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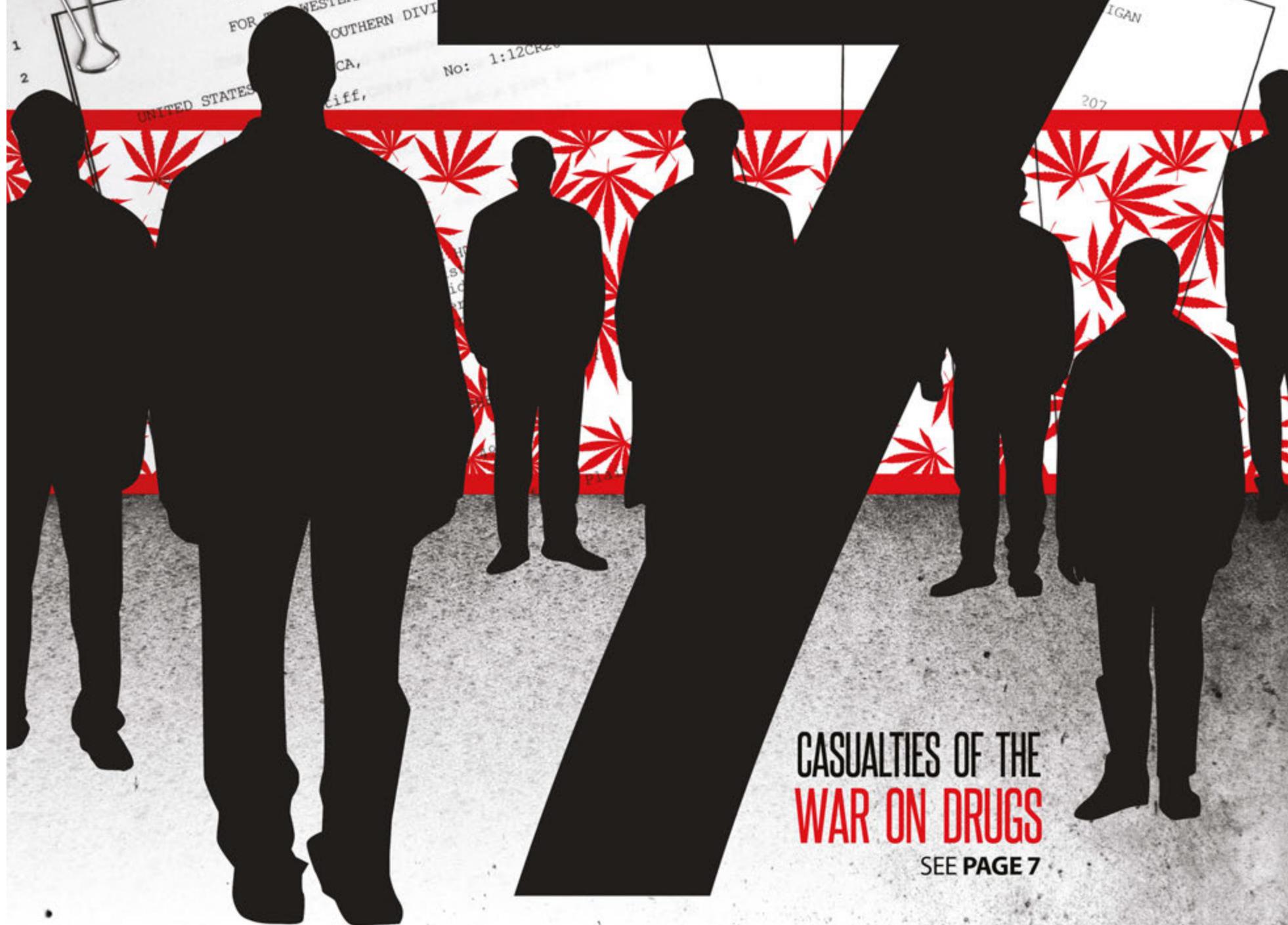
# CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

[www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com)

July 10-16, 2013

## THE OKEMOS



CASUALTIES OF THE  
WAR ON DRUGS

SEE PAGE 7

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For a complete list of events go to [iloveoldtown.org](http://iloveoldtown.org) follow us @ILoveOldTown



S U C H V I D E O



# Hope and change

This is a guest column by Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero.

One thing I've learned during my eight years as mayor of Lansing is that change is hard. The status quo is a powerful force, and most people, especially



Bernero

politicians, are firmly wedded to keeping things just as they are. Change can upset people, and unhappy constituents are many an elected official's worst nightmare.

And so it seems with the apparent controversy over major changes now underway at the Hope Soccer Complex in south Lansing. When Ingham County's parks director told Lansing's parks director that he would recommend ending the county's management of the Hope Soccer Complex due to declining revenues, my administration immediately began considering the alternatives. The city could take over management of the soccer fields. We could work with a private company to manage the complex for us. Or we could simply close the facility.

We carefully considered each of these options. Closing the facility in the middle of the soccer season was, of course, the least attractive option. Thousands of young people who enjoy playing soccer at the Hope Complex would have been left out in the cold. Bringing the facility under the management of the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department was another option, but that would be a challenge due to continuing budget constraints.

Engaging a private entity to manage the facility was the most promising option for keeping the complex up and running. As luck would have it, a local company was very interested in doing exactly that. Even better, they offered a compelling vision of what the Hope Complex could become in the future.

Rather than just maintaining the status quo, they offered a bold plan to make significant new investments at Hope, including a new artificial turf field that would allow soccer and other sports activities even when traditional grass fields are too wet for play. Their plan included new lights that would allow practices, games and tournaments at night. Eventually, if the initial improvements were successful, the company proposed constructing an air dome that would allow year-round play.

In short, the company was willing and able to transform the Hope Complex into the premier soccer and

multi-sports facility in mid-Michigan. This would not only be a significant boost for recreational opportunities, it would deliver significant economic benefits to south Lansing by attracting thousands of families from across the state to participate in tournaments. This means more customers for local businesses.

After concluding that this exciting new public-private partnership was our preferred option, we advised the county in writing of our decision and signed a 5-year lease with Mid-Michigan Sports Turf, LLC to take the Hope Complex to the next level.

I appreciate the county's continuing interest in the Hope Complex and look forward to future opportunities to work with them on regional initiatives. Our terrific partnership in regionalizing the Potter Park Zoo remains one of the truly shining examples of what we can accomplish when we work together. But in the case of the Hope Complex, we are committed to a more comprehensive and compelling vision.

Some have expressed concern that the new management at Hope will discriminate against local soccer clubs, or raise rates so high that local families cannot afford to have their children play there. The fact is it makes no sense for Mid-Michigan Sports Turf to set rates that their customers cannot afford. It makes even less sense for the company to discriminate against local soccer clubs, who are the anchor tenants of the Hope Complex.

To address these concerns, the city included ironclad terms in the new lease that guarantee fair and equitable treatment of local soccer clubs, and that gives the Lansing parks director the authority to approve rates. I can assure everyone who has a stake in the success of this partnership, including Lansing taxpayers and the young people who enjoy playing soccer at Hope, that we will continue to protect the public character of the facility, even as it is managed on a day-to-day basis by a private company.

Others have expressed concern that the facility would no longer honor its namesake — legendary local political scion Ken Hope. I knew Ken quite well. He helped me get my start in public service. I believe Ken would be delighted that new investments are coming to the park named in his honor, and that the Hope Soccer Complex is set to become an even better facility to the benefit of our citizens, especially our youngsters, and the entire Lansing region.

I can think of no better way to honor Ken's legacy than to make the Hope Soccer Complex the best soccer and multi-sports facility in mid-Michigan. That's what we endeavor to accomplish.

I don't fear change. I embrace it. There is always some risk involved, but without change there is no progress.

# CityPULSE

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Persistent passion earns Dave Dempsey top award for Great lakes advocacy



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MessageMakers founder looks back on 35th anniversary



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Tastin' away in Margherita-ville



COVER ART

THE OKEMOS SEVEN by RACHEL HARPER

## CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

**THIS WEEK**  
Andy Schor, state representative, 68th district  
Sam Singh, state representative, 69th district  
Author Steve Miller



Editor & Publisher  
**Berl Schwartz**  
7 p.m. Wednesdays



### THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**Panel 1 (Top Left):** IN THE WAKE OF REVELATIONS OF WIDESPREAD GOVERNMENT SPYING--  
--AND THE ADMISSION THAT THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE LIED TO CONGRESS--  
--THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S MIND IS--

**Panel 2 (Top Middle):** --WHAT ARE EDWARD SNOWDEN'S PERSONALITY FLAWS?  
WAS HE FRIENDLY TO HIS ELDERLY NEIGHBORS?  
DID HE EVER POST ANYTHING EMBARRASSING AS A TEENAGER?  
DOES HE HATE AMERICA? AND IF SO, HOW MUCH?

**Panel 3 (Top Right):** ON A RELATED NOTE--MANY ARE WONDERING IF GLENN GREENWALD SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A REAL JOURNALIST!  
BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, HE HAS REPORTED THEREFORE LESS FACTUAL?

**Panel 4 (Bottom Left):** AND SHOULD AN OPINION-HAVING SO-CALLED "JOURNALIST" WHO REPORTS THINGS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT HIM TO REPORT--  
--BE HANGED FOR TREASON?  
WE'RE JUST ASKING THE QUESTION!

**Panel 5 (Bottom Middle):** IN ANY CASE, THE ADMINISTRATION'S FIRST PRIORITY CLEARLY MUST BE TO KEEP SNOWDEN FROM LEAKING FURTHER INFORMATION!  
STOP US BEFORE WE ARE FORCED TO COMMIT JOURNALISM AGAIN!

**Panel 6 (Bottom Right):** COMING UP NEXT: LEAKS ARE BAD AND MUST BE PROSECUTED, ACCORDING TO AN ANONYMOUS OFFICIAL SPEAKING OFF THE RECORD!  
ALSO: SCARY TERRORISTS ARE SCARY!  
FIRST THESE MESSAGES.

www.thismodernworld.com...twitter.com/tomtommorrow

## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## Severing with seniority

**Lansing School District teacher layoffs will likely no longer be based solely on seniority**

Ben Baldwin probably reached the coda of his career as Lansing Everett High School's band director too early.

After 11 years with the district — where he brought the Everett Marching Band to national prominence — Baldwin was pink-slipped in April because of his lower seniority as a teacher. The job uncertainty was the deciding factor in his leaving Lansing.

But a state law adopted in 2011 that likely won't take effect in the district until later this month would have probably kept Baldwin here based on his performance, not his lack of seniority. Moving forward, if Lansing is forced to make layoffs as it was this year — Baldwin, 37, was one of 140 teachers who received pink slips in April for budgetary purposes — seniority won't be the deciding factor of who goes. The new policy, which will likely be adopted by the

Lansing School Board later this month, is based on student achievement and teacher performance.

Getting pink-slipped or laid off is like a heads-up to a teacher that they might not have a job come the start of the new school year.

District Superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul said she was surprised and disappointed to hear that Baldwin was leaving. She said the district had "every expectation that he would continue once it was all settled."

But because he was pink-slipped, Baldwin didn't want to risk not being hired back into the district — so he decided to take a job with Davison Community Schools.

"That was my first time getting pink-slipped. It's never happened to

me before," he said. "I understand it's a result of all the changes the district is going through with the elimination of planning periods, but I couldn't take the risk. And that's what it really came down to. Even though I was there for 11 years, when you get a pink slip, you have to start looking around."

If the new system had been in place this year, Baldwin probably wouldn't have been pink-slipped, said Virginia Acheson, Lansing Schools' executive director of human relations. Baldwin's good performance and the fact that he is not easily replaced likely would have prevented it, she said. But because of his seniority in the old system, he was put on notice.

The new law was put into effect in July 2011, but because the district had an existing contract with the teachers' union, the Lansing Schools Education Association, the law didn't apply until the contract ended nine days ago.

The Lansing school board will vote on adopting the policy at its July 18

teacher evaluations and student assessments will work.

Teachers union President Patti Seidl said the old seniority policy isn't as much to blame for the layoffs as is the state's consistent funding cuts to public education. But, regardless of what the layoff process is, she wants to make sure the teachers have some say in the procedures.

"We want it carried out fair and equitably," she said. "And we're hoping to come to the table with the administration to see what the policies and procedures are going to be."

Regardless of what the law is, the Everett Marching Band and the students' families are upset to see Baldwin go. For 16-year-old Emily Barshaw, a junior in the marching band, losing Baldwin means losing the leader of the program.

"He was just an amazing leader. I always thought if there was an apocalypse, where people needed a hero or a leader, he would be the person to turn to," she said. "He seemed to always know what

to do. He's definitely going to be hard to replace. There are a lot of people quitting automatically because he's leaving. It's hard to imagine anyone comparing to Mr. Baldwin."

Baldwin started at Everett in the spring of 2002 after he graduated from Oak-

land University with a degree in music education. Prior to OU, Baldwin was in the United States Marine Corp Band. He said he brought the Marines' sense of pride, honor and discipline to the Everett Marching Band. He brought the band to the national stage on several occasions as well as earn top scores at state competitions. In 2005, the band performed at the halftime show of the college football Outback Bowl in Tampa, Fla.; the Chick-fil-A Bowl in Atlanta in 2008 and in 2011 at the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando, Fla.

"I love the band dearly and by no means do they have anything to do with me leaving," Baldwin said. "I wish I could stay, but the circumstances have led to change, and it's a change I have to make."

— Sam Inglot



Photo courtesy of Darla Jenks

Ben Baldwin, pictured right, with his Everett High School Marching Band earlier this year in St. Ignace. Baldwin's success with the program helped the group travel the state and country to perform. But Baldwin was recently laid off from Lansing because of his lower seniority and decided to go teach elsewhere.

meeting. The new law will guide the layoff and rehiring process with the hope that good teachers like Baldwin can be kept on board.

"It's unfortunate when we lose top-notch educators for any reason, but hopefully this new system will put us in a better position to determine who stays and who goes," said school board member Peter Spadafore, who also chairs the board's policy committee. "In an ideal world, we wouldn't have to be laying off any staff."

Spadafore said the committee reviewed the policy on Monday and recommended that the full board approve it.

The policy looks a lot like the language laid out in the state law, Acheson said. Once adopted, the administration will go through the details of how



**Property:** 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

**Assessed value:** \$270,700

**Owner says:** Could not be reached for comment

A Japanese tourist arrives in East Lansing and is overwhelmed by the awesome architecture of the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum — then he looks across to see this boarded-up, brown, brick pile of a building. Since 2007, this property has housed several restaurants — Taco Bell, Spartan Gyro, National Coney Station — none of which have stayed for long. (The Taco Bell moved across the street; the others just disappeared.)

The brick is covered in a drab combo of red and brown paint and has four boarded-up street-side windows to match the muddy paint job. The wooden columns that once hoisted a National Coney Station sign now look like freight boxes with peeling paint and smashed-in bases — a likely result from the droves of drunken college students who just wish they could get another Coney. And the front doors, unlike the side door and windows, are not boarded up, which reveals a ceiling that has significant water damage with browning and sagging ceiling tiles. If the Broad was meant to attract visitors and new restaurants to East Lansing, then this building stands in direct defiance of that goal — it's a memorial to failure, blight and a terrible color scheme.

— Sam Inglot

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

# Water versus stone

**Persistent passion earns Dave Dempsey top award for Great Lakes advocacy**

Quietly, slowly, water erodes the strongest rock. Dave Dempsey's lifelong push against the despoilers, exploiters and developers that pressure the Great Lakes operates on that scale.

Today, soft-spoken Dempsey, 56, a longtime Michigan environmentalist and former City Pulse columnist who now lives in Minnesota, will get the Michigan Environmental Council's highest award, the Helen and William Milliken Distinguished Service Award.

Dempsey is getting the award for a long and varied 25-year career, as policy adviser to Gov. James Blanchard in the 1980s and environmental advocate for several non-profit agencies, including the MEC.

Along the way, he wrote half a dozen books that laid down an authoritative record of environmental battles over the Great Lakes, from the dry-shaving of the state's old-growth forests in the late 19th century to the land use battles of the present day.

"What's that saying? 'Still waters run deep,'" mused Lana Pollack, former president of the Michigan Environmental Council and Dempsey's friend for 30 years. "That would be Dave. I've never seen him raise his voice, but it's not for lack of passion."

Pollack got the grants that helped Dempsey finish two of his most cherished projects, a definitive history of conservation in Michigan ("Ruin and Recovery") and a biography of environmentally progressive Republican Gov. William Milliken ("Michigan's Passionate Moderate.")

Far from scholarly dust collectors, both books offer lovingly detailed proof that Michigan — and a Republican governor — once led the way in environmental stewardship. The not-so-hidden message is that they can do so again.

These days, Dempsey and Pollack are again working together, only on the national stage. In 2010, President Barack Obama appointed Pollack chairwoman of the U.S. Section of the International Joint Commission, the cross-border agency that monitors the Great Lakes. Dempsey advises the commission on "virtually every issue we deal with," Pollack said. "We've come to call him 'the wizard,' because he knows all the answers."

Dempsey grew up in Detroit area and, later, in Lansing. At 24, on a backpacking trip to the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore on Lake Superior, he was he bitten by one of the U.P.'s rare and infectious insects: the advocacy bug.

He thought it would be a short-term gig — he was planning to become a literature professor — but he quickly jumped from volunteer work at the Sierra Club in 1981 to president of the Michigan Environmental Council in 1982. The next year, Blanchard



Dempsey

appointed Dempsey as his environmental policy adviser.

One of the first calls he got was from a U.P. man who wanted Blanchard to "do something about the black flies." The polite answer was "no," but other problems proved more tractable. The high water mark of 1960s and 1970s environmentalism was ebbing, but under Blanchard, cleanup began on tens of thousands of toxic waste sites around the state and laws were passed to conserve wetlands and sand dunes. Dempsey was also pleased to see Blanchard sign the Great Lakes Charter in 1985 and start a regional Great Lakes Protection Fund in 1988.

In his sweetest public policy moment, Dempsey persuaded Blanchard to reverse his opposition to federal legislation that turned 90,000 acres of national forest in Michigan into protected wilderness.

When Blanchard lost to John Engler in 1990, Dempsey returned to the nonprofit sector, writing about the environment for City Pulse on the side. He moved to Minnesota in 2004, "mainly because I fell in love with a Minnesota woman," he explained without elaboration. Before joining the International Joint Commission in 2010, he finished three more books, including a novel about a romance between a conservationist and a developer.

"He has the opposite of writer's block," Pollack said. "The words really flow."

Despite a proud history of conservation, Michigan's environmental future, Dempsey said, looks "cloudy" with a few bright spots. He praised the work of private citizens like Bob Andrus, who is also getting an MEC award today for his work on restoring the Au Sable River. He's also pleased that land conservancies have bought and protected over 100,000 acres of irreplaceable habitat in Michigan.

"Positive action is happening outside of Lansing, but inside Lansing, the best term I can think of is incremental retreat," he said. Among other setbacks, sand dune protections Dempsey helped pass in the 1980s have been trimmed by legislative amendment in recent years.

"Victories you win in your career are often not permanent," he said. But Dempsey's juices keep flowing, as long as he stays near the water. "A lake is the earth's eye," goes one of Dempsey's favorite quotes from Henry David Thoreau, "looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."

Last week, Dempsey visited family at Duck Lake in Muskegon County, a "little lake" just a Petoskey stone's throw from the "big lake."

"It made me realize how much I miss Lake Michigan," he said.

— Lawrence Cosentino

# Putting pressure on fossil fuels

Like the students and faculty who led Michigan State University to be the first public university to divest from firms doing business with apartheid South Africa, today's MSU students with the Fossil Free Campaign have a mission: Pressuring the administration to divest its endowment holdings from fossil fuel companies.

Theirs is a response to the growing

evidence that the increased release of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels is taking our atmosphere into uncharted territory since humans have stood erect, recently hitting the 400 parts per million level for the first time in 3 million years. To date,

the university administration, like its predecessors in the 1980s, has resisted any action.

This column has typically focused on different considerations that citizens might use to spend our money to, paraphrasing Gandhi, support "the change we want to see in the world." My intent is simply to remind us to pause, in our fast-paced world, and align our values with our consumption choices. Today I want to take a slight detour, but use a similar framework for thinking about the money we invest rather than spend.

The financial planning industry has convinced us that a narrow Return on Investment is the only consideration. It argues that it is the fiduciary responsibility to seek the greatest return to the shareholders. Of course, they don't give a hoot for the consequences of those investments to any of the other stakeholders — employees, customers, community or the environment. Wall Street continues to speed up the speculation game with trades being made at warp speed so a quick profit might be made. Why else would we see daily, if not hourly, ticker-tape reports on the stock market?

The MSU Fossil Free students recognize that this speculative game in which investors look for quick wins has a price that the students and their generation will be forced to pay as our climate continues to destabilize. In making its case, MSU Fossil Free stands on the shoulders of a growing segment of investors who try to align their personal values with their investment choices — socially and environmentally responsible investors, or SRIs. Often this means simply not investing in — or screening — firms or projects that make a product or

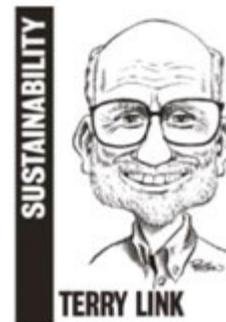
provide a service one doesn't support, such as tobacco, alcohol, weapons or nuclear power. These are considered "negative" investment choices. However, there is a growing positive investment force aimed at community investing, renewable energy and social entrepreneurship. Despite the reflexive response from many, if not most, financial planners that SRI investing will underperform unshackled investing, the research shows that SRI investments do as well, if not better. In fact, says S. Prakash Sethi, City University of New York distinguished business professor, SRI is the only alternative.

Globally, the movement of money into responsible investing vehicles is accelerating rapidly. The Principles for Responsible Investment, or PRI, now has almost one-third of all investment funds committed to the principles. The typical response to efforts like the students at MSU is that the risk of lower performance is greater if they divest from such a big industrial sector. However, a recent study by the Aperio Group showed that performance risk was less than one-tenth of one percent — hardly a major concern, especially in light of the impact of adding yet more fossil fuels to the atmosphere and the resistance of those industrial behemoths to redirect their businesses in light of the scientific evidence. The comparison to the apartheid government is not far-fetched. How we choose to respond will determine how we will be seen by history.

Unfortunately for small investors, there is little if any local help for those wanting to align their values with their investment choices. Looking in the local Yellow Pages or even Green America's National Green Pages listing for Michigan, you'll find not a single financial planner who markets him/herself as a "socially or environmental responsible investor" in our area. Fortunately, there are a number of fossil fuel-free funds available and many more that might better match your own set of values. Good sources for finding these opportunities are available here at Social Funds (socialfunds.com); the Social Investment Forum (ussif.org); and Bloomberg's Environmental Social and Governance Data Service (charts.ussif.org/mfpc).

All mutual funds and investment vehicles disclaim that "past performance is no guarantee of future success." Nonetheless, the vast majority of investors look for the highest Return on Investment when making investment choices. While the logic may seem sound on the face of it, subordinating all other values for this singular one affirms the myth that the only real value in life is monetary.

(Consultant Terry Link was the founding director of MSU's Office of Campus Sustainability and recently retired as director of the Greater Lansing Food Bank. He can be reached at link@lansingcitypulse.com.)



TERRY LINK

# THE OKEMOS

How a group of white-collar men gets entwined in a drug conspiracy when state and federal law collide

BY ANDY BALASKOVITZ

“I must say you don’t look like the typical drug defendant that we have in our court.” U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph Scoville was talking to 65-year-old Dennis Corey in a federal courtroom in Grand Rapids in December. Corey, with a slim build and silver hair, was looking back at five federal charges for his role in a medical marijuana growing operation across the street from Okemos High School. A former state employee and insurance agent for 30 years, Corey was little more than a janitor in the operation, sweeping floors and performing other routine maintenance that comes with growing pot indoors. Corey had no idea how to even grow cannabis, he told Scoville. He was to learn in time.

But that is only partly how Corey became involved with a group of men, largely like himself, who became known as the Okemos Seven. More than two years before Corey found himself in court on this December 2012 morning, a long-time family friend — and future son-in-law — approached him with an idea. In 2008, Michigan voters had approved a law allowing qualified people to use and grow marijuana for medical purposes — and there was money to be made if you knew how to supply good product. The real estate market was tanking. Put two and two together.

Still, the money wasn’t what drew Corey into the deal. He wasn’t paying rent at the pole barn near Jolly and Hagadorn roads. He didn’t even know how to grow. While he was licensed to grow by the state, he planned to learn down the road. Corey was in the group to be close to his son, Kyle Corey, who had been living in California for two years before he came back to join the operation. It was also a chance to be “close to my best friend” and future son-in-law, Ryan Basore, who made the business case to other investors. The third reason? “I could be on the ground floor of a cause that I thought was worthwhile,” he told Scoville, according to court transcripts.

So there were Dennis and Kyle Corey and Basore — along with Lance and Dennis Forsberg (another father and son), Douglas Frakes and Patrick Karlake — roughly three years ago today, setting off to grow high-quality medical marijuana as a collective. A well-known real estate agent (Dennis Fors-

“Marijuana is properly categorized under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. ... The clear weight of the currently available evidence supports this classification, including **evidence that smoked marijuana has a high potential for abuse, has no accepted medicinal value in treatment in the United States, and evidence that there is a general lack of accepted safety** for its use even under medical supervision.”

— “The DEA position on Marijuana,” January 2011



Jordyn Timpson/City Pulse

From left: Ryan Basore, Dennis Forsberg and Lance Forsberg at an event in Lansing in May. Basore was sentenced to four years in federal prison, while the Forsbergs each got three years for their role in a collective medical marijuana growing operation in Okemos that started in 2010. Also convicted in the case were Patrick Karlake, Douglas Frakes and Kyle and Dennis Corey.

berg, 59), two insurance salesmen (Dennis Corey and Basore, 36), a prominent local businessman and star MSU athlete (Karlake, 64), a retired state corrections employee (Frakes, 58), a growing expert (Lance Forsberg, 33) and a young man (Kyle Corey, 23) who couldn’t legally buy a six-pack of beer at the time. The plan was to make more than half a million dollars a year among them, occupy vacant commercial space and provide medicine to sick people. They wouldn’t do so without first telling local police their plan, drawing up contracts, forming limited liability companies and filing for a federal tax ID. What could go wrong?

Everything.

## HOW IT WORKED

Around May 2010, the entrepreneur in Basore — and thousands of others across the state — saw an opportunity in growing and distributing medical marijuana within the confines of how the law was structured. Dennis Forsberg’s company had the property to do so. Frakes had the investment capital to get moving. Lance Forsberg knew how to grow. The Coreys were brought in as family friends and caregivers to allow a higher plant count and be mentored on how to grow their own. Rulings on communal grows and patient-to-patient transfers had not yet been issued by courts. Perhaps equally as important, Bill Schuette — the crusader judge opposed to the medical marijuana law — hadn’t been elected attorney general yet. Things were looking optimistic in the medical marijuana business, at least for a time.

According to court records, Dennis Forsberg, along with Basore and Frakes, formed a limited liability company called RYDEN to back the growing operation at 2933-2935 Jolly Road inside tan, nondescript pole barns. A business agree-

ment drawn up by Basore outlined a return on investment — factoring in rent, plant counts and usable product at \$300 an ounce — that would have provided him and Dennis Forsberg 45 percent each of the profits, or \$237,510 a year, according to the agreement. The other 10 percent — \$52,780 — would have gone to two other non-identified caregivers onsite daily.

Dennis Forsberg also leased space at 2360 Jolly Oak Road, about a mile and a half east, to Karlake, who sub-leased a portion of it back to Dennis Forsberg. The Jolly Oak property was a partnership among Dennis Forsberg, Basore and Karlake, run under an LLC called DENRY.

Lance Forsberg said the two Jolly Road properties were each split into flowering and vegetative rooms. Plants go through a vegetative state after taking root, followed by the flowering period that produces a usable product after it’s dried and cured.

Basore and Lance Forsberg would take harvest-ready plants home to trim and distribute to other caregivers or dispensaries. However, after roughly five months of growing, Lance Forsberg told a federal magistrate judge, the operation wasn’t close to covering the initial investment: “We lost a great deal of money, your Honor.”

## THE RAID

Five months after lease agreements at the Jolly Road grow facility took effect, federal and local agents who’d been watching the group stood by on a late-November evening. That night, Lance Forsberg — the expert grower of the group — was teaching a grow class at the Jolly Road site. Federal agents waited for him to leave. When he was pulled over and approached by one of them,

See Okemos 7, Page 8

## TWO ON-SITE REAL ESTATE AUCTIONS

By order of the County Treasurer of Ingham County  
**Wednesday, July 24, 2013**

**On-Site  
3pm**

**Waterfront  
Home**



**On-site, 3339 Waverly Hills Rd,  
Lansing, MI**

Beautiful Brick Home with Water Frontage on the **GRAND RIVER**. 2,680± sf, 5 BR, 4 BA, 2 Half BA, Living Room w/Fireplace, Dining Room, Kitchen, Master Bedroom Suite with Fireplace, Bath w/Whirlpool Tub and Walk-In Closet and Sliding Doors to Covered Porch. Family Room w/Wet Bar, 2 Bedrooms w/Jack & Jill Bath, Media Room, Additional Storage, 3 Car Garage, Beautifully Landscaped.

**Store/Retail  
Building**

**On-Site  
4pm**



**On-site, 3217 W. Saginaw St,  
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## Okemos 7

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Forsberg reached out to shake his hand. He'd been expecting them in a way. He figured they were making sure the group was doing what it said it was doing.

For the next five or six hours, Lance Forsberg sat in a car on the side of the road as authorities ransacked the two spaces on Jolly and the other on Jolly Oak Road, seizing plants and grow equipment and destroying surveillance cameras. The reason he sat for several hours, he said, was so authorities could pull a search warrant on his house on the east side of Lansing, where they believed he maintained some sort of sinister "mother plant" that would supply starter plants for the rest of the operation — like the mother ship in that movie "Independence Day," from which all those little alien space crafts launch to attack Will Smith and the rest of the planet. In reality, Lance Forsberg was said to be one of the best growers in Lansing. He took the job seriously as a horticulturist. Many other growers depended on him for propagating good cuttings.

At his home on Magnolia Street, authorities took his livelihood. They were also going to take an ashtray with sentimental value, he said, but once the federal agents realized it wasn't Waterford, they left it. "Laughing jackals as they destroyed my life," is how he described it to Lansing Online News in a radio interview. When he asked the federal agents about a 2009 U.S. Department of Justice memo that directed federal prosecutors not to go after state-compliant medical marijuana growers and patients, the response was: "Obama's not our boss. We don't report to him." The libertarian inside Lance Forsberg was fuming. "This is America?" he asked them. "And the room went quiet," he later said. "They didn't have a smart answer for that one."

Authorities seized what it counted as 171 plants from the Jolly Oak site, 126 at 2935 Jolly Road and 28 at 2933 Jolly Road, according to court records. Another 122 were seized from Lance Forsberg's house. "Over 100" were also seized at an additional site operated by Karlake, according to Rene Shekmer, an assistant federal prosecutor on the case. That brings the total to at least 547 plants seized; however, the additional plants found at Karlake's separate site never appeared in the indictment. (Karlake's attorney said that site included another grower, but he wouldn't discuss specifics.) The numbers are important because under state law caregivers can grow up to 60 plants, as well as 12 more for themselves, if they are also patients. Based on those who were both caregivers and patients, the group was able to grow up to 420 plants.

However, another distinction to be made is what constitutes a plant. Bob Baldori, Frakes' attorney, maintains that many of those seized were young cuttings without roots and wouldn't have counted as plants under state law. Had this been argued in

state court, he said they were "absolutely" within the allowable plant count.

It was longer than a year-and-a-half before the indictment was filed in the Western District federal court in Grand Rapids. You can imagine that kind of waiting game.

Shekmer did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Rich Isaacson, spokesman for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Detroit office, said the investigation was a partnership of the DEA, the Internal Revenue Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, as well as local law enforcement agencies. "Some probably participated to larger degrees than others," he said. He declined to say how the investigation began. Authorities seized grow equipment in addition to the plants, Isaacson said. He declined to say what kind of federal resources were expended on the investigation. A response to that question in a Freedom of Information Act request sent June 13 by City Pulse has not yet been received.

Indeed, the War on Drugs had come to town and it was about to come down hard. Basore, who met Lance Forsberg through the local medical marijuana scene and called him "probably the best grower around," reported Blackhawk helicopters flying over his Williamston house. Basore was also co-owner of a dispensary, Capital City Caregivers, on East Michigan Avenue at the time — that's where some of the group's product was to be sold. Speaking in front of family, friends and fellow medical marijuana advocates at The Avenue Café in late May — shortly before he was to report to prison in Morgantown, W.V. — he couldn't help feeling like a casualty.

"When an armed National Guard throws smoke bombs through your building, it feels like war. When they fly helicopters above your house, it feels like war. When they take your assets and your money, it feels like war. Now I'm about to be locked in a cage," he told the crowd of over 50 people. "This is the war on drugs."

### NOT YOUR AVERAGE DRUG CONSPIRATORS

*The Coreys and Basore*

Jenna Corey is busy on the weekends these days. As the daughter and sister to Dennis and Kyle Corey, respectively — and the fiancée of Basore — she rotates traveling to West Virginia, Wisconsin and southeast Michigan visiting her family in prison. If she's not traveling, she's working in the area to save money to do so.



Dennis Corey

She said it "started out rough" in prison for her brother and father because they — like the five others in the case — received "5K letters" from the prosecutor, which excuses them from the five-year mandatory minimum sentence based on their testimony that helps the government's investigation of

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# Okemos 7

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the case. Jenna Corey said prisoners called her brother a “snitch” because of this. “He was getting kind of abused and was forced to fight.” Within the past month, a “50-year-old guy named Tom” stood up for Kyle, who’s



Kyle Corey

because he comes from a mixed-race family. “It’s an issue inside Oxford.”

Kyle Corey’s case was not helped when he got into a car accident after the raid. Police found pot roaches in the car and “automatically assumed he was under the influence,” she said.

Jenna Corey, who’s two years older than Kyle, was living with him near San Diego when the business opportunity in Okemos presented itself. Kyle Corey, the youngest of five children, became a state-licensed caregiver for five patients, Jenna Corey said, meaning he could grow 60 plants. He graduated from Williamston High School and took an interest in theater while there. “He was always just a fun kid,” his sister said. “Everyone always liked him — he has no enemies.”

She said her dad is “on pins and needles” in Milan Federal Correctional Institution in southeast Michigan. “He doesn’t tell me much. He’s a little stubborn.” The experience has turned him onto Christianity, “which is not how our family was before this happened,” she said.

Dennis Corey grew up in Lansing and worked 30 years as an insurance agent. “He’s always been really serious,” his daughter said. “He taught us to follow the rules and was extremely passionate about everything. He always wanted us to do our best.” And he’s been supportive, even taking two of her friends into the family home while they were in high school. He met Basore through the same insurance company they worked for. From then on, Basore started showing up more at family events and helping with sports.

Basore’s circumstance in prison appears to be working out better than Dennis and Kyle’s, Jenna said. She and Basore have known each other for years and got engaged shortly before he left for prison in Morgantown, W. Va. In prison, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays Basore takes part in Native American rituals thanks to help from a friend inside. For a few hours, they sit in a sweat lounge and afterward smoke a ceremonious peace pipe with tobacco. He plays softball on Thursdays and Fridays as part of a league, reads (“Game of Thrones”

at the moment) and has a job cleaning toilets and floors. He’s also lost 30 pounds and put on a nice tan from being outside so much, she said.

“I think Ryan has not changed. The other two (her father and brother) have changed and I don’t say for the better,” Jenna Corey said. “Their demeanor is different. Things are more serious.”

## The Forsbergs

Basore got the longest sentence of any of them — four years — for conspiracy to manufacture marijuana and manufacturing marijuana. The next longest sentences came down on Dennis and Lance Forsberg — three years each for conspiracy and manufacturing marijuana as well as manufacturing within 1,000 feet of a school. They originally faced 13 counts. Lance, 33, has been in Morgantown with Basore since last month, while Dennis Forsberg is scheduled to report to Butner, N.C., in a few weeks.

While Lance Forsberg has been outspoken, his father took a more quiet approach. He hired local PR man John Truscott about five months ago. Part of that decision was about protecting Forsberg’s business, Forsberg Real Estate Co., Truscott said.

In a five-page letter to U.S. District Judge Janet Neff, Dennis Forsberg described his role as “something that I will regret the rest of my life.” He worked in the family construction business full time since he was 23, a business started by his father in 1951. He described riding his bike to the office when he was 12 years old during summers to show up by 5 a.m. to do basic maintenance and clean-up. Later on, he attended college at Western Michigan University, Lansing Community College and Michigan State University. He studied physics, calculus, accounting, chemistry and engineering, building up about 200 credit hours but never earning a degree. He married “the love of my life,” JoAnn Mitchell, when he was 22. She agreed to be a stay-at-home mom to raise children, he wrote to the judge. They’ve been married ever since and have four children, ranging from their early 20s to early 30s, all of whom have graduated or are still in college.

After starting and selling a successful asphalt paving business in Traverse City, Dennis Forsberg returned to Lansing to work for his father. He’d had a real estate license since he was 19 and did residential, commercial and industrial development on the side. He’s served on the board and as president for the Home Builders Association of Greater Lansing. Money raised through the Big Buck Contest & Wild Game Dinner he founded while on the board goes toward scholarships and a Lansing homeless center. “The last year has been very hard for my family, my businesses and these events,” he wrote to Judge Neff.

He also said the raids left him with \$30,000 in debt from making the buildings suitable to grow in. He doesn’t smoke pot — he “looked at it as a business opportunity to help others who do use it for medical purposes.” He told Meridian Township Police Chief David Hall about his plans, but “I did

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# Okemos 7

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not speak with federal law, and I was wrong. This was a terrible mistake on my part. It will never happen again."

While Hall confirmed that Dennis Forsberg came to the police station and discussed with him "some of the issues with state law" and what he wanted to do, Hall said it would be "inappropriate to discuss" anything further because it was a federal case.

Meanwhile, Lance Forsberg is much more willing to describe what happened. He sat calmly and contemplatively in a corner booth at The Avenue Café on a warm May evening wearing a long-sleeve flannel shirt, ball cap, pants and hiking boots. Weeks before going to prison in Morgantown, W. Va., and leaving behind his 3-year-old daughter, his outlook was "positive," he said.

"I'd like to say I have regret," he said, but this fight is about preserving civil liberties — "such an important aspect of our culture." And worth it, "If I can pay the price today for my daughter's better tomorrow."

"This isn't the end. This is the creation of my story, not the final chapter," he said. "The growth I've experienced, I'd never give back. There's no growth in comfortability. It's 1 percent what happens to you and 99 percent how you react. It's actually been a good thing, allowing me to find my inner strength. My mom and family are suffering more than we



Andy Balaskovitz/City Pulse

The three growing facilities that were part of the investigation of the Okemos Seven. From left: 2360 Jolly Oak Road in Okemos, 608 N. Magnolia St. in Lansing and 2933 and 2935 Jolly Road in Okemos.

are. My poor mother has a son and husband going away. My daughter was sentenced to three years without her father. The people around me are going to suffer the most."

Forsberg said he "knew at one point in time we were being watched" by authorities, but he didn't predict the extent of the outcome: "I never thought it'd go down the way it did." And why should he? The group assumed it was being up front with all the right people. In fact, when a federal agent initially made contact with him, Forsberg said he reached out to shake his hand. "I thought someone was coming to check up on us. It's not like we were doing it in hiding."

Forsberg, a Williamston High School and Hope College graduate, takes the process of growing good medical marijuana seriously. He told Lansing Online News in a radio interview that he got into the trade after a farming accident in 2007. The steroids, painkillers and muscle relaxers for treatment made him feel like a "walking robot, basically." The next year, Michigan voters approved the state Medical Marijuana Act. He then devoted his attention to learning how to grow high-quality cannabis, which he also turned to as an alternate treatment for his pain. But he soon found that a Michigan basement made his crop susceptible to mold, mildew and other obstacles. The opportunity to grow in a commercial facility was tempting on two fronts: He could grow in a more

controllable setting, as well as move it out of his house to "a place I could walk away from and keep some semblance of life." He would also teach nutrient and propagation classes at the Jolly Road facility.

He was allowed to grow up to 72 plants under state law, as a patient and caregiver for five others, but small cuttings that had barely even rooted were included in the plant count. He said he provided other growers with these cuttings before they rooted. While the feds included his house as part of the operation, Forsberg said the growing there had nothing to do with it: "Couldn't be further from the truth." After initially facing 59 to 160 years in prison, he pleaded guilty to the same three charges as his father and is serving three years in prison.

*Karslake, Frakes*

At the Jolly Oak Road site, Dennis Forsberg was approached by Patrick Karslake — the prominent local businessman who started the Wheeler Dealer publication — who was searching for grow space. Doing so at Karslake's home had come to bother his children so much that they wouldn't come over, Karslake said in court. His involvement in the operation was limited to the Jolly Oak Road site.



Frakes

"I tried to grow some marijuana at my house and it stank so bad my kids wouldn't come in," he told U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph Scoville. The building was the smallest space Dennis Forsberg had, he said: two floors in a commercial area. "I talked with the head of the state police as to what the requirements would be to grow it, and he said make it secure. So I remodeled it so it would be secure on there, and subleased space to care providers to grow marijuana."

Karslake was released from prison on Friday after serving less than a year. He was the first to be adjudicated because on Aug. 21, 2012, the day he was released on bond from charges stemming from the initial raid, he was arrested for growing over 100 plants at

another site, according to court records. Four months later, Judge Neff would tell Karslake that growing again after the first raid "really seemed pretty dumb for a guy as smart as he obviously is." He agreed: "Greed had a lot to do with it," Karslake said in court, according to transcripts. "I tried to make a bad situation, tried to fix something that couldn't possibly be fixed, and just made things worse. ... As my girlfriend put it, it was weed and greed. There is no excuse for it."

At a September hearing, Karslake pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 100 or more marijuana plants; manufacturing 100 or more marijuana plants; and maintaining a drug-involved premises.

Karslake's attorney, David Clark, said during sentencing proceedings in January that he hoped both the state of Michigan and the U.S. attorney general would at least clarify which laws they plan to enforce. "Therefore," Clark said, "anyone who thinks or deludes themselves into thinking that this sort of activity is going to be condoned, they are wrong, they are dead wrong, and seriously wrong," he said before Neff.

Born in Lansing, Karslake earned a bachelor's degree in general business administration from MSU in 1970, where he was a top wrestler. After college, he sold life insurance for about three years before he started Wheeler Dealer, which he sold about 19 years ago. Until last year, he still worked there. He was also closely involved in mentoring young wrestlers in the area: "Any young wrestler in mid-Michigan knows Pat Karslake," Clark said in court. "If you go to an MSU football game and you go over to the place where everyone has their parties and stuff, you got a bunch of wrestlers around, they all know Mr. Karslake. And it's all good he's done for those folks."

Before this case, Karslake's criminal history was spotless, aside from a few speeding tickets, according to court records. "He certainly is not the profile of the usual drug defendant," Judge Neff said during sentencing.

Finally, there is Douglas Frakes, who was basically an investor in the operation who was also a licensed medical marijuana patient. Frakes got the lightest sentence of the

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# Okemos 7

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seven — one day for conspiracy to manufacture 100 or more marijuana plants.

He said in court that his lifelong friend, Dennis Forsberg, approached him in May 2010 with a “business venture” to grow medical marijuana. “At that point in time, I was under the understanding that because the state of Michigan approved it, that it was fine,” he told U.S. Magistrate Judge Hugh Brenneman in December, according to court transcripts. “But I have since come to the realization that it is not legal by the federal government. And that is something that I made — well, it’s been a nightmare mistake.”

On May 28, 2010, Frakes signed a check for \$25,000 to get things going. He knew Basore was to manage the distribution of the medical marijuana once it was ready and Lance Forsberg was the “master gardener.” Frakes only met Kyle and Dennis Corey once or twice, he said. Frakes added that he only visited the Jolly Road grow operations two times — he didn’t have a key for the building.

Shekmer, the federal prosecutor in the case, said in court that Frakes was forced to retire from the state Department of Corrections due to health issues. “And he was looking to supplement retirement income when Mr. Forsberg approached him about making this investment. ... He was more of just providing the money to start up the program as opposed to having anything to do with the actual plants.”

Frakes declined to comment for this story.

## FOR DEA, THE TIMES ARE NOT A-CHANGING

One by one, as each defendant’s case was adjudicated, whether any of them were in compliance with state law was never argued because it’s irrelevant in federal court. Even so, the difference is little more than a “subtle distinction” from their intentions, according to one attorney who worked on the case.

Baldori, who represented Frakes in court, said the group made a “good-faith effort to be in compliance” with state law — “You can make an argument whether they were, but there’s no question they made a good-faith effort to be in compliance. There are subtle distinctions. Why would they tell everyone in the world they were doing this unless they went to extraordinary measures to make sure? It makes no sense at all.”

Moreover, “In order to have conspiracy, you have to have evil intent. They didn’t have that,” Baldori said. “The government is going to say they knew it was illegal under

federal law. But the fact that they thought it was legal under Michigan law arguably defeats that.” To Baldori, the case never got litigated for any of the defendants because costs would have risen to six figures and the risks of losing with a 20-year mandatory minimum sentence looming were too great.

But despite 18 states around the country having medical marijuana laws on the books — and two have outright legalized it — the DEA’s position on marijuana remains unchanged. Simply put, the agency doesn’t believe marijuana serves a medical purpose.

“A lot of the passion I have regarding marijuana, the passion I have against medical marijuana, is not as a DEA agent as much as it is a concerned parent,” the DEA’s Isaacson said. “I’m a man who’s interested in drug prevention. When you have these medical marijuana laws and you have an increased availability of marijuana in our community, you have a lessened perception of risk by young people, and that leads directly to increased use of marijuana among people.”

Still, he said, Michigan medical marijuana patients need not fear the feds: “Here in Michigan, the people who have their legitimate medical marijuana cards, if they’re following the law, they don’t have to be concerned about the DEA using its resources to go after them. We target large-scale manufacturers.” He argues that the Okemos Seven “were not following the letter of state law” due to the nature of the operation. “If it had been, the DEA would not have devoted its resources (to stopping it). ... People starting a business and operating a business under the hopes that the federal government may not enforce existing law seems like an interesting way to go about starting a business.”

Isaacson recognized a 2009 memo from the U.S. Justice Department that sought to clarify its position on federal enforcement of marijuana in medical states. The Holder, or Ogden, memo, as its referred to, provides formal guidelines for federal prosecutors in medical marijuana states. After stating its commitment to enforcing the federal Controlled Substances Act and particularly against “significant traffickers of illegal drugs, including marijuana,” it says: “As a general matter, pursuit of these priorities should not focus federal resources in your States on individuals whose actions are in clear and unambiguous compliance with existing state laws providing for the medical use of marijuana. ... On the other hand, prosecution of commercial enterprises that unlawfully market and sell marijuana for profit continues to be an enforcement priority of the Department.”

As for the notion that the group was in it for a profit, Baldori accused the federal gov-

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**RFQP/13/090 FIRE MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING SYSTEM** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals 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 JULY 30, 2013 at which time proposals will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 483-4128, or for content and purpose of this proposal contact Trent Atkins, at (517) 483-4200, or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).** The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, July 15, 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, to amend Chapter 1615.02 – Fireworks Ordinance of the Lansing Codified Ordinances to prohibit the use of Consumer Fireworks without a license to the maximum extent allowed under State Law.

For more information please call 517-483-4177. 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, July 15, 2013, at the City Clerk’s Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933.

CHRIS SWOPE, LANSING CITY CLERK

### CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about July 17, 2013 the City of East Lansing will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects:

**Housing Rehabilitation and Improvement Program, \$14,704** for the purpose of assisting low-moderate income home owners residing in the City of East Lansing with code violation corrections, weatherization and lead-based paint interim controls or abatement. The total program cost will be \$14,704 with repairs of up to \$24,999 per household. An estimated two households will be assisted in program year 2013, in the form of a partially-forgivable deferred loan.

**Hometown Housing Partnership, Inc., \$61,750** for the purpose of repairs costing no more than \$5,000 per house to correct code violations to homes purchased through the downpayment assistance program or purchased for resale to an income-qualified household. Common repairs include plumbing and electrical code corrections. The target area for this activity is the Central, Red Cedar, Bailey and Southeast Marble neighborhoods. HHP, Inc. also provides downpayment assistance to income-qualified households, but this activity is categorically excluded from NEPA review and does not require a request for release of funds.

**Bailey Neighborhood Sidewalk Improvement, \$81,030** for the purpose of reconstructing portions of existing sidewalk deemed hazardous and the installation of ADA ramps at critical intersections (along school walks, major street intersections) within the Bailey Neighborhood.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the City of East Lansing Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. All comments received by July 17, 2013 will be considered by the City of East Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

#### RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of East Lansing certifies to HUD that George Lahanas in his capacity as City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of East Lansing to use Program funds.

#### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of East Lansing’s certification received by August 2, 2013 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of East Lansing approved by HUD; (b) the City of East Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Detroit Area Office, Region V, 477 Michigan Avenue Detroit, Michigan 48226. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

George Lahanas, City Manager  
City of East Lansing  
410 Abbot Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Date: July 10, 2013

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**B/14/001 NEW 2014 AMBULANCE PURCHASE** 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 AUGUST 6, 2013 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 483-4128, or for content and purpose of this bid contact John Busley, Fleet Supervisor at (517) 483-4470, or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

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## Okemos 7

from page 11

ernment of “selective prosecution” by going after these guys and not anyone else who profit off the marijuana industry.

“Why these guys? It’s a mystery,” Baldori said. “It’s a fucking outrage. Every time I think about it, it makes me sick. This is going to bring nothing but disrespect for the courts, the law and the police. I haven’t run into anybody in this community who isn’t just shocked by it. It’s having the exact opposite effect. I want to live in a community where people do respect the police and are not worried about a secret police.”

To advocacy groups like Americans for Safe Access — which released a report recently called “What’s the Cost?” — the Obama Administration’s track record on protecting patients in medical states is even worse than George W. Bush’s. Since Obama took office in 2008, ASA claims the Justice Department has spent nearly \$300 million on “aggressive medical marijuana enforcement,” including more than \$1 million to incarcerate Michigan resident Jerry Duval, a medical marijuana patient and organ transplant recipient who will serve 10 years in prison. The group also reports that the Obama Administration will spend more than \$10 million on property forfeiture cases involving “those in full compliance with state law.”

“I don’t think there’s any safety for patients or their providers regarding federal attacks against the community,” ASA spokesman Kris Hermes said. “Unfortunately, to some extent it seems fairly random who they target. What’s clear: they are targeting people who are in full compliance with state law despite statements to the contrary by Holder and Obama. Those claims should matter to the American people — it should matter that the president or attorney general are either lying to the American people or aren’t aware of what the Justice Department is doing.”

Hermes said his organization has tracked more than 50 medical marijuana patients or caregivers nationwide who are in federal prison on cannabis-related prosecutions, while over 100 have been prosecuted. Moreover, those people have no opportunity to use a medical defense in court. “Essentially, the government holds all the cards in federal court,” Hermes said.

Isaacson said in response that since the federal government does not recognize medical marijuana, “I don’t believe you’re going to find numbers where the DEA would have dollar amounts under medical marijuana investigations.”

In an effort to draw a clear line in the sand for medical marijuana protections, several members of Congress are supporting bills that direct the federal government to back off medical marijuana patients. The “Respect State Marijuana Laws Act of 2013,” sponsored by U.S. Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, D-California, would amend the federal Controlled Substances Act to add: “Notwithstanding any

other provision of law, the provisions of this subchapter related to marijuana shall not apply to any person acting in compliance with State laws relating to the production, possession, distribution, dispensation, administration, or delivery of marijuana.”

Republican U.S. Rep. Justin Amash from Michigan is a co-sponsor. Rohrbacher said in a statement that the “bipartisan bill represents a common-sense approach that establishes federal government respect for all states’ marijuana laws. It does so by keeping the federal government out of the business of criminalizing marijuana activities in states that don’t want to be criminal.” The bill was introduced in April and is co-sponsored by two Republicans and three Democrats.

### SPEAKING OUT

It’s unclear what any changes in federal policy would have on the Okemos Seven. Who knows — maybe pot will be legal in half of the United States once Basore is out in four years. But now that the dust has settled and five of the seven get acclimated to their new homes, some are taking the opportunity to call on someone or something to hold the federal government accountable.

Robin Schneider, legislative liaison for the National Patients Rights Association, grew up in Haslett and knew some of the defendants since she was “a little kid.” She describes herself as “one of those Republican, libertarian, tea party kind of people. This whole scenario is appalling to me. I really believe the federal government is overreaching in every possible way. ... I’m alarmed, really, at the amount of power grabbing at a federal level. People in this community are outraged about this.”

The legacy of the Okemos Seven, depending on which one of them you ask, will either be one of regrettably underestimating the federal government or a courageous fight against it.

Lance Forsberg told Lansing Online News several weeks ago: “My story is being told primarily because the main thing I was told was to be quiet about it. I am apprehensive to tell the story, but I don’t want any of my fellow citizens to not understand what it means to be in this shade of gray, so to speak. The reason most people aren’t hearing about this is because they’re scared to tell their story. Everybody is told by (the federal government) that if you speak out it just gets worse, if you let anyone know what happened. That’s why I use the term ‘thieves in the night’ — because it’s something they don’t want people to know.”

Truscott, the spokesman for Dennis Forsberg, said, “If the Obama Administration is going to prosecute these kinds of cases, and it’s fully within their right to do so, they should let people know. Obviously, there’s conflicting messages. ... Dennis’ situation is kind of a warning to others: Don’t get caught in the trap.”

Basore wanted one last message out before publication, sent via email from prison to his fiancée: “If Andy B from the magazine asks how I’m feeling about everything you can tell him that I believe my purpose in life is to help end the insane ‘war on drugs’ and that this is just a part of the process.”

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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## THE TALE OF TERRY TERRY

MESSAGEMAKERS FOUNDER LOOKS BACK ON 35TH ANNIVERSARY

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

**M**essageMakers, a Lansing-based media, event planning and PR firm with clients from Old Town to Africa, has taken its founder and president, Terry Terry, on a wild ride through four decades, five continents, one elephant charge (in Lusaka, Zambia) and umpteen revolutions in technology.

Despite the distractions, Terry and his staff have made it 35 years by clamping onto every message like a bear trap on a field mouse. Observe the master.

"I guess I should talk about what we actually do," Terry offered as we settled into his second-floor conference room overlooking the 19th-century brickwork of Old Town. "I say we make people cry, laugh, imagine and act."

I glanced at a coaster on the table in front of me. It read, "cry, laugh, imagine, act." Ditto the business card. Clamp.

Whether Terry and his staff are orchestrating Gov. Rick Snyder's inauguration, a high-energy rally of Harley-Davidson owners or a heart-tugging video for the American Red Cross, they see themselves as storytellers. After 35 years, Terry has some stories of his own.

In the 1980s, Old Town was a honeycomb of trash-heaped alleys, empty buildings, prostitutes, junkies and bats; Terry was jobless and broke, and this conference room was his crash pad. Now it's the heart of a funky maze of offices, studios and high-end equipment, a bastion of Lansing's information-age economy and the longest-lived emblem of the renewal of Old Town.

Terry (who declined to give his age) was born in Detroit and grew up in Dearborn. He helped his father, a photographer, work in his darkroom as soon as he could see over the table into the trays of chemicals. He was fascinated by a book his dad gave him, "Around the World in 1,000 Pictures."

He started hitchhiking around the U.S. and Canada in ninth grade. On one trip, he ended up fighting forest fires in British Columbia, where he was dropped by helicopter into mountain woods, armed with a pickaxe and chainsaw, and told to find and cut away red-hot timbers before they could start another fire. We could fill this page with Terry's

**"I LOVE LANSING. WE'VE GOT A GOOD TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, CLEAN AIR, NOT MUCH TRAFFIC TO HASSLE WITH, A GREAT UNIVERSITY. IT'S A GREAT BASE."**

**-TERRY TERRY, MESSAGEMAKERS' FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT**

hitch-hiking stories, but let us jump, for brevity, to Michigan State University's James Madison College in 1969, where he studied "Plato and Aristotle and all that" between myriad creative excursions. He created multi-media shows for Abrams Planetarium, joined an experimental theater company called Intermediary and co-produced a cable TV show, "The Electric Way," made with the first porta-pack video cameras in town.

"It was all experimental," Terry said. For one show, the cameras were turned 90

degrees and viewers were told to lay on their sides as they watched. To make ends meet, Terry did more conventional work in MSU's instructional media department, but he wanted to run his own show.

He started MessageMakers in 1978, running the business in his spare time from the 24,000-square-foot former bowling alley in the basement of the now-demolished Michigan Theatre, 217 S. Washington St. in Lansing. (The rent was \$100 a month, including utilities.)

A big break beckoned when William Keough, superintendent of the American School in Iran, asked Terry to be the media program director of the Tehran-American school system. While in grad school, Terry had worked in a school in Nepal.

That prospect evaporated in 1979, when Keough was one of the 52 Americans taken hostage in Iran. Counting on the Iran job, Terry had already quit his job at MSU. Michigan's economy was in terrible shape.



Left: courtesy photo. Bottom: Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

(Left) Terry Terry in MessageMakers' offices, 1217 Turner St., Lansing.

(Below) Terry cavorts on his Harley Davidson in Muscat, Oman, in the late 1990s.



He borrowed money (at 23 percent interest) to buy a camera and put everything into MessageMakers. He went to Washington with almost empty pockets to solicit work from the Office of Overseas Schools.

He got the contract but didn't have the money for a taxi back to the airport. What to do?

"You don't tell your client you're broke," he said. Fortunately, the client whipped out a roll of cash and gave him all the expenses in advance.

"Six months later, I'm snorkeling in Jamaica, doing videos," he said with a grin. The trip took him to three continents and led to decades of work for the Office of Overseas Schools.

Then, as now, the business entailed a relentless technology chase, and Terry had to think on his feet to keep up. At a trade show in 1980, he spotted an early video deck system he wanted but couldn't afford. Over drinks in a Sunnyvale, Calif., bar, he persuaded the vendor to swap out a unit for a training video and manual telling people how to use the daunting contraption.

"So I had the first video editing system in town, and we went on from there," he said. The office now boasts fiber connections, blue and green screens, and state-of-the-art recording equipment. The latest toys are 3-D cameras and TVs used in work for the Sinto Corp., a huge foundry operation in China and Japan.

At 35, MessageMakers has 12 full-time employees, some part timers, and a large talent

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# MessageMakers

from page 13

pool of independent contractors who specialize in illustration, songwriting and more arcane arts.

In politics alone, the client list is wildly diverse, ranging from Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero to Edward Mahama, a candidate for president of Ghana. A famous 1990s spot produced by MessageMakers showed State Sen. Joanne G. Emmons shoveling horse manure on camera.

One of Terry's biggest accounts is training volunteer leaders of Harley-Davidson owner clubs, revving up the tireless juggernaut of Harley culture around the world. Harley Owner Groups, or HOGs, have about a million members, up from 450,000 when MessageMakers took over the account in the 1980s.

High-pressure live events give Terry his biggest headaches. (Video and audio can always be edited, even on a tight budget.) Snyder's inauguration on Jan. 2, 2011, was broadcast live and had to run on time, but the speakers got on the dais too soon. The proceedings couldn't be rushed because Air Force jets were timed to fly over in a few minutes. Terry got on his walkie-talkie, called a staffer on the dais and told her to ask for a rescue from Detroit Mayor Dave Bing. Bing

went to the microphone and called for an unscripted moment of silence for those who have fallen in service to the country.

"That bought us a few minutes," Terry said. The rest of the event went like clockwork.

Although he's been to over 50 countries, Terry has never been tempted to leave Old Town.

"I love Lansing," he said. "We've got a good transportation system, clean air, not much traffic to hassle with, a great university. It's a great base."

A long line of events he has spearheaded, including Old Town's JazzFest and BluesFest, have kept Terry woven into the ever-brightening fabric of his neighborhood. To mark MessageMakers' 35th anniversary, Terry launched a grant program for nonprofits that will offer "up to \$50,000 in total grant support." The application will be released this summer.

In the coming years, Terry would like to see MessageMakers produce its own films and other media, but he's coy about the subject matter.

"I'd like to move beyond the operational side of things," he said, but don't picture Don Vito Corleone feeding the fish in Michael's office. Independent film production could bring Terry full circle, back to the client-free days of experimental video. Prepare to turn your head sideways.



## The Ingham County Fair

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BATTLE OF THE BANDS	Monday, July 29	6:00pm
SJO MOTOCROSS	Tuesday, July 30	7:00pm
TRACTOR PULL	Wednesday, July 31	7:30pm
AUTO ENDURO	Thursday, August 1	7:30pm
COMPLETE FIGURE 8 & TRUCK DEMOLITION DERBY	Friday, August 2	7:30pm
COMPLETE FIGURE 8 & CAR DEMOLITION DERBY	Saturday, August 3	7:30pm

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# Starting from scratch

New Okemos Italian restaurant boldly keeps decor simple



By ALLAN I. ROSS

The scratch Italian restaurant Tannin is scheduled to open this month in Okemos.

Partners Chris Roelofs (general manager) and James Sumpter (executive chef) have honed their chops at several restaurants around town, but this will be the first time either has taken a crack at ownership.

“We’re doing something unusual by having main interests in both the front and the back of the house,” said Roelofs. “Usually you have either a service-oriented establishment or a food-oriented one. We’re able to keep the focus on both.”

Sumpter shies away from the phrase “farm-to-table” (“I think it’s overused.”), but said that all of the ingredients will be purchased locally. Specifically, the beef, pork, lamb, chicken, duck and rabbit will be brought in whole and processed on-site after it’s been butchered. Sumpter said this will result in the freshest food and will minimize waste.

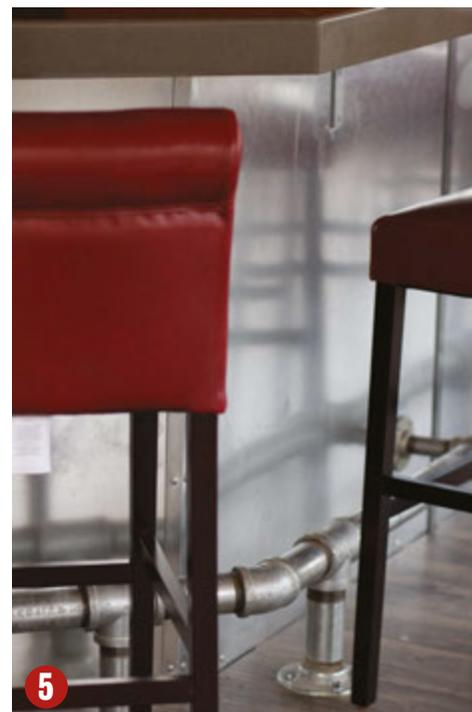
“I like to imagine how a classic Italian chef would run his kitchen if he were to come to Okemos,” Sumpter explained. “He’s not going to do things exactly the way he did in Italy, he’s not going to import all those ingredients. He’s going to work with the best of what he has nearby.”

The partners also went for a new look at Tannin, combining the new and the old, the warm and the cold to create the restaurant’s interior.

Hours will be posted soon at [tanninofokemos.com](http://tanninofokemos.com), or call (517) 575-6840.



- 1 “Italian is an all-seasons cuisine,” said Sumpter (pictured). “It’s also a great comfort food, perfect for those interminable gray Michigan winters. We saw that there was no upscale independent Italian nearby, and thought this was something the area could use.”
- 2 Roelofs and Sumpter worked with a designer to custom design this wine glass rack behind the bar. “It fits the space perfectly,” Roelofs said. Tannin, incidentally, is a compound in some wine that gives it a dry taste. “Plus we just liked the way it sounds.”
- 3 All of the wood used in the table tops and the accents around the restaurant was made from reclaimed cedar beams, wood pallets ... and fence posts. “That was actually from Chris’ yard,” said Sumpter. “The whole idea of using recycled materials fits with our theme of doing it all ourselves and our general system of values of using local products. It has the beauty, a roughness, that finished wood doesn’t have.”
- 4 Tannin, 5100 Marsh Road in Okemos, takes over the spot formerly occupied by Coffee and Friends Café, which closed last year. It abounds in natural light, but needed some tweaking to transform from coffee house to bistro. “We did a lot of interior renovation, including remodeling the bathrooms and moving a wall to cut down on dead space,” Roelofs said.
- 5 6 “Originally we were going to go for a contemporary theme, but we liked the way the warmth of the wood started playing off the cold of the sheet metal,” said Sumpter.” The bar itself is recycled quartz while the foot rail is galvanized steel pipe. “We’re calling the theme, ‘industrial rustic.’”



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# 'Life' lessons

## Grand Ledge author hits it big with debut novel

By **BILL CASTANIER**

About 10 years ago, the concept of the bucket list, an itemization of either life goals or feats of endurance to accomplish before you kick the proverbial bucket, hit pop culture. Suddenly, aging Baby Boomers were creating lists with quests such as "see the northern lights," "learn how to play the guitar" or "climb Mount Kilimanjaro." Grand Ledge native Lori Nelson Spielman gives that idea an interesting twist in her debut novel, "The Life List." Spielman's heroine, Brett Bohlinger, writes a bucket list at 14, and is required to check them all off 20 years later before she can lay claim

to her inheritance.

The book opens with Bohlinger set to inherit a multimillion-dollar cosmetic business after her mother dies, but she's crushed when the estate is divvied up among her brothers and sister-in-law. However, the will details some Herculean stable-cleaning tasks Bohlinger must accomplish before she can receive her unnamed inheritance. Using a long-lost list of 20 teenage dreams, Bohlinger's mom sends her out on a journey to complete the items.

Some are already checked off ("Kiss Nick Nichols"), some appear to be easy ("Get a dog"), but some ("Have a baby, maybe two") seem daunting to Bohlinger, who has a live-in boyfriend who's not interested in dogs or babies. Also, she has one year to accomplish these tasks, including "Perform live on a big stage."

As she works on the list, Bohlinger begins to understand that her mother only wanted the best for her and to recognize who she really is and what she wants from life. As she completes each task, Bohlinger is read a letter from her mom by an executor. The letters are so on point that it's as if her mother was omniscient. When a comedy sketch goes especially bad, Bohlinger gets a letter imploring her, "At what point did you decide you had to be perfect?"

"The Life List" is a perfect beach

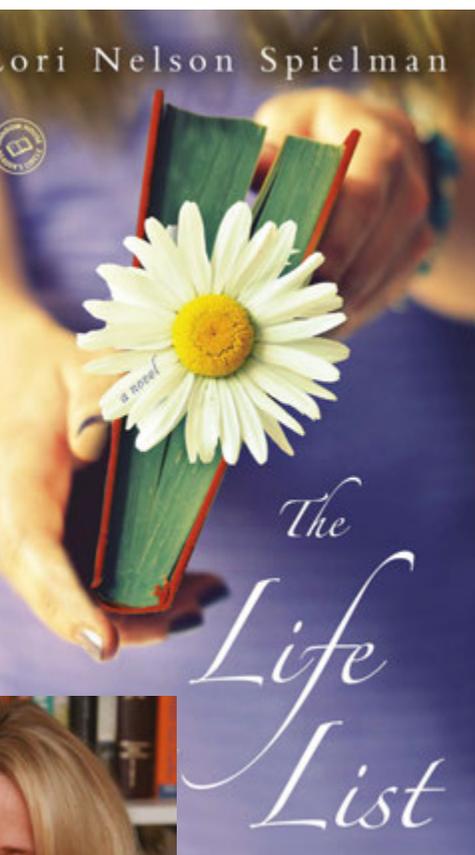
read and it is being marketed as a women's book; the daisy on the cover is perfect for attracting book clubs. The novel is clever, funny, introspective and the colorful type of story Woody Allen likes to tell in black and white.

Spielman appears to tip her hand early in the book about a possible new love interest (after all, her heroine only has one year to have a baby) but misdirection abounds and just maybe it's a set-up for another failure. No. 14 on the list is "buy a horse," but Bohlinger wonders what she would do with a horse. Every 14-year-old wants a horse, but how does that fit in with the lifestyle of a 34-year-old Chicago professional?

"The Life List" is ripe with tension, some "Sex and the City"-style friends and some dramatic revelations, including some surprises that change how Bohlinger approaches life.

Spielman, 50, said the premise for the book came to her when she found her own "life list" in an old cedar chest written when she was an adolescent.

"I thought, 'What if someone forced me to do the things on the list?'" she said in a recent phone interview. In the book, Bohlinger becomes a teacher (mirroring Spielman's profession) after she is fired from the cosmetic firm at her mother's direction. Bohlinger crosses paths with people she would not normally interact with in her own day-to-day life, adding a richness to one of the book's central themes of



Courtesy photos

Lansing native Lori Nelson Spielman based her debut novel off her own teenage "bucket list."



## SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

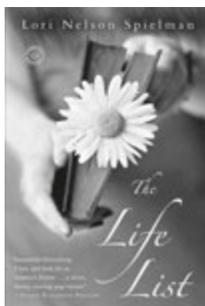
### Intro to Cartooning with **RUTH MCNALLY BARSHAW**

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Lansing Location

### Debut East Lansing Author **LORI NELSON SPEILMAN**



Thursday, July 18, 7 p.m.  
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Spielman has seen dramatic changes in her life over the last decade after she began taking writing classes at Lansing Community College. By 2009, she had a manuscript and in 2011, she began soliciting agents. She landed a top-drawer agent in August 2011 who auctioned the rights to Bantam Dell for between \$100,000 and \$250,000, according to her agent's blog. Shortly afterward, the book was optioned for a film to Fox 2000. Not bad for a debut author.

Spielman is not in unfamiliar territory when it comes to life changes, having changed her career from speech pathologist to guidance counselor to homebound teacher.

Although the book is being marketed to adult women, there is no doubt it will find a home with teens and pre-teens, which Spielman hopes will lead to some poignant mother-daughter talks. She said she wants the book to help women boost their confidence and image.

"I want women to know that if they think life is out of control, they can take control," she said.

Spielman said she wants to avoid the "sophomore jinx" for her second book, which she has begun working on. Apparently, she feels like she's in a hurry.

"I may be the oldest debut author ever," Spielman said.

# 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](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com). If you need help, please call Dana at (517) 999-5069. Email information to [calendar@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:calendar@lansingcitypulse.com).

## Wednesday, July 10

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Vinyasa Yoga.** Taught by Cathy Fitch. Drop-ins welcome. 5:30-6:45 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 six weeks. ACC Natural Healing and Wellness, 617 Ionia St., Lansing. (517) 708-8510.

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

**Summer Nature Day Camp.** Ooey, gooey, slimy and sticky. Grades K-3. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$140 residents, \$155 non-residents. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. [mynaturecenter.org](http://mynaturecenter.org).

**MSU Community Music School Rock Camp.** For middle & high school students who have experience. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or 2-6 p.m. \$220. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. [cms.msu.edu/el/children/camps\\_schoolRock.php](http://cms.msu.edu/el/children/camps_schoolRock.php).

**Family Storytime.** Stories, rhymes & activities. Ages up to 6. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

**Old Everett Public Safety Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. McLaren-Greater Lansing Education Building, 401 W. Greenlawn Ave., Lansing. [oldeverett.org](http://oldeverett.org).

**Drawing Class.** All skill levels, with Penny Collins. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. [gallery1212.com](http://gallery1212.com).

**Transgender Support Group Meeting.** Informal meeting for parents & guardians. 7:15-9 p.m. FREE. MSU LGBT Resource Center, near Collingwood entrance, East Lansing. (517) 927-8260.

**Moore's Park Neighborhood Meeting.** 6:30-8 p.m. Shabazz Academy, 1028 W. Barnes Ave., Lansing. (517) 374-7525. [mooreparkneighborhood.org](http://mooreparkneighborhood.org).

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

### EVENTS

**Strategy Game Night.** 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. [dtdl.org](http://dtdl.org).

**Paws for Reading.** Kids read aloud to therapy

## THU. JULY 11 >> TAKE ROOT GARDEN CLUB

The Allen Neighborhood Center's Take Root Garden Club is dedicated to the teaching of healthy living choices like exercise and nutrition. Taking place throughout the summer on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the club also gives kids the chance to grow their own garden, play games and win rewards to Michigan State University programs. The program is open to ages 5-10. Kids must fill out registration forms to attend. 10:30 a.m.-noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3918. [Allenneighborhoodcenter.org](http://Allenneighborhoodcenter.org)



## JULY 11-AUG. 13 >> 'TUNA DOES VEGAS'

Audiences will soon find out the finale of the "Tuna Trilogy," which opens this week at Williamston Theatre. In "Tuna Does Vegas," Aral Gribble and Wayne David Parker pose as an eccentric husband-and-wife radio personality duo on their way to renew their vows in Vegas — only to discover that their neighbors and their neighbors' neighbors have packed suitcases for trip as well. The small-town antics of Tuna citizens are portrayed by only two people in this comedic look at rural life. 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Saturdays (starting second run); 2 p.m. Sundays. \$20-25; \$10 student ID; \$2 senior discount. Williamston Theatre. (517) 655-7469. [williamstontheatre.com/wp/blue-door/tuna-does-vegas](http://williamstontheatre.com/wp/blue-door/tuna-does-vegas).

## FRI.-SAT. JULY 12-13 >> FREE E.L. CONCERTS

The annual Summer Concert Series brings seven weeks of free live music to downtown East Lansing. This week, Kathleen & the Bridge Street Band (Friday) and the Lincoln County Process (Saturday) take the stage. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. If it rains, the show will be canceled. 7 p.m. FREE. East Plaza at University Place, corner of Albert Avenue and Charles Street, East Lansing.



## FRI. JULY 12 >> ALTERED BOOK ART

Literature inspires artistry as books are transformed from page-turning adventures into pieces of art hidden among the shelves at this week's Altered Book Art event. Hosted by the Delta Township District Library, teens will be instructed on ways to turn a book into a personal canvas. Participants can turn a word-packed page into a poem of their own by blacking out other words, or they could sketch the page's description over its words. Ages 13-18. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014. [dtdl.org](http://dtdl.org).

## SAT. JULY 13 >> ATTENTION RECORD GEEKS



Sure, MP3s are weightless and an iPod can fit in your pocket, but a segment of music junkies still prefer to fill shelves and crates with 12-inch slabs of vinyl and shiny CDs. The Lansing Record & CD Show, which happens bimonthly near Frandor Shopping Center, is back this weekend and showcases thousands of albums and DVDs spread across 60 vendor tables. Dealers also buy record collections from guests. From rock 'n' roll and soul to jazz, funk and folk, all genres are represented. There's even some rare garage rock, rockabilly and punk vinyl. Other items include posters, t-shirts, vintage magazines and all sorts of music memorabilia. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. University Quality Inn, 3121 E. Grand River, Lansing. (734) 604-2540. [facebook.com/lansingrecordshow](http://facebook.com/lansingrecordshow).

## SAT. JULY 13 >> PEN, PAPER, COMICS

For this Second Saturday Family program, Michigan cartoonists discuss how their comics have changed the way people view the world while also teaching how to draw comics and plan out a comic book. 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$2 for kids 6-17 and free for kids under 6. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-3559. [Michigan.gov/dnr](http://Michigan.gov/dnr)



## JULY 11-14 AND 18-20 >> PEPPERMINT CREEK'S 'NEXT TO NORMAL'

"Next to Normal" is the rock musical that tells the story of a mother's struggle with mental illness and the impact it has on her family life. The Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. when it performs this award-winning play due to its subject matter on mental illness and how we, as a culture, treat those with these disorders. Begins at 8 p.m. all dates except July 14, when it starts at 2 p.m. General admission is \$18, ticket price for students and seniors (65+) is \$13. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. (517) 927-3016. [Peppermintcreek.org](http://Peppermintcreek.org)



# TURN IT DOWN

COMMON GROUND EDITION

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE  
BY RICH TUPICA



WED. JULY 10TH

## SLASH FEAT. MYLES KENNEDY & THE CONSPIRATORS

**Common Ground, Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$35 general admission, 9:30 p.m.**

The poufy-haired guitar legend has been known for his signature stovepipe hat and shades since he joined Guns N' Roses in 1985. Slash (real name: Saul Hudson) gigged around the world with G N'R for 11 years and helped to sell millions of records. The 1987 LP "Appetite For Destruction" spawned classics like "Welcome to the Jungle" and "Sweet Child O' Mine." Slash, 47, left G N'R in 1996; he has also recorded with Slash's Snakepit and the supergroup Velvet Revolver in addition to releasing two solo albums. Also performing: Sevendust, Monster Truck, Echoes of Pink Floyd, Wilson, Deveraux, Know Lyfe and Red Stone Souls.

### LITTLE BIG TOWN



THU. JULY 11TH

**Common Ground, Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$35 general admission, 9:30 p.m.**

The Nashville-based country quartet Little Big Town was formed by Georgia natives Kimberly Roads and Karen Fairchild. In 1998, Jimi Westbrook and Phil Sweet joined the group and began sharing lead vocal duties, creating a distinct harmony. In 2000, Monument Records, the Dixie Chicks' label, signed Little Big Town and two years later, the debut single "Don't Waste My Time" entered the charts. It wasn't until 2005 that the band hit it big with "The Road to Here" LP, which generated multiple Top 20 singles, including "Bring it on Home." Also performing: Randy Houser, Kari Lynch Band, Phoenix Stone, von Grey, Julia Sheer, Dean Alexander and Taylor Taylor.

### MGMT



FRI. JULY 12TH

**Common Ground, Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$35 general admission, 9:30 p.m.**

The Connecticut neo-psychedelic-pop band, widely known for the radio hit "Time to Pretend," was formed in 2002 by college buddies Benjamin Goldwasser and Andrew VanWyngarden. The band, signed to Columbia Records, has received praise over the past seven years from the likes of Spin, the BBC and Rolling Stone, who all put the band on various "Artists to Watch" lists. Fans of the Flaming Lips or Mercury Rev might want to check out MGMT. Also performing: AWOLNATION, twenty | one | pilots, Joe Hertler & the Rainbow Seekers, Foxy Shazam, the Soil and the Sun, Mike Mains & the Branches, Flint Eastwood, Lights & Caves, Silent Disco and Leagues.

### THE AVETT BROTHERS



SAT. JULY 13TH

**Common Ground, Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$40 general admission, 9:00 p.m.**

The North Carolina-based indie-roots band recorded its latest album, "The Carpenter," last year with iconic producer Rick Rubin, which made Rolling Stone's "Top 50 Albums of 2012" list. The Avett Brothers was formed in 2000 by brothers Scott Avett (banjo), Seth Avett (guitar) and Bob Crawford (double bass). The band, which combines folk, rock, country and pop, tours with a drummer and cellist. Fans of Townes Van Zandt or Mumford & Sons might want to check them out. Also performing: Josh Ritter & the Royal City Band, Frontier Ruckus, Murder by Death, Tokyo Police Club, Goodnight, Texas, Owen, Bennett and American Opera.

### LUDACRIS



SUN. JULY 14TH

**Common Ground, Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$35 general admission, 9:15 p.m.**

After a killer Common Ground performance in 2010, Ludacris returns to close out the week on Sunday. The 35-year-old Dirty South rapper rose to fame in 2000 after signing with Def Jam South. His major label debut "Back for the First Time" garnered the witty lyricist national fame, thanks to the sleazy hit "What's Your Fantasy" and the raucous "Southern Hospitality." The following year, his "Word of Mouf" LP produced the hits "Rollout (My Business)" and "Area Codes." Throughout the years, Luda (real name: Chris Bridges) also spent time acting — including appearances in the "Fast & Furious" franchise, "Crash" and "Hustle & Flow" — but has managed to stay on the Billboard charts. Also performing: Jon Connor, Kid Ink, The Blat! Pack, Alex Goot and MVP Miles and 2Dope.

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

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.		Open Mic, 9 p.m.	Modern Day Drifters, 9 p.m.	Modern Day Drifters, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 E. N. East St.		Mike Brody, 8 p.m.	Mike Broday, 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m.	Mike Broday, 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Mike Mains & the Branches, 10 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.			Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.
The Firm, 229 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	DJs, 9 p.m.	
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	Rival Faction, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	DJ McCoy & Scratch Pilots, 9:30 p.m.	Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree, 9:30 p.m.	Soulstice, 9:30 p.m.	Those delta Rhythm Kings, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	DJ Godfather, 9 p.m.		Trapocalypse, 9 p.m.	The Mantras, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic, 10 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 10 p.m.	The Hooties, 10 p.m.	The Hooties, 10 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road	Don Middlebrook, 6:30 p.m.	Ray Townsend, 6 p.m.	Tenants, 6 p.m.	
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.	Jake Stevens, 6 p.m.	Mark Andrasko, 6 p.m.		
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Steven Wes, 7:30 p.m.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Doctor Me, 9:30 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 E. Michigan Ave.			DJ Sizz, 9 p.m.	DJ James B, 9 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Scattered Hamlet, 8 p.m.	Primer 55, 8 p.m.	Benefit for Chad, 8 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Steve Wes Band, 8:30 p.m.	Full House, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive	Suzie & the Love Brothers, 6 p.m.	Rhythms on the River, 6 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.

**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; Craig Hendershott, 6 p.m., Waterfront Bar & Grill.

# Out on the town

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dogs. Call to register. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

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

**Watershed Wellness Center Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Watershed Farmers Market, 16280 National Parkway, Lansing. (517) 886-0440.

**Allen Street Farmers Market.** 2:30-7 p.m. FREE.

Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

**Grande Paraders.** Casual attire. 7 p.m. \$3 members, \$4 non-members. Lions Community Park, 304 W. Jefferson St., Dimondale. (517) 694-0087.

**Park Cart.** Buy nutritious snacks. 1-4 p.m. Hunter Park, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3918. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse/youthprograms/youthservicecorps/#parkcart.

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

## MUSIC

**Sam Winterheimer Quartet.** 7-10 p.m. Midtown Beer Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

**17th Annual Muelder Summer Carillon Series.** Featuring Philippe Beullens. 6 p.m. FREE. Beaumont Tower, MSU Campus, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

## Thursday, July 11

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Video Game Lab.** Ages 9-12. How to create video games. Call to register. 5-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

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

**Water Media.** All levels welcome, with Donna Randall. Preregistration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

**Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class.** 11-11:45 p.m. \$2. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

**Summer Nature Day Camp.** Ooey, Goey, Slimy and Sticky. Grades K-3. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$140 residents, \$155 non-residents. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

**MSU Community Music School Rock Camp.** For middle & high school students who have experience. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or 2-6 p.m. \$220. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu/el/children/camps\_schoolRock.php.

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

**Computer Training.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Faith United Methodist Church, 4301 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. (517) 393-3347.

**Take Root Garden Club.** Ages 5-10. Fill out registration form. 10:30 a.m.-Noon, FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3918. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

**Family Education Day.** Pick the perfect pepper featuring Naoko Taniguchi. 5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

## EVENTS

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

**Euchre.** 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.

**Create a Zine.** Materials provided. 8 a.m.-10 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884-091.

**City of East Lansing Moonlight Film Festival.** "The Lorax." Bring lawn chair or blanket. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com/Home/Departments/CommunityEvents/MoonlightFilmFestival.

**Beal Botanical Garden Tours.** Led by Peter Carrington. Meet near pond. 12:10-12:50 p.m. FREE. Beal Botanical Gardens, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

**Food and Fun.** Breakfast, lunch, crafts & activities. Ages up to 18. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Elmhurst Elementary School, 2400 Pattengill Ave., Lansing. (517) 887-6116.

**South Lansing Farmers Market.** 3-7 p.m. 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 374-5700.

**Blind Field Walkthrough.** With co-curators Tumelo Mosaka & Irene Small. 7 p.m. \$7, FREE members. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 884 3900. commerce.cashnet.com/msu\_3724.

**Park Cart.** Buy nutritious snacks. 1-4 p.m. Hunter Park, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3918. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse/youthprograms/youthservicecorps/#parkcart.

**Speedway Recruiting Event.** 30-40 positions available at local Career Quest Learning Centers. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 318-3330. speedway.com.

**Michigan Beer Show Podcast.** Tap Takeover. 8-9 p.m. Midtown Beer Company, 402 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

## MUSIC

**East Lansing Kiwanis Community Band.** Bring blankets or lawn chairs. 7 p.m. FREE. Hawk Nest Park, East Lansing. (517) 332-2666.

**Music in the Garden.** J&J Sounds. 7 p.m. FREE. Veterans Memorial Gardens Amphitheater, 2074 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-2135. holtarts.org.

**Williamston Summer Concert Series.** Toppermost. 7-9 p.m. FREE. McCormick Park, located at North Putnam and High streets, Williamston.

## THEATER

**"Next to Normal."** Musical. 8 p.m. \$17, \$12 students & seniors. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

**"Tuna Does Vegas."** Town of Tuna, Texas goes to Vegas. 8 p.m. Pay what you can. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

## Advice Goddess & Savage Love

CAN NOW BE READ ONLINE

www.lansingcitypulse.com



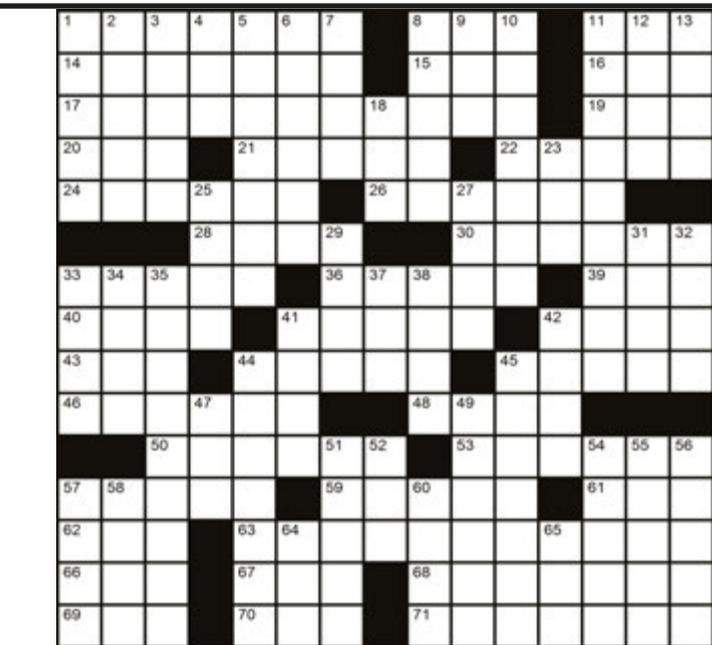
## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Hunt and Peck"-- keys are the key. by Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 Guards check them
- 8 Air gun pellets
- 11 Sent to the canvas
- 14 He played strong, silent roles
- 15 Comedy club laugh
- 16 Engage in mimicry
- 17 Precious coin?
- 19 Soak up the sun
- 20 2012 British Open winner Ernie
- 21 1st name in 1990s daytime TV
- 22 One way to answer a question
- 24 California volcanic peak
- 26 It comes before E
- 28 "I Lost It at the Movies" author Pauline
- 30 "The Far Side" organ-ism
- 33 Thinking clearly
- 36 Judge's affirmations
- 39 Bump into
- 40 Each, pricewise
- 41 Maker of Musk cologne and perfume
- 42 Oozy cheese
- 43 3-time WSOP champ Ungar
- 44 More like kitten videos
- 45 Early synthetic fiber
- 46 Pays tribute to
- 48 Polaris, e.g.
- 50 Get flinchy
- 53 Printer's measurements
- 57 Sean of "Will & Grace"
- 59 "Jurassic Park" inhabitants, for short



- 61 Charter \_\_\_ (tree on Connecticut's state quarter)
- 62 Gig gear
- 63 Celebrants "in the house"
- 66 Michelle Obama, \_\_\_ Robinson
- 67 Pre-kiss statement
- 68 Hard to catch
- 69 Channel with the U.S. remake of "The Chase"
- 70 Eating LOLcat syllable
- 71 Like the four theme entries in this puzzle, as it were

### Down

- 1 Apply force
- 2 "Little Rascals" girl
- 3 Green vegetable
- 4 Play the part
- 5 "What's wrong with the first one?" work

- 6 Time of origin
- 7 Dines late
- 8 Former child actress Amanda
- 9 Hot dog holder
- 10 Stadium filmers
- 11 "Firework" singer
- 12 Australian gem
- 13 Say it didn't happen
- 18 Muslim holiday
- 23 Gold, to Mexicans
- 25 Pass over
- 27 Jessica of the PTL Club scandal
- 29 Bandit's take
- 31 Scott who plays Bob Loblaw
- 32 Last word in sermons
- 33 Tongue-\_\_\_ (scold)
- 34 "If it were \_\_\_ me..."
- 35 Local lockup
- 37 Abbr. for Monopoly properties
- 38 Does some paving

- 41 No more than
- 42 Shakespeare, with "the"
- 44 Glover who was banned from Letterman's show
- 45 Lift, like a glass
- 47 Come up short
- 49 Like some paper towels
- 51 AOL giveaway of the past
- 52 Battleship success
- 54 Sun helmets
- 55 Make equal parts, maybe
- 56 Sport with clay pigeons
- 57 Display in a gallery
- 58 Home of Iowa State
- 60 Russian refusal
- 64 "Without further \_\_\_"
- 65 Sugar suffix

## SUDOKU

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

## 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 21

## Out on the town

from page 19

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Lansing's Marybeth Smith's Debut of Stumble and Fall.** Author debuts sequel to the best seller "Fall Girl." 6-9 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 346-9900. becauseeverybodyreads.com.

## Friday, July 12

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Oil Painting.** For all levels with Patricia Singer. Preregistration required. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing.

**Bad Astronomy.** Learn about cosmos. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids under 12. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676. pa.msu.edu/abrams/.

**Summer Nature Day Camp.** Ooey, gooey, slimy and sticky. Grades K-3. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$140 residents, \$155 non-residents. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224. www.mynaturecenter.org.

**MSU Community Music School Rock Camp.** For middle & high school students who have experience. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or 2-6 p.m. \$220. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu/el/children/camps\_schoolRock.php.

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

### EVENTS

**Altered Book Art.** Turn old books into something new. Ages 13-18. 2-4 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014. dtdl.org.

**Karaoke.** At the Valencia Club. 8 p.m. FREE. Best Western Plus Lansing Hotel, 6820 South Cedar St., Lansing.

**Meridian Senior Center Rummage Sale.** Funds help cost of membership & class fees. 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5046.

**Park Cart.** Buy nutritious snacks. 1-4 p.m. Hunter Park, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3918. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse/youthprograms/youthservicecorps/#parkcart.

### MUSIC

**Grand River Radio Diner.** Featuring The Carboys & Rob Kladja. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 483-1710. lcc.edu/radio.

**City of East Lansing Summer Concert Series.** Kathleen & The Bridge Street Band. 7 p.m. FREE. East

Plaza, Corner of Charles Street & Albert Avenue, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com/summerconcertseries.  
**Lansing Concert Band.** 7 p.m. FREE. Lake Lansing Park South, 1621 Pike St., Haslett. (517) 490-0481. lansingconcertband.org.

### THEATER

**"Tuna Does Vegas."** Town of Tuna, Texas goes to Vegas. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.com.

**"Next to Normal."** Musical. 8 p.m. \$17, \$12 students & seniors. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

## Saturday, July 13

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**Bad Astronomy.** Learn about cosmos. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids under 12. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676. pa.msu.edu/abrams/.

**MSU Community Music School Rock Camp.** For middle & high school students who have experience. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or 2-6 p.m. \$220. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu/el/children/camps\_schoolRock.php.

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

### EVENTS

**Second Saturday Family Program: Pen, Paper, Comics!** How to draw cartoons & make comic books. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$6 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 kids 6-17, FREE under 5. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-3559. michigan.gov/museum.

**Watershed Wellness Center Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Watershed Farmers Market, 16280 National Parkway, Lansing. (517) 886-0440.

**Urbandale Farm Stand.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Urbandale Farm, 700 block of S. Hayford Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3916.

**Meridian Senior Center Rummage Sale.** 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5046.

**Meridian Senior Center Rummage Sale.** Entrance off Kinawa Drive. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5046.

**Second Saturday Supper.** Takeout available. 5-6:15 p.m. \$8, \$4 children. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139. mayflowerchurch.com.

**Summer Campfire Series.** Theme: Spectacular Stars. 7 p.m. \$3 per person, \$7 per family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township.

(517) 349-3866. meridian.mi.us.

### MUSIC

**City of East Lansing Summer Concert Series.** Lincoln County Process. 7 p.m. FREE. East Plaza, Corner of Charles Street & Albert Avenue, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com/summerconcertseries.

**MSU CMS Rock Camp Performance.** 1:30 p.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing, Washington Square between Michigan and Washtenaw avenues, Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu/el/children/camps\_schoolRock.php.

**Live Music at the Barn.** Missy and Chelsea, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460. lansingcitymarket.com.

### THEATER

**"Tuna Does Vegas."** Town of Tuna, Texas goes to Vegas. 8 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.com.

**"Next to Normal."** Musical. 8 p.m. \$17, \$12 students & seniors. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**"Never Play Checkers With a Leapfrog"**  
**Book Signing.** Todd Day book signing and talk. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900. becauseeverybodyreads.com.

## Sunday, July 14

### EVENTS

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

**Midsummer Blooms Garden Walk.** Tour of five private gardens. Noon-5 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 day of. Downtown DeWitt. (517) 668-6592.

**Trade Faire & Open Mic.** Bring things to sell or barter & open mic. Noon, FREE. 1200 Marquette St. 1200 Marquette St., Lansing. (517) 420-1873. thinklivemusic.com.

### MUSIC

**Lansing Concert Band.** 7 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-0481. lansingconcertband.org.

### THEATER

**"Zombies From the Beyond" Auditions.** Prepare at least 16 bars of a song. 7-10 p.m. Ledges Playhouse, 137 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. overtheledge.org.

**"Tuna Does Vegas."** Town of Tuna, Texas goes to Vegas. 2 p.m. \$15. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.com.  
**"M\*A\*S\*H" Auditions.** 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

**"Next to Normal."** Musical. 2 p.m. \$17, \$12 students & seniors. Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. peppermintcreek.org.  
**Scenes of Shakespeare.** Bach Dor Shakespeare Co. benefit for The Friends of the Lansing Library. 2 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 348-5728. cadl.org.

## Monday, July 15

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Fenner Field School.** Session 1: Wetlands & Native American Culture. Grades 3-8. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$400.

Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

### EVENTS

**Ming the Magnificent.** Magic, music, dance & illusion. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtdl.org.

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

**Cool Car Nights.** Cars, trucks & more. 5-8 p.m. FREE. Downtown Williamston, Grand River Avenue, Williamston. (517) 404-3594. williamston.org.

**Park Cart.** Buy nutritious snacks. 1-4 p.m. Hunter Park, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3918. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse/youthprograms/youthservicecorps/#parkcart.

**Vacation Bible School.** Ages 4-12. Theme "Antioch 49 A.D.," 5:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Holt Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship, 5682 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 748-0386. adventist.org.

**Magic: The Gathering Card Group.** Card playing group. 6:30-8 p.m. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. schulerbooks.com.

### MUSIC

**MSU Community Music School Band Camp.** For middle school students with at least one year of instrumental study. 9 a.m.-2:50 p.m. \$215. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu/el/children/camps\_band.php.

**Open Mic & Blues Band.** Hittin Home Performs. 6:30-10:30 p.m. Midtown Beer Company, 402 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

### THEATER

**"Zombies From the Beyond" Auditions.** Prepare at least 16 bars of a song. 7-10 p.m. Ledges Playhouse, 137 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. overtheledge.org.

**"M\*A\*S\*H" Auditions.** 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

**Scenes of Shakespeare.** Bach Dor Shakespeare Co. benefit for The Friends of the Lansing Library. 2 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 348-5728. cadl.org.

## Tuesday, July 16

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Fenner Field School.** Session 1: Wetlands & Native American Culture. Grades 3-8. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$400. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

**MSU Community Music School Band Camp.** For middle school students with at least one year of instrumental study. 9 a.m.-2:50 p.m. \$215. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu/el/children/camps\_band.php.

**Summer Nature Day Camp.** Down in the Dirt. Grades K-2. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$140 residents, \$155 non-residents. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

**Today's Special Program.** Foods to recharge you featuring seared greens. 5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7400. lansingcitymarket.com.

### EVENTS

**DTDL Crafters.** Knitting & other handcrafting

See Out on the Town, Page 21

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# Out on the town

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projects. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3. dtld.org.

**City of East Lansing Play in the Park.** The Joel Tacey Magic Show. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com/Home/Departments/CommunityEvents/PlayinthePark.

**Park Cart.** Buy nutritious snacks. 1-4 p.m. Hunter Park, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3918. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse/youthprograms/youthservicecorps/#parkcart.

**Vacation Bible School.** Ages 4-12. Theme is "Antioch 49 A.D." 5:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Holt Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship, 5682 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 748-0386. adventist.org.

**Zoo Days.** Activities. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. \$1. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4221. potterparkzoo.org.

## MUSIC

**Annual Summer Music Series.** Those Delta Rhythm Kings. At Center Court. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Eastwood Towne Center, 3000 Preyde Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-9209. shoepastwoodtownecenter.com.

**Duo Faculty Recital.** Faculty recital playing works by Brahms, Rachmaninov, Kovacs, Poulenc and Gershwin. 4:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. msu.edu.

## Wednesday, July 17

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**Fenner Field School.** Session 1: Wetlands & Native American Culture. Grades 3-8. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$400. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

**Summer Nature Day Camp.** Down in the Dirt. Grades K-2. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$140 residents, \$155 non-residents. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

**MSU Community Music School Band Camp.** For middle school students with at least one year of instrumental study. 9 a.m.-2:50 p.m. \$215. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu/el/children/camps\_band.php.

## EVENTS

**DTDL Book Club.** "The Day the Falls Stood Still,"

Cathy Marie Buchanan. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. dtld.org.

**Grande Paraders.** Casual attire. 7 p.m. \$3 members, \$4 non-members. Lions Community Park, 304 W. Jefferson St., Dimondale. (517) 694-0087.

**Prayer and Meditation Group.** 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. pilgrimucc.com.

**Theology of the United Church of Christ.** Discussion on non-doctrinal church. Free child care & parking. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. pilgrimucc.com.

**Vacation Bible School.** Ages 4-12. Theme: "Antioch 49 A.D." 5:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Holt Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship, 5682 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 748-0386. adventist.org.

**Park Cart.** Buy nutritious snacks. 1-4 p.m. Hunter Park, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3918. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/gardenhouse/youthprograms/youthservicecorps/#parkcart.

## MUSIC

**Concert in the Park Series.** Seacruisers. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Turner-Dodge House & Heritage Center, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 483-4277. lansingmi.gov.

**17th Annual Muelder Summer Carillon Series.** Featuring Julianne Vanden Wyngaard & George Gregory. 6 p.m. FREE. Beaumont Tower, MSU Campus, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Kirk Cousins Booksigning.** Author of "Game Changer." 6-8 p.m. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. schulerbooks.com.

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

July 10-16

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): The 19th-century Italian composer Gioachino Rossini was a prolific creator who produced 39 operas. Renowned for his lyrical melodies, he was sometimes referred to as the "Italian Mozart." So confident was he in his abilities that he bragged he could set a laundry list to music. I trust you will have comparable aplomb in the coming weeks, Aries, since you will be asked to do the equivalent of composing an opera using a laundry list for inspiration. This will be a different challenge than making lemonade out of lemons, but it could be even more fun and interesting.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Is the grass really greener on the other side of the fence? Or is its more vivid hue just an optical illusion caused by your inability to see the situation objectively? Judging from my analysis of your current astrological omens, I suspect that you're not deluded. The grass really is greener. But it's important to note the reason why this is true, which is that there's more manure over on the other side of the fence. So your next question becomes: Are you willing to put up with more crap in order to get the benefits of the greener grass?

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): You know the voice in your head that's kind of a sneaky bastard? The voice that sometimes feeds you questionable advice and unreliable theories? Well, I suspect that this voice might be extra active in the coming week. But here's the weird thing: It might actually have a sound idea or two for you to consider acting on. For once, its counsel may be based on accurate intuition. So don't completely lower your guard, Gemini. Maintain a high degree of discernment towards the sneaky bastard's pronouncements. But also be willing to consider the possibility that this generator of so much mischief could at least temporarily be a source of wisdom.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): We keep million-dollar works of art in well-guarded museums. Paintings created hundreds of years ago are treated with reverence and protected as if they were magical treasures. Meanwhile, beautiful creatures that took nature eons to produce don't get the same care. At least 5,000 animal and plant species are going extinct every year, in large part due to human activities. Among the recently lost works of art are the Madeiran Large White butterfly, West African black rhinoceros, Formosan clouded leopard, golden toad, and Tecopa pupfish. I'm asking you not to allow a similar discrepancy in your own life, Cancerian. The astrological omens say that now is a perfect moment to intensify your love for the natural world. I urge you to meditate on how crucial it is to nurture your interconnectedness with all of life, not just the civilized part.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Hurry up, please. It's time. No more waffling or procrastinating. You really need to finish up the old business that has dragged on too long. You really should come to definitive decisions about ambiguous situations, even if they show no sign of resolution. As for those nagging questions that have yielded no useful answers: I suggest you replace them with different questions. And how about those connections that have been draining your energy? Re-evaluate whether they are worth trying to fix.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "This morning I walked to the place where the street-cleaners dump the rubbish," wrote painter Vincent van Gogh in one his letters. "My God, it was beautiful." Was he being ironic or sarcastic? Not at all. He was sincere. As an artist, he had trained himself to be intrigued by scenes that other people dismissed as ugly or irrelevant. His sense of wonder was fully awake. He could find meaning and even enchantment anywhere. Your next assignment, Virgo — should you choose to accept it — is to experiment with seeing the world as van Gogh did.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I believe you will undergo a kind of graduation in the next four weeks, Libra.

Graduation from what? Maybe from a life lesson you've been studying for a while or from an institution that has given you all it can. Perhaps you will climax your involvement with a situation that has made big demands on you. I suspect that during this time of completion you will have major mixed feelings, ranging from sadness that a chapter of your story is coming to an end to profound gratification at how much you have grown during this chapter.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): What's your favorite sin, Scorpio? I'm talking about the mischievous vice or rebel tendency or excessive behavior that has taught you a lot. It may be the case that now and then this transgressive departure from normalcy has had redeeming value, and has even generated some interesting fun. Perhaps it puts you in touch with a magic that generates important changes, even if it also exacts a toll on you. Whatever your "favorite sin" is, I'm guessing that you need to develop a more conscious and mature relationship with it. The time has come for it to evolve.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The Sagittarian writer and artist William Blake (1757-1827) made drawings of many eminent people who had died before he was born. Julius Caesar was the subject of one of his portraits. Others included Dante, Shakespeare, and Moses. How did Blake manage to capture their likenesses in such great detail? He said their spirits visited him in the form of apparitions. Really? I suppose that's possible. But it's also important to note that he had a robust and exquisite imagination. I suspect that in the coming weeks you, too, will have an exceptional ability to visualize things in your mind's eye. Maybe not with the gaudy skill of Blake, but potent nevertheless. What would be the best use of this magic power?

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): How close do you really want to be to the people you care about? I invite you to think about this with unsentimental candor. Do you prefer there to be some distance between you? Are you secretly glad there's a buffer zone that prevents you from being too profoundly engaged? I'm not saying that's a bad thing. It might be correct for who you are right now. I merely want to suggest that it's important for you to know the exact nature of your need for intimacy. If you find that you actually do want to be closer, spend the next four weeks making that happen. Ask your precious allies to collaborate with you in going deeper.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I love your big, energetic thoughts. I enjoy watching as your wild intuitive leaps lead you to understandings that mere logic could never produce. I have benefited many times from the Aquarian tribe's ability to see angles no one else can discern. In the immediate future, though, I hope you will be a specialist in analyzing the details and mastering mundane mysteries. I'll be rooting for you to think small and be precise. Can you manage that? I expect there'll be a sweet reward. You will generate good fortune for yourself by being practical, sensible, and earthy.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Is it a river or a creek? Is it a mountain or a hill? It's important for you to decide questions like these — preferably on the basis of the actual evidence rather than on wishful thinking. I'm not saying that the river is better than the creek or that the mountain is better than the hill. I simply want you to know that it's important to be clear about which it is. The same principle applies to other experiences you'll soon have. Is the catalytic person you're dealing with a temporary friend or a loyal ally? Is the creation you're nurturing just a healthy diversion or is it potentially a pivotal element in transforming your relationship with yourself? Is the love that's blooming a transient pleasure or a powerful upgrade that's worth working on with all your ingenuity?

## City Pulse Classifieds

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**City Pulse is seeking candidates** to join its sales team. Full time and part time positions available. Sales experience required, preferably in advertising/marketing. Opportunity to grow. EEO. Submit resume to shelly@lansingcitypulse.com.

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

I	D	C	A	R	D	S	B	B	S	K	O	D		
M	A	R	C	E	A	U	Y	U	K	A	P	E		
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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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



# HE ATE

# SHE ATE



## Getting a little taste of Rome on the west side

### Tastin' away in Margherita-ville

By **MARK NIXON**

Here is my theory about pizza.

In the days when Congress was still capable of action, it passed the obscure but life-altering Defense of Pizza Act (DOPA).

The ideological underpinnings of DOPA are that America is the true birthplace of pizza, and it's here where you will find the real McCoy. DOPA has become a rallying point for the P Party, which loves to point out how real Americans should behave. Ergo, real Americans eat real American pizza.

Most American pizza is about wretched excess — an edible Las Vegas. Its manufacture goes like this: Heap on the dough to the thickness of a Stephen King novel. Drown it in canned tomato sauce. Smother it with processed and/or previously frozen meats (the greasier the better). Add dried spices whose aromatics expired a year ago. Top with gobs of cheap mozzarella. Bake until the cheese is stringy and the dough is kinda-sorta baked.

American restaurants and pizza joints embraced DOPA, and the hungry masses giddily dove in. We were close to losing the entire species of authentic pizza, but in quiet ways, a few renegades refused to be cowed by DOPA. The rebels insisted the old-fashioned way — thin crusts with a few simple, high-quality ingredients — made the best, most authentic pizza.

And oh, by the way, to hell with the P Party.

It's heartening to know the rebel hideouts aren't all in the "Little Italy" sections of Chicago or New York. You can get a good pizza right here in River City. Or, in the River City just down the road: Grand Ledge.

I would not call Cugino's an authentic Italian restaurant. But the folks in the kitchen do implicitly understand that with pizza, less is more.

Witness their Margherita pizza: A layer of olive oil, thinly sliced tomatoes and fresh basil atop a thin wheel of dough, quickly baked to crispy perfection. Each ingredient has a taste that stands on its own.

After a recent meal at Cugino's, one of my dinner mates offered this brief history lesson. The main ingredients of a Margherita pizza — basil, tomato, mozzarella — are the colors of the Italian flag, and thus quintessentially Italian. Italians named this particular pizza after Queen Margherita of Savoy.

I'd love to examine the rich history

See He Ate, Page 23

### Cugino's Italian Restaurant

306 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday &  
Saturday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday;  
(517) 627-4048  
cuginosmenu.com  
FB, OM, RES, P, TO, \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

### The Italian job

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

For years, I've heard about this little neighborhood Italian place in Grand Ledge. People swore by it, but I was never sufficiently tempted to make the drive to the other side of town. It takes a lot to impress me with pasta, since I tend to believe that I can make it just as good myself at home. Nevertheless, I welcomed the excuse to experience Cugino's when we decided on this assignment, and the boyfriend and I headed to dinner on a recent Friday night.

I warned our waitress that we were going to order a lot of food and that I was going to ask her a lot of questions about the menu, which I made good on. She was wonderful, well versed in the menu items, and quick to give her input on what we were thinking about ordering. I thought about asking her to be my new best friend, but I was afraid that would be a little bit too forward.

We started with the mozzarella sticks as an appetizer. They were standard fare, and we were seriously hungry so we devoured them. He started with a cup of minestrone soup and I started with a salad, which I took a glance at and passed on to him. Plates of iceberg lettuce, shredded cheese, and croutons out of a box don't thrill me at all. The minestrone was more appetizing — it was thick and hearty, chock full of beans and pasta, but it was a little bland. This was easily fixable, because — hallelujah! — there was salt and pepper on the table.

On the entrées. The Pasta Roma consists of penne noodles and sliced Italian sausage in a spicy tomato sauce. The pasta was prepared perfectly al dente, a theme that held true through the entire meal. They weren't kidding when they described the sausage and tomato sauce as spicy — I love a little heat in my food, but my man practically had steam coming out of his ears. The sauce is used sparingly, so there isn't a lot to sop up with the thick, buttery breadstick. That was fine, because the breadstick was delicious and shouldn't have to share the spotlight.

Next up was the Penne alla Vodka, described on the menu as penne with bacon, onions and garlic sautéed in a cream sauce. Disappointingly (although my bikini is thankful), our dish was missing the bacon. The pasta, as previously mentioned, was

See She Ate, Page 23

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# He Ate

from page 22

of Queen Margherita at length, but then I'd be as bored as you. So let's return to the pizzas. On a separate visit, I opted for the Calabrese pizza, which is slightly less minimalist than the Margherita. Calabrese is heady with garlic and onions, then laced with capicola, mozzarella and romano cheese.

Surely these two pizzas approach what the creators of pizza had in mind. Simple. Fresh. Elegant in their simplicity.

On three visits we ate two kinds of pizza, two pasta dishes and a calzone. Cugino's boasts pizza as its specialty, with good reason. Some of the other dishes we ordered were, at best, pedestrian, with the notable

exception of the pasta carbonara, which was smoky and rich, and had fettuccine that was cooked perfectly al dente.

The penne pasta with vodka sauce — fahgedaboutit. Ditto the side salad. Mediocre side salads are a contagion that has spread coast to coast. If restaurant owners had to eat the side salads they served to customers, I bet many would hear Peggy Lee lamenting in that great song, "Is That All There Is?"

Cugino's calzone, on the other hand, took a tip from the pizza: Don't overdo the dough. How many calzones have overwhelmed diners with a crust so thick and dense that it subsumed whatever was hidden inside? Cugino's finds the right balance. The spinach-and-cheese calzone we had was relatively thin and crisp on the outside, exposing the bountiful filling inside.

I was curious about the restaurant's

Italian food in a dimly lit, garlic-scented setting, you should definitely make the trek to Grand Ledge.

There was a motley crew at Cugino's that night: Couples on dates, gussied-up groups of girlfriends who were celebrating something special, families and townies. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the warm summer evening and loving what they were eating. Some people sat at the bar to have a cocktail and watch the Tigers, while others sat at a table for two and ate a meal meant for four. Apparently Cugino's is more than just a solid Italian dining experience — it's also the local social hub.

And if you're going to be on that side of town anyway, you can hit up Horrocks Farm Market on the way back for my new favorite dessert: Monica's Gourmet Cookies. I'm not exactly sure which addictive drug is baked into these little beauties, but I can't control myself.

I think I need a bigger bikini.

name, which I assumed was someone's first or last name. Turns out that cugino means "cousin" in Italian. Indeed, the two owners are cousins, and are related to the DeLuca family, which operates that mainstay of blue-collar dining on Lansing's west side, DeLuca's Restaurant.

A word about the service. A number of online reviews trashed the service at Cugino's, but I heartily disagree. During three visits, we had very good experiences

with the waitstaff. Servers were attentive and polite. Diners, take note: Two of our visits were on late Friday afternoons. If you arrive at 6 p.m. on a Friday, expect to stand in line.

In summary: Cugino's offers what I call post-DOPA pizza. Or, taking the long view, the pre-DOPA pizza. Maybe it's not the pizza you grew up with. But it is pizza for grown-ups.

That's my theory, and I'm sticking to it.

# She Ate

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beautifully prepared. The dish was good, but the sauce was a bit thin. The bacon would have done a lot to add a depth of flavor that was missing.

Our third and final entrée was the BBQ Chicken Pizza. Personally, I don't think that chicken has any business being a pizza topping. In the name of research I sampled a piece, and while it was serviceable, chicken pizza truly turns me off. My boyfriend would have liked to see home-style shredded chicken as opposed to the chunks of artificial-looking stuff, but he gobbled it up regardless. He had nothing but good things to say about the tang of the barbeque sauce and thinly sliced red onions.

We both agreed that we had a tasty, reasonably priced, solidly B+ meal at Cugino's. If you're in the mood for hearty, heavy, juicy

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