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February 6-12, 2013



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& the spirit of jazz.

see page 8

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Feedback

Depot memories

Thank you for the article about the restoration of the Grand Trunk passenger station on South Washington Ave (City Pulse Jan 23). It brings back memories.

There was no rail passenger service in Michigan in the late 60s and early 70s. Congress established Amtrack first on the East Coast. Eventually the several governing units of the Lansing Area were informed that rail service

would be restored on the old Grand Trunk line from Bay City to Chicago. The train would stop and serve cities along the way only if a station was established at community expense.

As a Council member of East Lansing, I worked with representatives of Lansing, several townships and MSU to find a location for a rail road station.

Our first stop was at the existing station on South Washinton

Ave. It had been purchased by an entrepreneur who intended to duplicate the success of Clara's in the old station on what had been the Detroit to Grand Rapids line. He would not even consider a food service facility for the passengers with a dual purpose use of the building.

We were at a loss as to where a building could be built along the route when MSU representative Jack Breslin offered consideration of a structure on the tracks at Harrison Road. It was a small structure used by the University Grounds Dept. With an OK from the Board of Trustees, we were able to secure funds from the several local governments to enlarge it and build in the necessary facilities to establish the present station.

— George Griffiths Holt

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 2001 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800

2.) Write a guest column:

- Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 371-5600 ext. 10

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is soliciting qualifications for **Residential Stake Surveys of Residential Properties**. The RFQ is available after February 6, 2013 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 422 Adams, Lansing, Michigan 48906, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday or at www.inghamlandbank.org. Qualifications will be due at the Land Bank offices before 1:00 pm on February 15, 2013. The Qualification Review will begin February 15, 2013 at 1:00 pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

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Lansing Boy Scout, religious leaders are OK with gay members in troops



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Lansing-area 'art mecca' dissolves after three years



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Chivalry still reigns at one of Lansing's oldest restaurants



COVER ART

GELISPIE by VINCE JOY

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CITY PULSE ON THE AIR

THIS WEEK
Kathie Dunbar, Lansing City Councilwoman
Ryan Wert, owner of Elm Street Recording
Dave Sheets, owner of Discount Daves Buy It Right
Jazz drummer Randy Gelispie & Chris LaMarche, Eagle Scout



Editor & Publisher
Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays



CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS

Hosted by
Berl Schwartz

Deanna Hurlbert, assistant director of the LGBT Resource Center

Brad Shafer, assistant scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 109 of Okemos

Travis Lunsford, MBLGTACC 2013 Planning Coalition

Comcast Ch. 16 Lansing: 11 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 10
Comcast Ch. 30 Meridian Township: 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10; 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, through Saturday, Feb. 16; and 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16.

Watch past episodes at vimeo.com/channels/citypulse

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

WITH THEIR PARTY IN DISARRAY, REPUBLICANS DEBATE...

WAYS TO SAVE THE G.O.P.

1) OBFUSCATE THE CRAZY! WE HAVE A MESSAGING PROBLEM--WHICH IS TO SAY, VOTERS FIND MANY OF OUR MESSAGES REPELLENT!

FROM NOW ON, WE MUST SPEAK ONLY IN THE VAGUEST OF PLATITUDES!

ALSO, IX-NAY ON THE APE-RAY ABIES-BAY.

2) GAME THE SYSTEM! THROUGH VARIOUS VOTE-RIGGING SCHEMES, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MARGINALIZE "URBAN" VOTERS.

IF YOU KNOW WHAT WE MEAN.

"BLACK." WE MEAN "BLACK."

3) START OVER (AKA THE DAVID BROOKS PLAN)! WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS IS A NEW REPUBLICAN PARTY--DESIGNED TO APPEAL TO ME, DAVID BROOKS!

YOU CAN HOLD MEETINGS AT THE APPLEBEE'S SALAD BAR!

IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO CROWDED.

4) HOPE THE VOTING PUBLIC HAS A VERY SHORT ATTENTION SPAN.* WHY WOULD ANYONE VOTE FOR THE ANTI-GAY, ANTI-IMMIGRANT, ANTI-CHOICE NUTJOBS WHO STARTED TWO WARS, CRASHED THE ECONOMY AND--

HEY, LOOK! SOME-THING SHINY!

DOH, PRETTY!

*THIS ONE'S A PRETTY SAFE BET, ACTUALLY.

5) CLONE A MULTITUDE OF AGING WHITE MEN. GIVEN CURRENT DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS, THE ONLY WAY TO INCREASE THE REPUBLICAN VOTING BASE--

--IS THROUGH SCIENCE!

SCIENCE, EH? WELL, DESPERATE TIMES CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES.

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

That was fast

Bernero knocked off dais as arch-enemy City Council President Carol Wood takes time out of her busy schedule to reorganize seating. "Honeymoon over," mayor says.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero no longer has a seat on the City Council dais. He'll now sit at a table on the floor when he comes to a meeting.

A Friday memo from Council President Carol Wood to fellow Council members and the administration does not say why the mayor's seat will be occupied by the internal auditor. Wood could not be

reached for comment Tuesday afternoon.

Since being elected Council president a month ago, Wood has publicly offered to buy the mayor breakfast and make him chicken soup while he was sick as a sign of civility. The auspicious start to 2013 after the historically hostile politics between Wood and Bernero appears headed back to its old ways, Bernero said.

He's also upset over Wood's handling of a Council issue involving Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar, a Bernero ally. "The shades of old Carol are coming through," he said. "She offers me chicken soup one night and the next day kicks me off the freakin' dais? What kind of a welcome is this?"

"It's been less than a month and the honeymoon is over."

In her memo, Wood also explains that she rearranged Council member seating so that at-large members sit to her right and ward representatives sit to her left. She cited historical reasons for this, but also: "We have witnessed both the public and the press pitting one side against the other. Due to these concerns we will be changing around the seating arrangements on the dais to strike a better balance."

The new lineup just happens to separate the three Council members from each other who have the strongest record of supporting the administration: Kathie Dunbar, Jessica Yorko Tina Houghton. That should be fun for them.

— Andy Balaskovitz

Computers and politics

It appears the 2013 City Council elections are in high gear, with Kathie Dunbar alleging opponent Brian Jeffries is making politically motivated attacks against her over personal matters. Jeffries denies it.

It all started with committee assignments.

When I asked Lansing City Council President Carol Wood on Jan. 29 why Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar — who has served seven years on the Council — was not appointed to chair any committees or serve on any boards or commissions, Wood's response was:

"I think there are some issues there, things I can't go into. There are some outstanding issues that are being discussed in closed session that I can't go into at this time," she said.

So this is a private issue involving Dunbar? I asked.

"Correct."

Curious. There was more to it than committee assignments. Why was the Council meeting in closed session about Dunbar? Why doesn't the public know what the issue is?

A little hint, it turns out, was an agenda item on the Council's Jan. 7 and 14 Committee of the Whole schedules: an "executive session" to discuss, in part, "computer usage policy."

Exactly one week after my interview with Wood, Dunbar issued a prepared statement alleging "several" Council

members, namely Brian Jeffries — who faces Dunbar in a re-election bid this year — and Wood, had orchestrated a "politically motivated" attack against her over a damaged computer.

Jeffries denies anything was calculated and said he has never mentioned the incident or the nature of the closed session publicly.

As Dunbar tells it, her city-issued laptop computer was damaged during an argument between her and her then-husband. She thought at the time it was "beyond repair. I did not report the computer was damaged because I was ashamed to admit, and didn't want to relive, how bad things had gotten at the end of our marriage." Months later, Dunbar was asked to bring in the laptop for "software updates." When she told a Council staffer about what had happened, Dunbar said she asked the staffer to keep the incident private.

"Despite assurances that my personal family matters would remain confidential, that conversation has become the basis for a politically motivated witch hunt, led by Brian Jeffries," Dunbar said.

"I know very little of her divorce," Jeffries said in an interview Tuesday, responding to Dunbar's allegations. He declined to comment on why the computer usage policy was discussed in closed session, citing confidentiality.

Wood, Councilwoman A'Lynne Robinson and the interim city attorney are also staying mum about the nature of the closed session to discuss "computer usage" and why it was called in the first place. On Tuesday, the Council Personnel Committee, chaired by Robinson, met for nearly two hours to amend its "policies and procedures," which largely focused on amending rules for using computers during Council meetings and for bring-

ing them home.

The committee also discussed who would be responsible for investigating files on Council members' computers — the committee agreed that should fall on the Information Technology department at the request of the Council president. Those changes to the Council's policies would need final approval from a majority of the full Council.

Personnel Committee minutes from Jan. 25 and 29 show that Council members discussed possible sanctions against Council members for violating rules related to computer usage. Dunbar is not mentioned by name. Minutes show the committee discussed an "offending Councilmember."

To Dunbar, the meeting minutes suggest that the committee wants to search her hard drive, or the committee is alleg-



From top: Kathie Dunbar, Brian Jeffries, Carol Wood



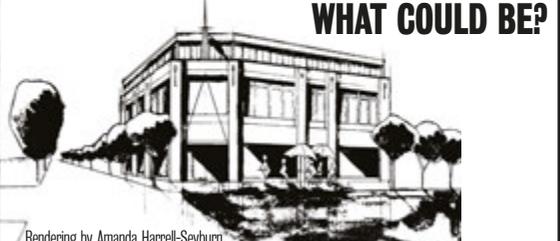
SORE

OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS



WHAT COULD BE?



Rendering by Amanda Harrell-Seyburn

Property: 210 Michigan Ave., East Lansing
Owner: Devi Gayatri Inc.
Assessed value: \$160,100
Owner says: Could not be reached for comment

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: When a street vista terminates, like it does at Grand River and Michigan avenues in East Lansing, a good design principle is to place a building in the line of sight — a landmark building that serves as a gateway to downtown and a transition to the western neighborhoods. The building in the sketch above is a bold alternative to the convenience store, facing the intersection with iconic architectural details. It is a rare opportunity when a single building can transform a place — this could be one.

The three 'Now Open' signs and even the name "24/7" suggest that you could walk into this convenience store at any time of the day. The store doesn't quite live up to its name, though: the windows are dark and its hours are unknown at best.

This building at the split of Grand River and Michigan avenues has shut down and re-opened over the past few years, previously housing a 7-Eleven.

Regardless of what goes on inside, the view from the outside is unimpressive for such a prominent parcel. Vandals seem to have gotten to the 24/7 a few times, including the tasteful addition of the inscription 'Buyin' on the storefront. And the telephone box out front is missing its phone, so good luck calling for directions to another liquor store.

— Dylan Sowle

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

Dunbar

from page 5

ing that she had it cleared for a reason.

“They have no grounds to search my hard drive,” Dunbar said in an interview. “There’s no reason.”

After Tuesday’s committee meeting, when

asked if the computer usage policy was being updated because of incidences surrounding Dunbar, Wood said: “No comment.”

Wood said going into closed session was at the recommendation of former City Attorney Brig Smith. Interim City Attorney Don Kulhanek said the closed sessions were to “discuss a confidential legal opinion.” He declined to comment further.

Dunbar’s statement says that the alleged investigation into her computer is coming in a year when both Dunbar, who is supported by Mayor Virg Bernero, and Jeffries, who is not, run for re-election for their at-large Council seats. The top four vote getters in the nonpartisan primary election in August will face each other for the two seats in the November General Election.

Bernero defended Dunbar Tuesday, saying Wood is engaging in “McCarthyism tactics.”

“I was just trying to adjust to new Carol when the old Carol came out and pushed new Carol back in the closet,” Bernero said, referring to Wood’s statements shortly after being elected Council president that she plans to have a less contentious relationship with the administration.

Wood could not be reached Tuesday afternoon to respond to Bernero’s comments.

Last week, she said that she sent tentative committee assignments to Council members on a Friday and, after not hearing from anyone, made them official on the following Monday.

— Andy Balaskovitz

PUBLIC NOTICES



Ingham County is seeking proposals from experienced and qualified general contractors for the Willow Health Center Renovation project. The prebid notice is posted on-line at <http://pu.ingham.org> under the Current Bids link and assigned #2-13. Copies of the bid documents may be purchased from Commercial Blueprint, 3125 Pine Tree Road, Suite B, Lansing, MI 48911, 517-372-8360. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for February 11 at 10 AM, at the Willow Health Center, 306 W. Willow St., Lansing, MI 48906; to register email nwallace@ingham.org. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid guarantee in an amount equal to 5 percent of the total bid amount. Direct all questions to jhudgetts@ingham.org no later than 3 PM on February 13. Proposals are due on February 20 by 11 AM in the Purchasing Office.

Ingham County seeks bids for Janitorial Services for the Ingham County Department of Transportation and Roads facilities. Bid is posted on-line at <http://pu.ingham.org> under the Current Bids link and assigned #18-13. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for February 13 at 1 P.M., in the Board Room of the Road Department, 301 Bush Street, Mason, MI 48854; to register email nwallace@ingham.org. Direct all questions to jhudgetts@ingham.org no later than 3 PM on February 20. Bids are due February 26 by 11 AM.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1294, a request from Rockwood Development Group, LLC to rezone the properties at 6290, 6330, and 6350 Abbot Road, along with a vacant parcel along Abbot Road, from RDD, Multiple Family Residential, under the Charter Township of Meridian’s Zoning Code to RM-8, Planned Unit Development, under the City of East Lansing’s Zoning Code. The combined properties are approximately 24.35 acres.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission’s recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

Gay scouts

Lansing scouting, religious leaders support making optional the ban on gay Boy Scouts

For years, assistant scoutmaster Brad Shafer of Okemos has advocated an end to the Boy Scouts of America’s ban on gay members. He’s hoping for progress today when the national organization votes on whether to make such a ban an option for local troops. Nationally, the BSA has been facing mounting pressure from corporate sponsors and gay rights activists to change the policy.

Should BSA make the ban optional, several others in the local scouting and religious community will join Shafer in welcoming gay scouts. No one interviewed for this story would outright oppose allowing gay scouts, though some local scoutmasters and the Catholic Diocese of Lansing declined to comment until the national organization decides.

Shafer was haunted by a 2000 U.S. Supreme Court decision that allowed BSA to continue its discriminatory banning of gay Boy Scouts and leaders — he felt he had to do something about it.

“I knew pretty well what I wanted to do because of my background as a civil rights attorney. I wanted to — as strange as this sounds — sue the Boy Scouts over their anti-gay policy,” Shafer said.

He added that the vast majority of scout leaders in the area he’s talked to support lifting the ban. An Eagle Scout, Shafer is an assistant scoutmaster for Troop 109 in Okemos, which with 80 members is one of the largest troops in the area.

Through his wood badge training — the highest level of training in Boy Scouts — he advocated changing the policy.

Five “ticket items,” or service projects, are needed to complete wood badge training, which are supposed to help both society and

scouting. One of the requirements is a diversity ticket item, Shafer said.

“What my offer was at that time was exactly what scouting is looking at now, which is let the chartering organizations make the call,” he said.

Shafer never actually filed the lawsuit, but he prepared the lawsuit on behalf of a scout in Ann Arbor and sent it to the BSA as a “threat,” he said. It’s around that time two years ago when the Boy Scouts began to look at their discrimination policy and decided last year to uphold it.

Shafer believes the local option is a good compromise. He said a blanket policy allowing gay people into any troop could cause major upheaval from the more conservative churches that charter scouting troops.

For God and Scouting

Religion has a key place in the scouting tradition. The oaths of all three branches of scouting — Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing Crews — contain a promise “to do my duty to God.” Religious groups make up 70 percent of all BSA charter organizations. Charter organizations provide meeting space, occasional funding and input on leadership to troops they sponsor. However, troop and charter relationships can vary from unit to unit.

The Rev. Jeanne Randels is the pastor at Okemos Community Church, the charter organization for Troop 109. She said she would be “delighted” if the BSA voted to lift the ban.

“It’s about time,” she said. “They’re taking a step in the right direction, and that’s a good thing.”

The Rev. Zachary Bartels is the pastor at Judson Memorial Baptist Church in Lansing. He said if Troop 33, the Boy Scout troop his church charters, wanted to allow gay members into the group, he wouldn’t see a problem with it.

“I don’t see that affecting anything,” he said. “I’d be really surprised if it did.”

See Scouts, Page 7

Scouts

from page 6

Some religious groups, like Congregation Shaarey Zedek, a synagogue in East Lansing and their Boy Scout troop, Troop 180, took a stand against the ban years ago.

"I think it's wonderful and well overdue," Rabbi Amy Bigman said. "Our troop and synagogue took a stand many years ago against the policy of the Boy Scouts of America in regards to not allowing homosexuals in the troop or as leaders."

The scoutmasters for Troops 33 and 108 said they didn't want to comment on whether they would lift the ban until the BSA made their decision and troop leadership had a chance to discuss it.

Phone calls to Lansing area Catholic churches that charter Boy Scout groups were punted on to the Catholic Diocese of Lansing. Michael Diebold, diocesan communications director, said they would not make a statement until the BSA made its decision.

Both Bigman and Randels wanted to see the BSA take the decision a step further and create a national policy against discrimination. However, they believe the same as Shafer, that a policy allowing gay people into any troop could anger some of the more conservative chartering organizations out there.

Creating an inclusive community

Scout leaders agree: Membership is declining and the policy banning gays is partly to blame. Some believe that opening the doors to gay scouts and leaders could increase membership.

"It's no secret. Membership has been declining for quite awhile," said Chris LaMarche, 20, an Eagle Scout and Michigan State University student. "It's video games, it's kids not being outdoors as much and sport commitments, but another contributing factor is this policy banning gay people."

LaMarche said his best friend in high school came out to him while they both were in Scouts. LaMarche said they had to keep it a secret or his friend risked getting kicked out. "I know that, at least in Michigan, you'll find that story repeated over and over again," he said.

Shafer can relate to LaMarche's story. He's had several scouts in his troop approach him over the years and talk to him in confidence "as a lawyer" who told him they were gay.

Steve Easley, 61, is an assistant scoutmaster for Troop 109 at Okemos Community Church, along with Shafer. He believes the ban conflicts with the goals and values of scouting. He and LaMarche are both involved with Inclusive Scouting, an online Boy Scout community that has been advocating change to the policy.

Easley also sees the BSA's proposal to make the ban optional as a necessity, both for membership and funding purposes.

"In my personal perspective, Boy Scouts have struggled ever since this became an issue," he said. "Corporations and people with money have decided that they don't want to support Boy Scouts because they didn't like

their stance on it. It's been divisive already." He called making the ban a local option "the best compromise" for the situation.

Major corporations have stopped funding the national BSA because of their policy. Companies like Merck, UPS and Intel have pulled their charitable donations to the BSA in recent months.

Shafer said the discriminatory policy has caused bad press and charity relations for the organization. He referred to the case of Jennifer Tyrrell of Bridgeport, Ohio, a former leader of her son's Cub Scout pack who was kicked out because she was a lesbian.

"You've had leaders quit over this, you've certainly had leaders fired over this, and it's not making very good press for scouting," he said. "It's so difficult to get good adult leadership in scouting and to throw somebody out because she's a lesbian — it's ridiculous."

— Sam Inglot



Replacing Whitmer

Curtis Hertel Jr. positioning himself for a state Senate run in 2014

Ingham County Register of Deeds Curtis Hertel Jr., is positioning himself for a 2014 state Senate race to replace term-limited Sen. Gretchen Whitmer, D-East Lansing, multiple sources have confirmed.

Hertel, 35, is into his second term as register of deeds and was an Ingham County commissioner from 2001 to 2008. He's also worked for the state Department of Community Health and in the Legislature with the House Democratic Caucus. He is the son of former House Speaker Curtis Hertel.

"I love my job. I think we're doing good, important work for the people of Ingham County," Hertel said when asked about a possible run. "I strongly believe in public service, and I'm not ruling out any options right now. I'll look to see where I can best serve the public and the people of Ingham County and make an announcement when the time is right."

Asked specifically if he was ruling out a run for the 23rd District, which includes all of Ingham County with the exception of Williamston and four rural townships, Hertel said, "No, I'm not ruling out the Senate at this point."

Former Rep. Joan Bauer, D-Lansing, has openly talked about her interest in pursuing a run for the Senate seat. She said she has spoken to Hertel about his interest and it has not changed her plans at all.

"This is a big county," she said. "I figured there would be others interested and there likely will be more. I never expected a free ride."

Bauer, a former Lansing City Council member, won a competitive Democratic primary in 2006 to secure her first term in the House. She ran unopposed in her two primary elections for re-election.

While other local officials could jump into the race, no other names have surfaced. Reps. Andy Schor, D-Lansing, and Sam Singh, D-East Lansing, while never ruling anything out, are not making overtures in that direction. Former Rep. Mark Meadows said he's not interested in getting into that race.

The Capitol newsletter MIRS has learned that Hertel has been making the rounds with several influential political players in town and has tentatively secured some significant support. Since a primary election is some 19 months away, however, no one is coming out publicly in support of any candidate in advance of a formal announcement.

One source said Hertel appears to be doing a lot of "early work" in attempting to clear the field for 2014 in the hopes of avoiding a lot of "late work" down the line.

Another source said a potential showdown between Hertel and Bauer would make some local Democrats "uncomfortable," since both are popular in Lansing and will force people to choose sides.

The 23rd, with its 63 percent Democratic base, is a solidly Democratic district. The last Republican to give the seat a realistic push was former state Rep. Paul DeWeese in 2002, who ended up losing 55 percent to 45 percent to now-Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero. Through redistricting, the seat has only gotten more Democratic, giving Republicans little hope of securing it in the near future.

In only his first term as register of deeds, Hertel has made a name for himself by being out front on the issue of foreclosure

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fraud through robo-signing and forgery. He's been a party to lawsuits against banks, foreclosure firms and attorneys to bring the issue further visibility.

He's taken part in several press conferences and pushed for additional legislation to assist homeowners from being swept out of their homes as a result of callous bank policies.

He was chosen to become vice president of the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds in 2011.

Before leaving the legislature in 2012 due to term limits, Bauer was the ranking member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, a subcommittee she chaired when the Democrats were in the majority. On that body, she was an advocate for Michigan State University and increased state funding for the state's university system as a whole.

She also sponsored legislation, since picked up by Schor, to include libraries in the state's "gun-free zones" after an incident at the downtown Lansing Capital Area District Library a few years ago.

Bauer has also been passionate about gender workplace equality as it relates to pay and pursuing a state income tax credit for some student loans.

— Kyle Melinn

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
FOR THE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013
EAST LANSING SCHOOL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the public test of the program which will be used for tabulating the results of the East Lansing School Election to be held Tuesday, February 26, 2013 in the City of Lansing will be conducted at the City Clerk's Election Unit located in the South Washington Office Complex at 2500 South Washington Avenue on February 19, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

The public accuracy test is conducted to determine that the program used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Chris Swope
Lansing City Clerk



Erin Doyle Groom/Michigan State University

In the 1990s, Randy Gelispie, seen here on WKAR-TV in 2009, joined the MSU jazz faculty and became the drummer and elder spirit of its crack house band, the MSU Professors of Jazz.

'ALL WE GOT IS THE SPIRIT'

A press roll through jazz history with drummer Randy Gelispie

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Randy Gelispie folded his hands and gave thanks for his meal. Settling into a booth at the Lansing Mall Panera Bread, he began to dismantle his sandwich, like a jeweler taking a watch apart.

"Ever since I can remember being in the world, I wanted to play the drums," he said, peeking under the crust.

At 16, Gelispie played in Ray Charles' band, substituting for a sick drummer, at the Armory in his hometown of Akron, Ohio.

"I was so young I didn't have sense enough to be scared," Gelispie said. Just before Charles came on stage, his bass player, Edgar Willis, turned to Gelispie. "You just watch Ray," he whispered. "Stay with Ray."

While telling the story, Gelispie set the top slice of bread aside, air-drummed on the exposed meat and shot a glance to his right, at a phantom Ray Charles. "Ray started playing. I heard him say, 'That's nice, son, that's nice.' Edgar Willis winked at me."

He sat back, savored the memory and gave the sandwich a rest. Charles is one of Gelispie's two most revered musical idols. John Coltrane is the other. He has gotten compliments from both.

"Years later, I'm on the road, I hear all these horror stories about how hard Ray was on drummers," Gelispie said. "Then I got scared."

After years of travel in hundreds of clubs, playing with some of the world's greatest musicians, Gelispie settled in Lansing and became the firebrand and father figure of jazz studies at MSU. His students revere him, and many say he changed their lives. A tribute to Gelispie, with a wild-card line-up of fellow musicians and colleagues, is set for Sunday at The Avenue café.

At 77, Gelispie regards everything life puts in front of him with curiosity and wonder. An avid bow hunter, he loves to spend time in northern Michigan. If no game is afoot, he is content to sit in a tree and listen to the wind, the rustling leaves and the woodpeckers.

Memphis) kept him up until early morning.

He went to the woodshed, whittled sticks out of kindling and banged on cans until he was 6, when his parents got him a wood-framed snare drum and a cymbal. (Metal was subject to wartime rationing.) When he was 11, his Uncle Nathan bought him his

after-hours joints. He was under age, but everyone in town knew him and looked the other way. Cops helped him carry his drums into the clubs. With everyone in town supervising him, a life of abstemiousness took root.

"You work with older people, they're going to look out for you," he said. "Never was curious about smoking or drinking." The church elders' pipe tobacco, Mix No. 7, was the only temptation.

"I wanted to smoke when I grew up, but I never did. I'm shooting for Methuselah."

Straight out of high school, Gelispie went to work at Akron's dominant employer, Goodyear, while playing the local clubs.

"Go to work at noon, get off at 6 — I'm hittin'," he said. "Why would I travel? There were so many bad cats to play with."

"Go to work at noon, get off at six — I'm hittin'. Why would I travel? There were so many bad cats to play with."

RANDY GELISPIE ON PLAYING JAZZ IN AKRON, OHIO, AS A YOUNG MAN

"You can hear some slick rhythms in the woods," he said with a grin.

The next gig, the next student, the next sandwich are all packages on his porch. For me? What's in this thing?

He parted the meat from the cheese, set them aside, and examined the bottom slice of bread. Then he started in on the meat.

SO SLICK

When Gelispie was 4 years old, he wandered away from home, crossing two major intersections, to stand in front of Ross Music on Howard Street in midtown Akron, to look at the drum kit in the window. He was calmly walking back home when a car screeched to the curb and his frantic father scooped him up.

"They had the police and everybody looking for me," Gelispie said. "That's the only time I ever got a spanking." Late every night, Gelispie crept out of bed, laid his head on the dining room table and listened to the radio, turned low. Swing, jazz and rhythm and blues (from "Randy's Record Shop" in

first set of drums for about \$130.

On Saturdays, Gelispie tagged along with his grandfather as he delivered homemade pork rinds to the clubs.

"I'd watch the cats playing for about five minutes until the next club," Gelispie said. "Those were happy times, watching guys play."

At 11, Gelispie started in on the snare drum at the Supreme Council of the House of Jacob, a sanctified church in Akron that is still going strong. "It was church songs, but the way they played them had a jazz concept, like the bebop cats," he said. "I hate to use this word in the church, but it was so slick."

In mid-20th-century mid-America, jazz was almost a utility, like water or gas. Gelispie saw Basie, Ellington and many other touring greats at Akron's Palace and Ritz theaters. At 15, he saw alto sax great Sonny Stitt at the Armory, little dreaming that 20 years later he would tour and record with the music's celebrated post-Charlie Parker alto player.

While still in junior high, Gelispie played

Gelispie

from page 8

road, but the headiest days of American jazz were at hand. Old timers, swing bands, beboppers, juke-joint cooks and avant-garde players were all on the scene at once. A herd of giants, from Armstrong to Ellington to Monk to Miles Davis, criss-crossed the country. By 1958, Gelispie was doing the same.

"The jobs went down everywhere," he said. "I can't remember all the clubs. It's bad when you go to the room number of the hotel you had last week."

Consider two weeks from Gelispie's 1969 schedule, starting with an organ trio gig in a Buffalo club from Monday through Sunday. Late Sunday night, they packed up the organ and shoved it into the corner of the club. They flew from Buffalo to Newark the next morning, rented a car and drove to Rudy van Gelder's legendary studio to record the Sonny Stitt album "Night Letter" (still available on CD on the Prestige label). They caught a plane in Newark, flew back to Buffalo, picked up the organ, put it in the trailer and drove from Buffalo to Dayton, Ohio, where they arrived Tuesday morning, set up and played Tuesday through Sunday. They packed up at 3 a.m. Monday morning and shoved off for Raleigh, N.C., arriving at 7:30 that evening. "We set up, went to the



Courtesy Photos

Gelispie played the shrinking pool of jazz clubs in Lansing and Detroit on weekends,

hotel, took a shower, changed clothes and hit at 9:30 in Raleigh," Gelispie said. "We were doing all that kind of stuff all the time."

Gelispie's reputation grew. Between sets at a gig with guitar legend Wes Montgomery at New York's Jazz Gallery, one of jazz's greatest drummers, Philly Joe Jones, yanked the sticks out of his hands. "Get up, motherfucker, you're too young to be playing so good," Jones told Gelispie. Alto legend Cannonball Adderley offered Gelispie a spot in his band if drummer Roy McCurdy ever left.

(He didn't.)

While scaling the jazz heights, Gelispie enjoyed working with entertainers like Screamin' Jay Hawkins, who came on stage in a coffin and dressed like Dracula, and blues powerhouse Big Maybelle.

"You talk about a trouper," Gelispie said of Maybelle. After sending the crowd into a frenzy with her hit song, "Candy," Maybelle would turn her back to the audience, take out her false teeth, drop them in her bosom, turn around and whistle the blues.

"Those people went stone crazy!" Gelispie cried, bending over with laughter.

One memorable night, during Gelispie's stint with guitar legend Wes Montgomery, Thelonious Monk climbed on stage and launched into "Happy Birthday."

"We just played like he was another cat," Gelispie said. "Nothing unusual."

DUMPS AND DIVES

A keen listener, Gelispie meshed especially well with organists.

In 1963, the trio of organist Gene Ludwig, guitarist Jerry Byrd and Gelispie scored a hit single, "Sticks and Stones," that ruled juke joints across the country for months. Check it out on YouTube and you'll hear Gelispie's high hat shimmer, like wall-to-wall shag, over a bone-cracking shimmy on the snare.

Gravel-voiced keyboard player Bill Heid, longtime Detroit organist and a veteran of 50 years at the Hammond B3 console, first saw Gelispie in the trio with Byrd at Count

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See Gelispie, Page 10

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Gelispie

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Basi's in Harlem in 1969. When Ludwig left the trio, young Heid moved into the chair.

"These guys were veterans, but Randy just coached me along," Heid said. "When I turned meters around or did stupid stuff, he never gave me a hard time, like some of those guys."

Heid played with Gelispie dozens of times, from Pittsburgh in the 1970s and the East Coast to Detroit and Lansing in the 1980s, as gigs slowly dried up.

"We played in some real dumps and dives," Heid said. "We might make 20 dollars each, split the cost of hauling the B3 (organ) and go home with \$15 apiece."

As club work skidded to a nadir in the late 1980s and early 1990s, Heid, Gelispie and trumpeter Walt Szymanski scampered off to Oakland University to record scores for a dozen or so adult films produced by jazz-loving porn star John Leslie. (On the Internet Movie Database, Gelispie is credited as drummer on three Leslie opuses, with his name spelled three different ways.) The high-end jazz in some of Leslie's films is often more arresting than the action. For Leslie's "Mad Love," Gelispie and the trio fulfilled a precise request for four minutes and ten seconds of "crazy music" with a climactic free-jazz freakout. They named the

track "9,000 Archie Shepps," in honor of the avant-garde tenor sax player.

"We had to name the tracks to get royalties," Heid explained. "We had a ball."

By the mid '70s, Gelispie had settled in Lansing with his second wife, Violet Jean, and a growing family. He worked a day job at GM's Fisher Body plant, where both plant managers were jazz fans. Looking back, he said, it was a good time to settle down.

A handful of Lansing clubs, including the Stables and the Stone House, still hosted jazz. Most weekends, Gelispie played in Detroit clubs like Baker's, Club Mozambique, Dummy George's and Jazz West. When longer gigs came up, Gelispie's sympathetic bosses at Fisher Body didn't ask for a vacation slip.

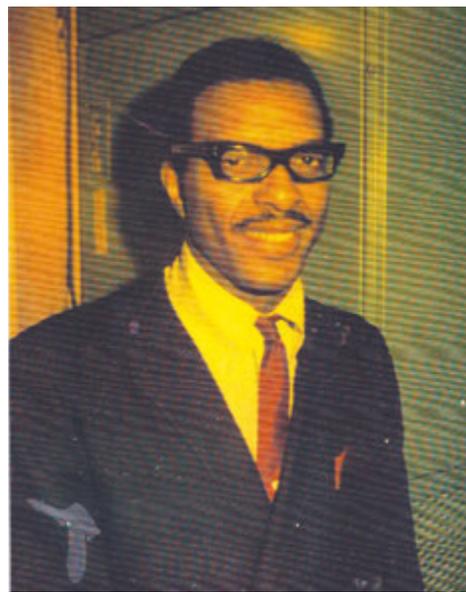
SOUND IN MOTION

In the late 1980s, Gelispie started tutoring drum students at MSU and was brought on as an instructor by Jazz Studies director Rodney Whitaker in 1991.

Heid, who considers schools "prisons," thinks MSU was forward-thinking to take Gelispie in.

"Even though he's teaching at Michigan State, he never has that 'jazz goes to college' vibe, talking about textures and that cornball academic nonsense," Heid growled.

Gelispie's students talk about him the way acolytes talk about a Zen master. Ryan Ptasnik graduated from MSU last year after studying with Gelispie and now works as a



Courtesy Photos

Gelispie settled in Lansing and worked at GM's Fisher Body plant in the 1970s and 1980s

musician in New York.

"I always learned something that was priceless in a lesson, every time," Ptasnik said. "And it was always something I could use in music and in life."

Joshua Davis, another Gelispie drums student who is now working as a musician in New York, kept it simple: "I owe every paycheck I ever earned to him."

Gelispie's most frequent reminder to jazz students is to listen.

"A drummer never plays alone," Gelispie said. Only after learning to listen carefully, he tells them, will there be occasions to solo, or "let them know it's a drum."

Jeff Shoup, a mainstay of the Lansing jazz scene, studied with Gelispie for seven years through graduate school.

"His teaching style is like his drumming," Shoup said. "It's like this effortless thing."

If there's a signature feature to Gelispie's playing, it's the "chang-a-lang" of his ride cymbal, a sonic nimbus like the mist at the fringe of a great waterfall. "His cymbal beat is definitive," Shoup said. "I remember, just watching his hand on the cymbal, especially when he's playing fast tempos. There's all this sound in motion coming out."

Even non-drummers study with Gelispie to soak in his experience and knowledge. Detroit-area guitarist Ralph Tope studied with him for two years.

"He took all the greatest things from the greats who came before him, internalized it and made it his own," Tope said.

Gelispie has 14 children (from two wives, both deceased) and 19 grandchildren, but that's just biology. As a teacher, his progeny is legion. Recently, Tope was having a drink at Small's Nightclub in New York and heard a drummer play a familiar three-part lick: DOOT-da-doot-da-doot, BOPE-a-dope-a-dope, BOP-a-dop-a-dop. Sure enough, the drummer had studied with Gelispie.

Last week, Ptasnik and three other MSU jazz grads were touring Ohio, teaching jazz in middle schools, passing on the jazz mes-



Courtesy Photo

When Gelispie was 4 years old, he wandered into midtown Akron to look at a drum kit in a music store window. Until he got his first drum at 6, he whittled his own sticks and banged on cans.

"That he was life-changing for me is maybe an understatement," Ptasnik said. "It will go beyond my life."

Gelispie said he's only passing along the blessings he's gotten.

"I look at music as a wonderful feeling," he said. "Spiritual? All we got is the spirit."

With his bread gnawed to the bare crust, Gelispie carved out time for one more story. After an early-1960s gig with Wes Montgomery in New York, Gelispie saw John Coltrane approach the bandstand. "I love your feeling," Coltrane told him softly.

With the possible exception of Ray Charles, no musician is dearer to Gelispie than Coltrane.

"Coltrane's playing is from the earth, from the beginning," he said. "It starts from here, yet it's out there, and everything in between is beautiful." He swept his hand from the floor to the ceiling. "It reminds me of when you look out into space and you see all those beautiful colors. You know there's nothing out there but that beauty."

The compliment from Coltrane means a lot to Gelispie, but he relishes its sequel even more.

"Coltrane asked about you three or four times," Montgomery told him later. "But don't ask for no raise."

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Endgame for 'art mecca'

Local mall's gallery project dissolves after three years

By ALLAN I. ROSS

Less than three years after it began, Meridian Mall's fledgling "art mecca" will soon be uninstalled, having never made it past its first phase. It's an inauspicious end to what was supposed have been a bold expansion of the thriving Lansing art gallery scene.

Ironically, it appears the effort is being thwarted by an otherwise improving economy: At least some of the gallery space will be replaced by a national shoe store looking for mall space. And Meridian Mall management says bringing in artist tenants — that would be the international, mixed media collection of Anselmo Gallery and the custom-made glasswork of Craig Mitchell Smith Glass — was only a temporary fix to vacant storefronts as a result of the economic downturn. Moreover, management is still offering space in the mall, just in a different location.

Ric Anselmo says he feels blindsided.

"It doesn't seem right," said Anselmo, owner of Anselmo Gallery. His business will vacate its prime location next to Macy's by the end of the month. "I created this to be a beautiful place where people could come and look at art, to bring their kids to teach them, and what do they want to do with it? They want to sell shoes here now. Ah."

Anselmo turned his head away and threw up his hands in frustration: "Aren't there enough shoe stores in the world?"

However, Meridian Mall manager Larry Parsons paints a different picture.

"Ric knew that this was a temporary situation when he signed the lease," Parsons said by phone. "When we approached him (in 2010), we had space to fill, and we offered him a very special deal to keep lights on until we could find a permanent tenant."

Due to a confidentiality agreement, neither Parsons nor Anselmo would give the details of the deal. While the idea was to foster a creative community that would attract other artists to the mall, the only other gallery owner to bite was Craig Mitchell Smith. The two galleries are still surrounded by nine empty storefronts.

In July 2010, Anselmo, 84, moved his gallery from the 3,000-square-foot space he'd been leasing at 3320 E. Lake Lansing Road in East Lansing to the Meridian Mall, where he was given about 12,000 square feet of el-

bow room. Anselmo said the mall's management pursued him to be the first in a hub of art galleries — which only made it as far as two. Craig Mitchell Smith Glass moved in next door to Anselmo in October 2010. Anselmo said the larger space allowed him to provide a world-class service to the area.

"My collection represents a lifetime of world travel," Anselmo said. "I set this up to be like a museum, giving you plenty of space to take a couple steps back and enjoy the individual pieces."

He shuffles through his gallery, pointing out the favorite pieces in his collection. The engraved elephant tusk, the Chinese silk wall hanging, the bubbling Zen fountains. Soon it will all be moving, destination unknown.

"Art is not a common thing," Anselmo says, pausing near some African carvings. "It's important to be able to interact with it. But it's disappearing."

Anselmo, an architect by trade, was born and educated in the Philippines before moving to the U.S. in the 1950s. He designed some of the Lansing area's iconic landmarks — including the University Club, the MSU Children's Garden and the firehouse on Abbot Road — and he taught architecture at Michigan State University and Lansing



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

The rebounding economy is forcing Ric Anselmo, owner of Anselmo Gallery in the Meridian Mall, to relocate his 12,000 square foot art collection, which includes sculptures, paintings and chessboards. This spring, his location will become a Shoe Carnival.

well as socks, handbags and wallets. He also said that the new tenants will knock out part of the store's rear wall to create an exterior entrance, giving shoppers another way to enter the mall from the parking lot. Construction is expected to begin in March.

That coincides with Craig Mitchell Smith's departure.

"As the economy continues to improve, we're starting to get national companies who are looking to expand into Michigan," Parsons said. "The state is becoming more favorable to do business. We've offered to

upcoming film, "Oz the Great and Powerful."

"I no longer need the mall — I need a production facility," Smith said. "Most of my sales are from outside. My lease goes until next month, and I still don't know yet what's going to happen. But I'd rather be next to a gallery than a shoe store. I'm anxious."

Anselmo said that he's talking with a leasing agent at the Lansing Mall across town about moving there, but admits he has reservations about both the available store sizes and whether a gallery would be well received.

Donna Randall, co-owner of Gallery 1212 in Old Town, said she thinks Anselmo is making a mistake by looking toward another mall move. She spent five years in the '90s running Nature's Scoop, a yogurt store adjacent to the Lansing Mall, and said she was always surprised how costs kept adding up.

"It's just so expensive in all these ways you never think about," she said. "You have to stay open for mall hours, for one, and that's an increase in labor costs right there. You pay for so many little things. Every time it snows, you have to pay part of the snow plow bill."

Randall moved to her location, 1212 Turner St., in 2010. At 1,100 square feet, it's less than one-tenth the size of Anselmo Gallery, but she says space has never been an issue; she has full range of classes, workshops and a rotating monthly showcase.

"Just because you want a bigger house doesn't mean you need one," she said. "I, for one, really appreciate the Meridian Mall for supporting art, and I think Ric should be happy that they supported him for three years. But I understand why they're doing what they're doing. The economy has improved, and they want to let someone in who can make them a lot of money. It's sad to say it, but art has to pay for itself."

"The economy has improved, and they want to let someone in who can make them a lot of money. It's sad to say it, but art has to pay for itself."

DONNA RANDALL, CO-OWNER OF GALLERY 1212

Community College. He was always an avid art collector, and in 1996 he opened the first Anselmo Gallery in East Lansing. And for 14 years, he did just fine.

"Then three years ago, (Meridian Mall) came to me, begging me to move in," Anselmo said. "And now they want me to take a space that's half this big somewhere else — that's not enough room to show my art. They're so shortsighted. I'm attracting customers from hundreds, thousands of miles away. Having an art gallery in this mall is better than advertising."

But Parsons said the mall is responding to renewed interest in retail space. Anselmo's former slot will become a Shoe Carnival, an Indiana-based footwear retailer with over 400 stores nationwide that sells men's, women's, children's and athletic footwear, as

move Ric to another space in the mall, but he doesn't seem to want that. We always had the right to move him. He should take a look at his lease."

Smith, 49, will leave the mall in March to pursue work in Florida. Although he's been creating art for almost 30 years, his store in the mall was his first full-time gallery.

"They made both Ric and I exquisite deals, but I always knew that it wouldn't last forever," said Smith, whose 6,000-square-foot gallery is about half the size of Anselmo's. "I had Plan B in place from day one. They wanted to make an art mecca, but they could only find the two of us."

Smith talked by phone from Walt Disney World in Orlando, where he just finished installing some of his art in the EPCOT theme park — glass poppies, to coincide with the

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Courtesy Photo

Mary Robert brings the personal lives of transgender people in Istanbul, Turkey, into the public light with "East Meets West," her photography exhibit at the MSU Museum.

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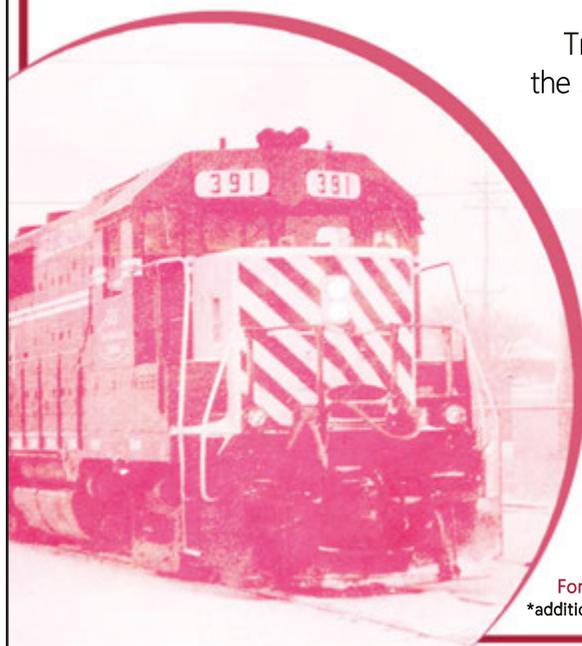
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Strength under pressure

Istanbul transgender community on display at MSU photo exhibit

By **MARISOL DORANTES**

Stepping into a photo gallery at the Michigan State University Museum, a playful woman on a rooftop greets you. This is Filiz, a transgender in Istanbul.

The joy radiating from her in the photo eases the audience into a collection of portraits that explores the lives of individuals, which at times are the very opposite of Filiz's demeanor.

Photographer Mary Robert brings the personal lives of transgender people in Istanbul, Turkey, into the public light through her "East Meets West: The Transgender Community of Istanbul" exhibit at the MSU Museum. Robert delivers a guest lecture at 1 p.m. Saturday, at the MSU Union, in partnership with the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference in Lansing (see page 14).

It's not a stretch to say that Robert, the dean of learning, teaching and curriculum development at Richmond University, London, also doubles as her photo subjects' confidant. Most captions that accompany her work add context to the photos in the subject's own words, a powerful reflection of the trust they have in Robert.

"Two months ago when you photographed me, I was just starting to change. Now that the hormones are doing their job, I'm feeling more comfortable — and even more sexy," says Ebru, in the portrait "Ebru with crinkly hair."

The intimate disclosure of these women is captured throughout the collection. The photos range from formal portraits to can-

did moments, but in all of them the subjects are in their element. Robert captures their vibrant personalities and emotions. From Filiz and Ebru to Irem, a transgender whose femininity is not pronounced, the exhibition is filled with diversity.

There are reportedly 2,000 to 3,000 transexuals at different stages of transition from male to female in Istanbul, a city of 13.5 million people. The exhibit is meant to show strength in a place where transexuals face pressures from the Turkish culture around them.

Jim Lawton, an MSU art professor and curator for East Meets West, saw Robert's work at an exhibition where they were both presenting.

"I look for cutting edge art that addresses cultural diversity and globalization. ... Mary Robert's work fits right into that," Lawton said.

Robert will visit MSU to share the experiences and interactions she shared with the women.

"It will be more of a storytelling rather than a lecture about her work," Lawton said. The 15 photos at the MSU Museum are just a portion of Robert's entire project. Both Lawton and Robert hand-picked the images that would best represent the theme but that also fit the space in the museum. The utmost attention was paid to every detail of the gallery.

"There are no frames around the photographs," Lawton said. "It was very important to Mary that there be no hard edges, no barriers between the pictures and the viewer."

"East Meets West: The Transgender Community of Istanbul"

Through April 14
MSU Museum, 409 E. Circle
Dr., East Lansing

Photographer Mary Robert guest lecture

Feb. 9
1 p.m.
MSU Union Ballroom
49 Abbot Road
East Lansing

SLAVERY TO Freedom
AN AMERICAN ODYSSEY
PART I

Daughter of civil rights icons: 'We have a moral obligation to help others'

By **ALLAN I. ROSS**

"Slavery to Freedom: An American Odyssey" is an annual lecture series commemorating Black History Month. Three different speakers will be featured who have become icons of the African-American struggle for civil rights.

Donzaleigh Abernathy, 55, is a playwright and actress, appearing in shows such as "The Walking Dead" and "Shameless." She is also the daughter of the late Rev. Ralph Abernathy, a prominent leader of the Civil Rights movement and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s closest confidante.

What was your childhood like?

We had to participate in my father's work, I remember this vividly. He wanted to make sure we understood what was happening. We walked on the frontlines of every single major civil rights march. When my Mom asked us if we wanted to go (to an integrated school), I was the first to raise my hand. We had three white ministers live in my home. If our home could be integrated, why not our schools? Our churches?

When I was little, we only used to see my father on the weekends, and every time we had to say goodbye on Monday, he would tell us that he might not come back. He wanted us to be prepared. He knew his work was dangerous and that he could

get arrested, go to jail or worse.

But he wanted to make sure our life was happy. Weekends were a big playtime for us. He'd wake us up early on Saturday, make breakfast for us, and on Sunday we went to church. We met (the Kings) every Sunday for dinner together. My sister was best friends with Yolanda (King) and my brother was best friends with Dexter (Scott King).

Is Black History Month still relevant in the 21st century?

It is most definitely essential — I just wish it wasn't the shortest month. I'm a young woman, but I remember not being able to go into a dressing room at the department store and having to use a black water foundation. I remember before I could go into certain restaurants.

Black people don't know enough about



Donzaleigh Abernathy

their own history. We need to learn from our Jewish brothers and sisters who recount their suffering so that they never have to go through that again. A lot of black people take their freedom and liberties for granted. They're standing on the shoulders of people who didn't get to enjoy that freedom. We have a moral obligation to help others, to make sure that we will never endure that suffering ever again. We need to go forward with a clear understanding of our path and of the suffering that other people endured for us.

Do you think your father and Dr. King would be happy with the state of race relations in 2013?

They would be ecstatic that President Obama was elected. They would also be pleased with the number of black people, Jewish people, Asians and women represented in public office. But I think they'd be frustrated that discrimination with housing is still a concern. That struggle is still ongoing.

My father's main concern was giving young African-Americans hope. When you see violence with African-Americans, you ask why. He wanted to address those issues. He wanted to reach out to disenfranchised, to help them find their voices.

Are there any marginalized groups today that draw your attention?

Sadly, there's still this hatred for minorities who are becoming the majority of this country. The presidential election ignited that conversation again. You can change laws and affect equality on a certain level, but teaching people to love one another — the court can't dictate that.

Discrimination against gay people is wrong. I did an advertisement for gay marriage in Maryland, and I hope it helped because it passed. We shouldn't let (the LGBT community) be alone in their fight. The Civil Rights movement had whites, Jews, everyone helping us; now we have an obligation to help other groups.

The people who speak out the loudest (against equal rights) are usually the people trying to hide who they really are. That's what my parents taught us.



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	02/6	02/7	02/8	02/9	02/10
12:45			Brooklyn Castle	Nobody Walks	Chasing Ice
3:45	Brooklyn Castle	A Royal Affair	Any Day Now	The Intouchables	Brooklyn Castle
6:45	Rust and Bone	Any Day Now (7:00)	A Royal Affair	Any Day Now	The Intouchables
9:45	The Intouchables	Chasing Ice	Starlet (10:00)	Rust and Bone	
	02/11	02/12	02/13	02/14	
3:45	Any Day Now	Brooklyn Castle	Rust and Bone	The Intouchables	
6:45	Rust and Bone	Rust and Bone	Starlet	Nobody Walks	
9:45	A Roil Affair	The Zen of Bennett	Chasing Ice	Rust and Bone	

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MEET THE SPEAKERS



LZ GRANDERSON:

Bridging sports, politics and the LGBT community

By DYLAN SOWLE

CNN and ESPN contributing writer LZ Granderson returns to his home state to deliver a keynote speech at this week's MBLG-TACC, a return to the conference after speaking there in 2009. He's fresh off of covering the Super Bowl in New Orleans.

What's a sports writer doing at the largest LGBT conference in the U.S., you ask? From working on SportsCenter, to covering politics in his CNN column, to giving a TED talk last year called "The myth of the gay agenda," Granderson's career spans a broad spectrum. He sees the varying topics of his career and life as not so much different, but as parts of one larger picture.

"I don't see sports and social issues as separate. Social issues dictate who gets to become an athlete and who doesn't. Or who gets to become a coach and who doesn't. So much of it bleeds side to side," he said.

Granderson's journalism isn't separate from his involvement in the LGBT community. The 40-year-old Detroit native was named the 2011 Journalist of the Year by the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, and the winner of the GLAAD award for online journalism in 2009.

Through his speeches and opinion columns, Granderson — who is openly gay — has gained a platform for making his voice heard.

"The more that people are exposed to LGBT people, the less opposed they are to letting them have the same rights as everyone else," he said. "More than parades and policies, what has managed to change people's minds the most is simply meeting LGBT people."

In his speech, Granderson said he will draw on material from his TED talk, a humorous 18-minute speech on the absurdity of the idea of a certain gay lifestyle. He'll also focus on what to expect from the next four years with the Obama administration and how to gain acceptance and increased rights for LGBT citizens.

Following the conference, Granderson has another busy month ahead. He'll speak at four different schools before visiting the White House for a series of briefings. Then he'll cover the NBA All-Star Weekend in Houston.

But, Granderson said, none of these are as important as volunteering at his son's upcoming school dance.



EMI KOYAMA: All inclusive

By MARISOL DORANTES

"Survivor," "Asian," "dyke" — these are all words that Emi Koyama uses to describe herself.

Also a self-described "multi-issue social justice activist/writer/rogue intellectual," Koyama is not afraid to speak her thoughts, no matter how taboo and unorthodox they may seem.

Koyama is one of four keynote speakers at this year's MBLGTAC conference in Lansing. She writes and speaks about feminism, intersex and disability issues and sexual and domestic violence, among others.

"I'm not exactly sure what I will be talking about yet," she said of her visit to Lansing this week. "I am always researching new things ... I like to shake things up a bit, you know?"

Although Koyama researches and writes about many different topics, they all revolve around the idea of acceptance. One of Koyama's focal points is stigmatization and victim blaming.

Koyama began volunteering in homeless shelters in the 1990s in Portland, Ore., where she still lives. She is the founder and director of the Portland-based Intersex Initiative, an advocacy organization for those born with conditions when genetics and genitals don't align under "standard" definitions of sex. Her personal website, eminism.org, claims: "Putting the Emi back in Feminism since 1975."

While working in homeless shelters, she observed that the rules to stay there were based on a singular set of morals and values: no drugs or alcohol. Koyama uses this example to develop her stance on human coping through hardships, noting it is not a sufficient approach.

"There is a very linear way of thinking when it comes to how someone should or shouldn't deal with trauma. If you aren't positive, then something is wrong with you," she said. Koyama is trying to change the way people see and marginalize victims who do not conform to what is accepted as the "appropriate" way to grieve.

Koyama does not speak in allegories, but she manages to be just as engaging because her thoughts stem from personal experiences, including her work as a volunteer at rape crisis centers and literature that has influenced her beliefs. Koyama is inspired by literary figures Gloria Anzaldúa, author of "Borderlands/ La Frontera," and Michiyo Fukaya, a Japanese-American lesbian and poet.

Koyama's work, while based on feminism and sexual identity, is at its core about all-inclusive principles.

"I write to create pressure to change things," she said, "whether it's in politics or the emergency room, where sometimes people don't get help if they are there for reasons outside what is socially acceptable."

Welcome

Attempting to pronounce the acronym for the **Midwest Bisexual Transgender Ally College Conference** phonetically makes you sound like you're trying to summon an archaic deity of some sort. (Our best attempt: "Em-bleg-tac.")

But the acronym for the conference is as big as the event itself — **it's the LGBT conference in the country, with an average attendance**

The annual conference started in 1993 and is hosted by a different college in a different city every year. This year, students at Michigan State University are carrying the torch and hosting this the biggest conference yet.

The event, which is open to all college students, will be a



ROBYN OCHS:

Advocate, teacher, author

By DYLAN SOWLE

Educator/activist Robyn Ochs is one of the foremost speakers on LGBT issues. She's been a featured presenter and speaker at past MBLGTACC conferences, and is an outspoken advocate for gay marriage.

"We have marriage equality in Massachusetts now, so mission successful," she said. "And after that, we said to ourselves, 'Are we done?' And of course, we aren't done. We'll keep working."

Ochs has taught courses on LGBT history and politics, and calls the MBLGTACC event "a highlight of my year." She can attest to the enthusiasm and power of the event.

"There's something so exciting about watching people who have felt isolated be in a space with 1,500 actively engaged people," Ochs said. "It's especially important for students from smaller towns, or areas with little support from their communities. They can expect, perhaps for the first time, to feel the power of community."

In addition to her speaking experience, Ochs is the co-founder of Harvard University's LGBT Faculty and Staff Group, and its Trans Task Force. She is the editor of "Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World (2005, 2009)," an international anthology with authors from 42 countries. She also wrote "The Bisexual Resource Guide" and is the editor of "Bi Women," a quarterly publication.



BEN COHEN:

Athlete working to end bullying

By JUSTIN ANDERSON

England Rugby World Cup champion Ben Cohen retired from the sport in 2011 to focus his attention on a social project, the Ben Cohen StandUp Foundation, which heightens awareness of homophobic bullying and raises funds to support those working to stop it. He's also one of the first straight athletes to focus on LGBT issues. His philanthropic work has reached millions through his public speaking events and his social media contacts.

Cohen has done a lot with the StandUp Foundation to fight for the rights of the LGBT community and to combat homophobia in sports. The StandUp Foundation is supported by donations from individuals and with the help of corporations and organizations such as Nike, Microsoft and the Human Rights Campaign.

Cohen's message cuts close to home — his father was fatally wounded while defending a man who was being attacked at a nightclub. His speaking engagements focus on the importance of respect, having respect for yourself and others and working for equal rights for people of all backgrounds.

Cohen couldn't be reached for comment.

A gay icon in Europe, Cohen has appeared on the covers of LGBT-friendly magazines Attitude, Compete and

MBLGTACC

FOR A LIST of bars, restaurants, museums, art galleries and activities in the area, see page 16!

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Center Friday through Sunday. Online registration costs \$65 and at-the-door tickets are \$75.

Attendees will have nearly 100 workshops to choose from — including some on gender and sexual identity in the legal profession; counseling students on LGBT-related issues; and the “Campus Pride Index” for LGBT-friendly campuses — as well as entertainment and speaking events.

Read on to find out more about the keynote speakers, things to do and eat while you're in town and a profile of prominent, plus-size drag queen Latrice Royale, who performs at Spiral on Saturday.

Happy MBLGTACC!

Start your engines

'RuPaul's Drag Race' star stops at Spiral

By RICH TUPICA

Before Latrice Royale was a world-famous, plus-sized drag queen and reality TV star, she was Timothy Wilcots, a child of the '70s growing up in Compton, Calif., just blocks away from gangsta rap legends Eazy E and Dr. Dre.

Today, the 40-year-old is riding the wave of his television stardom, performing high-energy drag shows at clubs across the country, including a gig Saturday at Spiral Video and Dance Bar.

“People don't expect the things they see from me because I'm such a large-framed being,” Royale said. “They don't expect the high kicks and dancing, the big energy and splits. They don't expect me to move the way I do on stage.

There's an emotion behind it, the costuming. It's a journey, it's a trip. It's a lot to take in.

While his stint on “RuPaul's Drag Race” — a reality TV show seeking out America's next drag star — may be over, Royale said he might be back on the small screen soon.

“I'm working on some projects, trying to get some things in the works to get my own show,” he said. “I love television — you can reach so many more people at once.”

Royale's upbringing wasn't as flashy and glam as his stardom.

“It was pretty much the ghetto,” he said. “My mom was hardworking, a single parent. But we made it through. I was born in '72 — in the '80s, Compton got really bad with the gangs, of course.”

Back in those days, Royale didn't feel comfortable discussing his homosexuality or his desire to hit the drag stage. “That took a long time,” he said.

Royale started doing drag with a dance group called Alliance from Miami after he moved to Florida at age 20. His first gig was at the Copacabana in Fort Lauderdale. Over time, he would go on to teach aspiring drag queens.

After a couple of decades, Royale's hard work in the drag scene paid off when it landed him on the

World Series of drag competitions — a spot on “RuPaul's Drag Race” in the show's fourth season. Since then, he said, “It's been crazy!”

While being a plus-sized performer isn't a limiting factor, Royale recalls the struggles he's dealt with over the years.

“It does make a difference, only because the plus-sized queen has to work extra hard,” he said. “You have to work harder to bring it — because if you're sloppy and you're big, that's what they expect. But that's not the image plus-sized (performers) should have. We are glamorous, beautiful and sexy.”

One thing that often comes with reality TV stardom is being at the mercy of the editors. Royale said his maternal nature portrayed on the show doesn't reflect what audiences experience at his gigs.

“Watching 'RuPaul,' you'd think I was a mother figure and I sit at home and bake cookies all day,” he said. “We work really hard at the clubs. We like to entertain so we have to bring it. I don't think 'RuPaul's Drag Race' showcases the true palette of all the girls.”



Latrice Royale

w/ DJ John Cruz
@ Spiral Video and
Dance Bar
Saturday, Feb. 9
18+, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

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What to do **OUT & ABOUT**

Need to step away from the conference for some grub or entertainment? We've got you covered — there's plenty to do in **Lansing, East Lansing** and **Okemos** this weekend. Here's a list of **bars, restaurants, museums, art galleries** and **activities** you can hit while you're here, **separated by region for easy navigation.**

EAST LANSING/OKEMOS /MSU CAMPUS

The **Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum**, 547 East Circle Drive on MSU's campus, offers contemporary art and culture with a historical and modern collection, including pieces from Salvador Dali and Andy Warhol. The building itself could be considered a work of art, challenging the notions of modern architecture. (Noon to 9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; FREE; (517) 353-9836; broadmuseum.msu.edu).

If you're looking for a little physical activity, the Spartan Ice Hockey team's home at **Munn Ice Arena**, 1 Chestnut Road on campus, is open for public skating this weekend. (1:15 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Friday, 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. (\$4 MSU students, \$5 public, \$2 rental, (517) 353-4698).

Kitty-corner from the MSU campus is **Red Haven**, 4480 S. Hagadorn Road in Okemos, a farm-to-table dining experience specializing in small plates. Red Haven offers seasonal dinner and drink menus designed for sharing, tasting, sipping and enjoying. The buzz has made it all the way to Anthony Bourdain, who will be stopping by the restaurant in May after a local speaking engagement. (5 p.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Sunday; (517) 679-6309, eatredhaven.com).

The East Lansing Film Society is showing the film "**Any Day Now**" this weekend (3:45 p.m. Friday, 6:45 p.m. Saturday) at **Studio C!**, 1999 Central Park Drive in Okemos. The film focuses on a gay couple (Alan Cumming and Garret

Dillahunt) who must fight to maintain custody of a mentally handicapped teenager. Also showing are festival circuit faves "The Intouchables" (French comedy), "Chasing Ice" (climate change documentary) and the Oscar-nominated "A Royal Affair." (\$10/\$8 matinee; (517) 393-SHOW; celebrationcinema.com/elfs).

OLD TOWN/NORTH SIDE

Old Town is one of Lansing's most popular historic districts. Within two blocks from the corner of Turner Street and East Grand River Avenue in Lansing, you'll find art galleries (including **Gallery 1212**, **Katalyst Gallery** and **Absolute Gallery**), retail shopping (**Tallulah's Folly**, **October Moon** and **Love, Betti**) and dining (**Meat** [barbecue], **Portable Feast and Friends** [lunch café] and **Golden Harvest** [creative breakfast/lunch]). There are also bars, including the LGBT-friendly **Esquire** and the rock and blues bar **Unicorn Tavern**. Old Town is also where you'll find **Preuss Pets** at 1127 N. Cedar St., a massive pet store that's practically a zoo, with a wide variety of small animals, reptiles, birds, and both freshwater and saltwater fish.

And there will be a host of LGBT-friendly events all weekend at official MBLGTACC sponsor **Spiral Video & Dance Bar**, including an 18-and-up Rain Glow event at 9 p.m. Friday and a drag queen show featuring Latrice Royale on Saturday (see previous page).

For a full list of Old Town stores and restaurants including hours, go to iloveoldtown.org.

EASTWOOD TOWNE CENTER

The **Eastwood Towne Center** is an outdoor shopping center featuring a variety of retail stores and restaurants.



Courtesy Photo

Bar 30 in the Eastwood Towne Center is a restaurant by day, but transforms into a nightclub at night.

EAST SIDE

Coffee? Beer? Wine? Liquor? Food? Live music? **The Avenue Café** at 2021 E. Michigan Ave. has it all. The Avenue has a full breakfast/lunch/dinner menu and will host live music on Friday and Saturday.

The Michigan Avenue corridor bridging East Lansing and Lansing is an up-and-coming destination for the area, recognized for its ability to connect communities. **The Soup Spoon Café**, 1419 E. Michigan Ave., offers gourmet breakfast, lunch and dinner in a casual setting. For live music there's the **Green Door**, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., and **Mac's Bar**, 2700 E. Michigan Ave. If you've got the munchies after all that late night partying, fill up at **Theio's Restaurant** across the street from Mac's — it's open 24 hours.

WEST SIDE

The **EagleMonk Pub and Microbrewery** is the only true microbrewery in Lansing. There are always nine different handcrafted beers to choose from (including the house favorite, Red Eye Rye), as well as three types of homemade wine and four homemade sodas. They also make their own pizza dough for some of the best bread sticks in town.

(4906 W Mount Hope, Lansing, Noon-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, noon-8 p.m. Sunday. (517) 708-7350).

SOUTH SIDE

The **Hawk Island Snow Park**, inside a local county park, has sledding, snow tubing, skiing and snowboarding. A 1.5 mile trail around the park's lake is cleared of snow for walking and jogging. If it gets too cold, warm up in the snack bar that offers hot chocolate and coffee.

(10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Snow tubing/sledding hill: \$7 adult/\$5 child/\$20 family [\$1 for snow tube rental]; Skiing/snowboarding hill: \$10 adult/\$8 child/\$30 family [1 p.m. to close; rates higher for all-day passes]. 1601 E. Cavanaugh Rd. Lansing. (517) 676-2233).

Schuler Books & Music has an entire section dedicated to LGBT literature. Stores include **DSW**, **Banana Republic** and **Ann Taylor**. If you're hungry, **Mitchell's Fish Market** features fresh seafood and a full bar; **Bravo!** has Italian fare; and **PF Chang's** focuses on Asian food. Tucked in the back of Eastwood is **Bar 30** — restaurant by day, nightclub by night. (3003 Preyde Boulevard, Lansing. (517) 316-9209).

For a full list of Eastwood Towne Center stores and restaurants, go to shopeartheastwoodtownecenter.com.

DOWNTOWN LANSING

Downtown Lansing offers many different options for dining and shopping and must-see attractions, including the **Michigan State Capitol** (with tours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday) and the Lansing River Trail, which provides a beautiful view of the Grand River and the iconic Ottawa Street Power Station building. While you're downtown, you can pop into the **Lansing City Market**, 325 City Market Drive, to find a variety of farm-fresh produce, mini-restaurants — including the **Waterfront Bar and Grill** — bakeries and a massage station.

Downtown also has the eclectic **Tavern on the Square**, which serves small plate meals until 11 p.m. then has a DJ on Friday and Saturday night; **P Squared**, a wine bar with an condensed menu; and **Harem Urban Lounge**, an upscale nightclub featuring VIP tables with bottle service.

For more downtown bars and businesses, go to downtownlansing.org.

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CURTAIN CALL

'Days' to remember

Williamston show examines eccentric post-9/11 nuclear family

By TOM HELMA

How do we respond, how do we recover from a national trauma? "End Days," now playing at the Williamston Theater, shows the unfolding impact of the 9/11 experience on a nuclear family. Although there may very well be 10,000 aftermath stories of that fateful September day, this story is more than just another one.

Writer Deborah Zoe Laufer's script gives us a glimpse of the reasons that sometimes lurk behind a person going off the deep end of catastrophic religious thinking, and how our seemingly nutty extremism twists the lives of our closest loved ones.

"End Days"

Williamston Theatre
Through Feb. 24
8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays;
3 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays
\$20 Thursdays/Friday-Saturday evenings;
\$22 Saturday/Sunday matinees/\$10 students/\$2 senior discount
122 S. Putnam St.
Williamston
(517) 655-7469
willamstontheatre.com

Emily Sutton-Smith as Sylvia is accompanied on stage by an iconic Jesus, who is invisible to her family but fully dominant in her thoughts. She is take-me-Jesus ready for the immediacy of the apocalypse, but wrenchingly concerned as well for the salvation of the souls of her clinically depressed, emotionally shut-down husband, Arthur, and her angry, rebellious

teenage daughter, Rachel.

Sutton-Smith is all sweaty-earnest in this role, determinedly one-dimensional, exuding the character of a drab, humorless and androgynous android, one who has given up hope on this world and yearns desperately for a safe forever after. Arthur, played by John Manfredi, is no help whatsoever; he's a CEO who survived the attack on the Twin Towers while his entire staff of 60 was annihilated.

Sutton-Smith is stuck for almost all the play in the never-changing role of the religiously delusional Sylvia. Arthur, however, slowly comes back to life emotionally as a richly textured, deeply caring individual.

He is aided in this transformational journey by his teenage neighbor, Nelson, played by Eric Eilerson in a dazzling Elvis outfit. Nelson has an existential trauma of his own to work through. Eilerson brings a naïve, wide-eyed innocence to the stage that is considerably endearing. He plays well against the numbed-out Arthur and—most engagingly—against the slightly older and cynically burned out Rachel (Lydia Hiller), a wonderfully tricked-out gawk that is part Goth, part drama queen and explosively pissed off by her mother's religiosity.

Hiller sports a wide range of wigs and get-ups ranging from skeletal to scary, embodying a lost soul screaming for attention.

Just when one thinks this constellation of characters cannot get any crazier, Stephen Hawking appears — motorized wheelchair and all — to offer a slightly more reasoned explanation as to the likelihood of the world coming to an end than



Photo by Chris Purchis
John Manfredi and Eric Eilerson (seated), Lydia Hiller, Emily Sutton-Smith and Andrew Head (standing) in Williamston Theatre's production of "End Days."

that of St. John of the Apocalypse.

Is there comfort and reassurance in the notion that the world might not end for at least 100 years as opposed to the day after

tomorrow? Laufer poses that question engagingly in this play, reminding us all that nothing beyond the present moment is entirely real.

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THE SCREENING ROOM

by ALLAN I. ROSS

What a world ...

Doc shows striking images of melting glaciers, but doesn't inspire change

By ALLAN I. ROSS

It's pretty much settled that humans are responsible for changing the world's climate. Unfortunately, we're submerged in the world of pop culture where loud-mouthed idiots like Rush Limbaugh dupe Americans into questioning the facts. It's sad that people even think climate change is still up for discussion.

Which brings us to the documentary

"Chasing Ice," a work of visual art that's difficult to review as a film.

Is it accurate? Undeniably. Beautiful? Breathtakingly so. Controversial? No more so than a tasteful nude photo. But the medium is indeed the message, and in the case of "Chasing Ice," it's impossible to argue with 80 minutes of melting polar ice caps in high resolution. Or at least five actual minutes and a whole lot of filler.

Meet environmental photographer James Balog, who built his career showing how inextricably linked humanity is with nature. His wildlife photography has ranged from iconic National Geographic covers to limited edition U.S. postage stamps, and his work with forests and endangered species has earned him awards, appearances on CNN and a TED talk. "Chasing Ice" follows him as he embarks on his career-defining project, the Extreme Ice Survey (EIS), which consists of a set of time-lapse cameras set up at 13 locations — mostly in or near the Arctic Circle — to capture glaciers as they "calve" (break off) into the ocean.

The images are striking. In addition to



Courtesy Photo

Photographer James Balog spent four years setting up his EIS project, which documented melting glaciers via time-lapse photography.

documenting the slow retreat of dozens of miles of glacier in a single year, Balog also captures on video a Manhattan-size hunk of ice crumbling off a Greenland glacier. The scale is so big it almost defies human understanding — sort of like climate change itself.

Unfortunately, the movie saddles itself with needless drama. Do we really need to spend so much time seeing that they lost a year of shooting due to faulty electronics? That's cutting room floor material. Meanwhile, viewers are treated to a squirm-inducing trip to the surgeon to watch Balog endure his third knee repair surgery, after which he receives a strong admonition to stop his glacier-hopping antics. Can you guess if he listens to the doc? Nope — very next scene there he is, digging his toe grips into the side of an ice

cliff as he snaps photos of a gushing, icy waterfall. We get it — he's dedicated.

And that's why you can't really fault the film. There's nothing like being shown visual evidence of your errant ways to make you feel guilty about something you've done wrong. But what if the only thing you've done wrong is exist? Yes, it's true, we're altering the environment, but what are we supposed to do about it? I don't have a windmill in my backyard, but I do have CFC bulbs in all my sockets and use canvas bags every time I go shopping.

Balog says that he just wants to be able to tell his daughters that he was doing everything he knew how to do to fight global warming. And he is: He's taking the best damned pictures of melting ice caps that have ever been taken. But what does this mean for us, besides more wacky weather?

"Chasing Ice" feels more like a footnote for "An Inconvenient Truth" rather than a change-inspiring film in its own right. But that's exactly what the world needs — a movie that shows us how to live in such a way that we're not making things worse for our descendants. Get Angelina Jolie to make a movie where she bathes in her recycled grey water. Boom: We just solved global warming.

Or maybe that's the point — maybe we can't solve it. Is that why Glenn Beck is so pissed off?

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, February 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

Family Storytime. Stories activities for kids 6 and under. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

Babytime. Beginning story time for babies under 2. 10:30-11 a.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

The Ex-Offender Initiative. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. pilgrimucc.com.

Mid-Day Mosaic: Central UMC's Stained Glass Windows. 12:15-12:45 p.m. FREE. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-9477.

ENO Monthly Meeting. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing.

Out-Of-County Marketing Panel. RSVP at barb@lansingarts.org. 4-5 p.m. FREE. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing.

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

EVENTS

Fenner Nature Center Walking Group. 5 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

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

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing, 7 p.m. Modern-style square dancing, 7:30 p.m. \$5, \$4 club members. Holt 9th Grade

FRI. FEB. 8 >> IDENTITIES

The way we identified ourselves at age 6 is vastly different than how we identify ourselves at 18, 31 or 67. This Friday, (SCENE) MetroSpace will host an evening of experimental theater exploring the realms of personal identity. The show will consist of monologues, short scenes and performance art, many of which are original pieces written by the cast, based on how they interpret their identities. Director Holly Johnson says that the show will involve breaking down the fourth wall and other aspects not often seen on stage. The event will be performed by members from the Lansing Art Works art collective. 7 p.m. FREE, donations appreciated. (SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., Lansing.



FRI. FEB. 8 >> 'URBANDALE'

One of the things that make a play or a musical great is if the audience can find it to be relatable. That's why "A Chorus Line" and "Death of a Salesman" remain fresh after so many years. This Friday, guests will be able to see a show that could be taking place in any neighborhood, but is based on one of Lansing's own. "Urbandale," a show that's been a year in the making, will bring alive the Urbandale community, an eight-square-block Lansing neighborhood bounded by US 127, I-496, Kalamazoo Street and Clemens Avenue. The show will have houses, and gardens, come alive, and will discuss the complexities of its residents and the Red Cedar River's effect on the neighborhood. An audience discussion will follow the show. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 884-6290.

SAT. FEB. 9 >> TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES

The Beatles led the British Invasion to America, eventually changing the face of music. Needless to say, they didn't need much "Help!" They left an impact like no one before them, and only few have since. This Saturday, guests will get a chance to hear what it would have been like had the Fab Four played with a symphony. The evening will bring together the Lansing Symphony Orchestra and the Classical Mystery Tour, a group that look and sound like John, Ringo, George and Paul — shaggy hair and all — for a one-night-only performance. Get ready to "Come Together," and don't worry, there won't be any walruses making an appearance. 8 p.m. \$15, \$30, \$40. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 487-5001. lansingsymphony.org.

SUN. FEB. 10 >> DARWIN DISCOVERY DAY



Charles Darwin's birthday is Feb. 12, 1809, which means if he were still alive today he would have been ... really old. The MSU Museum is celebrating a few days early as part of Darwin Discovery Day this Sunday, as guests will be able to celebrate one of the most influential men in history. "Tails of Scales" will focus on Darwin's study with all things coldblooded and scaly. Not only will there be cake — this is a birthday celebration, after all — but there will be tours, lectures and activities. Found a natural object in your backyard and want to know if it's more than just a rock? Museum curators and faculty members will be on hand to identify if you've made a Darwin-sized discovery. 1-5 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

TUE. FEB. 12 >> PACZKI DAY

This Tuesday is Mardi Gras, aka Fat Tuesday, aka Paczki Day, and it's a day to celebrate the doughnut's lesser known cousin: the paczki. The deep-fried dough balls may look like jelly doughnuts, but they have slightly different consistencies and are filled with a variety of fillings, ranging from fruit to cream. Lansing's Roma Bakery has been celebrating Fat Tuesday for the last 43 years, so you know they're making the little delicacies right. So enjoy as many paczkis as you can manage to eat — just don't look up the calorie count. Roma Bakery, 428 North Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 485-9466. romabakerydeli.com.

FEB. 12-17 >> 'SISTER ACT: A DIVINE MUSICAL COMEDY'

The 1992 film "Sister Act" had something for everyone. Nuns. Las Vegas. Maggie Smith. But the real star (besides Whoopi Goldberg, of course) was the music, and in 2011, that movie made the transition into a Broadway musical. Now the Tony-nominated show is coming to the Wharton stage, bringing along the same, familiar story, with a few changes. The show features a cast with resumés that would make even Mother Superior proud. Having the music written by an eight-time Oscar winner Alan Menken ("Beauty and the Beast," "Little Shop of Horrors") doesn't hurt either. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.



Photo by: Joan Marcus

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA



FRI. FEB. 8TH

FUNDUBMENTALS AT MARLEY BASH

The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18+, \$6 adv., \$8 door, 9 p.m.

Over the past three years The FunDubMentals have been playing its hybrid of reggae/dub/ska/roots music across the state. In 2010, they were voted "Best New Band" in the Northern Express Magazine. Friday, the band headlines a Bob Marley Birthday Bash at The Loft. Opening the show are Skee Town Stylee, a Muskegon-based reggae/hip-hop band, and the Lansing-based salsa group, Salsa Verde. The FunDubMentals, a Traverse City-based four piece, have also played a list of summer festivals, including slots at the Kalamazoo Islandfest, Earthwork Harvest Festival, Rootenay, and the Beaver Island Music Festival. A couple of other high points were opening for Sierra Leon Refugee All Stars at the Traverse City Opera House and warming up the stage for The Wailers at the Rave Eagles Club in Wisconsin.

GLITTER MAGIK AT MAC'S



WED. FEB. 6TH

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18+, \$3, 9 p.m.

Hitting the decks at Ginger Fest at Mac's Bar are some of the area's busiest DJs, one of whom is Glitter Magik, a Red Invasion Records artist. The self-proclaimed "King of Glamour" has been spinning at Lansing clubs for five years. In that time he's performed at major events like Shuto Con and Electric Forest. While his wild stage antics (he "makes it rain with glitter") has gained him attention in the local electronic scene, he's also gained recognition beyond Lansing for his house remixes that are played on Detroit area radio stations. Sharing the Ginger Fest bill is Craig Doepker, who will bang out some disco and house. Also making some noise are DJ eKlipx, EL ES Dreams, Young Anakin, Illustrated and Nic Bouldin.

THRALL RETURNS TO LANSING



THU. FEB. 7TH

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

Jello Biafra's Alternative Tentacles record label has released stacks of great albums from the likes of the Dead Kennedys (Biafra's band), The Butthole Surfers, The Dicks, The Melvins — even Noam Chomsky. Another band on that impressive roster, Thrall, returns Thursday to Mac's Bar, along with local openers Jack Pine Snag, Mindguards, and Dennis Quaid & The Fat Boys. Thrall, a Detroit-area band, is led by vocalist Mike Hard, a wild and strange front man who's also known for his previous work in God Bullies and Hand Over Head. God Bullies formed in the mid-'80s and released records with Alternative Tentacles, Sympathy for the Record Industry and Amphetamine Reptile. Since 1995 Hard has primarily focused on Thrall, but has also played some God Bullies reunions and solo gigs along the way.

SISTER WILENE AT THE FIDDLE



FRI. FEB. 8TH

Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. \$15 public, \$12 members, \$5 students. 8 p.m.

The Traverse City-based, old-time country sextet Sister Wilene makes its Ten Pound Fiddle debut Friday. Sister Wilene plays tunes from the old days when country music was dominated by heartfelt ballads and great swing songs. Fans of Patsy Cline and Bob Wills-style songs may want to check out this show for an evening of earnest tearjerkers and danceable ditties. Lead vocalist Mary Sue Wilkinson is known for her previous work in bands like Iowa Rose and The Pets, bands that drew some regional and national attention. Her vocal duets with guitarist Roger Brown are soulful and reminiscent of George Jones & Tammy Wynette or Dolly Parton & Porter Wagoner. The band also features Steppin' In It member Joe Wilson on steel guitar.

FLATFOOT AT THE AVENUE



SAT. FEB. 9TH

Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$5, children free, 8 p.m.

Fresh off the release of their latest vinyl LP, "Blue Water," Flatfoot plays an all-ages show Saturday at The Avenue Café. The Lansing/Ann Arbor-based alt-country/rock 'n' roll five piece often reflects honkytonk originators like Buck Owens and Johnny Cash, while also touching on some Big Star and Pogues vibes. As for the new record, guitarist/vocalist Aaron Bales said the band amped up the soul. "There are several songs that have big, almost Motown soul vibes to them," Bales said. "We spread out more on this than any other record we've done. There's still some country in there, but it's pretty broad sonically. There's piano organ on just about everything, there are horn parts in a bunch of spots — that is totally new for us."

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

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive	D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.	Peter Nelson Jazz Quartet, 9 p.m. D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	Boogie Bob, 4 p.m. SmoothStreet, 8 p.m. D.J. John Beltran, 10 p.m.	Flatfoot, 8 p.m. D.J. Skitzo, 10 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		Live entertainment, 9 p.m.	Cryn Wolf, 9 p.m.	Cryn Wolf, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St.	Open Mic Night, 8 p.m.	Brian McCree, 8 p.m.	Nick Gaza, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Nick Gaza, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Dave Menzo, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.
The Firm, 229 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.		Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karoke with Joanie Daniels, 7 p.m.	Tyme 2 Play, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree, 9:30 p.m.	Beats 'N Angles, 9:30 p.m.	Starfarm, 9:30 p.m.	Starfarm, 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Fundubmentals, 9 p.m.	Artronica, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Thrall, 9 p.m.		
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9:30 p.m.	The Burnside's, 9:30 p.m.	The Spring Tales, 9:30 p.m.	The Spring Tales, 9:30 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sea Cruisers, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Dance Party, 9 p.m.	Live Bands, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Uli's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			Various Artists, 9 p.m.	Various Artists, 9 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.	Riffraff, 8:30 p.m.	Easy Babies, 8:30 p.m.
Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Drive	Suzi & The Love Brothers, 6 p.m.	Craig Hendershott, 6 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert	D.J., 9 p.m.	D.J., 9 p.m.	Brian Randall Band, 9 p.m.	Brian Randall Band, 9 p.m.

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

Out on the town

from page 19

Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.
Karaoke. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Reno's East, 1310 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-7366.

MUSIC

Marshall Music Open Jam Night. Instruments & PA provided. All ages welcome. 6 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700. marshallmusic.com.
Lansing Matinee Musicale. Asbury Brass

Quintet & the New Horizons Band. Refreshments. 1 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. plymouthlansing.org.

THEATER

"U.P." A man takes a road trip searching for answers, ending up in the U.P. 7:30 p.m. \$15, \$10 students. RCAF Auditorium, Snyder-Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690.

Thursday, February 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Learning the Keys & Navigating the Mouse. Type faster & control the computer more effectively.

6-8 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393. iteclansing.org.
Kindergarten Information Night. RSVP. 7 p.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779 ext. 107.

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

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

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

Family Storytime. 10:30 a.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 6.)

Polarity Yoga & 5 Tibetan Rites. Taught by Danelle Hutcheson. 12:10-12:50 p.m. & 5:45-7 p.m. \$10 per class, \$48 for 6 weeks. ACC Natural Healing & Wellness, 617 W. Ionia St., Lansing.

Drawing Class. For all levels with Shirley Hazlett. Pre-registration required. 6-8:30 p.m. \$50 for 4 weeks. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

Slavery to Freedom. Speaker Donzaleigh Abernathy. Reception follows. 5 p.m. FREE. Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-4979.

Drop-In Art Class. For preschoolers. 10-11:30 a.m. \$1 per child per class. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 323-8555.

Family Education Day. Focus on eggs. 5 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

Codependents Anonymous. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

EVENTS

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

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

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

MSU Film Collective Screening. "Certified Copy." Discussion follows. 8 p.m. FREE. B122 Wells Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Speech Night. Presented by survivors of brain injury & families. RSVP. 6:30 p.m. Peckham Industries, 3510 Capital City Blvd., Lansing. (517) 455-0264.

Bananagrams Night. Timed word game. 7 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

Grand Opening. Concert, give-aways & more. 7 p.m. FREE. Guitar Center, 517 Mall Court, Lansing.

THEATRE

"End Days." A story exploring love, loss and family. 8 p.m. \$20. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-7469. williamstontheatre.com.

"U.P.:" 7:30 p.m. \$15, \$10 students. RCAF Auditorium, Snyder-Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 6.)

"Almost, Maine." Short vignettes about love. 7:30 p.m. \$8 adults, \$5 students and seniors. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. okemosdrama.net.

MUSIC

Symphony Band. 7:30 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & under 18. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Friday, February 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Our Daily Work/Lives. Soma Chaudhuri, MSU Department of Sociology. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

De-Stress at Your Desk. Instructor Simone Ranes. 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$10. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240.

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

Winter Night Hikes. Bring flashlight & warm clothes. 6-8 p.m. \$5 non-members, FREE Fenner members. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

February SmArts Workshop. 10 a.m.-Noon. \$10 non-members, \$5 basic SmArts members, FREE Level 2 SmArts members. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 372-4636 ext. 3.

Alcoholics Anonymous. With ASL interpretation. 8 p.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

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

EVENTS

Bea Christy Dinner. Socializing, 5:30 p.m. Dinner, 6:15 p.m. Must RSVP. \$17. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 393-9883.

Singles TGIF Hoops Rivalry Bash. Costume contest, craziest MSU & U of M fans. 8 p.m. \$12. Hawk Hollow Golf Course, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 281-6272. singlestgif.com.

Daddy Daughter Dance. Under the Sea Ball. 6:30-8 p.m. \$24 per couple. Play, 4972 Northwind Drive, East Lansing. (517) 708-8746.

MUSIC

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

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

Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, FREE students with ID & under 18. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

THEATER

"End Days." 8 p.m. \$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details Feb. 7.)

"U.P.:" 8 p.m. & 11:55 p.m. \$15, \$10 students. RCAF Auditorium, Snyder-Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 6.)

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

MSU Vagina Monologues. Series of monologues. 8 p.m. \$16, \$11 students. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson Road, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

"Almost, Maine." 7:30 p.m. \$8 adults, \$5 students and seniors. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. (Please see details Feb. 7.)

Advice Goddess & Savage Love

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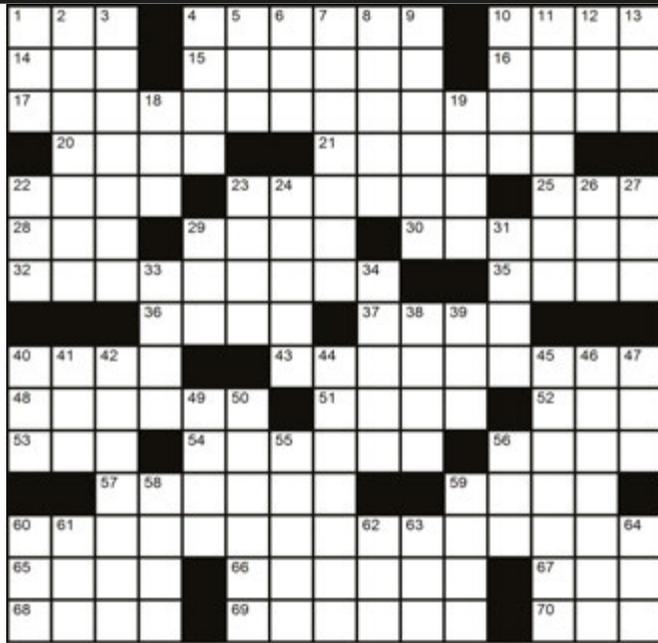
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Follow My Lead"-
 -it's a symbolic
 gesture.
 by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Dirk Benedict co-star
- 4 "Well, aren't you the fancy one?"
- 10 Maidenform competitor
- 14 "Positively," to Pierre
- 15 "Let me handle the situation"
- 16 Stratford-___-Avon
- 17 Mail-order publications for those who make kids' sandwiches?
- 20 Migraine sensation
- 21 "The Iceman Cometh" playwright
- 22 "There will come ___"



- 23 Easter or Christmas
- 25 Hockey legend Bobby
- 28 Stint on Broadway
- 29 "The way I see it," online
- 30 "Consarn it, ye varmint!"
- 32 "I Spent My Summer Vacation Rolling a 300" and such?
- 35 Deli loaves
- 36 "Do this or ___"
- 37 "Laters"
- 40 New York Shakespeare Festival founder Joseph
- 43 About 2 stars for canned hipster beer?
- 48 Musical sequence
- 51 Wheels
- 52 Signal
- 53 India Pale ___
- 54 Passes into law
- 56 Early late show host Jack

- 57 Hyundai model
- 59 Helsinkian, e.g.
- 60 Reason to watch "Sesame Street" and "Nova" on mute?
- 65 Just around the corner
- 66 Kind of off-road motorcycle racing
- 67 "The Star-Spangled Banner" contraction
- 68 Pull on a tooth
- 69 N.Y. congressman Anthony taken down by a sexting scandal in 2011
- 70 The Ravens got four in Super Bowl XLVII: abbr.

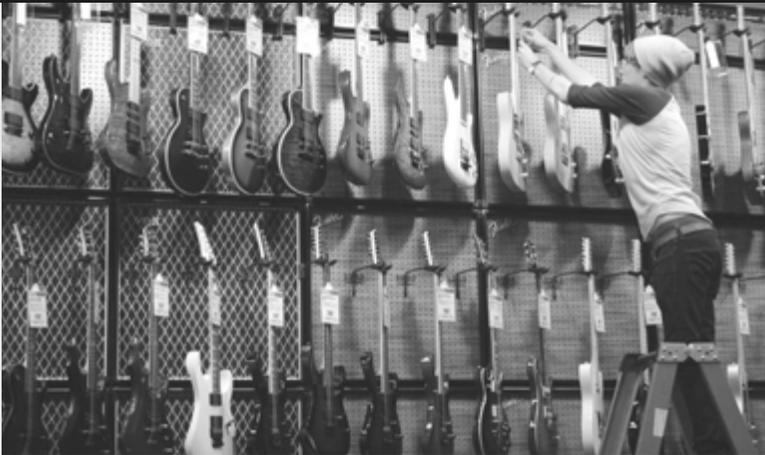
Down

- 1 Floor cleaner
- 2 Bathtime sounds
- 3 San Diego neighbor
- 4 Cremona currency, once
- 5 Wilberforce Univer-

- 6 Part of DJIA
- 7 How more and more old movies can be viewed
- 8 Jazz pianist Krall
- 9 Show up to
- 10 He-cow
- 11 Words of regret
- 12 Captain's journal
- 13 Plug-___
- 18 Yell out
- 19 Opera set in Egypt
- 22 1970s synthesizer brand
- 23 Rascalions
- 24 Flockmates
- 26 Parisian street
- 27 Apt. ad stat
- 29 Different ending?
- 31 "Blast!"
- 33 Cartoon skunk ___ LePew
- 34 Walk like you're cool
- 38 Sciences' counterpart

- 39 "___ Te Ching"
- 40 Handheld device, for short
- 41 Big ISP, once
- 42 Keep slogging
- 44 Rum from Puerto Rico
- 45 "Sorry, you're on your own"
- 46 Full of subtlety
- 47 Bayer Leverkusen's country: abbr.
- 49 Department store section
- 50 When someone will be back, often
- 55 Be penitent
- 56 Epitome of easiness
- 58 Pen sound
- 59 Flower: Sp.
- 60 He had the first billion-view YouTube video
- 61 Squeezing serpent
- 62 Closest star to you
- 63 Wrath
- 64 Hosp. areas

GUITAR CENTER



Sam Ingot/City Pulse

Employees prepare for the grand opening of the Lansing Guitar Center, which happens 7 p.m. Thursday.



By RICH TUPICA

Guitar Center is the largest chain music store in the world, and this week Lansing gets a store of its own. On Thursday, the California-based company opens its 242nd location in the Frandor Shopping Center with a grand opening party that's guaranteed to catch some eyes.

"We're going to have flood lights out there and we'll be giving away free T-shirts all night," said district manager Vince Mattias, a 14-year employee of the company. The grand opening party starts at 7 p.m. and goes until the store closes at 10 p.m.

Mattias oversees seven stores, including the Lansing location. He said his team is ready for a flood of musicians. One thing to keep in mind if you plan to stop by — this is a hands-on kind of store. Guitar Center is known for having much of its stock plugged in and ready to jam on.

"The store is an amazing place to demo gear," Mattias said. "We have a large selection of guitars, drums, amplifiers, keyboards, pro audio and recording equipment. We want people

to come in and play."

The 54-year-old chain has other Michigan locations, including stores in Detroit, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. The new store joins other local music shops, including **Music Manor** on South Cedar Street in Lansing, **Elderly Instruments** in Old Town, **White Bros. Music** in Okemos ... and **Marshall Music**, which is practically next door on East Grand River Avenue adjacent to Frandor. Mattias said Guitar Center has a team that scouts and picks locations.

"It's really based on what's around the area," Mattias said. "I don't think it's about a competitor at all. There are a lot of great things in Frandor. A great mix of stores and restaurants, and it's centrally located."

But the Lansing location will have one thing that no other Guitar Center in the state has: a separate studio space devoted to teaching music lessons. A representative from the studio said that professional local instructors have been hired to provide private music lessons through one of two packages: the standard plan (\$199 per month) gets you four one-hour lessons per week in one of the studio's six lesson rooms, plus an additional hour of open class time that allows students to meet with different instructors

and experiment with other students or learn specific songs. The express plan (\$99) is similar, but you only get four half-hour sessions per week in addition to the hour of open class time. Lessons range from band and orchestra to vocals and keyboards.

Guitar Center has also been headed upwards, according to Mattias.

"We're continuing to grow, and that's what we plan on doing," he said. And while it's only been public a short while, he said Guitar Center has had its eye on Lansing for years.

"Since 2004 or 2005, I decided we needed to put a store in Lansing," Mattias said. "I think it has a great community, a great college, there's a good atmosphere and a lot of music happening in Lansing. I just thought it was a place we needed to get to."

Meanwhile, word has it that Marshall Music is planning a massive interior renovation of its own this spring, which means Lansing may be cultivating a new image as a music hub. Stay tuned.

Guitar Center

517 Mall Court, Frandor Shopping Center
Lansing Township
11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday
10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Noon – 6 p.m. Sunday
(517) 333-6627

Out on the town

from page 21

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Signing Kim Harrison. Meet the Michigan author. Reserve tickets. 6 p.m. Schuler Books & Music Lansing, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. schulerbooks.com.

Saturday, February 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Explore the World Wide Web. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4393. iteclansing.org.

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

U.S. Citizenship Class. Learn steps to apply for citizenship & get ready for interview. 10-11:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

Photography Class. With Ron St. Germain. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$55. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.

Staying Connected with Facebook. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 708-4392. iteclansing.org.

Guest Lecture Series. Photographer Mary Robert. Reception, 2 p.m. MSU Museum. 1 p.m. MSU Union, MSU Campus, East Lansing. msu.edu.

Caricature Workshop. Instructor Dennis Preston. Pre-registration required. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. \$85. Gallery 1212 Fine Art Studio, 1212 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212. gallery1212.com.

Re-Entry of Prisoners. Forum on role of volunteers. 8:30-10:30 a.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 332-5181.

Overeaters Anonymous. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

EVENTS

Lucas Oil Monster Truck Nationals. America's youngest touring monster truck team. 7:30 p.m. \$15 & \$30 advance, \$18 & 30 day of. Breslin Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) 968-2737.

Relay For Life Lansing Kickoff. Informational open house. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Lansing Mall, 5330 West Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 664-1413.

Fenner Nature Center Walking Group. 8-9 a.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 6.)

Film Screening. "The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords." Discussion follows. 2-4 p.m. CADL

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

Future is Now. Soup & sandwich luncheon fundraiser. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 7000 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 321-6100.

8th Annual Un-Valentine's Show. With John Latini, Dave Boutette & Jamie-Sue Seal. 8 p.m. \$12 advance, \$15 door. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 487-9549.

Fashion & Fitness Expo. Shopping, treatments & giveaways. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Renewed Spirit, LLC, 2110 Hamilton Road, Okemos. (517) 580-4734.

Capital Area United Way Benefit. Cocktails, 6 p.m. Dinner, 7 p.m. Show, 8 p.m. \$150, \$1000 table of 8, \$200 VIP, \$1200 VIP table of 8. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 203-5024.

THEATER

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

Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details Feb. 7.)

"U.P." 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$15, \$10 students. RCAH Auditorium, Snyder-Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 6.)

"Princess and the Pea" & "Rapunzel." 2 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. \$7 18 & above, \$5 under 17. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 8.)

MSU Vagina Monologues. 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$16, \$11 students. Pasant Theatre, Bogue St. and Wilson Road, East Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 8.)

"Almost, Maine." 7:30 p.m. \$8 adults, \$5 students and seniors. Okemos High School, 2500 Jolly Road, Okemos. (Please see details Feb. 7.)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books and Bagels. "A Nest for Celeste," Henry Cole. Grades 4-6. Register. 2-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Sunday, February 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Backyard Birding 101. Intro to backyard birding. 1-2:30 p.m. \$5 members, \$10 non-members. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224. mynaturecenter.org.

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

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

Meal Planning. Basics of healthy eating. 2-3 p.m.

See Out on the Town, Page 23

SUDOKU

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

BEGINNER

TO PLAY

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

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

Answers on page 24

Out on the town

from page 22

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

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

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

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

Overeaters Anonymous. 2-3:15 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Conference room F, 2nd floor, Lansing. (517) 332-0755.

Alcoholics Anonymous. With ASL interpretation. 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

Codependents Anonymous. Meets on the third floor. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072.

EVENTS

JAMM's 4th Annual Tribute Concert. Honoree Professor Randy Gelispie. 3-6 p.m. \$25, \$10 student. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Community Infomation Day. Registration recommended. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Lansing Catholic High School, 501 Marshall, Lansing. (517) 267-2100.

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

Family Valentine Craft. All ages welcome. 2-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Second Sunday. Support East Lansing Public Library. 4-9 p.m. Dublin Square Irish Pub, 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2222. dublinsquare.net.

Church of Comedy. Adult comedy. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 484-4825. sirpizza-mi.com.

Showbiz Sundays Drag Review. To Wong Foo. 18 & over. 11:30 p.m. \$5. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing. (517) 371-3221.

MUSIC

Afterglow Jazz Show. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Bar 30, 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing. (313) 444-5166.

Evening of Smooth Jazz. Featuring Nick Colionne. 5:30 p.m. \$38. Holt Performing Arts Complex, 5885 West Holt Road, Holt. (517) 372-7246.

The Riverside Pops Series. Organist Donnie Rankin. 3 p.m. \$12 advance, \$15 at door. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 372-0945. lto-pops.org.

THEATER

"End Days." A story exploring love, loss and family. 2 p.m. \$22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (Please see details Feb. 7.)

"U.P." 2 p.m. \$15, \$10 students. RCAH Auditorium, Snyder-Phillips Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 6.)

Monday, February 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation for Stress Management. Instructor Mike Limauro. 7-9 p.m. \$40. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, #200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. creativewellness.net.

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

Babytime. Beginning story time for babies under 2. 10:30-11 a.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

Kundalini Yoga. No experience needed. Taught by Emily Emersen. 5:45-7 p.m. \$12 per class, \$60 for 6 weeks. ACC Natural Healing & Wellness, 617 W. Ionia St., Lansing. massageandwellnesslansing.com

Potter-Walsh Neighborhood Meeting. 6:20-7:20 p.m. Faith Fellowship Baptist Church, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

Online Job Tools. Registration required. 6-7 p.m. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840.

American Sewing Guild Lansing Clippers' Meeting. Demo with Mary Adkins. 6:30-9 p.m. FREE. UAW Local 652, 426 Clare St., Lansing. (517)

See Out on the Town, Page 24

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Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsky

February 6-12

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "What we need is more people who specialize in the impossible," said poet Theodore Roethke. For the foreseeable future, Aries, you could and should be a person like that. I'm not saying that you will forevermore be a connoisseur of amazements and a massager of miracles and a magnet for unexpected beauty. But if you want to, you can play those roles for the next few weeks. How many exotic explorations and unlikely discoveries can you cram into your life between now and March 1? How many unimaginable transformations can you imagine?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): North America's most powerful and iconic waterfall is Niagara Falls, which straddles the border between the U.S. and Canada. In 1969, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers managed to shut down the American side of this elemental surge for a few months. They performed their monumental magic by building a dam made with 27,800 tons of rocks. Their purpose was to do research and maintenance on the stony foundation that lies beneath the water. I'm thinking that you Tauruses could accomplish a metaphorical version of that feat in the coming weeks: some awesome task that allows you to peer beneath the surface and make refinements that enhance your stability for a long time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): *National Geographic* reports that dung beetles have an intimate relationship not only with the earth but also with the stars. Scientists in South Africa found that the bugs use the Milky Way Galaxy to orient themselves while rolling their precious balls of dung to the right spot for safekeeping. The bright band of starlight in the sky serves as a navigational aid. I nominate the dung beetle to be your power animal in the coming weeks, Gemini. It will be prime time for you, too, to align your movements and decisions with a bigger picture and a higher power. (Read about the research here: <http://tinyurl.com/GalacticBeetles>.)

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You should go right ahead and compare oranges and apples in the coming week, Cancerian. Honey and butter, too: It's fine to compare and contrast them. Science and religion. Bulldogs and Siamese cats. Dew and thunderclaps. Your assignment is to create connections that no one else would be able to make . . . to seek out seemingly improbable harmonies between unlikely partners . . . to dream up interesting juxtapositions that generate fertile ideas. Your soul needs the delight and challenge of unexpected blending.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The collection called *Grimm's Fairy Tales* includes the story "The Devil and His Grandmother." In one scene, the devil's grandmother is petting and rubbing her grandson's head. Or at least that's what the English translations say. But the authors wrote in German, and in their original version of the text, grandma is in fact plucking lice from the devil's hair. Your job in the coming week, Leo, is to ensure that no one sanitizes earthy details like that. Be vigilant for subtle censorship. Keep watch for bits of truth that have been suppressed. You need the raw feed that comes straight from the source.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In her book *Jung and Tarot*, Sallie Nichols notes that the sixteenth card in most Tarot decks portrays lightning as a hostile force: "jagged, zigzag strokes that slash across the sky like angry teeth." But there's one deck, the Marseilles Tarot, that suggests a kinder, gentler lightning. The yellow and red phenomenon descending from the heavens resembles a giant feather duster; it looks like it would tickle and clean rather than burn. I suspect you'll be visited by a metaphorical version of this second kind of lightning sometime soon, Virgo. Prepare to be tickled and cleaned!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Years ago, "bastard" was a derisive term for a child born to unmarried parents. It

reflected the conventional moral code, which regarded a "birth out of wedlock" as scandalous. But I think we can safely say that this old dogma has been officially retired. According to recent statistics compiled by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), over 40 percent of the kids born in the U.S. are to unmarried mothers. Just goes to show you that not all forbidden acts remain forbidden forever. What was unthinkable or out of bounds or not allowed at one time may evolve into what's normal. I bring this up, Libra, because it's an excellent time for you to divest yourself of a certain taboo that's no longer necessary or meaningful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): While trekking up Mount Katahdin in Maine, naturalist Henry David Thoreau had a "mountain-top experience" that moved him to observe, "I stand in awe of my body." You're due for a similar splash of illumination, Scorpio. The time is right for you to arrive at a reverent new appreciation for the prodigious feats that your physical organism endlessly performs for you. What could you do to encourage such a breakthrough? How can you elevate your love for the flesh and blood that houses your divine spark?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): How do you like your caviar? Do you prefer it to be velvety and smooth, or would you rather have it be full of strong, fishy taste? If it's the first option, beluga caviar is your best option. If the second, sevruga should be your favorite. What? You say you never eat caviar? Well, even if you don't, you should regard the choice between types of caviar as an apt metaphor for the coming week. You can either have velvety smoothness or a strong taste, but not both. Which will it be? Set your intention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Dear Astrology Guy: I have been reading your horoscopes since I was 19. For a while, I liked them. They were fun riddles that made me think. But now I've soured on them. I'm sick and tired of you asking me to transform myself. You just keep pushing and pushing, never satisfied, always saying it's time to improve myself or get smarter or fix one of my bad habits. It's too much! I can't take it any more! Sometimes I just want to be idle and lazy. Your horoscopes piss me off! - Crabby Capricorn." Dear Crabby: I've got some good news. In the coming week, you are completely excused from having to change anything about yourself or your life. Stay exactly the same! Be frozen in time. Resist the urge to tinker. Take a vacation from life's relentless command to evolve.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Young art student Andrzej Sobiepan sneaked into Poland's National Museum with a painting he had done himself and managed to surreptitiously mount it on one of the walls. It hung there for a while before authorities noticed it and took it down. "I decided that I will not wait 30 or 40 years for my works to appear at a place like this," he said. "I want to benefit from them in the here and now." This is the kind of aggressive self-expression I'd like to see you summon in the coming weeks, Aquarius. Don't wait for the world to come and invite you to do what you want to do. Invite yourself. P.S. The English translation of Sobiepan's Polish last name means "his own master." What can you do to be more of your own master?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Before any system can leap to a higher level of organization, says poet Susan Goldsmith Wooldridge, it has to undergo dissolution. "Unraveling or disintegrating is a vital, creative event making room for the new," she declares. Guess what time it is for the system we all know and love as YOU, Pisces? That's right: It's a perfect moment to undo, dismantle, and disperse . . . as well as to unscramble, disentangle, and disencumber. Be of good cheer! Have faith that you will be generating the conditions necessary for the rebirth that will follow. "To change from one reality to another," writes Wooldridge, "a thing first must turn into nothing." (Her book is *Poemcrazy*.)

Out on the town

from page 23

699-8062. lansingclippers.com.

Alzheimer's 101. Know the 10 warning signs. 7-8:30 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation Group. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

Oveaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (989) 587-4609.

Chronic Pain Support Group. For those experiencing any level of chronic physical pain. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

EVENTS

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

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

Daddy Daughter/Mother Son Dances.

City Pulse Classifieds

Interested in placing a classified ad in City Pulse?
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Accounting Manager. Prep & maint of finan, acctg & statistical rptg, incl rpt finan infor to parent co. Req'd. Bach in Acctg or Fin (or FDE). 7 yrs progr. public acctg exp to incl: 6 yrs US GAAP & IFRS; 6 yrs public rptg, mult currencies & effect on fin stmts, & in a manufg environ; 4 yrs consolidated rptg for SEC registrants & public cos; 15% or less travel. Mail resume: Janina Austin, Gerdau, 5591 Morrill Rd, Jackson, MI 49201

Patient Coordinator Immediate FT position in home health agency in Lansing. Experienced and Eligible candidates please email your resume to hr@lakeshorehomecare.com

Quality Assurance Specialist Immediate FT position in home health agency in Lansing. Experienced and Eligible candidates please email your resume to hr@lakeshorehomecare.com

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Distribution Driver - PT Job opening to stock schedule racks in Greater Lansing area. flexible hours. Must have van or SUV w/own insurance, computer, cell phone w/text and energy. e-mail resume to: garrett@wayforwardinfo.com

Register. 6:30 p.m. \$8. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4277.

Homework Help. For students grades K-8. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Monday Movie Matinees. Intended for adult audience. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

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

Tuesday, February 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Extreme Couponing. Call to register. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Center for Financial Health, 230 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 708-2550.

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

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

Speakeasies Toastmasters. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 887-1440.

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

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

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

Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

Cavanaugh Park Neighborhood Association. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Cavanaugh Elementary, 300 W. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing. (989) 621-9212.

Microsoft PowerPoint Basics. Registration required. 6-7 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6356. cadl.org.

Drop-in Writer's Workshop. 6-9 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. elpl.org.

Greater Lansing Weavers Guild. Mingle, 6:30 p.m. Program, 7 p.m. FREE. St. Matthews Church, 2418 Aurelius Road, Holt. lansingweavers.blogspot.com.

EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. All-you-can-eat pancakes, beverages & more. 5-7 p.m. St.

See Out on the Town, Page 25

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

From Pg. 21

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Out on the town

from page 24

Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. saintmichaellansing.org.
Daddy Daughter Butterfly Ball. For elementary & middle-school girls. 7-8:30 p.m. \$14. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580 ext. 0.

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays. Hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet & will feature regular guest artists from the MSU Jazz Studies Department. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
Winter Concert. Mid-Michigan Youth Symphony. 7 p.m. FREE, donations. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. midmichiganyouthsymphony.org

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Better Living Book Club & Books on Tap. "Wild," Cheryl Strayed. 6:30-8 p.m. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 324-7100.

Wednesday, February 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Drawing Class. All levels with Shirley Hazlett. Pre-

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

After School Youth Gardening Program. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.
Family Storytime. 10:30 a.m. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 6.)

Babytime. 10:30-11 a.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 6.)

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

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

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

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

Pinterest Basics. Registration required. 6-7 p.m. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6356. cadl.org.

Overeaters Anonymous. 7 p.m. FREE. First

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

EVENTS

Fenner Nature Center Walking Group. 5 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (Please see details Feb. 6.)

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

NACW's luncheon. Honorable Judge Amy Ronayne

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

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

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

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HE ATE

SHE ATE



Chivalry still reigns at stalwart Lansing restaurant

Old school allure

By **MARK NIXON**

I'm a sucker for old restaurants. In a business where restaurants routinely fade to black, you have to admire a place that has outlasted many of its rivals and a good many of its customers.

The Knight Cap is such a place; one of the granddaddies of fine dining in Greater Lansing. It opened in 1969, a few blocks east of the Capitol, before Michigan Avenue boasted a ballpark or the Lansing Center.

Snug and leather-bound, this is one of those if-the-walls-could-talk places that has hosted generations of lobbyists, lawyers and assorted scoundrels who hatch deals over martinis and thick steaks. The fact that it is next door to a topless bar only adds to the old school allure.

Age is not always kind to institutions, however. My recent visits to the Knight Cap revealed a restaurant that has lost a step.

There is nothing terrible about the food. But not much terribly exciting, either.

The clear winner is the lobster bisque, a staple of the Knight Cap's limited menu. As the bisque was presented at our table, the server finished it off with a drizzle of sherry straight from the bottle. It was just the right touch to a bisque that is notoriously hard to make.

The seafood chowder was rich with butter and cream, boosted by loads of garlic and an herb we guessed was tarragon. Alas, the chowder was barely warm. Why can't restaurants get this simple fix fixed?

I also question why you can buy a cup or bowl of bisque and other soups, but the chowder only comes bowl-sized at \$12.

And though we were the only ones dining at that time, it was surprising that the server first brought my companion gumbo instead of the chowder. OK, an honest mistake. Then, bread arrived without any butter. OK, an oversight.

But here's where things got serious. The Knight Cap is known for its steaks. On my first visit, I ordered their "famous" 7-ounce sizzler steak. It arrived closer to medium well done (I had ordered medium rare); tender but quite dry; and worse, not very warm.

On our second visit, I ordered the prici-

See He Ate Page 27

The Knight Cap

320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Dining room hours:
11 a.m.–10 p.m. Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.

Friday, 5 p.m.–11 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday.

Bar is open until midnight all six days.

(517) 484-7676 | theknightcap.com.

FB, TO, OM, RES, P, \$\$\$\$.

No just desserts

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

Everyone has certain memorable places in their hometown. I remember the two-for-one deal on Quality Dairy ice cream cones that sent my dad,

brother and me scouring all the area QDs on Tuesday nights for mint chocolate chip, our favorite. I think of the tantalizing aroma of popcorn and roasted peanuts luring me into The Peanut Shop as I walked by. And I think of my very favorite restaurant, The Knight Cap.

I've eaten many memorable meals at The Knight Cap. I've celebrated birthdays, graduations and gone on dates — some where the food was a wonderful complement ... and many where the filet was the highlight of the evening. The Knight Cap is a Lansing institution, and with today's trend towards chain eateries, digital news and e-readers,

it's a tradition that we should be wont to promote.

The Knight Cap is nothing if not quirky. The restaurant is seriously small, with a capacity of 52, and the interior is pure '70's camp — very deep reds and many coats of arms figure prominently. On my latest trip for dinner, I was lucky enough to be waited upon by Ricque, one of the most talented servers I have even encountered.

Ricque is an artist. Some might call him a bullshit artist, and granted, his steady stream of chatter might be endearingly classified as such. He presents himself to you with a flourish and lays himself at your service. He describes the nightly specials in a way that makes you think he hand-chose them, "Tonight, I have a wonderful Greg Norman ribeye." He compliments the ladies and commiserates with the men. Ricque is an absolute treasure and makes you feel like you've just had an experience, not merely dinner.

On this trip I ordered what I always order, as it is one of my favorite meals in the world. I started with a cup of the chicken andouille gumbo, which is not recommended for the faint of heart. The gumbo brings the heat, but not unpleasantly so. A wedge of cornbread is jammed into the thick tomato-y stew. One companion started her meal with the lobster bisque, which is too sweet for my taste but she claims its the best she's had. Our fellow diner started with a shrimp cock-

See She Ate, Page 27



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He Ate

from page 26

est steak on the menu (\$38) — Tournedos Oscar, thickly cut beef tenderloin medallions topped with crab meat, hollandaise sauce and asparagus.

Again, I ordered the steak medium rare. Again, it arrived overdone, slouching toward almost-cool, with the juices seemingly wrung out of it. The flakes of crab meat were scant and virtually tasteless. The hollandaise lacked the one-two punch of lemon-and-butter that makes or breaks this sauce.

To be fair, another steak ordered by one dinner companion was spot-on. He ordered the “Greg Norman Wagyu Sirloin.” He sliced into the middle of it and a burst of steam curled skyward. It was juicy throughout, and cooked precisely as ordered.

This night, a Friday, was a dining first for me. My steak-loving friend brought his own steak knife, a wood-handled device whose blade folded like a jack knife. I asked for an explanation, and he replied: “Restaurants give you serrated knives, which shred the steak. I want my steak sliced.”

Hmmm ... I wasn't going to argue with a man holding what looked like standard issue for Navy SEALs.

She Ate

from page 26

tail, boasting fresh, oversize shrimp that were elegantly presented and which are thoughtfully priced per piece.

The same diner was hypnotized by Ricque's description of the above-mentioned ribeye and ordered it without even opening his menu. If he had done so, he would have learned that the steak weighed in at a bruising 2 lbs. The eyes of other diners followed my friend's entrée as it was presented to him, and everyone was treated to a performance rivaling that of John Candy v. the Old 96'er.

The rest of us kept our wits about us and ordered entrées that a normal human being could handle. I requested my petit filet medium well and knew when I sunk my knife into the meat that it was perfectly prepared. I always order this steak — and the ramekin of béarnaise always sits untouched. The flavor of the meat is so delicious that I don't want any other flavors to compete for my attention.

I ordered a baked potato as my accompaniment, although after the gumbo and filet I was pretty well stuffed. I managed a few bites before I had to close up shop. Meanwhile, my friend devoured her shrimp scampi while I snuck a bite of it. The shrimp was light, garlicky and buttery. She didn't feel like steak that night,

On the whole, the dining experience at the Knight Cap was a mixed bag. The Caesar salad (for two) was above average, with the choice of adding anchovies. Every recipe I've ever read for a classic Caesar salad calls for anchovies. We opted for those thin, salty fillets that bring salt and sea to the fore. This would have been a top-notch Caesar if more garlic was mashed into the dressing.

We tried two desserts, a New York-style cheesecake and a chocolate torte that, according to our server, had something involving lava. The chocolate kind. The cheesecake was fine — though swimming in once-frozen strawberries — and the torte was a chocoholic's dream date. None of us got the “lava” thing. Apparently the volcano had gone extinct, because nothing was flowing in, on or around the torte.

A word about our server, Ricque. He has been a fixture at the Knight Cap for 12 years and he probably can recite the entire menu backwards, in his sleep, in several languages. His courtly manner sets a tone of refinement befitting an old steakhouse. He helps you with your coat, both on arrival and departure. He alone may be worth the price of admission for some diners.

Throughout our meal, Ricque was attentive without hovering. This man knows his craft, and pays attention to detail. The kitchen should take note.

and I was thrilled to see that the seafood options are not merely an afterthought, but are also delicious.

While I assume it's become evident to all that I have a lot of love for The Knight Cap, I do have one criticism. The desserts are downright bad. Wanting to be sure that this was still the case, the three of us ordered bananas foster, which confirmed my previous observations. We were presented with a platter of vanilla ice cream, sliced bananas and whipped cream. Everything was white, everything was bland, and 90 percent of the dish remained on the plate. If you've got a hankering for something sweet after you enjoy the best steak in town, stop by the Soup Spoon Café for their bread pudding if you're heading to East Lansing or Okemos, or Mediteran for any of their homemade delicacies if you're heading back into Lansing.

The Knight Cap also offers a surprisingly reasonably priced lunch menu, and if you've got a little extra time or want to have a special lunch midweek, work it into your rotation. I know from past experience that the San Francisco Cobb Salad is fresh, colorful and an excellent value for \$9.50.

Lansingites, we've got a responsibility to keep our homegrown, locally owned, independent businesses thriving. If I need to do my part by enjoying a wonderful steak dinner at a cozy little joint nestled next to a strip club, consider me ready and willing.

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