \$10. The Coffeehouse at All Saints, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7160. allsaints-el.org.

Children's Concert Series. Tunes 'n Tales by Tricia. 11 a.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 319-6929.

THEATER

"End Days." 3 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$22 & \$25.

Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details Feb. 14.)

"Princess and the Pea" & "Rapunzel." 2 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. \$7 18 & above, \$5 under 17. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (Please see details 15.)

"Sister Act: A Divine Musical Comedy." 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 13.)

Coarse Acting Shows. 8 p.m. \$5 students, seniors, LCC staff/alumni, \$10 adults. Black Box, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 15.)

Sunday, February 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing Meeting. Talk on Michigan fishes. Potluck dinner. 2-5 p.m. FREE. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 482-8357.

Juggling. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 485-9190.

Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation & Silent Prayer. One of Mata Yoganandaji's "Inspiring Talks." 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201.

Beginning Classical Yang Tai Chi. Instructor Tim Bernath-Plaisted. Reserve your spot. 3-4 p.m. \$95. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. creativewellness.net.

Intermediate Tai Chi. Instructor Tim Bernath-Plaisted. Reserve your spot. 4-5 p.m. \$95. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. creativewellness.net.

GriefShare Seminar. A DVD series, with small support group discussion. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Grace UMC, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 490-3218.

EVENTS

Capital Area Singles Dance. With door prizes. 6-10 p.m. \$8. Fraternal Order of Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 819-0405.

Showbiz Sundays Drag Review. Miss Delicious, Maria Mirelez & hosted by Ace DeVille. Guest stars. 11:30 p.m. \$5. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing. (517) 371-3221. spiraldancebar.com.

Out on the town

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MUSIC

Tuba and Bones. Variety of musicians. 3 p.m. \$15. Molly Grove Chapel of First Presbyterian Church, 510 West Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 487-5001.

Mid-Michigan Blue Grass. Music & jam areas. 2-6 p.m. \$4, \$2 seniors. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.

Greg Nagy. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing. (517) 485-0030. bar30.com.

Benjamin Francis Leftwich. 7 p.m. \$8. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795.

Eric Jerome Brodberg Acoustic Show. 6 p.m. FREE. Colonial Bar and Grill, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 525-5850. brodbergband.com.

Verdehr Trio 40th Anniversary Concert. 3 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & under 18. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

The Jazz Doggs. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

THEATER

"End Days." A story exploring love, loss and family. 2 p.m. \$22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details Feb. 14.)

"Sister Act: A Divine Musical Comedy." 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 13.)

Monday, February 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Tech Bytes: Library ebooks. Noon-12:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

Kundalini Yoga. All levels. Taught by Emily Emersén. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 for 6 weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing.

Learn to Meditate. Focus on secular fundamentals. 7:45-8:30 p.m. FREE, donations. C. Weaver Physical Therapy Exercise Studio, 1720 Abbey Road, East Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Photography Class. With Ron St. Germain. 6:30-9 p.m. \$55. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.

Metaphysical Mondays. Discussion. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

Healthy Minds: Why Your Thoughts Matter. Speaker Tennille Shin. 6:15 p.m. Holt Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship, 5682 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 699-8550.

Quarterly Peace & Justice Events Planning Meeting. 7-9 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. (517) 410-1243.

EVENTS

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

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

Auditions for "A Walk in the Woods." 6-8:30 p.m. Production fees if cast for show. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 339-2145. mmft.net.

See Out on the Town, Page 28

City Pulse Classifieds

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

1970 Dodge Charger R/T 440 Magnum, automatic, BLACK ON BLACK, factory A/C, asking \$8500, sorregy8@juno.com / 734-363-8135

Physics: The Michigan State University National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory seeks qualified candidates for the following full time positions: Professor (East Lansing, MI). Serve as the Superconducting Radio Frequency Department Manager within the Accelerator Systems Division of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) Project; manage the design, fabrication, installation, and commissioning of all Superconducting Radio Frequency systems of the FRIB project safely and within approved budget and schedule. Oversee and conduct accelerator physics experiments with rare isotopes. Qualified candidates will possess a Ph.D. in Physics or closely related field + 4 years exp. in any related physics research position. Must have four years exp in the development of superconducting radio frequency technology. Must have expertise and development capability of superconducting radio frequency technology. To apply for this posting, please go to www.jobs.msu.edu and search for posting number 7305. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

Hip WM 50 seeks 2F's of Fire/Air Sign 4 Live-In FWB. Call (517) 290-9952 or dmatural@myway.com.

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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

February 13-19

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Afrikaner author Laurens van der Post told a story about a conversation between psychologist Carl Jung and Ochwiay Biano, a Pueblo Indian chief. Jung asked Biano to offer his views about white people. "White people must be crazy because they think with their heads," said the chief, "and it is well-known that only crazy people do that." Jung asked him what the alternative was. Biano said that his people think with their hearts. That's your assignment for the week ahead, Aries: to think with your heart — especially when it comes to love. For extra credit, you should feel with your head — especially when it comes to love. Happy Valentine Daze, Aries!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Have you ever sent a torrent of smart and elegant love messages to a person you wanted to get closer to? Now would be an excellent time to try a stunt like that. Have you ever scoured the depths of your own psyche in search of any unconscious attitudes or bad habits that might be obstructing your ability to enjoy the kind of intimacy you long for? I highly recommend such a project right now. Have you ever embarked on a crusade to make yourself even more interesting and exciting than you already are? Do it now. Raise your irresistibility! Happy Valentine Daze, Taurus!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Happy Valentine Daze, Gemini! After careful meditation about what messages might purify and supercharge your love life, I decided to offer suggestions about what *not* to do. To that end, I'll quote some lines from Kim Addonizio's poem "Forms of Love." Please don't speak any of them out loud, or even get yourself into a position where it makes sense to say them. 1. "I love how emotionally unavailable you are." 2. "I love you and feel a powerful spiritual connection to you, even though we've never met." 3. "I love your pain, it's so competitive." 4. "I love you as long as you love me back." 5. "I love you when you're not getting drunk and stupid." 6. "I love you but I'm married." 7. "I love it when you tie me up with ropes using the knots you learned in Boy Scouts, and when you do the stoned Dennis Hopper rap from *Apocalypse Now!*"

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This Valentine season, I suggest you consider trying an experiment like this: Go to the soulful ally you want to be closer to and take off at least some of your masks. Drop your pretenses, too. Shed your emotional armor and do without your psychological crutches. Take a chance on getting as psychologically and spiritually naked as you have ever dared. Are you brave enough to reveal the core truths about yourself that lie beneath the convenient truths and the expired truths and the pretend truths?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "Sex is a substitute for God," says writer Cathryn Michon. "When we desire another human being sexually, we are really only trying to fill our longing for ecstasy and union with the infinite." I agree with her, and I think you might, too, after this week. Erotic encounters will have an even better chance than usual of connecting you to the Sublime Cosmic YumYum. If you can't find a worthy collaborator to help you accomplish this miraculous feat, just fantasize about one. You need and deserve spiritual rapture. Happy Valentine Daze, Leo!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Lately you've been doing exemplary work on your relationship with yourself, Virgo. You have half-convinced your inner critic to shut the frack up unless it has a truly important piece of wisdom to impart. Meanwhile, you've managed to provide a small but inspired dose of healing for the wounded part of your psyche, and you have gently exposed a self-deception that had been wreaking quiet havoc. Congratulations! I've got a hunch that all these fine efforts will render you extra sexy and charismatic in the coming week. But it will probably be a subtle kind of sexiness and charisma that only the most emotionally intelligent people will recognize. So don't expect to

attract the attention of superficial jerks who happen to have beautiful exteriors. Happy Valentine Daze!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The coming days could be an animalistic time for you, and I mean that in the best sense. I suspect you will generate lots of favorable responses from the universe if you honor the part of you that can best be described as a beautiful beast. Learn fun new truths about your instinctual nature. Explore the mysteries of your primal urges. See what you can decipher about your body's secret language. May I also suggest that you be alert for and receptive to the beautiful beast in other people? Happy Valentine Daze, Libra!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): For the French Scorpio poet Paul Valéry, swimming had an erotic quality. He described it as *fornication avec l'onde*, which can be translated as "fornicating with the waves." Your assignment this Valentine season, Scorpio, is to identify at least three activities that are like sex but not exactly sex — and then do them with glee and abandon. The purpose of this exercise is to educate and cultivate your libido; to encourage your kundalini to branch out as it intensifies and expands your lust for life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This Valentine season, meditate on the relentlessness of your yearning for love. Recognize the fact that your eternal longing will never leave you in peace. Accept that it will forever delight you, torment you, inspire you, and bewilder you — whether you are alone or in the throes of a complicated relationship. Understand that your desire for love will just keep coming and coming and coming, keeping you slightly off-balance and pushing you to constantly revise your ideas about who you are. Now read this declaration from the poet Rilke and claim it as your own: "My blood is alive with many voices that tell me I am made of longing."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): According to physicists Yong Mao and Thomas Fink, you can tie a necktie in 85 different kinds of knots, but only 13 of those actually look good. I encourage you to apply that way of thinking to pretty much everything you do in the coming week. Total success will elude you if you settle on functional solutions that aren't aesthetically pleasing. You should make sure that beauty and usefulness are thoroughly interwoven. This is especially true in matters regarding your love life and close relationships. Togetherness needs a strong dose of lyrical pragmatism. Happy Valentine Daze, Capricorn!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "All these years I've been searching for an impossible love," said French writer Marguerite Duras late in her life. The novels and films she created reflect that feeling. Her fictional characters are often engaged in obsessive quests for an ideal romance that would allow them to express their passion perfectly and fulfill their longing completely. In the meantime, their actual relationships in the real world suffer, even as their starry-eyed aspirations remain forever frustrated. I invite you, Aquarius, to celebrate this Valentine season by taking a vow of renunciation. Summon the courage to forswear Duras's doomed approach to love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): To avoid getting hacked, computer tech experts advise you to choose strong, hard-to-guess passwords for your online accounts. Among the worst choices to protect your security are "123456," "iloveyou," "qwerty," and, of course, "password." Judging by the current astrological omens, Pisces, I'm guessing that you should have a similar approach to your whole life in the coming days. It's important that you be picky about who you allow into your heart, mind, and soul. Make sure that only the most trustworthy and sensitive people can gain access. Your metaphorical password might be something like this: `m*#s@t&e!r%y`.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 25

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 25

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Out on the town

from page 27

MUSIC

Open Mic Blues Mondays. Blues, rock and spoken word. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Beer Co., 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.
Faculty Recital. 7:30 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & those under 18. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Girls' Night Out. Wendy Webb, author of "The Fate of Mercy Alban" & "The Tale of Halcyon Crane." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.
Meet Jane Vincent Taylor. Author of "The Lady Victory." 7 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Tuesday, February 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Budding Naturalists: Cabin Fever. 11 a.m.-Noon. \$5 first child & \$3 each additional child advance, \$8 & \$5 day of. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.
Staying Connected with Facebook. 6-8 p.m. FREE. YMCA, 119 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 708-4392. iteclansing.org.
Explore the World Wide Web. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4392. iteclansing.org.

Tai Chi & Qigong. Taught by Bruce Ching. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 for 6 weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia, Lansing.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh, 6 p.m. Meeting, 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.

Intro to Computers. Learn from professionals. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

Water media. All levels, with Donna Randall. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

After School Youth Gardening. Kids Time: ages 5-10. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Compassionate Friends Support Group. For grieving parents who have lost a child. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Salvation Army South Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 339-3553.

Churchill Downs Neighborhood Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. churchilldownslansing.info.

Healthy Habits. 5:15 p.m. \$30, \$50 for 2. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

The Third City & America. Speaker Dr. Carl Taylor, MSU Professor of Sociology. 7 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Creative Writing Group. 7:30-9 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

EVENTS

DTDL Crafters. Projects. Bring own supplies. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library,

5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.
Kid Zone: Chinese New Year. Ages 5-8. Stories, games, activities & craft. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

Café Scientifique. Speaker Professor Meg Elias. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

Tea & Talk. Salon Style discussions. 8 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 347-2112.

Auditions for "A Walk in the Woods." 6-8:30 p.m. Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 18.)

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays. Hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet & will feature regular guest artists from the MSU Jazz Studies Department. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Wednesday, February 20

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Coupon Swap. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

Drawing Class. All levels with Shirley Hazlett. Pre-registration required. 1-3:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.
Community Yoga. For all levels. 6 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

After School Youth Gardening. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Meditation. For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S.

Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

Colonial Village Neighborhood Meeting. 7 p.m. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 487-1713. cvnnews.com.

Gun Safety Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

EVENTS

Karaoke. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Reno's East, 1310 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7366.

GLHC Theater Party. Buffet, 6 p.m. "Sleuth," 7 p.m. Makes reservations by Feb. 15. \$35. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 372-5980.

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing, 7 p.m. Modern-style square dancing, 7:30 p.m. \$4 club members, \$5 guests. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

MUSIC

Ladysmith Black Mambazo. South African dance & a cappella group. 7:30 p.m. \$28-\$41. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Faculty Recital. 7:30 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & those under 18. Cook Recital Hall, Music Building, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Tween Book Club. Ages 9-12. "Moon Over Manifest," Claire Vanderpool. Call to register. 4-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.
DTDL Book Club. "Icy Sparks," Gwyn Hyman Rubio. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

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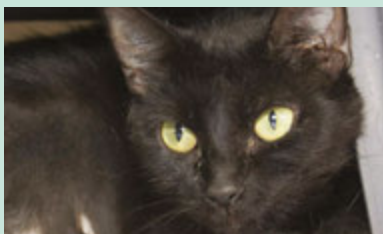
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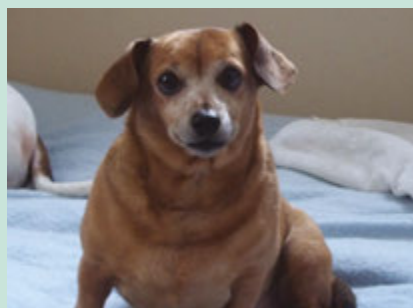
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We olive a good burger

Food Fight tackles Michigan original

By ALLANI ROSS

Of the many things Michigan is famous for — the Great Lakes, Motown music, Madonna — some things tend to fly under the national radar and remain (mostly) local secrets — the Sleeping Bear Dunes, Mackinac Island, Bruce Campbell. You may be surprised to find out that the subject of this month's Food Fight is one of these Michigan originals: olive burgers. That's right: chopped green olives stirred into mayo and slathered on a burger started right here in the Mitten. And according to one of the restaurants on our tour, they started at that particular establishment.

We narrowed the list of the area's best olive burgers down to seven restaurants, based on an informal online poll through City Pulse's Facebook page. Our team then spent one whole night driving around town, divvying up a burger at each place and ranking it in an utterly subjective and entirely unscientific fashion. The burgers were graded from 1 to 10 in six sections, with those scores averaged together to get an overall rating. Each part of the burger was graded separately (patty, bun, olive sauce, toppings) as well as the cost per portion and an unspecified X-factor category, which either hurt or helped the score based on that judge's overall perception.

And yeah, we understood the futility of undertaking a project like olive burgers. There's not a lot of middle ground — you either love 'em or you hate 'em. Kind of like Kid Rock, another Michigan original. What is it about our state that creates such a dichotomy in our collective taste?

Weston's Kewpee Sandwich Shoppe: 6.6 out of 10

Out of the more than 50 people who weighed in on our Facebook page, more than a quarter suggested Kewpee's as the best in town. We're not sure if this was out of nostalgia or if the downtown staple recently changed its recipe, but we certainly didn't find this to be the case at all. The olive sauce was "barely perceptible," the bun was deemed "too plain" and the patty reminded one of us of "a middle school cafeteria burger." One of our judges found the sauce had "a nice tang," however, and we all found the Swiss cheese "really worked" in tandem with the sauce. We went with the "colossal" size, which didn't seem enough for the \$8. And bad news: no sides. *Kewpee's, 118 S. Washington Square, Lansing, (517) 482-8049.*

LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill: 7.2 out of 10

When we called ahead to make sure they had olive burgers on the menu, we were told



Dan Hartley/City Pulse

Olympic Broil in Lansing claims to have invented the olive burger in 1967.

on the phone: "Sure do — best olive burgers in town." That may not have been the case, but it certainly was decent. For \$4.51, it was declared a "good cost for an acceptable burger," but some of us found it "overcooked" and the patty "under-seasoned." It was utterly conventional across the board otherwise, with nothing objectionable standing out — the words "fair," "average" and "typical" popped up a few times. Alas, none of us used the word "best." *LeRoy's, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing, (517) 482-0184.*

Peanut Barrel: 7.5 out of 10

This "solid, no-frills burger" has the "olive-iest" sauce in town, for which it earned high marks from all our judges. One of our judges thoroughly enjoyed the "backyard barbecue taste," but another thought it was "on the bland side." The scoop-shape of the sauce was a little off-putting; the mini-dome on top of the burger just looked weird. And come on, Peanut Barrel, can you abolish the "two Long Island maximum" rule already? Some of us can handle it. *Peanut Barrel, 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing, (517) 351-0608.*

Leo's Outpost: 7.7 out of 10

Leo's was one of only two places, besides Peanut Barrel, to take a temperature on the burger. We ordered ours medium rare, and it came out just the way we liked it — warm, but still a little pink in the middle. The "tender," "well-seasoned" patty had the "best texture" and was called out for its freshness across the board. The sauce had a "good mayo-to-olive ratio" and the "slightly buttered" "grilled sesame" bun was nice. It did come with fries, possibly the reason it was one of the more expensive burgers of the night (\$9.74), which we agreed was worth it. *Leo's Outpost, 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, (517) 367-7755.*

Bonnie's Place: 8.1 out of 10

For a place that's built its reputation on having the best burgers in town, well, they're not too far off base. The patty was thick and juicy, the toasted sesame seed bun was a nice touch, and the "dynamite" olive sauce had chopped onions in it — a welcome twist on the traditional mayo-and-olive recipe. Basically, "a solid olive burger, but nothing really special stands out." The big scoop here was our waitress's confirmation that Bonnie's is being sold soon, possibly as early as the end of the month. Whether it's actually closing re-

Food Fight

from page 26

mains to be seen. *Bonnie's Place*, 415 E. Saginaw St., Lansing, (517) 482-4404.

Olympic Broil Restaurant: 8.8 out of 10

It's always difficult to pull off a true surprise Food Fight at an establishment — the whole “four to six people sharing one dish” thing tends to raise a few eyebrows. So, inevitably, when we ordered our olive burger and sat down to dig in, owner Mike Alexander stopped by to see what we were up to. We admitted our mission, and he surprised us with the little tidbit that his father, Jimmy — a Greek immigrant and the founder of “Ollie Bro” (as some of our judges have lovingly nicknamed the place) — was the inventor of the olive burger. Alexander even said he had photographic evidence (and the trademark) to prove it: A menu from 1967, but we didn't stick around to see it. We did, however, enjoy the “soft, thick” patty with “olives that were gushing off the side” and the best price in town: \$3.09 for a double. We all enjoyed the sesame seed bun as well as the fresh lettuce and tomato. The sauce itself was unremarkable, “pretty classic,” but we'll definitely be back — if, for no other reason, to see that menu. That's history, folks. *Olympic Broil*, 1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing (517) 485-8584.

Harry's Place : 9.2 out of 10

Full disclosure: This place was already a favorite for one of the judges. He showed us that the best way to order an olive burger is taking one of Harry's Greek Burgers (which is stuffed with olives, feta cheese and sundried tomatoes and topped with tzatziki sauce) and add olive sauce to it. Opa! The best olive burger in town, and our judges couldn't stop raving. “Olive sauce and tzatziki are a deadly combo.” “Stuffed with deliciousness.” “Too much awesomeness to deny.” “Great, spongy sesame seed bun holds it together perfectly.” Yeah, it was a special order, which could be considered cheating, but when you stumble on something great, how can you not share it with the world? Ladies and gentlemen, we humbly submit Lansing's best-kept secret. *Harry's Place*, 404 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing, (517) 484-9661.

We had also planned to visit Center Stage in Lansing Township, a place none of us had previously visited, but we had a bad surprise. We even called ahead to make sure they served olive burgers and to find out what time the kitchen was open until (yes, and 11 p.m., respectively), but when we showed up at 10:30 p.m., they were closed. This would have been the first time any of us would have dined there, based on three shout-outs to the place on our Facebook wall, but pulling the ol' early close earned no new fans that day.

If you'd like to weigh in with your own choices or rip any of ours to shreds, email us at food@lansingcitypulse.com.



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