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March 21-27, 2012

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see page 9

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**Trick Your Bully**, page 29



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# City PULSE NEWSMAKERS



Hosted by  
Berl Schwartz

This week's guest:  
**Virg Bernero**



**A weekly look at the issues  
and the people behind the issues  
in Greater Lansing**

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# Feedback

## Bullying doc oughta be PG-13

We should all consider supporting Katy Butler's petition to allow children under the age of 18 to view the documentary *Bully* which examines the effects of abuse among the young. People should not have to be 18 to see it at school. Butler is a 17-year-old Michigan high school junior who took up the cause because she had been seriously bullied, including violence, when she came out at school as a lesbian.

The documentary film which opens March 30 was R Rated because of language, making it unavailable for children. Butler wants it reset at PG-13.

Her petition now has more than two hundred thousand signatures and the support of some congresspersons, celebrities, and athletes. Butler believes it is vital for the young to learn about the subject and how to deal with it. The results of bullying are too often tragic, leading to violence or suicide, as depicted in the film.

Bullying of the young is a real problem. I teach analytical writing at Lansing

Community, and every term I have a few young students write about the abuse they faced and how it affected their lives.

This author was also badly bullied as a child. I went to the police when I was 11 in 1954 and asked to be taken out of my family. The officer sent me home to seven more years of physical and verbal abuse, leading to injuries and emotional problems. I was 23 before I loved anyone because I had been battered and told someday I would understand that was love.

When I was 12, I befriended my school's biggest bully and rode around on the back of his large motorcycle with him. Thereafter, students left me alone. Not every kid is that lucky. Several years ago, I befriended one of LCC's tallest and sternest looking African American students. He looked that way because he was exhausted from going to college, working, and taking care of a young child. He was a gentle guy. Often, when we talked outside, campus Security stood twenty feet away and stared until he left. He had been profiled because of his color and looks, and that is bullying. We have no right to humiliate others because of their looks, race, nationality, gender, handicap, opinions, or sexual preference. Children should have an opportunity to learn that, not be kept away from a subject involving persons their age.

Butler's petition deserves our consideration. It can be found at: <http://www.change.org/petitions/mpaa-don-t-let-the-bullies-win-give-bully-a-pg-13-instead-of-an-r-rating>

— Dan Campbell  
Lansing

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.**
  - E-mail: [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com)
  - Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
  - Fax: (517) 371-5800
- 2.) Write a guest column:**

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

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish for Site Plan approval for the property at 915 Alton Road. The application would permit a 2,300 square foot expansion of the existing school building for storage and kitchen space. The property is zoned R-2, Medium Density, Single-Family Residential District.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Chuck Raad for Special Use Permit approval for the property at 1050 Trowbridge Road. The proposed application would allow for alcohol sales under a Class C liquor license at the existing Woody's Oasis restaurant. The property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business District.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning and Community 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 McKenna  
City Clerk

# CityPULSE

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News & Opinion.....	4
Public Notices.....	4, 6
Cover Story.....	9
Arts & Culture.....	12
Book Show.....	17
Movies.....	22
Books.....	25
Advice Goddess.....	26
Classifieds.....	26
Jonesin' Crossword.....	26
Out on the Town.....	27
Turn it Down.....	28
New In Town.....	29
Freewill Astrology.....	33
Food.....	34

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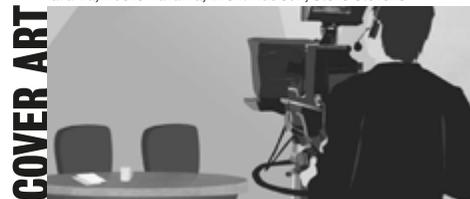
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**Berl Schwartz**



7 p.m. Wednesdays  
**This week**  
Cindy Storie, Lansing CommunityCollege branch of Michigan Association for Higher Education

Bill Martines of Lansing Future LLC

Developer Scott Gillespie



IN THE STUDIO by RACHEL HARPER

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**OUR TOP STORY TONIGHT-- A GIANT UNSTOPPABLE ASTEROID IS PLUMMETING TOWARD OUR PLANET!**

**AS WE FACE THE CERTAIN EXTINCTION OF ALL LIFE ON EARTH, THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S MIND IS--**

**OH, IT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN THAT.**

**THEY REALLY DON'T LIKE THAT GUY.**

**SO DOES THE PROSPECT OF IMPENDING PLANETARY DOOM MEAN THAT THE G.O.P. WILL FINALLY RALLY AROUND ROMNEY?**

**OH, IT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN THAT.**

**THEY REALLY DON'T LIKE THAT GUY.**

**REPENT, SINNERS! AND VOTE FOR ME!**

**I'M IN THIS 'TIL THE END! LITERALLY.**

**AT LEAST UNTIL, YOU KNOW, THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANET.**

**ALL RIGHT, GENTLEMEN-- THANK YOU FOR YOUR INSIGHT!**

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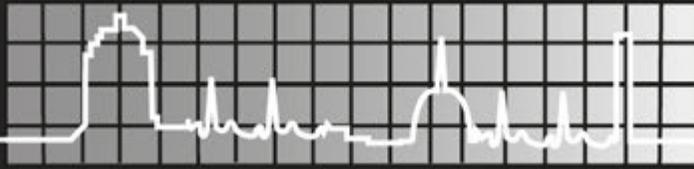
**--AND NOW, THE OBLITERATION OF ALL THEY KNOW AND LOVE!**

**COMING UP NEXT: WHAT DOES THE END OF THE WORLD MEAN FOR YOUR STOCK PORTFOLIO?**

**ALSO--HOW ARE YOUR FAVORITE CELEBRITIES COPING WITH THE STRESS?**

**FIRST THESE MESSAGES!**

# PULSE



## news & opinion

### Swope's out of Ingham County clerk's race

Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope confirmed Tuesday that he is not going to run for the Ingham County Clerk post being vacated this year by retiring Clerk Mike Bryanton, opting out of a competitive Democratic primary race against state Rep. Barb Byrum.

Polls showed Swope lagging well behind Byrum, whose mother, Dianne, established the Byrum name as a political brand as a state senator and House member until term limits caught up with her.

However, Swope said he didn't base

his decision on that.

"I've decided I can better serve my community right now by staying in my current position," Swope said. "Another primary battle among Ingham County Democrats would distract attention and funds from this November's election."

Swope also noted that his husband, Bradley Radkowski, recently opened a business, so he has a lot going on personally.

Byrum, D- Onandaga, who cannot run for her post again because of term

limits, said she received a call from Swope on Tuesday afternoon letting her know of his intentions not to run. She said the two plan on sitting down next week and that she looks



Swope

See Swope, Page 6

### Ottawa Butler is back ... again

The other Gillespie says rentals, not owner-occupied, is key to success in developing a prime city block near downtown and across the street from the Capitol Complex

In the living room of Gretchen Cochran's Sycamore Street home Thursday in the Genesee Neighborhood, downtown Lansing residents were given a game plan that was oh so familiar.

Development plans were being floated for the mostly green space one block south from this living room, which was packed with about 20 neighbors. It's the second major development announcement in four years (and the third in eight years) for the 5.3 acres bounded by Ottawa, Sycamore and Ionia streets and Butler Boulevard. And it's the second Gillespie brother who's announcing plans for it.

Scott Gillespie, whose brother, Pat Gillespie, first pitched to the city upscale housing plans for the area in 2004, is making the case to neighbors that he'll be the first to walk away with a successful development on the property. After Pat Gillespie, local developer Gene Townsend pitched his "Sobi Square" project — a \$20 million vision for 76 condominiums, lofts and retail space — but his firm, Sycamore Street Partners, lost the property in a bank foreclosure in fall 2010 after buying it from the city's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (which had bought it from the state) for \$460,000 in 2008.



Andy Balaskovitz/City Pulse

Scott Gillespie on Thursday pitches to Genesee Neighborhood residents his plans to develop a prime block of real estate near the Capitol building.

Gillespie hasn't formally taken ownership of the property, but he has a contract to purchase it for about \$160,000.

Townsend is a respected developer in the Lansing area, and he and city officials pointed to the housing downturn and lack of demand for owner-occupied housing as the reason Sobi went down.

But Scott Gillespie has different plans.

"His plans were beautiful," Gillespie said of Townsend. "It was a great design for the property. But the significant difference between the two is his was primarily for-sale residential and mine is for-rent residential. ... I believe that this, given the market today, moving forward will be very successful."

Gillespie is hesitant to pitch exact designs and rental numbers, but he has a pretty good idea of the direction he's taking on the \$6 million to \$6.5 million project. He's planning on four buildings, three of which would be all apartments (two on Ottawa and one on Butler). The corner of Ottawa and Sycamore calls for a mixed-use residential building with roughly 4,000 square feet of commercial space on the first floor. In all, he's planning on 84 rental units that would be a mix of one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. The project would come in two phases, an "east" and a "west phase." Two houses closest to the Ottawa and

See Gillespie, Page 6

### Eyesore of the week



- Property: 819 N. Larch St., Lansing
- Owner: Jennerin Inc.
- Assessed value: \$17,700
- Owner says: Demolished by the end of the year
- Nestled between a dirt alley driveway to the south and a vacant lot to the north, this flaking, brown-yellow house with dark red accents has nothing to distract the eye from its forlorn appearance.
- Venture to the front and flanked between the two plywood-sealed windows you'll see a few red stairs leading to the boarded-up front door with a green, crusty carpet stapled to the top steps. The previous occupant must have wanted a permanent "not-so-welcome" mat that would freeze, thaw and mold with the seasons.
- Pass by on Cedar Street and you'll see the hacked-away remnants of about a dozen bushes or small trees on the south side of the house. The barrenness of the scene gives the impression that nature has decided to run away from this residence in search of prettier pastures. We'll see what of it returns after the owners demolish it by the end of the year.

— Sam Inglot

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: This house is an architectural icon of the colonial era — the saltbox — and is a clever design that is most prevalent in the northeastern U.S. Saltboxes were named after the large, asymmetrical wooden saltboxes common during colonial times. Note the long pitched roof that slopes to the rear of the house with one story in the back and two in the front, a defining feature of this style. The house is another great example of how Michigan may be considered Midwest, but its New England heritage is evident in its architecture.

"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 999-5064.

## Gillespie

from page 5

Butler intersection would be torn down, while the other seven structures — some built in the late-1800s and owned by a variety of individuals, the state and Booth Newspapers — would remain. The north side of the property along Ionia Street would remain green space, Gillespie said, with the possibility of community gardens. Gillespie also plans to pursue a brownfield redevelopment plan for the property to reimburse him certain costs of the project, though that is subject to City Council approval.

Gillespie was hesitant to share plans he says are not set in stone. “It really puts me in a predicament to try and do that. I’m trying to make adjustments to the plan so that it satisfies the neighbors’ comments. It’s preliminary, and I can’t stress that enough,” Gillespie said.

And neighborhood concerns weren’t hard to come by Thursday night. Some worried about the possibility of “low income housing,” others the possible spreading of contaminated soils during demolition. But recurring themes were the potential of increased traffic, the sheer density of what’s proposed and aligning its design with the surrounding neighborhood.

“I hate these numbers,” said Georgia Ellis. “It’s too high density for this neighborhood. It’s like adding a neighborhood into our neighborhood. I don’t like at all the amount of traffic and amount of noise. This is just a lot.”

Chris McCarus, a Butler Boulevard resident, said to Gillespie during the meeting, “You’ve got a really high standard” in satisfying these neighborhood residents.

Added Penny Zago: “These are homes

we’re trying to protect. Those are treasures. We’re trying to protect this way of life.”

Indeed, the Genesee Neighborhood has been significantly improved in the last decade. Drug deals even in daylight were once common, and scores of drug houses existed. They were largely driven out by an active neighborhood organization led by the late Ruth Hallman, mother of Councilwoman Carol Wood, and by a neighborhood police patrol. Though the latter has disappeared with budget cuts, the neighborhood has held its own in recent years, despite the economy.

If all goes well, Gillespie hopes to start on the mixed-used building by the end of this year and open in spring 2013: “Assuming the market response is good.”

### Eastside progress

Gillespie said he’s built and manages 1,800 apartments throughout the state, including at Washington Square and Kalamazoo Street downtown and in Muskegon, Allendale, Jackson, Portland, Ionia and Charlotte.

And his most recent project — replacing a decrepit gas station with a three-story mixed commercial and apartment space at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Marshall Street on the east side — is “moving forward as planned.”

Subway is the first and so far only tenant to sign a lease on the first floor of the building and did so for three years. There’s still 1,800 square feet of available commercial space, Gillespie said.

Drywall interior and masonry exterior work is scheduled to begin this week, he added: “We still plan on opening in May.”

— Andy Balaskovitz

## Swope

from page 5

forward to working with him.

Swope was first elected city clerk in 2005 and won re-election in 2009 when nobody filed to run against him. He served as an Ingham County commissioner from 2001-05. He worked as a policy analyst for the Michigan Senate and a benefits administrator for the Michigan House of Representatives.

Without Swope in the race, the field is essentially open for Byrum unless and until someone announces. Rumors of Swope’s departure have circulated in liberal circles for about a week.

Last May, Practical Political Consultants did a robo-poll of 225 likely Democratic primary voters that showed Byrum up 72 to 16 percent over Swope, with him struggling badly in the name ID department. At least one other poll had been done on the race since and Swope’s name ID, again, was far behind that of Byrum.

However, Swope said his decision was

based on having a busy personal schedule, not polling data.

“I just really am focused on what’s best for the community right now and how I can best serve — I know I have a lot going on,” he said.

One local Democratic operative told City Pulse that Swope’s departure shouldn’t come as much of a surprise considering the amount of time and money he’d need to expend over the summer to get his name ID numbers up to Byrum’s level.

All things considered, Swope may be on a better track to run for mayor whenever Virg Bernero decides he’s had enough, whenever that may be, the Democratic insider said.

Bryanton had encouraged Swope to run and was supporting his candidacy. He did not return a telephone call for comment.

— Kyle Melinn



Byrum

## The casino Promise

**Twenty percent of East Lansing Public Schools students live in the Lansing School District. Could a casino’s funding the Lansing Promise Scholarship change that?**

In what was called a “disconcerting note” in a recent Allen Neighborhood Center newsletter, 20 percent of East Lansing Public Schools enrollment is made up of kids who live in the Lansing School District.

The pupil drain has left Lansing’s three high schools — Sexton, Eastern and Everett — with less than solid enrollment among eligible Lansing students. And one of these schools may be closed due to a struggling financial situation within the district. A decision is expected before April, when the schools go on spring break.

The 20 percent statistic is “pretty accurate,” said Lansing school board member Peter Spadafore, who said roughly 4,700 kids who live in the district attend other schools.

There are reasons parents would want to place their kids in other districts, he said, but “lack of quality” in Lansing’s schools is definitely not one of them.

Moving kids is “not an uncommon thing in this age of school of choice,” Lansing school board President Myra Ford said.

A common reason parents pull their kids from Lansing schools is a notion that the district buildings are not as safe as

those in, say, neighboring Holt and East Lansing, she said. This, however, is “based on speculation, not fact.”

“People move based on their perceptions and what they’ve heard — not always on reality,” Ford said.

Parents plugged into the rumor mill may hear a horror story about Lansing schools from a neighbor or friend and decide to move their child before they’ve even had a chance to experience the school for themselves, Ford said. Being an urban district, some negative events at Lansing schools are highlighted by the media and many suburban problems go overlooked, she said.

“We’ve got to change that image,” Ford said. “We need to let people know about the great things going on in our schools.”

In terms of putting a stop to the student flight, along with creating a more positive image, Ford and Spadafore said there are a number of options the district can take. A possibility that neither the district nor the Board has taken an official position on is the proposed casino in downtown Lansing, which would inject millions of dollars into the Lansing Promise Scholarship, providing free college tuition at Michigan public colleges and universities if a student graduated from Lansing schools. A similar program, the Kalamazoo Promise, has created a boom in population and enrollment in the schools, a factor that has some Lansing City Council members noting strong possibilities for Lansing and its K-12 educational institutions.

“If you look at the Promise in Kalamazoo, their population is up nearly 20 percent,” said Tina Houghton, Lansing City Council

See Promise, Page 7

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE TRANSFER OF POWERS, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE INGHAM COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION TO THE INGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners will hold public hearings on Tuesday, March 27 and April 10, 2012, before the Board of Commissioners at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners’ Room, Ingham County Courthouse, Mason, Michigan to hear any interested persons on the transfer of powers, duties, and functions of the board of Bounty Road Commissioners to the County Board of Commissioners. For additional information go to [www.ingham.org](http://www.ingham.org).

**RFQP/12/085 – VIDEO PRODUCTION** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT/PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **MARCH 27, 2012**.

**Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by calling Stephanie Robinson CPPB at (517) 483-4128, or for content and purpose of this proposal contact: Steve Beard, MSU Police Dept. at (517) 355-222 or Erika Mahoney LFD/EOC at (517) 483-4561 or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info)**

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

**B/12/084 CITY OF LANSING BALLFIELD MAINTENANCE** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing.

The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the FINANCE DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING OFFICE, 8TH FLOOR CITY HALL, 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933 until 3:00 PM local time in effect on **MARCH 27, 2012**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

**Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, email: [srobinso@lansingmi.gov](mailto:srobinso@lansingmi.gov) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info)**

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

# Promise

from page 6

member and mother of children in Lansing schools. “There’s the schools and then the city. ... I understand they’re two governmental bodies, but we need to work together because without good schools you’re not going to get people coming here, and without people you’re not going to have students in your schools.”

Speaking strictly on a personal level, Spadafore said he thinks there’s great potential for Lansing schools if the casino idea takes off, calling the proposition a “big win” for the area. On Monday, the Lansing City Council approved 7-1 moving forward with the plan. It awaits a referendum vote by Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians members, federal approval from the U.S. Department of the Interior and possible lawsuits from opponents.

“The hope of a scholarship like that is a phenomenal asset for this school district and the kids,” he said. “It would increase enrollment numbers and get people to move back into the district.”

One Lansing School District teacher and teacher union presidents — past and present — endorsed the casino idea to the City Council at a March 12 public hearing on the issue. The bottom line, they said, could be the \$5 million to \$6 million

projected to fund Lansing Promise from gaming revenues shared by the Sault Tribe.

“We have a moral obligation. We have a chance to fund college for our students,” said Kristen Small, a teacher at Wexford Montessori Magnet Elementary School in south Lansing. “We have a sister school in Kalamazoo. You go there and they are hiring staff, drawing families. We are laying off and shuffling people around. Please pass this.”

Former Lansing Police Chief Mark Alley, at the same meeting, was “here to support the casino, specifically for the Lansing Promise a Lansing casino will fund. ... I cannot tell you how important it is for us to get behind our kids.”

And Mayor Virg Bernero, at the same March 12 meeting, said: “Lansing Promise, we think, is just about an independent reason to support this project,” referring to other positives projected by his administration: 700 temporary jobs and 1,500 permanent jobs; a boon to downtown’s entertainment scene; and about \$400 million in spinoff economic activity. “It will have a transformational impact on our schools. ... Healthy schools and growing schools means a healthy and growing city.”

*(Andy Balaskovitz contributed reporting to this story.)*

— Sam Ingot

# DEAL OF THE WEEK

USE BONUS CODE:

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**SAVE 50%**

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You must sign up and purchase our stupendous deals online only at:

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Saturday, April 14th, 9am-2pm  
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# Sorting it out

## Pondering the fallout of closing the United States Postal Service's Collins Road sorting facility

Jesus Gonzales needs an Act of Congress.

The 39-year-old president of the Central Michigan Area Local of the American Postal Workers Union called U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow's office in Washington on a recent Friday morning. He was trying to convince the senator to introduce legislation to implement an alternative study to the one commissioned by the United States Postal Service suggesting the mail sorting facility at 4800 Collins Road in Lansing needs to close.

Closing the facility would not only result in layoffs but also in a delay in receiving local first-class mail.

Congress has put a moratorium on implementing the recommendations of the study until May 15, reportedly in order to come up with more comprehensive postal reform.

At risk is the fate of roughly 400 facility employees, not including the vendors who do business with the facility, according to Gonzales, a clerk for 18 years. "They'll go full throttle after the 15th if Congress doesn't respond," he said.

Postal Service spokeswoman Sabrina Todd said the study looked at over 200 facilities across the United States. The Lansing facility was chosen because of its large size. Closing it would provide the largest savings in cost and space utilization compared to other facilities in the region, she said.

She added that although the sorting facility has been singled out in the study, there aren't any guarantees of what's going to happen after the May 15 deadline.

"I can't say whether the facility will be

closed at this time," she said. "I don't have any specifics."

Todd said layoff decisions would be worked out with the union's human resources and labor department.

The results of the Postal Service study, announced last September, identify 252 sorting facilities across the country for possible closure in order to cut costs at the struggling government agency. Under the plan, mail from the Lansing area would be sorted in Grand Rapids.

After the deadline, the fate of Collins Road employees is unclear. According to their collective bargaining agreement, Gonzales said, all employees are eligible for transfer within a 50-mile radius. Grand Rapids is outside that radius.

In terms of mail service, residents would see the difference immediately if the mail is sorted in Grand Rapids. Gonzales and Todd agree that locally generated first-class mail that usually would take one day to be delivered would take two to three days to get to its destination.

Gonzales said this has direct consequences for local businesses: This overnight service is essential to many, including the State of Michigan, Auto-Owners Insurance and Consumers Energy. They rely on the postal service to get business done.

"People still mail mail," he said.

Gonzales said he wouldn't be asking for the second study if there had been more transparency in the process used to decide closing the Lansing facility by USPS executives.

The decision to close the Collins Road facility doesn't make much sense to him, and there are other steps the Postal Service can take to cut costs, Gonzales added. It relies on a labor-heavy workforce and responds slowly to change, he said. Moreover, the Postal Service could pay more attention to employee recommendations of ways to improve efficiency within the facility, he added.

And the Collins Road facility is wholly owned by the Postal Service, while three of the four facilities in Grand Rapids are leased, according to Gonzales. The Lansing facility is also larger than three of the Grand Rapids facilities combined, he said.

"The Postal Service is going to have to pay more money to accommodate this consolidation," Gonzales said.

And then there's the price of gas.

"They're going to add more fuel cost to transfer that mail across the state," said Gonzales.

Despite the questions and the looming deadline, Gonzales is certain of one thing about potential layoffs: They will hurt the local economy.

"We need to keep work here in Lansing," he said.

— Joan Bolander

# Wanted: A decent challenger to Walberg



*with some prior elected office experience? Have access to a little bit of money? No criminal record? The Michigan Democratic Party needs you. Call Mark. (517) 371-5410.*

On second thought, the ad probably already ran. Because here we are, mid-March, two months before the filing deadline and nobody is running against the Democrats' favorite political punching bag, U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg, in the state's most politically volatile congressional district.

If this keeps up by Easter, the Craigslist posting will sound a bit more like this:

*Live in Michigan? Can you move here quickly? Does Rush Limbaugh make you angry? Did you like Eddie Murphy in Distinguished Gentleman? A fan of Schoolhouse Rock's "I'm Just A Bill"? Can you sing the Star-Spangled Banner without reading the lyrics? Can you read? ...*

You get the picture.

The situation is extremely serious for Democrats. We're entering into a presidential year, with an incumbent president kicking Republican butt in Michigan polls — and the D's have no candidate, let alone a decent candidate to run against the state's shakiest Republican incumbent.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee is in talks with former U.S. Rep. Joe Schwarz, who beat Walberg in a crowded six-way Republican primary in 2004 and served a term in Congress. Though he has only run as a Republican in his long political career, Schwarz is independent-minded and very moderate; he is a huge favorite among policy-minded thinkers who barf at run-of-the-mill puppet candidates.

Problem is, the ear, nose and throat doctor got carved out of the 7th Congressional District when Schwarz's Battle Creek home got roped into Grand Rapids-based U.S. Rep. Justin Amash's 3rd District. That's not a legal disqualifier. Amazingly, a member of Congress need only live in the state he or she is representing, not the district.

But it'd be nice if a congressional candidate's political base could vote for the candidate. Carrying around the "carpet-bagger" tag isn't cool either. But at this point, baggers can't be choosers. That's why Schwarz is on the horn.

Then there's the other problem. Schwarz, 74, hates dialing for dollars and the DCCC hates sending over checks to candidates who can't raise a few hundred K on their own. Don't expect a lot of movement there.

Don't be surprised if this cry for help shows up on Craigslist. Probably under "general labor jobs":

*Live in Eaton County or elsewhere in the 7th Congressional District? A Democrat*

The Democrats need to flip about 25 Republican seats to retake the majority in the U.S. House, and they'd prefer to invest in candidates with proven fundraising abilities, like Gary McDowell in the 1st, Steve Pestka in the 3rd or Dr. Syed Taj in the 11th.

Unfortunately for the D's, the incumbents in the 1st, 3rd and 11th aren't nearly as weak as Walberg, as a review of his congressional election history shows:

2004: Finished third in a six-way Republican primary with 17.6 percent (Schwarz won with 27.8 percent).

2006: Beat Schwarz in a head-to-head Republican primary 53 percent to 47 percent. Won seat with 49.9 percent of the vote against an underfunded, unknown Democratic organic farmer named Sharon Renier, who managed 45.9 percent.

2008: Lost his seat 48.7 to 46.4 percent to Democrat Mark Schauer.

2010: Regained seat 50.2 percent to 45.4 percent over Schauer in the nation's most expensive congressional race. Note: Democrats didn't win anything that year.

This year, Schauer isn't coming back. He, too, is from Battle Creek. He's running an environmentalist/labor movement called the Blue Green Alliance that's pushing a constitutional amendment to raise the state's mandatory alternative energy standards to 25 percent by 2025.

Other potential top-flight candidates like former state House Majority Floor Leader Kathy Angerer, former state Sen. Jim Berryman, former state Rep. Doug Spade, former state Rep. Dudley Spade (Doug's brother), Jackson Mayor Marty Griffin and former Granholm campaign adviser Howard Edelson all said "no" for various individual reasons.

Meanwhile, the DCCC is softening up Walberg for whoever runs. In the last two months, their anti-Walberg press releases have accused him of "shipping jobs overseas" (3/8/12), "protecting pay and golden parachutes" (3/7/12), "being against a crack down on rising gas prices" (2/29/12), "making it easier for speculators to manipulate oil prices" (2/24/12) and "protecting big oil profits while ending Medicare" (2/22/12).

The 7th is very winnable for the Democrats this year, and everyone knows it.

Even with the addition of Monroe County, the Eaton County 7th District goes Democratic if the party's candidates, in general, do well up and down the ballot, according to a July analysis by Ed Sarpolus of Target Insyght. That happened in '06 and '08 — and things are looking good for D's in '12.

So maybe the D's can put up a ham sandwich and win regardless. They'd just like to find something a little more appetizing.

The question is, "Who?"

(Kyle Melinn is the editor of the MIRS Newsletter. He can be reached at melinn@lansingcitypulse.com.)

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**I**t's 6:59 p.m. on a Monday night, and Melik Brown is about to go live on the air. He's sitting at a long table in a narrow room in front of a desk mic and his laptop. Four small cameras are mounted near the ceiling around the room, security-cam style, focused on him. He's idly chatting with his co-host, who's seated across from him and shuffling through a short stack of papers. Then a man behind a computer about 10 feet away holds up his hand to get his attention. Silence falls. Three, two, one — the man points to Brown, whose face lights up as he launches into his best ready-for-prime-time voice.

"Thank you for tuning in to 'Time Slot 2X,'" Brown says. "I'm your host Melik. Let's get started, shall we?"

And boom: Brown is broadcasting his TV show worldwide on the Internet. Just another day in the life of local public access programming. "Time Slot 2X" is the second iteration of a public access TV program Brown started 13 years ago at the Comcast building on Miller Road in south Lansing. He used that station's public access studio and cameras back when Comcast made it accessible to the public.

"My goal when I started this show was to give a voice to things I thought were interesting that wouldn't necessarily be covered by the mainstream media," Brown says. "I wanted 'Time Slot' to be a live call-in show where we could talk about all kinds of quirky stuff — the weird things people talk about every day that don't have anything to do with what's going on in the world."

It's sort of like a Lansing-centric predecessor to Know Your Meme. Over the years, guests included a rapper who couldn't rap ("He just repeated, 'You ain't never heard of me,' over a terrible beat.") and a local man who was trying to set a world record for having the biggest flame shooting from the top of his tractor. But "Time Slot" featured bona fide talent as well, such as nationally touring comedians and emerging local singer/songwriters. Over the course of a decade, he watched his show evolve into an hour-long, three-camera talk show with a loyal weekly fan base. In December 2008, however, Brown received word that he could no longer use that studio or its equipment to create his show.

"The program manager told me that if I wanted to continue, I would have to send prerecorded episodes to the Comcast station in Southfield," Brown says. "But that took away everything this show was about — the timeliness of it, the live interaction. There just wasn't the same thing anymore."

And just like that, public access in Lansing was gone. That was under a nearly 40-year-old model, however, in which resources, including a physical location, were provided by a cable provider — a profit-driven business with no real stake in community programming. In the wake of that failure, a

team of local video production specialists led by the Lansing Mayor's Office have spent nearly two years developing a brand-new model that puts public access squarely under the guidance of local government and has the potential to grow into a regional information hub. Oh, and it's already creating jobs. Welcome to Public Access version 2.0.

#### How it works

By the end of 2008, all Lansing and East Lansing TV shows that relied on public access equipment, including "Time Slot," ceased to exist. But this loss was only collateral damage in a mid-Michigan media shake-up five years ago.

"Prior to 2007, franchises for any cable provider were negotiated directly with the provider in each municipality," says Alan McCarrick, information systems manager for the city of East Lansing. McCarrick watched his city lose its public access studio when Comcast shut down its facility on Trowbridge Road in 2007. "In the past, we were able to negotiate certain things, including public access studios. But when Public Act 480 went into effect Jan. 1, 2007, they were no longer required to provide a public access studio. So, of course, they went."

One of the things that cable companies were required to do by the Federal Communications Commission in the early 1970s was collect a fee for public, education and government (PEG) programming — designed to recoup the cost of cable companies using the public right of way — to be used to create original local content. This was the birth of public access. McCarrick says that PA 480 (which he says AT&T "essentially wrote") freed cable franchises from paying PEG fees in East Lansing. If East Lansing residents wanted to air a show after that, they had to make it using their own camera and editing equipment, then either mail DVDs of their show to Southfield or to Haslett-Okemos-Meridian (HOM) TV, the Meridian Township-based government cable station. HOM-TV oversees Capital Area Media (CAM) TV, which plays local content, but like HOM-TV has no physical studio or any equipment to use.

Cable service in Lansing, however, still does have a 2 percent PEG fee, in addition to a 5 percent franchise fee, and this pool of money paved the way for a bold new venture by the city to resurrect public access. The result is the Lansing Public Media Center, located at 2500 S. Washington Ave. in Lansing, where Brown's "Time Slot 2X" and several other shows are produced each week. (Lansing's public access programming is broadcast on cable channel 16.) The media center is a multi-purpose production and broadcast studio that has served as the home for Lansing's public and governmental access stations since it opened in December 2010, under the guidance of the city's Office of Community

# THE NEW PUBLIC ACCESS

By ALLAN I. ROSS

*City of Lansing  
follows through  
on commitment  
for dedicated  
Public Media Center*

# Public Access

from page 9

Media and its director, Dominic Cochran.

“Mayor Bernero really sees the value in the media side of things,” Cochran says. “The directive came from him to treat everything we’re doing here like a jobs pipeline. That’s one of the nice things of having a media-savvy mayor. He respects what we do, and puts a lot of trust in us to do a good job.”

The Washington Avenue location, a former Michigan National Guard armory, is only a temporary home until renovations at the Information Technology Empowerment Center, a nonprofit based at the old Holmes Street School, is complete this fall. The media center is also home to the fledgling Capital City Film Festival and provides space for city police functions and community events.

Cochran says that the media center adopted a two-pronged approach to public access. In addition to the traditional system where the media center purchases equipment that “lives” there but can be checked out by city residents, the media center has also created a grant-based model. This allows \$25,000 worth of equipment to be stored off-site by organizations — \$10,000 for individuals — that can demonstrate a certain level of proficiency with video, have the capability

## Have an idea for a public access show?

If you have an idea for a public access TV show or podcast, you can reach the Lansing Public Media Center at 517-483-4058, or by emailing [communitymedia@lansingmi.gov](mailto:communitymedia@lansingmi.gov). You can also follow them on Facebook and Twitter at [facebook.com/lanmediacenter](https://www.facebook.com/lanmediacenter) and [twitter.com/lanmediacenter](https://twitter.com/lanmediacenter).

and facilities to accommodate that kind of work and can commit to producing one hour of original public access material every month.

To start a program, the individual or organization sends

the Office of Community Media a proposal mapping out their programming and listing their desired equipment. Once approved, the city then has the PEG money, which has been set aside to purchase the equipment that the grant winner has unrestricted access to for a two-year period. As long as they produce an hour of public access video each month, Cochran says, after two years they will own that equipment.

Karen Stefl is one of the co-founders of Keep Learning, a 501(c)(3) partnership of public and private organizations focused on connecting people to educational resources. Keep Learning earned one of the \$25,000 grants to produce a show called “LRN 101,” which has content that ranges from virtual field trips aimed at elementary school viewers to spotlights on internships targeting college students.

“We saw a need for content that would be educationally enriching, even if it was something as simple as taking a walk on the Riverwalk,” Stefl says. “School field trips are being eliminated and art funding is being cut. We were struggling to get these stories out there better.”



Geniafer Musial/City Pulse

Melik Brown, host of “Time Slot 2X,” has been a public access staple in Lansing for 13 years. “Time Slot 2X” airs Mondays live on Ustream at 7 p.m., is rebroadcast on Wednesdays at 11 p.m. and also the following Mondays at 2 p.m.

All eight episodes of “LRN 101” can be found on Lansing Public Media’s Vimeo page (<http://vimeo.com/lansingmedia>), and Stefl says that local PBS affiliate WKAR has agreed to pick up the show as well.

## Professional budget for professional equipment

But that grant is just the catalyst. Such Video, Inc. in Old Town, where Stefl is a partner, is contributing \$100,000 in funds for the show’s additional costs of infrastructure, creative support, and a full-time staff person. PEG money cannot be used for operational funds, leaving an inability to pay skilled manpower to manage the program. Such Video solved this problem by adding to their own payroll.

“Paid help for the public broadcast is almost non-existent — that’s why we need really enthusiastic people involved,” says Cochran, who oversees a part-time staff of four at the media center, who all work on paid contracts with the city of Lansing. “If this kind of thing was around when I was first getting started, I’d be all over it. We need to find those people who are hungry and motivated, and I know they’re out there.”

“Anything arts-related is always the first to be cut when you’re talking about laying off police officers and firefighters — that’s just the reality of politics. The nice thing about these dollars is that they have to be spent on this effort. They can’t be used as a political football.”

Revenue for the media center fluctuates according to cable companies’ revenue, which Cochran says is “probably not going that well due to digital convergence. ... It’s probably on a downward trend.”

Randy Hannan, Bernero’s chief of staff who was instrumental in ushering in the media center, estimates income from the PEG fees at about \$500,000 per year, the vast majority of which comes from Comcast.

“This is dedicated money,” Hannan says. “And to the extent of people who think we ought to be spending that money on other things: we’re not allowed to. These are restricted

dollars that can’t be used for anything except for the PEG network under state and federal law.”

Hannan says that revenue since it began managing the PEG dollars in 2007 is about \$2.4 million. Since then, about \$1.4 million has been spent on two cycles of grant programs totaling \$450,000; \$400,000 on the build-out of the Holmes School; and about \$500,000 on upgrades to City TV equipment.

In the public access studios that were being operated by the cable companies, Cochran says show producers were learning on the lower end of the industry with antiquated tools and techniques. He says that the state-of-the-art equipment at the media center — including cameras, microphones, editing equipment, and a workshop area — will help new and returning producers of public access content viable for the Information Age.

“I know the professional tools that people use on real world shoots,” Cochran says. “So even though most people who are going to be coming here are doing it as a hobby, why not teach them on the professional tools? Then they can put those skills they’re learning on a résumé. Who knows? They might get a job out of it. To me that makes a lot of sense.”

In addition to broadcasting on channel 16, Cochran encourages people to upload their work to Ustream or Vimeo, which allows you to watch it in HD on your home TV if you have a Roku box or an Apple TV.

“It’s really the best way to watch this type of programming,” he says. “People no longer have to promote a certain time slot—you can say, ‘Go to my channel on Vimeo and you can watch any of my shows anytime you want.’ That’s powerful.”

“The Lansing Public Media Center creates enormous opportunities for our citizens and community organizations to use digital media to tell positive stories about our community,” Hannan says. “It’s taken strides to create an educational pipeline,



See Public Access, Page 11

Geniafer Musial/City Pulse

The media center’s new \$120,000 HD production trailer is ready to roll for covering live local events. It’s packed with everything a network affiliate news station would have, including eight HD cameras which run on tactical fiber, a state-of-the-art tricast remote HD switcher, a shooting platform with safety rails, and is fully furnished with LED track lighting and carpeting.

# Public Access

from page 10

giving career opportunities to young people, who can learn a craft in digital production — whether it's television, radio or Internet — and learn the kind of skills that will spill over to a variety of career paths.

"The interest level has really been encouraging, and we haven't really started putting ourselves out there yet."

Cochran estimates about 80 percent of the time he and his team spend at the media center consists of filling 24 hours of programming on the city channel, which doesn't leave much time to facilitate original content generation. That's a lot of slack to pick up.

"That's why I'm working 70 hours a week," he chuckles. Cochran says the long-term goal is to find an additional funding source by actively encouraging producers to find underwriting, as PBS and NPR do.

"There are a lot of different models of public access, plenty of which charge a reasonable rate to cover the expenses of that involvement," says Cochran. "You just can't have overt commercial messaging. That's not a way of making a profit, but it's certainly a way of getting paid for the time that they're spending."

Talking to City Pulse two years ago, Hannan described the two-phased approach the city was utilizing in this endeavor. Phase one, the grant program, is off and running, with phase two involving engaging surrounding governments in a regional partnership in community media so that everyone is represented in PEG. But Hannan said he was waiting to get neighboring local governments aboard, similar to models in Battle Creek and Kalamazoo.

"Phase two is to engage in the broader community media conversation, but it's a two-way street," Hannan said at the time. With Phase one just wrapping up, he says that now it's just a matter of "getting the house in order first" before other municipalities are approached.



Gennifer Musial/City Pulse

Lansing Public Media Center crew, from left: Jason Gabriel, chief videographer, Fatih Floeter-Kirstin, videographer, Antwan Kent, producer/volunteer, Dominic Cochran, director of the Lansing Office of Community Media, Luke Pline, videographer, Casey Cavanaugh, programmer.

## Taking shape

In the meantime, the podcast studio is ready to go, and coming soon a big open-air studio — think Oprah — will be ready. There's also one of the biggest green screens in mid-Michigan in the building while the new location at the Holmes School will boast a massive 40-foot green screen with an "infinity wall," allowing show producers to create virtual sets. Also coming soon: backpack studios, which will have everything an aspiring broadcast journalist could need to produce a show — a camera, laptop with editing software, tripod, lights and a microphone — all organized in a convenient, portable package.

"In order to be a successful endeavor, this has to be largely a volunteer-run organization," says Cochran. "That's another reason we're trying to get the best possible equipment—to get people excited and inspired, help each other produce their programming and have it be a community movement. That's the only way it's going to work."

"This is a whole community media enterprise," says Hannan. "We're not just creating TV shows — we're creating opportunities for people in an increasingly digital economy."

In addition to "Time Slot 2X," the media center also hosts "Ginger and the Geek,"

a podcast on Lansing pop culture; "I'm a Beer Hound," dedicated to craft beer; and, debuting this Sunday, "City Pulse Newsmakers," a "Meet the Press"-style interview show hosted by City Pulse editor and publisher Berl Schwartz. There are also shows dedicated to video games and technology coming soon, but on this recent Monday night, the conversation has mostly circled around Brown's pet peeves (drivers who won't turn on red lights) and random online news stories ("Gas is up one cent — why is this a headline?!").

At 7:30 p.m., Brown's director circles his finger in the wrap-it-up motion, Brown

## CITY PULSE NEWSMAKERS ARRIVES

This Sunday at 11 a.m. (repeating at 11:30 a.m.) on Ch. 16, Lansing's public access cable channel, City Pulse expands its reach with the debut of "City Pulse Newsmakers," a news talk show that will be a blend of extended one-on-one interviews and roundtable discussions. It will expand on City Pulse's coverage of pertinent local news stories and spur genuine conversations with dynamic Lansing people. First guest: Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero.

signs off and the show is over.

"This place is light years ahead of where local public access used to be," Brown said after the cameras stopped rolling. He starts packing up his laptop and putting the equipment back in place. "Dominic and his team are very accommodating, they know what they're doing, and they really seem to want to help. But best of all, they gave me my voice to the community back. I can't tell you what that means."



Gennifer Musial/City Pulse

Backpack studios contain everything you need to shoot and edit a public access TV show. They are available for Lansing residents who have been trained on the equipment.

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# Arts & Culture

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## Craft and catharsis

Visiting workshops transform military uniforms into paper

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

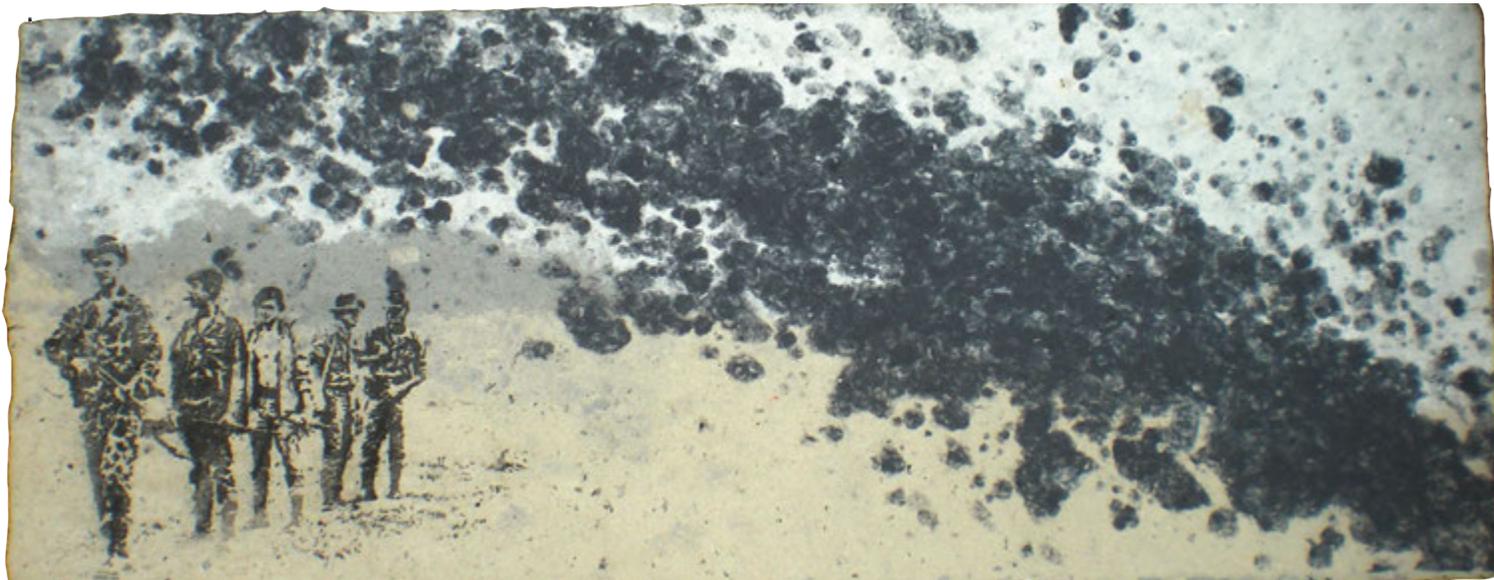
Lips zipped, jaw clenched, uniform in the attic — that's still the way many veterans deal with their time in the military. Their stoicism suits civilians who'd rather not think about war.

### Combat Paper Project

Open studios  
7-10 p.m. Tuesday,  
March 27 and  
Thursday, March 29  
Lower level, Snyder  
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Open to veterans and  
general public  
Free  
(517) 355-0210

The costs of America's long wars, from depression and suicide among veterans and active duty members to civilians forgetting we're in one, suggest the approach isn't working well for either camp.

In 2007, artist and papermaker Drew Cameron took a different approach. He put on the desert camouflage uniform he wore in Iraq, cut it from his own body and turned the strips into paper, using ancient rag papermaking techniques.



Courtesy Photo

"What We Left Behind" is a Combat Paper print created by Drew Matott and Dick Iacovella. The touring Combat Paper Project, which turns uniforms into paper, started after Army officer Drew Cameron returned from his deployment in Iraq in 2007 and took a paper-making workshop taught by paper and book artist Matott in Burlington, Vt.

He used the paper to create prints about his military experiences and shared the paper with other veterans, many of whom seized upon the idea and gave him more uniforms to work with.

He soon realized he had found a powerful mental hatchway between war and peace.

"You're altering the way those threads have been arranged," Cameron said. "It's

transformation."

The idea evolved into the Combat Paper Project, a traveling workshop that comes to Michigan State University March 26 to 30, with open studio sessions at Snyder Hall Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Veterans are invited to bring uniforms, but anyone can bring any fabric they would like to see turned into paper.

The unpredictable workshops range in

mood from quiet craft session to emotional catharsis.

"Some of the people at the workshops have significant trauma," Cameron said. "That is fresh on their mind."

If hackles rise at the prospect of publicly shredding military uniforms — and Cameron acknowledged they do — that's

See **Combat Paper**, Page 14



Meet the two Felicias: the fiery 1950s heroine of 'Memphis' and the actress who plays her

By JAMES SANFORD

When she was cast in "Memphis," the Tony-winning musical about the dawn of rock 'n' roll and the Civil Rights movement, Felicia Boswell insists she didn't have to do much in the way of research. It was literally in her blood.

"There's a reference made in the script to Rosa Parks, when Huey (the maverick DJ who breaks down barriers by playing "race records" and wooing an African-American woman) says, 'Maybe there's hope for us. Did you hear about that Negro woman in Alabama who refused to give up her seat on the bus?' Well, Rosa Parks is my cousin," Boswell said in a phone interview from a tour stop in Cleveland.

Her character in "Memphis" is Felicia Farrell, a Beale Street songstress who catches Huey's eye and becomes his lover. Although the two Felicias may be separated by a 60-year gap, Boswell says they have much in common.

"Felicia Boswell and Felicia Farrell are both from the South," she said. "They both have dreams of recording. They both want to be big stars. They both date outside our race."

And neither singer has any professional training. Boswell — who grew up in Montgomery, Ala. and attended Sidney Lanier High School, the alma mater of both Toni Tennille and Zelda Fitzgerald — broke into the business at the age of 6, performing gospel music with her family on a Sunday morning radio show.

"I feel very fortunate to be playing Felicia Farrell because this is such an easy fit for me," Boswell said. "I feel I was destined to play this role."

Even so, Boswell almost passed up the opportunity. She was performing in a tour of "Dreamgirls" and didn't pay much attention to friends who kept trying to point her toward "Memphis."

"They were telling me there was



Courtesy Photo

"Memphis" star Felicia Boswell has a direct tie to the civil rights era: Her cousin is Rosa Parks. "I feel I was destined to play this role," Boswell says. But she's been so busy, she almost missed out on the opportunity.

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See **Memphis**, Page 14

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**Sunday, March 25** | Hannah Community Center | 6:00-8:00 PM  
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**ADMISSION IS FREE**  
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**QUESTIONS?:** [thorn128@msu.edu](mailto:thorn128@msu.edu) | 517.355.0210

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**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**      **OUTSIDE THE WIRE**

# Combat Paper

from page 12

only when people first hear about the project.

“For those who see the process, it’s never an issue,” he said. “In practice, it’s a commemoration, done with reverence. People tell their story, whatever their story is.”

The Combat Paper Project started after Cameron returned from his deployment in Iraq in 2007 and took a paper-making workshop taught by paper and book artist Drew Matott in Burlington, Vt.

“I came into it as a craftsperson, interested in how to mimic the ways of old in contemporary fashion,” Cameron said.

For nearly a millennium, across a spectrum of world civilizations, paper has been made from rags. At their core, Combat Paper workshops are about papermaking: gathering shreds of fabric, pulping them with water and other chemicals in a “beater,” dipping a frame mold into the vat of goo to produce a thin sheet, and pressing and drying.

Making paper that way in 2012 may seem like a quaint exercise, but there was something about the shredding of the fabric, the water bath and the transformation into a blank slate that struck a chord with Cameron.

Cameron admired the work of John Risseuw, a teacher at Arizona State University who creates politically charged prints on paper made from clothing worn by land mine victims. Another influence was Eric Avery, an activist Texas doctor who carves prints with his scalpel to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and third-world health



Courtesy Photo

Army veterans Jason Hurd and Nathan Lewis turn their uniforms into paper at a Combat Paper workshop in Savannah, Ga. Uniforms are not the only items that can be converted in the workshops: “Someone approached me about wanting to do that with his wedding tuxedo after a terrible divorce,” Drew Cameron said. “I was, of course, happy to facilitate.”

issues.

Obviously, the most significant raw material in Cameron’s life was his Army uniform.

“At the beginning, it was the perfect melding of two things: my passion for paper making and the stuff I was going through coming back from the military and wanting to do something positive from it,” he said.

When Cameron gave sheets from his first batch of combat paper to other veterans, he was surprised at the response. Several vet-

erans asked him to do the same with their uniforms and others asked him how to do it for themselves.

“It quickly turned into informal workshops, long weekends where me and my friends were taking our uniforms and making them into paper,” Cameron said.

With grant support, Cameron and Matott developed a traveling workshop, including an affordable paper making mill.

They held their first workshop, at St. Lawrence University in New York on Armistice Day 2007. Since then, they’ve held dozens of workshops where hundreds of veterans have either shredded their uniforms or given him uniforms to make into paper.

The idea has branched into civilian applications too.

“Someone approached me about wanting to do that with his wedding tuxedo after a terrible divorce,” Cameron said. “I was, of course, happy to facilitate.”

A related non-profit venture, Combat Paper Press, has published four limited-edition books by veterans, from poetry to veterans’ stories. Along the way, Combat Paper has spawned four independent paper mills around the country.

Stephanie Grazier of MSU’s Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, said the college is “proud and honored” to host the workshop. In addition to the public workshops, Cameron and Matott will visit five MSU classes and give a talk at the March 26 Michigan National Guard conference at the Kellogg Center.

“We’re trying to show students that art can be activism, and there are other ways to be an artist in the world,” Grazier said. “You don’t have to go into academia to be useful.”

# Memphis

from page 12

this show that I would be great for and I should go see it,” Boswell said. “But I was so wrapped up in all things ‘Dreamgirls,’ I didn’t have time.

“On a break, a friend and I finally went to see ‘Memphis,’ and I was floored, just blown away. I booked the show two weeks after that.”

But in order to join the Broadway cast of “Memphis,” Boswell had to bow out of another role she’d already lined up: She had been slated to play the lioness Nala in the Las Vegas production of “The Lion King,” “another dream of mine,” she said.

But Boswell is happy with her choice, and the critics are delighted, too.

“Clearly, the hardest-working person under the lights is Felicia Boswell, who sings often and brilliantly as Felicia,” noted reviewer Christine Howley of Cleveland Scene magazine. “She nails every musical mode — from pounding gospel to mellow blues ballad to the empowering anthem ‘Colored Woman.’”

On Broadway, Boswell understudied the role of Felicia as a “cover” — a performer who fills in for a star during a vacation or a leave of absence — and attracted the attention of Christopher Ashley, who was going to direct the touring show.

There are plenty of dramas set in the South of the 1950s, but Boswell thinks “Memphis” has its own appeal and a message that transcends the setting.

“I think people can’t deny that innate desire for love,” she said. “That’s what different about this show. It’s a beautiful love story, along with telling a huge part of history. It’s not just about a relationship, but an interracial relationship in a time when it was illegal and people could be killed for it.”

As Huey and Felicia try to build a future together, they have to contend with intolerance and disapproval from their community that eventually boils over into violence.

“I really like that about our show, that we have really gritty moments along with the happy moments,” Boswell said. “You see the lighter side of two people being in love, but also the complications that come along with it, in that day and time, and how it affected their careers, their lives and their safety, even.”

After the “Memphis” tour winds down, Boswell would like to follow in the footsteps of her “Memphis” co-star Brian Fenkart, who recently released a CD (“Simple & Grey”). Her tastes run to “pop and R&B: I love lighthearted, good-feeling music with a little bit of love and funk and groove.”

She’s also eager to make the transition into film and TV, where she might really set herself apart from that other Felicia.

“My prayer is to land a sitcom,” she said. “I’m the biggest clown, although I don’t have the opportunity to show that very often as Felicia Farrell.”



Courtesy Photo

“At the beginning, it was the perfect melding of two things: my passion for paper making and the stuff I was going through coming back from the military and wanting to do something positive from it,” said Drew Cameron of his Combat Paper project.

## Even today, 'Cat' still has sharp claws

**Adventurous director Deborah Keller heads up a crackling production**

By MARY C. CUSACK

It would be a daunting task to follow up Michigan State University's recent production of "Streetcar Named Desire" with another Tennessee Williams classic, yet Lansing Community College took on that challenge with its latest production, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

### Review

In the competition of dueling Williams plays, audiences win by getting to experience quality productions of these two powerhouse dramas in one season.

"Cat" is a story about family dynamics and secrets that tear people and relationships apart. The story takes place during patriarch Big Daddy Pollitt's (Michael Hays) 65th birthday party. Favorite son Brick (Sineh Wurie) and his wife Maggie (Amy Winchell) are joined on the family estate by brother Gooper (Vincent Mata), Gooper's wife Mae (Michelle Savala) and their gaggle of children. The celebration is marred by power-mongering in the face of news that Big Daddy has terminal cancer.

Brick is a study in conflict, as he fights his wife, his father, and his own demons. He is deeply mired in guilt after the death of his best friend, and

attempts to drown out the world by hiding in his bedroom, drowning his sorrows with liquor. Unfortunately, the room becomes Grand Central Station, where the tracks of all of the family train wrecks terminate.

Another daunting aspect of producing this play is that one is also competing with the iconic performances created by Paul Newman, Elizabeth Taylor and Burl Ives in the 1958 film version. Director Deborah Keller and her cast avoid recreating those characters, opting for more subtle characterizations.

Winchell, as Maggie the Cat, is a bit on the young side for the role, but what she lacks in maturity she makes up for with earnest, open emotion. She also displays great physicality for the role, owning her sensuality and cutting a perfect silhouette in costume designer Ashley Bryan's fab frocks.

Act II belongs to Big Daddy, and Hays doesn't disappoint. His performance is less blustery and more controlled than Ives's film Daddy. Hays commands respect, and is entrancing when sharing stories of interacting with the poor on a trip to Europe. His attempts to connect with Brick are heartfelt, albeit ham-handed.

Wurie departs from Newman's Brick in that he is more remote and reserved. Whereas Newman smoldered with anger, Wurie remains detached until pushed too far, erupting in sudden explosions of anger and violence. He also has the physical presence to go toe-to-toe with Hays' Big Daddy.

Keller is perhaps the most experimental, risk-taking director in the Lansing area. She often infuses her productions with contemporary music, vibrant lighting, and multimedia elements, and typically these add to the quality of the play. Not so this time around.

A pre-play montage of photos and advertisements from the 1950s is an effective way to transition the audience into

See Tin Roof, Page 16

## Check-out time

**Admirable intentions lead to sadly awkward results in a slow-moving comedy**

By UTE VON DER HEYDEN

The Lansing Civic Players have a lot riding on "Checking Out," a world premiere comedy written by local playwright Sarah Hauck and directed by Miranda Hartmann.

For one thing, it's their first show in the Curry Street Theatre, LCP's new home at 6025 Curry Lane in Lansing. Second, it's the show that might have turned around their slipping reputation after a series

of flops and cancellations and restored the confidence of long-time theatergoers who want to see this 83-year-old grande dame of Lansing community theater make a comeback.

Unfortunately, "Checking Out," a play about a closeted gay man who finds the courage to be his true self, isn't it.

The main problem is a script that comes off as thin and weirdly out of date, with dialogue that's tedious and preachy instead of witty and smart as one might expect from the colorful array of characters that's introduced. This is surprising because what does come through well is the play's intended story line of everyone deserving love and Hauck's obvious understanding and acceptance of gay life.

The production itself does nothing to rescue the script. This is director Hartmann's first time directing for LCP (and perhaps in community theater) and

## Counting the cost

**Theater of War takes long view of war trauma**

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

An aggrieved soldier commits a shocking slaughter. A proud democracy wages two lengthy wars that test its endurance and lead to a wrenching debate about benefit and cost.

The opening moments of "Ajax" ring eerily familiar after U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales' alleged murder of 16 civilians in Afghanistan last week. In the age of laser-guided missiles and MRAPs, a 5th-century B.C. play by Sophocles is still helping soldiers, veterans and civilians work through war and its effects.

Theater of War, a project

**Theater of War:**

**'Ajax' by Sophocles**

6 p.m. Sunday, March 25  
Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing

7:30 p.m. Monday, March 26

MSU Kellogg Center Auditorium, 55 S. Harrison Rd.

Free

Thron128@msu.edu  
(517) 355-0210

of War," an 18-month series of programs and events on the effects of war sponsored by Michigan State University's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities and



Zach Grenier

Department of Defense, comes to East Lansing Sunday and Monday to present a dramatic reading by professional actors with a panel discussion and audience response.

The "Ajax" performances, along with next week's Combat Papers residency (see related story) is part of "Legacies

allied units.

The program is meant to nudge the national dialogue on war past the hyped-up clash between naïve peaceniks and gung-ho warriors.

"That debate is useful to people who are trying to create a dogfight on TV or raise hackles, but peoples' lives are much more complicated than that," RCAH dean Stephen Esquith said. "The human costs are ignored and it just becomes a shouting match."

Ajax, one of the heroes of the Trojan war, has some serious issues. He starts the play with a murderous rampage and ends it with suicide.

In Sophocles' portrayal, he's a tortured emblem of war's scars. Two millennia later, he's a teaching tool for the U.S. Department of Defense. "Stand-To," the DoD's Web site, declares that "Theater of War" is designed "to remove

stigma related to psychological injuries by illustrating that many of the bravest war heroes in history have lived with the psychological effects of battle."

"Theater of War" has toured over 200 military bases, hospitals and public forums across the country. The troupe features professionals with established theater, film and TV credits. The East Lansing cast members are Glenn Davis, Alex Morf, Polly Noonan and Zach Grenier (Edward Norton's boss in "Fight Club").

A community panel, including National Guard representatives and families of service members, will respond to the play afterwards. Audience members will be invited to step to the mike and talk about their own experiences.

"That's typically the most powerful part of the evening," Esquith said.

the All-of-us Express Children's Theatre veteran may have been out of her element. There is no clear concept for the play that carried through to each aspect of the production: With a couple of exceptions, the actors flounder, the blocking is either non-existent or ineffective (actors sometimes literally sit or stand in a row reciting their lines), the pacing is mad-damningly slow (the first act alone during the opening weekend ran one hour and 20 minutes) and the whole production

**'Checking Out'**

Lansing Civic Players  
Through March 25  
Curry Street Theatre  
6025 Curry Lane,  
Lansing

8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday  
\$10 Thursdays (\$8 students and seniors); \$14 Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays;  
\$12 seniors and students  
(888) 419-5458  
www.lansingcivicplayers.org

See Out, Page 16

228 Museum Drive, across from Lansing Center

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## Out

from page 15

had an out-of-control feeling.

In the program's Director's Note, Hartmann says of her 12-person cast that they "have worked very hard despite a sparse rehearsal schedule and have created relationships with each other, both on and off stage, that have become the heart of this show."

Both that hard work and the warm relationships were apparent, but they were overwhelmed by the cast being either totally new to community theater or inexperienced.

Opening night had its own particular problems. Some of the cast members didn't yet have their lines down, actors seemed to trip over each other on stage, although not always on purpose, props fell off the wall, lights went on and off mysteriously — that might have been due to a power problem — and the concession stand that is inside the theater space tried to open while the production was still underway. (That last part was actually cute and funny.)

If you're curious about LCP's new space: The company has obviously done its best to make over the old Miller Road Community Center. It's functional and welcoming with tiered seating for about 65.



## Common Ground goes to Church

Courtesy Photo

Country star Eric Church has been announced as a performer at the 2012 Common Ground Music Festival. The "Homeboy" singer plays July 12 at Adado Riverfront Park. The festival runs July 9 to 15. Single-day tickets — priced at \$34.50 — go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday. Tickets are available at [www.commongroundfest.com](http://www.commongroundfest.com), by calling (877) 569-7767, or by visiting the festival office at 901 N. Washington Ave. in Lansing; office hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays. For more information, call (517) 267-1502.

## Tin Roof

from page 15

Williams' world. However, this transition is abruptly disrupted by what is basically a contemporary music video. The short film, called "Skipper," seems to be a tribute to the kind of man Brick's dead friend might have been. The piece is out of place and adds to an already lengthy running time.

Thankfully, that is Keller's only misstep. The production values are excellent, including Bartley Bauer's sumptuous set, Bryan's costumes and Keller's own sound design.

While the play clocks in at over two-and-a-half hours, the pace doesn't drag. The script stands the test of time and remains compelling and accessible to modern audiences because Williams brilliantly tapped themes of basic human needs and fears. Times may change, but the complex politics of family, sex and death remain constant.



Courtesy Photo

Temperatures soar indoors when Brick (Sineh Wurie) and Maggie (Amy Winchell) face the ugly facts about their marriage in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

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# 55th Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show

Twice a year, book and paper enthusiasts of all kinds come together in Lansing to search through books, postcards, magazines, posters and more. If it's on paper you're likely to find it at the Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show.

This massive hunt for hidden treasure is happening again on Sunday, April 1, at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing. From 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. over 75 dealers from across the country will be offering for sale an incredible number of items in nearly every category.

At the show you will find first editions, unusual and out-of-print books, rare and miniature books, postcards, maps, advertising items, photos, old sports material, autographs, military items, ephemera and more.

It's a mind-boggling experience, as Bill Triola of Lansing said. "Like walking through the Library of Congress ..." Unlike the Library of Congress, you have the opportunity (for anywhere from 50 cents to \$5,000) to take a piece of that history home with you.

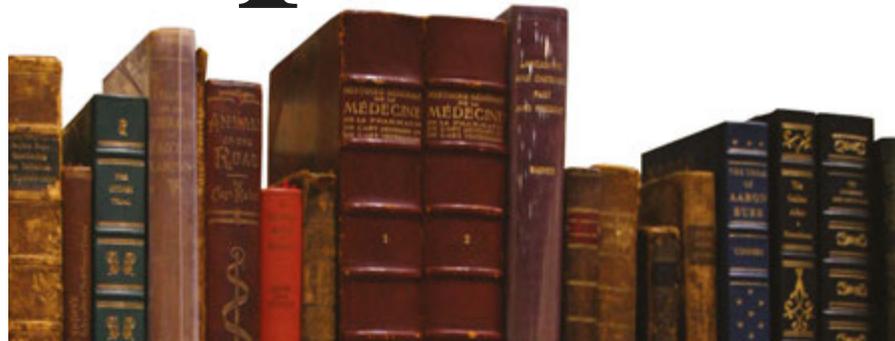
This stroll through history, for young and old alike, has some items dating back just a few years and some centuries. It is a wonderful opportunity for everyone from beginning collectors to die-hard history buffs.

Whether you're seeking a book from childhood or a favorite poet, a historical map or a Civil War newspaper, a 1950's auto brochure or a classic movie poster – this is definitely the place to go.

Comments from attendees, some traveling hundreds of miles, include "Love coming to this show!" and it's a "semi-annual 'religious' pilgrimage".

Additional features include plenty of seating and live music, featuring Dan Kuczek on acoustic guitar. The Lansing Center supplies concessions, making it easy to spend all day there.

Admission is \$4.50 per person; kids 13 and under get in for free.



## New exhibitors

Every show has a few new dealers. Here are some you likely haven't seen before (the numbers are the booth numbers, use map on Page 3):

- 11 Lamb's Gate** - Grand Ledge, MI; GS, Child, Hist, Lit, Ephem, Trade Cards, PC
- 12 The Salvage Yard** - Grand Ledge, MI; GS, Child, Lit, Ephem, PC
- 27 The Keeping Room** - Greenville, MI; GS, MI, Engraving, Original Cartoon Art, Calendar Art, Catalogs, Mags, Photos, Sht Mus, Trade Cards, PC
- 33 Ada Books** - Ada, MI; Medieval Hist, Lit, War-gaming, WWII, Horses
- 37 Old Paper Pickers Antiques** - Akron, OH; Travel Guides, Stock Certs, Child, Ephem, Trade Cards, PC
- 38 Roger & Suzanna Falk** - Portage, MI; GS, Art/Arch, Paper, Ephem, PC
- 59 Ends of the Earth Antiques** - Indianapolis, IN; GS, Ephem, Trade Cards, PC
- 61 Between the Lines** - Owosso, MI ; GS, Juv, Lit, Art/Arch
- 62 Bob O'Reilly** - Ft. Wayne, IN; Milit, Circus & WWII Posters, Ephem, Trade Cards, PC
- 67 Tina Nixon** - Springfield, IL; GS, Child, Lit, Civil War, Prints, Posters, Sht Mus, Ephem, PC



successful Christmas movie; the train featured in the book, 1225, runs tours out of Owosso.

Nelson's most recent book, "A Nation's Hope," about Detroit boxer Joe Louis, was recently selected as a Michigan Notable Book. The Flint Art Institute is hosting an exhibition of Pinkney's work.

Overmann also noted that older series books such as Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys continue to be in demand.

Although Overmann has a passion for illustrated children's books, he said, "I can't draw a stick figure without help." He thinks what attracts collectors to picture books is "Every page in a picture book has a piece of art and the whole book is a gallery."

He said some people buy and collect children's books like "Alice in Wonderland" and the "Night Before Christmas" in all their various editions so they can see "people's various interpretations" of the stories.

Books for the Ages (Booth # 1) also concentrates on books which have won the Caldecott and the Newbery Awards. He'll be bringing those to the show as well as a large selection of lower priced titles which appeal to teachers, librarians and homeschoolers.

Overmann, who mostly does book shows and antique shows, likes the Mid-Michigan Antiquarian Book and Paper Show because of the serious collectors who attend the show and keep coming back.

## When, where & what?

**When?**  
9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.,  
Sunday,

**Where?**  
Lansing Center,  
333 E. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing

Admission: \$4.50;  
kids 13 and younger  
get in free

**What?**  
This show is one of the biggest book and paper shows in the country and is the largest in the Midwest.

**What books will you find?**  
The "book" part includes antiquarian, rare, collectible and out-of-print volumes, presented by the best authorities in their fields.

- Children's and nostalgia
- Literary and modern first editions
- Fine bindings, private press
- Michigan History and Americana
- Color plate and illustrated books
- Science and technology
- Art and music
- Natural history, hunting and fishing
- Civil War and military history
- Mystery and true crime
- Science fiction, fantasy and horror
- Sports
- Vintage paperbacks

Continued on Page 4

## Frequently Asked Questions

**How can you tell if it's a first edition?**  
It varies from book to book and publisher to publisher. It becomes complex. That's part of the challenge. Sometimes there are minor typographical changes that are caught and corrected. The serious collector doesn't want the fixed version, he or she wants the original. There are price guides that people use to determine the value.

**What is ephemera?**  
Ephemera is a term used to embrace a wide range of minor, everyday documents, most intended for one-time or short-term use, including trade cards, broadsides, posters, car brochures, tickets, bookmarks, photographs – and the list goes on.

## DEALER PROFILE

BY BILL CASTANIER

Gary Overmann has a wonderful business model for his children's book business, Books of the Ages – "sell what you like."

Overmann, like many used book sellers, became interested in antiquarian books as a collector. He still focuses on the classic Victorian and Edwardian children's books, especially those illustrated by famed British book artist Arthur Rackham.

As a collector, he points to his signed limited edition of "Rip Van Winkle" illustrated by Rackham as his most prized book. The other personal favorite in his collection is the first American edition of "The Hobbit", published in 1937.

The Batavia, OH book dealer sees recent trends dominating the collectible children's book market, including an increased demand for books by the late Tasha Tudor, famed American illustrator and his personal friend.

He said that books such as "Narnia", "Peter Pan" and "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by the Michigan-born and raised pop-up book engineer Robert Sabuda are also extremely collectible.

Overmann is quick to point to the work of illustrators Jerry Pinkney, Kadir Nelson and Chris Van Allsburg as being at the top of collectors' lists. Van Allsburg was born and raised in Western Michigan and attended the University of Michigan. His book "Polar Express" was made into a very suc-

# List of Exhibiting Dealers

**First-time exhibitors are marked with a .**  
Please take the time to fill out our customer comment cards which can be found in the concession area.

**Lost & Found** Please turn in or report any items to the Information Booth. After the show, call (517) 332-0123.

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Reference Materials, Supplies  
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## Acorn Books

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acornbooksinmi@aol.com  
www.AcornBooksInMI.com  
Jim Deak  
GS, MI, Hist, Lit/Fic  
... 25 ...

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boojum@iserv.net  
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WWII, Horses, Gynecology  
... 33 ... 

## Ageless Books

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erseir@gmail.com  
Janet O'Brien  
GS, Child/Juv, MI/Great Lakes,  
Ephem  
... 31 ...

## Annie Books

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Annie Everett  
GS, Cook, Child, Great Lakes,  
Quilting, Ephem  
... 13 ...

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... 45 ...

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... 34 ...

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1573 N. Hickory Rd. Apt. 5  
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GS, Juv, Lit, Art/Arch  
... 61 ... 

## Booklegger's Used Books (ABAA)

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www.bookleggers.com  
Lawrence VanDeCarr  
GS  
... 43 ...

## Books of the Ages

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Batavia OH 45103  
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booksoftheages@roadrunner.com  
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Tasha Tudor, Series, Pop Ups,  
Award Winners  
... 1 ...

## Bookworks

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bookworks@tds.net  
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GS  
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## Branchwater Books & Ephemera

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Branch MI 49402  
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rdj@carrinter.net  
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... 77 ...

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GS  
... 53 ...

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Western Amer, Mys/Det Fic,  
Espionage, Trans, Ephem  
... 23 ...

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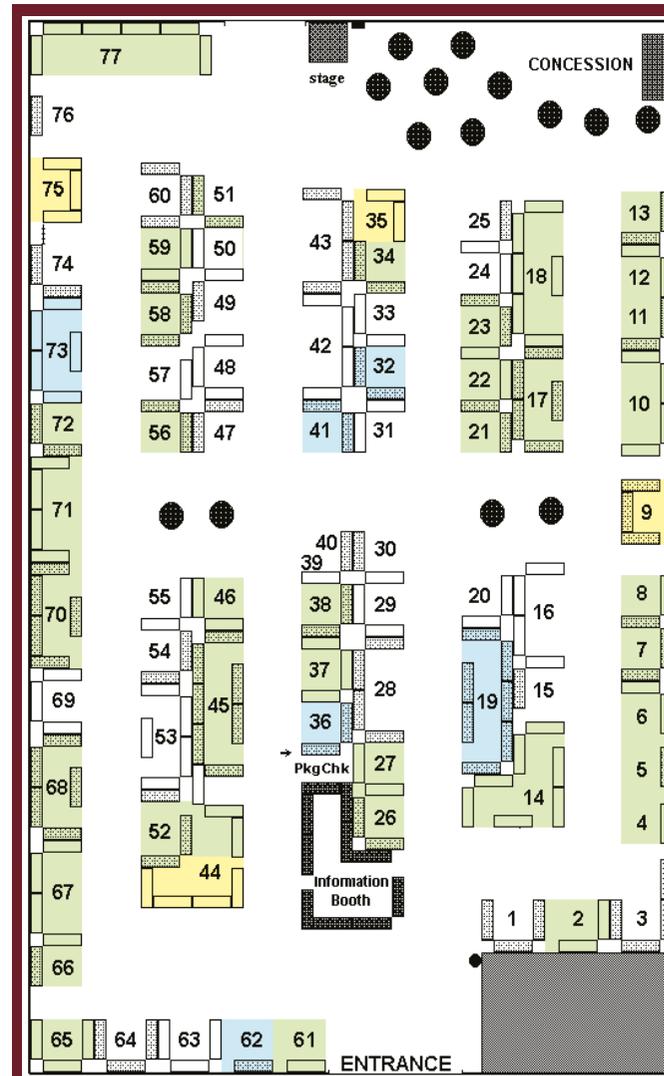
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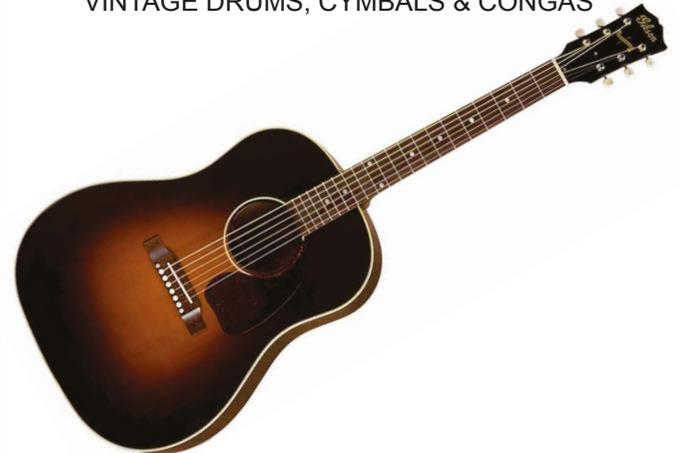
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# 'Murder' is on the menu

## 'Marsha,' Starlight Dinner Theatre's frantic parody of mysteries, could have used some script slashing

By PAUL WOZNAK

Although Starlight Dinner Theatre serves their meal before the performance, sitting through the murder mystery parody "Let's Murder Marsha" feels like enjoying a delicious multi-course meal with excessively slow service. By the time dessert arrives, you're ready for the check.

Like the courses themselves, the ridiculous gags and punchlines throughout hit their mark courtesy of director Susan Chmurny and her overall first-rate cast. But even a murder mystery parody relies on a familiar formula and Jack Sharkey's overly padded script takes too long to get to the point.

The premise is simple enough. Marsha (Sarah Sonnenberg) overhears her husband, Tobias (Bob Purosky), and business acquaintance, Persis (Michele Booher), planning her surprise birthday present: a new seaplane. However, never actually hearing the word "seaplane" and fueled by paranoia from reading the murder mystery "The Creeping Slasher," she mistakenly infers that the two are conspiring to murder her. Thus Marsha employs the help of her maid, Bianca (Angela Dill), and her neighbor, Virgil (Bob Murrell), to plan to kill Tobias and Persis before they can kill her first.

Seemingly aware of her responsibility to drive the show along, Sonnenberg starts in high gear like a 1940s radio actress on speed. Somehow she maintains her manic energy level until the end without ever appearing winded.

Taking the necessary beats to deliver some of the show's driest quips, Purosky clearly understands his role as the perceived villain with misunderstood intentions. His enthusiastic but gruesomely misinter-

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preted descriptions of surprising his wife and blessing the plane on its maiden voyage provide the biggest laughs.

Murrell's signature squirmy physicality provides some great slapstick moments in the second half while Booher's steely gaze gives Marsha plenty of evidence to insinuate an affair with her husband. Jason Carlen and Carol Ferris enter in Act II as Officer Ben and Marsha's mother Lynette (respectively) to further complicate the paper-thin plot with potentially lethal results.

Still, Dill often steals the show as the nosy, martini-swilling maid. An impressively versatile character actress, Dill knows how to ornament and accent particular moments for full comic effect to maximize her stage time without overplaying the part.

Still, despite the best combined efforts of the entire cast and crew, "Let's Murder Marsha" feels at least 30 minutes too long.



courtesy Photo

Mystery lover Marsha (Sarah Sonnenberg) and Virgil (Bob Murrell) stir up comic chaos in "Let's Murder Marsha."

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## Fans hungry for 'Games'

Much-anticipated movie is already selling out shows

By PAUL WOZNAIK

May the odds be ever in your favor — when it comes to getting a good seat for “The Hunger Games” this weekend.

The long-awaited film debuts in theaters nationwide on Friday, and box office anticipation has immediately conjured up comparisons to the “Harry Potter” and “Twilight” franchises. Local IMAX shows are already sold out, and fans of the Suzanne Collins books be may coming to the show dressed in costume.

NCG Eastwood Cinemas and Celebration Cinema Lansing both expect packed houses on Thursday for midnight screenings. As of Monday afternoon, two-thirds of NCG's weekend shows were selling out, while a manager at Celebration said the IMAX theater alone sold out faster than it had for any “Twilight” or “Harry Potter” film.

No doubt much of the hype can be credited to the methodical marketing campaign “Hunger” distributor Lionsgate launched a year ago. But many viewers, while aware of the hype, attributed their excitement for the film to word of mouth from friends or the popularity of the novels.

Felisha Powell, a student at University of Michigan-Flint on Lansing Community College's campus, says she plans to see the film before reading the book. But she's intrigued by the premise of the story, which she describes as “new and fresh.”

“It's not like the story you hear: Guy falls in love with a girl. Girl falls in love with a guy and they get married,” she said. “The main theme is not love between a girl and a guy. It's love of family.”

“Hunger Games” heroine Katniss Everdeen, who lives in the futuristic dystopia of Panem, barely resembles Bella Swan of “Twilight.” After bravely taking her younger sister Prim's place in the annual televised fight to the death called the Hunger Games, Katniss must rely on her judgment and well-honed hunting skills to survive — without the aid of a superhuman vampire boyfriend.

A love triangle of sorts develops over the course of the three books, but Michigan State University English program alumni



Courtesy photo

Jennifer Lawrence plays Katniss Everdeen in “The Hunger Games.”

Jennifer Spenny, who has read the entire trilogy, agrees the romance is secondary to Katniss' struggle to save her family.

“I think (Katniss) was just as uncomfortable with the love story as the readers were,” Spenny said. “It wasn't part of her story and she wasn't ready to fall in love.”

Spenny admits that as much as she enjoyed the books, she's keeping her expectations for the film relatively low.

“I'm looking for the essence of the novel on film,” Spenny said. “I'm not looking for certain characters or certain plot devices. What is the book trying to get across? Does the movie get that same message across?”

Claire Buitendorp, who graduated from LCC's fashion design program, says she's more interested in the look of one of Katniss' key outfits: a dress enveloped in roaring flames.

“I was really interested in how they were going to portray their opening ceremony ensembles. They talk about (the costume) through the whole book. She's 'on fire.' They have to actively show that. With all of these improvements in special effects or even with things like lighting that you can put in clothes, I want to see more dazzle. That's really important for me.”

For Berkley Sorrells, a 6th grader at Whitehills Elementary School, getting through the book before seeing the movie is important. Even though all of her friends already read “The Hunger Games,” she didn't officially start reading the book until this week.

“There were still 17 holds on (the book) at the East Lansing Public library,” said Sorrells, who purchased her own copy this week. “I only got through the first chapter, and they said Prim was going to be part of the Hunger Games. Are you serious?”

Another fan hooked.

## Dream machine

Riverwalk Theatre revs up a gem with ‘New Car’

By PAUL WOZNAIK

Don't dismiss the Riverwalk Theatre production “Becky's New Car” on account of its name. Like describing a classic Cadillac as “a roomy sedan,” the play's title provides a vague and inadequate description of this consistently funny, contemporary comedy.

### Review

Under the direction of Addiann Hinds, the silly and often dark tone of the script by Steven Dietz takes on a genuine Midwestern feel that rings true with all ages and genders.

The play derives its name from one of the opening lines of dialogue: “When women say they want a new car, they want a new life,” delivered by the “middle-aged” protagonist Becky — full name Rebecca Foster (Gini Larson).

Becky directly recalls the story of her memorable transition from one life as an unappreciated wife, mother and office secretary to her new life as a courted lover of a wealthy widower.

Larson is the engine of this show, imbuing the bourgeois Becky with modest charm and charisma. It takes effort to appear effortless, and Larson is a master of making her characters so natural they could be real. You empathize with Becky patiently listening to her co-worker, Steve (Mike Sobocinski), pine on and on about

his recently deceased wife because Larson's forced smile mirrors your own.

The circumstances that befall Becky next may be slightly absurd, but Larson makes Becky's inner struggle relatable to anyone who has had to make difficult choices.

As Becky's blue-collar husband Joe, Wayne Tagg nearly matches Larson's grounded delivery with his own understated “nice guy” grace. Trusting but hardly naïve, Joe provides an essential and likely familiar layer of routine as the other half of Becky's functioning yet passionless marriage.

Their 26-year-old son Chris (Joseph Mull) contributes the heady, humorous insight courtesy of his in-progress grad-school degree in psychology. Though Mull's lines feel slightly forced, he just looks the part of an aspiring post-modern existentialist with hippie length hair and full beard for pensive stroking.

Jeff Boerger subtly invokes compassion for his character Walter Flood, the benevolent billboard tycoon who propositions Becky on the assumption that her husband is already dead. With puppy dog eyes and an easy smile,

Boerger conveys Flood's reliance on the women around him and the regret of not appreciating them until they're gone.

Susan Carpenedo-Zupan and Jane Zussman fill in the Flood entourage with lively spirit. Carpenedo-Zupan marks her Riverwalk debut with organic zest as Walter's daughter Kensington who strives to break free from her Ivy League cage while Zussman feels perfectly cast as Walter's long-time high society friend and potential suitor Ginger.

The play's strongest featured performance comes from Sobocinski who in one scene turns the most disturbing fantasy of murdering a puppy in front of a small child into a hilarious expression of blatant honesty.

Hinds' three layer set including Becky's office desk, Becky's living room, and Walter's mansion balcony allows Hinds to seamlessly move her actors from location to location as if traveling through a theatrical wormhole. As Becky speaks to the audience, light changes cue her departure from one space to the next.

Becky eventually acquires a new car but Dietz's story really examines the societal expectations of Becky as well as the fairness of the consequences. Still, Becky's tale told without slapstick or melodrama feels refreshingly insightful. It's a road rarely taken by similar plays, and it's a beautiful ride.

### 'Becky's New Car'

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Fridays and Saturdays;  
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and students  
(517) 482-5700  
www.riverwalktheatre.com



Photo by Luke Anthony Photography

Psychology student Chris (Joseph Mull) reaches out to Ivy Leaguer Keni (Susan M. Carpenedo-Zupan) in Riverwalk Theatre's “Becky's New Car.”

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# Will a music venue follow a casino?

To compete for acts with other cities, promoters say, concerts should be part of proposed Kewadin Lansing

By **ANDY BALASKOVITZ**

The Black Crowes. Gin Blossoms. Weird Al Yankovic. Kathy Griffin. Jay Leno. Grand Funk Railroad. KISS.

What do these musicians and comedians all have in common? They've either performed recently — or will perform soon — at a tribally owned casino in Michigan.

With the prospect of such a casino in Lansing working its way through the legislative process, could it also set the stage for a mid-size entertainment venue downtown? For those steadfastly opposed to gambling on its face, could the possibility of a several-thousand-person venue downtown make Kewadin Lansing casino more palatable? Could it take Kewadin Lansing to the next level and make Lansing's entertainment scene that much more competitive? Could it at least make Lansing relevant on the touring spectrum, as it currently is not?

Absolutely, say local music promoters, who point to such a venue as a major piece of the puzzle missing from Lansing, especially when you consider concert destinations like Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo and Detroit.

City officials and casino developers say it's too early to tell, but they're not discounting the possibility.

"There's been very subtle discussions there, nothing concrete," said Scott Keith, president and CEO of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority, which manages the Lansing Center.

One option for such a venue is within the Lansing Center, which already has roughly 120,000 square feet of usable space and a total footprint closer to 300,000 square feet. While the Lansing Center is mostly used as a convention facility, it hosts an occasional, small concert. But it's not suited to be a music venue, and converting it to meet those requirements could be costly.

Another option is using the temporary, 15,000 square-foot casino as a venue after the larger, permanent casino is built.

"We have these giant exhibit halls, we can do that, convert it to concert-like facilities. There has been very quiet discussion about once the showcase casino is open and operating that the boutique casino may be a great option to put in a 500-person theater," Keith said.

The problem, though, with using the Lansing Center as a music venue is the flat seating, Keith said. Some changes would need to be made on that front and with the acoustics to accommodate a major show. "The exhibit hall typically is just a giant box. The sound reverberates in there a lot more."

In the past, the Lansing Center has put concrete on the floor and angled speakers to "soften the sound," but "it's a little more costly," Keith added, to install proper acoustic controls.

An entertainment venue would have to fit in with space dedicated to convention business in the Lansing Center and the 3,000 slot machines and 48 table games in the showcase casino to be managed and owned by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Bill Cross, a partner with Lansing Future LLC, the casino developer, said dealing with the entertainment at the casino will fall squarely on the city and LEPPFA, while the tribe will solely manage the gaming end of things. While he listed off square footage within the Lansing Center that will likely be used for small-scale eateries and bars; entertainment; and convention activity, Keith of LEPPFA said: "I have not seen or heard anything like that. We've talked about using some underutilized space by the casino but we haven't talked about specific details."

But the prospect of bringing nationally touring acts to a dedicated music venue downtown has local concert promoters excited. Of four interviewed for this story, all glowed about the need for Lansing to compete with not just the Wharton Center and the Breslin Center in East Lansing, but also venues in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor and Detroit.

"They need to formalize it as a venue or put it on the map as a venue," said Chuck Mannino, owner of Mac's Bar and who also books shows under Science Booking. "There's definitely room for that mid-size market for bands. ... We're missing out on tons and tons of business. It might behoove us to convince the mayor this would bring a lot of dough."

If anyone has gotten close to bringing a major show to the Lansing Center, it's Cale Sauter, who books shows through Bermuda Mohawk Productions. He got past the initial discussion phase with the Lansing Center on bringing in Snoop Dogg almost two years ago.

"It would have required a lot of security, a lot of sound requirements — it would have been a pretty big event," he said.

Sauter said plans got to "the second stage" of planning out logistics and the "Lansing Center people were great about it," but Snoop Dogg rescheduled his tour before it happened.

"It was definitely an interesting proposition for us, a slightly bigger event than we'd been involved with," Sauter said.

"We don't have a Deltaplex like Grand Rapids or anything as big as St. Andrews (Hall) or the State Theater" in Detroit. "It would make us a lot more competitive. We're already competing with those cities on a lot of levels and we have a lot of motivated people here. ... A lot of times if (a show) comes it goes straight to MSU, and the city of Lansing misses out."

Rich Whitman, who does booking for the Great Lakes Collective, said: "We've always been a bit surprised that the Lansing Center isn't used more often for shows, concerts and different entertainment-type things.

"If a big band is coming through" Michigan, he said, "this is a great in-between stop between Grand Rapids and Detroit. Lansing could actually become more of a hot spot for bands."

That's not to discount venues like The Loft and Mac's Bar, promoters said, but those places can't realistically bring in several thousand people. But venues regularly name-dropped outside of Lansing — the Intersection in Grand Rapids, Royal Oak Music Theater, the State Theater in Kalamazoo or Cobo Hall in Detroit — vary in size yet still bring in big-name acts.

"We need to compete with Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids," said Mannino, of

Mac's Bar, on trying to get bands and their managers to consider Lansing. "Now we're not even on the multiple-choice question."

Courtesy photo

Bands like KISS often put casinos on their touring schedule nowadays. Local music promoters say that making a concert venue part of the proposed casino could bring major acts — and revenue — into Lansing.



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# 'Next Fall' looks at faith and family

By ALYSSA FIRTH

It was the honesty in the script of Geoffrey Nauffts' "Next Fall" that drew the attention of Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. artistic director Chad Badgero when he saw a performance of the play in New

York last year.

"I felt like there was a lot of truth in the way that it's written and in the way that it approaches relationships and the struggle to be in a relationship with anyone that doesn't have the exact same views as you," Badgero said.

"Next Fall" revolves around a same-sex couple, Adam and Luke. Luke, played by Russ Jameson, believes in God while Adam, played by Jonas Greenberg, is an atheist. When an accident occurs, Adam

seeks support and answers among friends and Luke's family. The play centers on the discussions of characters in a hospital waiting room and an apartment.

"I personally think it's more powerful because it's dealing with things that are going on in our society today," Jameson said.

Co-star Brad Rutledge, who plays Luke's father, Butch, agrees.

"It starts with the words," Rutledge said, "and when you find words that you like and

that you can relate to, it challenges you as an actor to live out whatever vision — first the playwright and second the director — have. So it's a very satisfying experience."

Jameson said that the realities presented in the script and his personal familiarity with some of the same issues helped to create his portrayal of Luke.

"I just started bawling (after reading the script) because I know people who are going through this," Jameson said. "Whether if they're homosexual or not, they cannot be truthful because people will judge them and they can't live through that judgment."

Greenberg said he hoped that audiences come to the play with their guard down.

"I think this play, with the themes that it's already promoting, can really tend to get people on the defensive and it's not that kind of play. It's really trying to be fair and honest, so it would be nice if people could, you know, let their guard down, and appreciate that," he said.

**'Next Fall'**  
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# Some assembly required

**After more than 20 years, Ben Hamper's 'Rivethead' still works for readers**

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Ben Hamper is coming. Ben Hamper is coming. And people have been waiting a long time to see this celebrated writer of the working class.

He will not be wearing his "Out for Trout" baseball cap: His former boss Michael Moore borrowed the cap for the filming of "Roger and Me" and never gave it back. Moore writes about the theft in the foreword to Hamper's 1991 cult classic book "Rivethead: Tales from the Assembly Line."

Hamper will be at the Michigan State University Library Tuesday for the Michigan Writer Series, co-sponsored by Our Daily Work Our Daily Lives and the MSU Press.

"Rivethead" took the back-breaking, mind-numbing job of working on the line and gave it life in a book that has no parallel for style except for perhaps "The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test" or Ken Kesey's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

## Ben Hamper

Author Of "Rivethead: Tales From the Assembly Line"

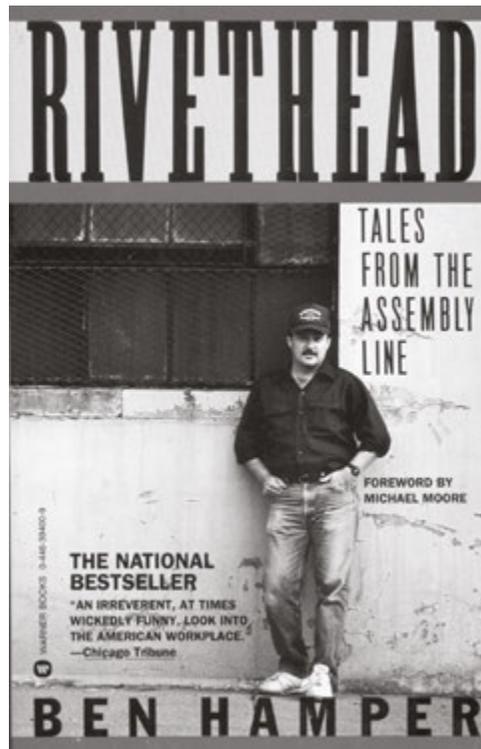
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Reading like one of Hunter Thompson's creations, Hamper took assembly line life to a new level of desperation. His opening rap in the prologue zings like Thompson's classic opening paragraph in "Fear and Loathing in Las

Vegas." For those of you who forgot: "We were somewhere around Barstow on the edge of the desert when the drugs began to take hold."

Hamper writes in "Rivethead": "Dead Rock Stars are singing for me and the boys on the Rivet Line tonight. Hendrix. Morrison. Zeppelin. The Dead Rock Stars catalogue churning outta Hogjaw's homemade boom box."

And that's just the start of life on the line in Department 07 of the Blazer Suburban line in Flint, where Hamper worked until panic attacks and anxiety led to his retirement in 1988. Whether you worked on an automobile assembly line your whole life or only during the summers while paying your way through college, the stories Hamper tells have resonated with hundreds of thousands of former shop rats who made steering assemblies or popped rivets in a chassis. The book still has life today, having been continuously in print since it was published in 1991. It also shows up on



countless college reading lists.

General Motors, on the other hand, was not so happy with the book's tales of drinking and drug use on the job.

To hear Hamper tell it, he became a writer almost by accident, albeit he does have an ear for the vernacular and the absurd. While working in the plant, Hamper hooked up with another Flint literary fugitive, Michael Moore, who was publishing a counter-culture newspaper, The Flint Voice. At first, Hamper saw himself as the second coming of Dave Marsh and his contributions were music reviews. But Moore liked his style and convinced him to write about life on the line.

Hamper said he had no particular inspiration to write. "It was just something to do while working on the assembly line," he said.

Growing up in Flint, he had heard stories of working on the line all his life, and he put them to work. His father, both grandfathers and one grandmother had all put in their time on the line.

"I just didn't want to do it like them," Hamper said. "I wanted to leave an

imprint." And leave an imprint he did when his writing appeared in such magazines as Harpers, Esquire and Mother Jones. Once his book was published he turned up on all types of talk shows like "Good Morning America," "Today" and "Late Night with David Letterman," telling tales of life in the plant.

He said that while he was working and writing that his bosses knew he had a column in the Voice (which later morphed into The Michigan Voice). "They were not all that keen on it," he said.

It's likely they were also none too keen about how he described his white-collar bosses in "Rivethead." In the book, one foreman says to him, "Sorry, Rivethead. Your ass is mine. I had been catapulted right to the top of the Henry Jackson endangered feces list."

Hamper said the only time GM responded to his book formally was in an article in People magazine, in which he said they were quoted as saying, "Mr. Hamper doesn't represent the vast majority of workers."

The author, who now lives in Suttons Bay, said that when he worked on the line that the governing philosophy was "quantity over quality."

"The idea was we could fix it later — just don't stop the line," he said.

Hamper said working on the line offered ample opportunity for story ideas, many of them completely crazy. "I was almost like

a war correspondent. There was always something to report."

At the time, Hamper was more inclined to be like his literary hero, poet and novelist Charles Bukowski: "Voyeuristically, I wanted to be like him."

Since moving to the north country Hamper has done little writing, instead putting his time in at WNMC-FM, where he hosts two weekly radio shows, "Soul Possession" on Saturday nights and "Head for the Hills" on Sunday morning, which features early country and western music.

At a recent book event in his former hometown — which was once also home to the largest automotive assembly plants in the world — Hamper ran into two old friends, Bobaloo and Janice.

He said he is seriously thinking of writing a book about what happened to some of the stars of "Rivethead," as well as the fate of Flint. "For a long time I resisted the notion of writing (another) book," he said. "I didn't want to milk it."

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# Bodies at rust & beer your soul



**AMY ALKON**  
adviceamy@aol.com

**Q:** I'm a recently divorced 40-something woman, now dating again, and I'm wondering what the guidelines are on how long to wait to have sex. I'm not interested in casual sex, but I have a healthy libido. If I'm really attracted to a man, I'll be dealing with some powerful mixed (internal) signals regarding how long to wait. Really what I want is to have sex with a man I like as soon as reasonably possible without getting labeled by him (consciously or subconsciously) as an expendable floozy.

—Hotblooded

**A:** Tempting as it can be to tear off each other's clothes and rut like wild animals on the first date, it can be less than conducive to a desire to meet up again to ask things like "So...where'd you go to middle school?"

Also, you do risk getting labeled a hussy for not keeping an aspirin clenched between your knees — Rush Limbaugh's advice for unmarried women he isn't popping Viagra for — while the date you drop the aspirin for gets to put another notch in his oar. As explained in previous columns, men and women are biologically and psychologically different, and the sexual double standard springs out of those differences — like how one sex gets pregnant and the other sex gets paternity uncertainty. As nice (and fair) as it would be if casual sex worked the same for women and men, there's an old Arab saying quoted by a Lebanese-born friend of mine: "If my grandmother had testicles, we would have called her my grandfather."

Some women do wait to have sex with a man they've just met — like, a whole hour — and manage to make that the first hour of the rest of their lives together. Just because that's risky doesn't mean it's impossible. But, sleep with a man before you know who he is and

you could find yourself wearing lust goggles — convincing yourself he's good for the long haul when he's really just good in bed. The good news is, men in their 40s tend to be less "use 'em and lose 'em" than those in their 20s. "The third date rule" — the expectation that the third date is the sex date — is also more of a factor for 20-somethings. If you're, say, 45, and dating guys 50 to 60, the third date rule is probably something more like "Don't fall asleep."

When dating, remind yourself that the part of you that's clamoring for sex is not the organ that does your best thinking, and plan your outings accordingly. Keep in mind that people who regret their behavior on dates tend to say stuff like "We got really drunk, and then we slept together," not "We went to the museum in broad daylight and then had one too many lattes." As for how long to wait to have sex, there's no magic number of dates. But, since casual sex isn't your thing, you should probably hold out until there seems to be an emotional attachment — on both sides. Maybe a good guideline is waiting until you and a man are kinda cuddly. Until that time, hint that your favorite sex position actually isn't arms folded/legs crossed; you just like to get to know a man before you get to know how his Miller Lite chandelier looks wearing your thong.

**Q:** I've fallen for my new best friend, a woman I met two years ago while we were both going through similar divorces. Sometimes I think the attraction's mutual. She recently started dating but hasn't met anyone she's into. I'm going crazy trying to decide whether to say something and risk losing the coolest friend I've met in decades.

—Obsessing

**A:** The line from Cole Porter is "Birds do it, bees do it," not "birds and bees get a committee together to discuss it." Telling her how you feel

could be icky and embarrassing if she doesn't share your feelings — and maybe even if she does. You've heard of "plausible deniability"? If you decide to go for something with her, what you need is plausible drunkability. Have drinks with her, get a little fuddled, and make a move on her. If she recoils in horror, it was the alcohol talking. If she kisses back or, better yet, is all over you like freezer burn on mysterious leftovers, follow up by asking her on a date. (Emphasize the D-word, reinforcing that your interest is more than friendzonly.) Sure, by making a move, you risk losing a friend. By doing nothing, you risk missing out on a lot more. Life is risk. You can either hide under your bed or opt for managed risk. That doesn't mean managing risk out of existence; it means having a plan for damage control if things go badly. ("Captain Morgan, next time, you behave yourself!")

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## Jonesin' Crossword

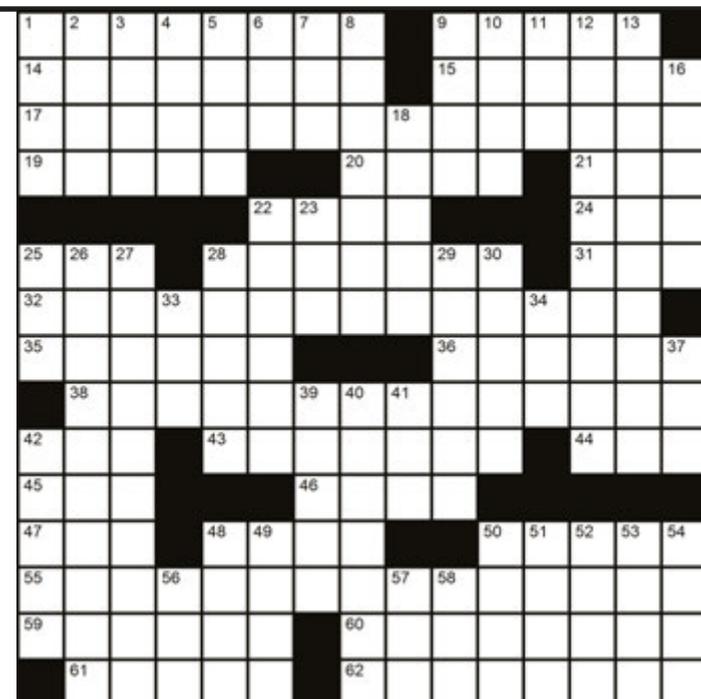
By Matt Jones

"Double Scoop" — everything sorta melted together.

by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Just barely covering, with "over"
- 9 Change for the better
- 14 1970s-80s sitcom signoff
- 15 Hardin of "The Office"
- 17 Double scoop that's part sugary nuts, part three-flavored
- 19 Visibly took notice
- 20 Former senator Feingold
- 21 Airline until 2001
- 22 2, 4, 6 or 2008
- 24 \_\_\_ Solo (character played by Peter Griffin on "Family Guy")
- 25 Hosp. area
- 28 Not-real-strict quality
- 31 "This is your brain on drugs" prop
- 32 Double scoop that's part multicolored, part liqueur
- 35 They sound just like D#
- 36 Alyssa of "Who's the Boss?"
- 38 Double scoop that's part chocolate, part citrus
- 42 DVR button
- 43 Distance between markers
- 44 Doc for head stuff: abbr.
- 45 "There's a mouse behind the fridge!!!"
- 46 Hair grossness
- 47 "\_\_\_ was saying..."
- 48 Condo division
- 50 Coupe alternative
- 55 Double scoop that's part sweet and chunky, part tart



- 59 Caber-\_\_\_ (Highland games competitor)
- 60 Early 2012 U.S. disasters (in a legit but unusual spelling)
- 61 Prefix before dactyl
- 62 It may end in PEZOL-CFTD
- 10 Diner on the sitcom "Alice"
- 11 Tom's QB opponent, in Super Bowl XLVI
- 12 Imperfect, as a substitute
- 13 Threaten, in a way
- 16 They Might Be Giants song with the line "And her voice is a backwards record"
- 18 Less sullied
- 22 Sun \_\_\_ (Chinese revolutionary)
- 23 Abbr. after a phone number, on a business card
- 25 Tend to a sprain
- 26 Business with biscotti
- 27 Least happy, in Vegas
- 28 Release
- 29 End-of-aisle product offer
- 30 Lily Allen hit of 2006
- 33 Planking or Tebowing
- 34 Suffix for percent
- 37 Toronto's prov.
- 39 Find at an archeological dig
- 40 Do bird calls, say
- 41 Digital camera output
- 42 Look shocked, maybe
- 48 Online gamer, e.g.
- 49 Possibly insane Roman ruler
- 50 Lip \_\_\_ contest
- 51 "In the Valley of \_\_\_" (2007 Tommy Lee Jones film)
- 52 \_\_\_ double take
- 53 Love, Latin-style
- 54 Oriole's pad
- 56 Ending for Canton or Siam
- 57 Comedian Jo \_\_\_
- 58 Before, to Robert Burns

## City Pulse Classifieds

Interested in placing a classified ad in City Pulse?  
Call (517) 999-5066 or email [adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:adcopy@lansingcitypulse.com)

**Mike's Lawn Care** For all your lawn care needs. Lowest prices, free estimates (517) 331-1284

**ART STUDIO Lansing** Studios available in a larger space. Perfect for sculpture, painting, ceramics, mixed media—any maker who is in need of space. Benefits include a community of working artists as well as shared woodshop, kiln and art energy. Sizes from 10x15 to 20x20 plus access to community space— from 100 to 160/ mth plus fixed rate utilities (443) 691-3837

**Lansing Workers Center:** If you're having trouble with your boss and need some help, get in touch with us: (517) 342-6435. <http://lansingworkerscenter.wordpress.com/>

**Michigan State University - IT Professionals.** We are searching for an Information Technology Professional (#5929) and an Information Technologist I (#5945) in our IT Services area. Go to [jobs.msu.edu](http://jobs.msu.edu) and search on the posting number for additional information. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The University actively encourages applications and/or nominations of women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities.

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

# OUT on the TOWN

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

## March 21



Courtesy Photo

### Racing to the dance

This Wednesday is date night for mothers and sons at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, which hosts the Mom/Son Speedway Spectacular. “Boys can rev up those engines, put on those racing stripes and join us for this fun event,” said Kathleen Miller, ELHCC program coordinator. The Mom/Son Speedway Spectacular is a dance for children under 12 — including girls — and their parent or adult guardian. Besides spending the evening dancing to some of today’s popular tracks and joining in some classic group dances, guests will have the opportunity to participate in games such as mini golf, bowling and a football toss. Snacks and racecar souvenirs will also be provided. 7-8:30 p.m. \$14. East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580.

### Wednesday, March 21

#### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**Community Yoga.** Power yoga class. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

**Drop-in figure drawing.** Easels and drawing boards provided, bring other supplies. 7:30-10 p.m. \$5, \$3 students. Kresge Art Museum, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

**Knee High Naturalist.** Ages 2-5 for a playgroup featuring a different nature theme each week. 1-2 p.m. \$5. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

**Forest View Citizens Association.** Get updates from the Lansing Police Department. 7 p.m. \$5 per year. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9342.

**The American Chestnut.** The Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter meeting. 7 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 887-0596. [www.wildoneslansing.org](http://www.wildoneslansing.org).

**Mom/Son Speedway Spectacular.** Children can bring a parent or guardian to this popular annual dance. 7-8:30 p.m. \$14. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580.

**Anime & Manga Drawing.** For teens, to learn how to draw in the popular Japanese Anime style. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

See Out on the Town, Page 29

-- LAWY CARE --



MOWING - Vacation Mowing  
Eavestroughs Cleaned - Spring  
Cleanups - Rolling - Garden Tilling  
Bushes Trimmed - Sidewalks Edged  
Tree & Brush Removal - Hauling  
Stump Grinding - Bush Pulling  
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**Commercial/Residential**  
Free estimates

**R. Knott**  
LAWN • LANDSCAPE • SNOW  
(517) 694-7502/ (517) 993-2052

## March 22

### Discussing diversity in the theater

When director Deborah Keller was putting together Lansing Community College’s “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,” she broke with tradition by presenting the tormented Maggie and Brick as an interracial couple. On Thursday, she’ll discuss her casting concepts as part of a panel that includes Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. artistic director Chad Badgero, LCC director and theater program leader Andy Callis and playwright Sandra Seaton. Light refreshments will be served and free tickets to this weekend’s final performances of “Cat” will be available. 4:30 p.m. Free. LCC Black Box Theatre, room 168 Gannon Building. (517) 483-1488.



Courtesy Photo

## March 23 & 24



Courtesy Photo

### ‘Riverdance’ bids its farewell

“Riverdance” producer Moya Doherty announced that the United States touring production of the international show will close in June. Lansing gets one last chance to see the Irish musical celebration Friday and Saturday at Wharton Center’s Cobb Great Hall. “Riverdance” began as a seven-minute dance segment in 1994 and quickly turned into a full-scale production, playing over 10,000 shows in 40 countries. In the show’s final year, Doherty said, “It has been a source of immense pride for me as producer that America took ‘Riverdance’ to its heart to such an amazing extent and I would like to pay tribute to every dancer, musician, singer and all the crew and staff who served ‘Riverdance’ so well over the years.” 8 p.m. Friday, March 23; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, March 24. \$30, \$45 and \$55. Wharton Center’s Cobb Great Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON. [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com).

## March 24 & 25

### Pets meet the Easter Bunny

The Animal Placement Bureau presents its second annual “Pet Photos with Easter Bunny.” This weekend pet owners can visit Preuss Pets and — for a \$5 donation — get their pets’ photo taken with the Lansing Jaycees Easter Bunny. Proceeds benefit the Animal Placement Bureau, a foster care network for dogs. Run by volunteers, the program helps dogs find homes and keeps them out of shelters. Noon-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$5 donation. [www.apbpets.com](http://www.apbpets.com). [www.lansingjaycees.com](http://www.lansingjaycees.com).

# TURNIT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

A LOSS FOR WORDS HEADLINES MASSIVE SHOW



Courtesy Photo

## A Loss for Words

On Friday at The Loft, expect a jam-packed show with four separate tours sharing one bill. The all-ages show includes A Loss For Words, The Sheds, The Menzingers, Make Do and Mend, Code Orange Kids, Captain We're Sinking, Hometeam, Priorities and Yours Truly. Headlining the night is A Loss for Words, a pop-punk/melodic hardcore band from Abington, Mass. The five-piece outfit is signed to Rise Records and recently released "No Sanctuary," its second full-length album. Another band making some noise is The Sheds, a five-piece post-skacore band from Agoura Hills, Calif. The band is influenced by the likes of Bad Religion, Hot Water Music and Less Than Jake. It was formed in November 2005 by the three teenage Miller brothers: Mac, Evan, and Morgan and also includes Stephen

Palazzo (trumpet), and Niki Vahle (drums). A new Sheds' EP, "Self/Doubt," comes out April 24 via Rite of Passage Records.

Friday, March 23 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$10 advance, \$12 door, doors 4:30 p.m.

## OI! PUNK LEGENDS MEAN 'BUSINESS'



Courtesy Photo

## The Business

Since 1979, The Business, led by vocalist Mickey Fitz, has released a pile of punk albums. The band worked with Epitaph Records, had Lars Frederickson of Rancid produce one of its records and released a split with the Dropkick Murphys. The "Oi! punk" legends play Mac's Bar Friday, along with a cast of other punks, including The Hexbombs (from Kalamazoo), Downtown Struts (from Chicago), and Ironclad (from Ypsilanti). The Business originated in Lewisham, South London, and soon after its 1983 "Suburban Rebels" LP became a landmark in the "Oi!" movement. Since it formed, The Business have dropped 12 full-lengths, 11 EPs/singles, and 11 compilation/live albums. The band has also been featured on over 75 punk-rock compilations with other rowdy bands. In 2010 the veteran punkers released "Doing the Business" on Sailor's Grave Records.

Friday, March 23 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$10 advance, \$12 door, 9 p.m.

## METAL BANDS ROCK BLACKENED MOON

Mobile Deathcamp headlines a night of heavy and fast metal bands Friday at Blackened Moon Concert Hall. Mobile Deathcamp, a Toledo-based band that formed in 2008, is known for its vicious speed/trash



Courtesy Photo

## A Great Big Pile of Leaves

original compositions by Vander Maas. While the music is heavily influenced by traditional jazz and harmonies, he uses those as a platform from which to "explore new directions." The show will conclude with another composition for tenor sax and piano.

Saturday, March 24 @ (SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing, all ages. Doors open at 7 p.m., music at 7:30 p.m. \$3 students, \$5 public.

## A GREAT BIG PILE OF LEAVES AT MAC'S

Brooklyn-based rockers A Great Big Pile of Leaves have been churning out indie-pop tunes since it was formed in 2007 by guitarist/singer Peter Weiland and drummer Tyler Soucy. On Saturday, the band plays an all-ages show at Mac's Bar, along with a cast of indie-rock openers, including: Mansions (Seattle), Young Statues (Philadelphia), Vinacious (East Lansing), and Benthos (Mount Pleasant). A Great Big Pile of Leaves, fresh off a performance at SXSW in Austin, has toured with the likes of Motion City Soundtrack, Say Anything, and Saves the Day. The band's last LP was 2010's "Have You Seen My Prefrontal Cortex?"; a new album is in the works.

Saturday, March 24 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages. \$10 advance, \$12 door, 5 p.m.

metal. Opening the show is Halstatt, Culprit, Die-Sect, From Blue to Gray and When Gods Fail. Also making some noise is Fatal Demise, a Mecosta-based trash trio that takes influence from the likes of old Slayer, Metallica, and Anthrax.

Friday, March 23 @ Blackened Moon Concert Hall, 3208 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing, 18 and over (or accompanied by a legal guardian), \$10 at door, 7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

## RED TAIL RING, DREW NELSON

Two emerging Michigan-based acoustic/folk acts play a "twin bill" at the Ten Pound Fiddle on Friday. Opening the show is Red Tail Ring, an old-time flavored duo made up of Michael Beauchamp and Laurel Premo. Drew Nelson, who has a growing following in on the state's west side, plays the evening's second set. Nelson will be playing songs from his latest CD, "Tilt-A-Whirl" on Red House Records. Drew has toured across North America and Europe, performing solo and opening for popular rock artists like Melissa Etheridge and Edwin McCain, as well as esteemed folk singers like Josh White Jr. and John Gorka. For more information, visit [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

Friday, March 23 @ Ten Pound Fiddle - Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St. East Lansing, all ages. Box office 7 p.m., doors 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m. show. Tickets are \$15 public, \$12 Fiddle members, \$5 students.

## TYLER VANDER MAAS SAX QUARTET

Fans of progressive jazz may want to stop out to (SCENE) MetroSpace on Saturday. The Tyler Vander Maas Sax Quartet will play some

# UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN)

## LIVE AND LOCAL

To be listed in Live and Local, e-mail your information to [liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com) by Thursday of the week before publication.

### WEDNESDAY

### THURSDAY

### FRIDAY

### SATURDAY

621, 621 E. Michigan Ave.	Phil Denny, 8 p.m.	Brandon Marceal, 8:30 p.m.	Yaminah and Jazzy Soul, 9 p.m.	DJ B Eazy, 9 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.	Homespun, 9 p.m.
Brannigan Brothers, 210 S. Washington Square		Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Burtons Garden, 9 p.m.	Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Smoking Jackets, 9 p.m.	Smoking Jackets, 9 p.m.
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	The Automatic Blues Band, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	The Dewaynes, 9:30 p.m.	Jen Sygit & The Lincoln County Press, 9:30 p.m.	Squids, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9 a.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Down to Four, 7 p.m.	Eliot Lipp, 9 p.m.	A Loss for Words, 4:30 p.m.	The Most Powerful Weapon, 6 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Zoogma, 8 p.m.	Shellshock Brigade, 9 p.m.	The Scene Aesthetic, 6 p.m.	A Great Big Pile of Leaves, 9 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Rob Kladjia Open Mic, 9 p.m.	Josh Davis, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 10 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 10 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road	DJ Dan, 10:30 p.m.			
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sea Cruisers, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ with Ryan, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with Bob, 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.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Easy Girls, 9 p.m.	Riff Raff, 9 p.m.

**Sunday** Open Jam with Bad Gravy, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; 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., Ull'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.  
**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.

**NEW IN TOWN >> Trick Your Bully**



**By Allison M. Berryman**

Trick Your Bully owner Michael Lewis says his mission is help you treat your dog to something special.

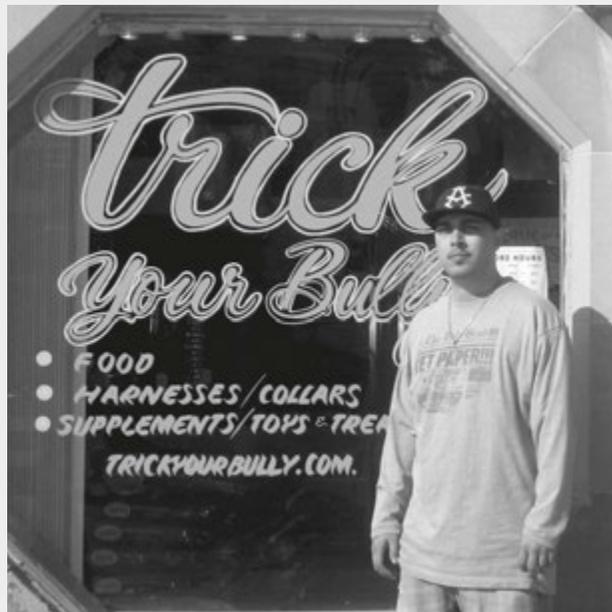
Trick Your Bully, which opened March 10, is located in REO Town, along South Washington Avenue. It's a boutique that specializes in dog food supplements and accessories — such as collars and harnesses — that Lewis says are both stylish and high quality.

"When you go to your traditional stores like Meijer to get a harness or a collar a lot of times they are made out of cheap material," Lewis said.

"That is generally why people go there because (supplies) will be cheaper. I wanted to start something so I can give the public better equipment to be responsible owners at a decent rate."

Besides owning Trick Your Bully, Lewis is also a breeder of pit bulls. His business not only concentrates on accessorising and nourishing dogs, but offering reliable equipment, such as leashes and harnesses, in an effort to promote responsible ownership and counteract the rough reputation of pit bulls.

"I'm not sure why they just portray the negative



Allison M. Berryman/City Pulse

Joe Franco is the manager of Trick Your Bully.

pieces (of pit bull ownership), but my dogs are living proof that (pit bulls) can be trained, they can be very good companions and they can mix well with people and other dogs," Lewis said. "I bring my dogs in the store and they interact with people — every single weekend."

According to Lewis, large dogs, such as pit bulls, are not always to blame for their unflattering image in the media.

"Your large-breed dogs kind of get a bad rep as far as being aggressive, like your Dobermans, your pit bulls, your Rottweilers," Lewis said. "It's not always the dog's fault. A lot of times, owners that are not responsible might have cheap equipment. What I mean by equipment are collars, and the collars we have in the store are pretty

thick so your dog is more controlled that way."

While some of the supplies are targeted for owners of large dogs, Lewis says he's trying to ensure that there is something for everyone's four-legged friend at Trick Your Bully.

"We're just trying to give people an alternative other than your traditional stores like PetSmart. We've got some fun stuff for dogs, too. I love all dogs, that's why I made it a dog store."

**Trick Your Bully**

1136 1/2 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday  
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday  
Noon-5 p.m. Sunday  
(517) 999-5005  
www.trickyourbully.com

**Out on the town**

from page 27

**EVENTS**

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 7 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Baptist Church, 1120 W. Willow Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

**Practice Your English.** Speaking and listening to English in a friendly, relaxing atmosphere. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Youth Service Corps.** East side youth grow food, and develop leadership skills. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community Garden House, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

**Colonial Village Neighborhood Meeting.** The Association meets on the third Wednesday. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 482-5750.

**"Casablanca."** Returns to movie theaters for 70th Anniversary. 7 p.m. Price varies. Jackson 10, 1501 N. Wisner St, Jackson. & at Celebration Cinema, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd., Lansing. www.FathomEvents.com.

**Comedy Open Mic Night.** A night of immoral self-indulgence and boisterous fun. 7 p.m. \$8, \$4 students. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 374-HAHA. www.connxtionscomedy-club.com.

**MUSIC**

**Shine Bright Baby.** Alternative music. 7 p.m. \$5. Lakewood High School Auditorium, 7223 Velte Road, Odessa. (517) 449-6370.

**Jazz Wednesdays.** Live entertainment. 7-10 p.m. FREE. ENSO, 16800 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-1656. www.enjoyenso.com.

**Jazz Wednesdays.** Featuring the Jeff Shoup Trio. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracies Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.

**Bach Around the Clock.** A 12-hour marathon of Bach. Noon, 3 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE students. MSU Music Building Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.music.msu.edu.

**Joel Crouse.** Country music. 7:30 p.m. \$30, \$12.50. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690.

**Viking Moses.** With Mother McKenzie. 7 p.m. \$6. (SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832. www.scenemetrospace.com.

**THEATER**

**"Dance is the Answer."** MSU dancers examine the notions of finding, defining home. 8 p.m. \$13, \$10 students, \$11 seniors. MSU Snyder Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

**"Hairspray."** Musical set in 1962 Baltimore. 7 p.m. \$5. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. www.elps.k12.mi.us/theater.

**LITERATURE AND POETRY**

**Hunger Games Party.** Ages 12-18. Compete for survival with games, trivia, snacks, and prizes. 6:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

**Baby Time.** Books and songs for ages 2 years and younger, with caregiver. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

**Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Meeting.** New location. Informal dinner and lively conversation every week. 7 p.m. FREE. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Road, #13, Holt. (517) 402-4481.

**Girl Scout Book Club.** Open to all girls grades 6-8. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books and Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

**"The Hunger Games."** Discuss the mythological and historical background. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

**Benjamin Busch.** Talk and signing with author of "Dust to Dust: A Memoir." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books and Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. www.schulerbooks.com.

**Thursday, March 22**

**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

**Yoga 2XL.** Learn to move with confidence. 7:15-8:15 p.m. \$8 suggested donation. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

**Eating Disorders Anonymous Meeting.** A group of people recovering from eating disorders who talk about recovery. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 899-3515.

**Yoga Classes for Beginners.** With Gaby Kende, yoga teacher and certified yoga therapist. 9:30-11 a.m. \$84 for 8 weeks. Center for Yoga, 1780 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-6640.

**Volunteer for Cancer Resource Centers.** Training session. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. American Cancer Society Capital Area Service Center, 3100 West Road, East Lansing. (517) 664-1361. www.cancer.org.

**Wolves, Wildlife, and Politics.** In Joseph Heywood's "Woods Cop Mysteries." 7-9 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 332-2580.

**Restorative Yoga.** With Amy Noren, RYT 200, trained in alignment based yoga. 6:15-8 p.m. \$12. Full Spectrum Family Medicine, 2025 Abbot Road, East Lansing. amynoren@yahoo.com.

**Historic Meridian Spring 2012.** The role of southeast Michigan in the War of 1812. 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. FREE. Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, East Lansing. (517) 347-7300.

**Quit-Tobacco Workshop.** Create a plan/be successful. 8:30-10:30 a.m. FREE. Ingham County Health Department, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 887-4315.

**Astronomical Horizons Lecture.** Lecture "Globular Clusters: The Systems That Keep Exposing the Secrets of Space." 7:30-9 p.m. FREE. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355 4676.

**Impact of Animal Factories.** Exposing the polluting practices of livestock factory farms in Michigan. 7-9 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 487-6467.

**EVENTS**

**Morning Storytime.** All ages welcome for stories, songs, rhymes. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

**Karaoke.** Every Thursday night with Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar and Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

**Euchre.** No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road,

See Out on the Town, Page 30

**ERASER-FREE SUDOKU**

**MEDIUM**

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

**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. For solving tips, visit [www.SundayCrosswords.com](http://www.SundayCrosswords.com)

Answers on page 33

**YARD OR GARDEN ASSIST THIS SPRING?**

**TREE KEEPER**

- Experienced and Conscientious
- Fair Rates with Free Consultation
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## Out on the town

from page 29

Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

**Mid-day Movies.** Watch recent releases on the big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. www.cadl.org.

**Kids Time: Ages 5-11.** Help east side youth grow

food, develop leadership skills. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

**Creative Wellness.** Sample services and treatments and get ready to be active in spring. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, # 200, East Lansing. (517) 351-9240. www.creativewellness.net.

**LCC Community Strategic Forum.** RSVP to Adrienne Jenkins. 8-9:30 a.m. FREE. Lansing Community College University Center, 422 N. Washington

Square, Lansing. (517) 483-1415.

**LCC Community Strategic Forum.** RSVP to Adrienne Jenkins. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Lansing Community College West Campus, located at the corner of W. Mount Hope and Snow Roads, Lansing. (517) 483-1415.

**Michael Malone.** Comedy. 7 p.m. \$8, \$4 students. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St. Lansing. (517) 374-HAHA. www.connxtionscomedyclub.com.

### MUSIC

**Jazz Thursdays.** Various artists featured each week. 6:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Mumbai Cuisine, 340 Albert St., East Lansing. (517) 336-4150.

### THEATER

**"Dance is the Answer."** 8 p.m. \$13, \$10 students, \$11 seniors. (Please See Details March 21)

**"The Usual: A Musical Love Story."** Preview show; audience members can participate in a talk-back session. 8 p.m. Pay what you can. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW.

**"Becky's New Car."** A comic cruise through the perils of middle-aged longing and regret. 7 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com.

**"Nine to Five."** Office workers get revenge on a boorish boss in a musical version of the Jane Fonda/Lily Tomlin/Dolly Parton comedy. 7 p.m. \$8, \$6 students. Holt Senior High School, 5885 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 699-8179. www.holthighschool.net.

**"Next Fall."** Drama delving into issues of faith, commitment and unconditional love. 8 p.m. \$15, \$10 seniors & students. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St. Lansing. (517) 487-9549.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Hunger Games Party.** A costume contest, trivia, a scavenger hunt, and more fun activities. 6 p.m.-8 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-0437.

### Friday, March 23

#### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Relics of the Big Bang.** Emphasizes research currently underway at CERN. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students and seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

### EVENTS

**Persian New Year Celebration.** Music, dancing, Persian Cuisine by REZA. 6 p.m.-1 a.m. \$35, FREE kids under 5. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. clubpersian@gmail.com.

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** Open meeting for family and friends with American Sign Language interpretation. 8 p.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

**Storytime.** Stories, rhymes and a craft for ages 2-5. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Blood Drive.** To schedule an appointment, log onto www.redcrossblood.org. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Lansing Christian School, 3405 Belle Chase Way, Lansing. (517) 882-5779. www.lansingchristianschool.org.

**Michael Malone.** Comedy. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$12. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 374-HAHA.

**Music & Movement Storytime.** Dance and sing to music, and learn to play with instruments and more. 1 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 3.

### MUSIC

**Drew Nelson.** Release of "Tilt-A-Whirl." 8 p.m. \$15, \$12 members, \$5. Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. www.tenpoundfiddle.org.

**CMS Choir Concert.** Watch Prep Choir, Cantabile, and CMS Singers perform. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661. cms.msu.edu.

**The Scene Aesthetic.** Acoustic pop. 6 p.m. \$12. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. www.macsbar.com.

**The Business.** Rock. 9 p.m. \$12. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795. www.macsbar.com.

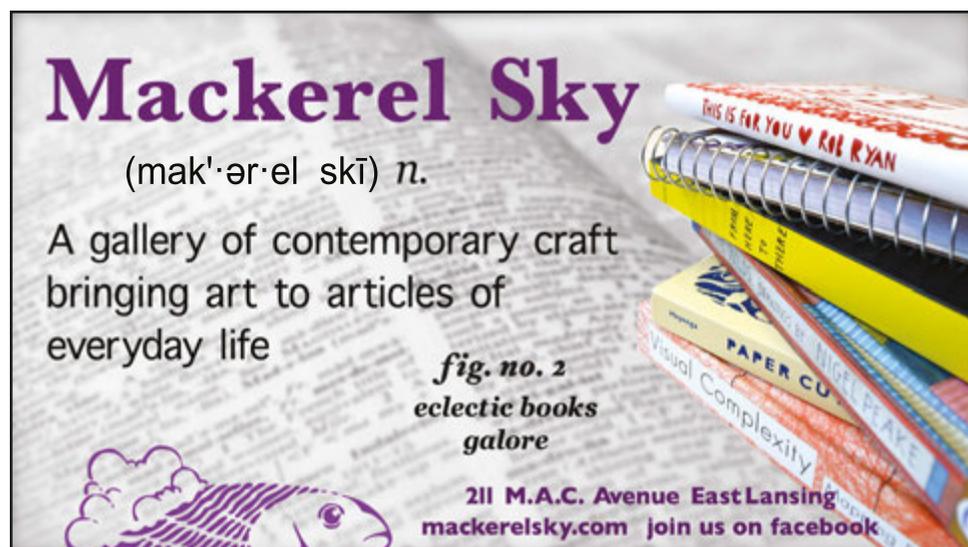
**Brahms and Schumann Classics.** Program includes Dichterliebe, Op. 48 and String Sextet in B-flat major. 8 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE students. MSU Music Building Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.music.msu.edu.

### THEATER

**"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."** Tensions and recriminations shake up a Southern family. 8 p.m. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College. \$10; \$5 students, alumni, faculty. (517) 372-0945.

**"Let's Murder Marsha."** Farce directed by Susan

See Out on the Town, Page 31

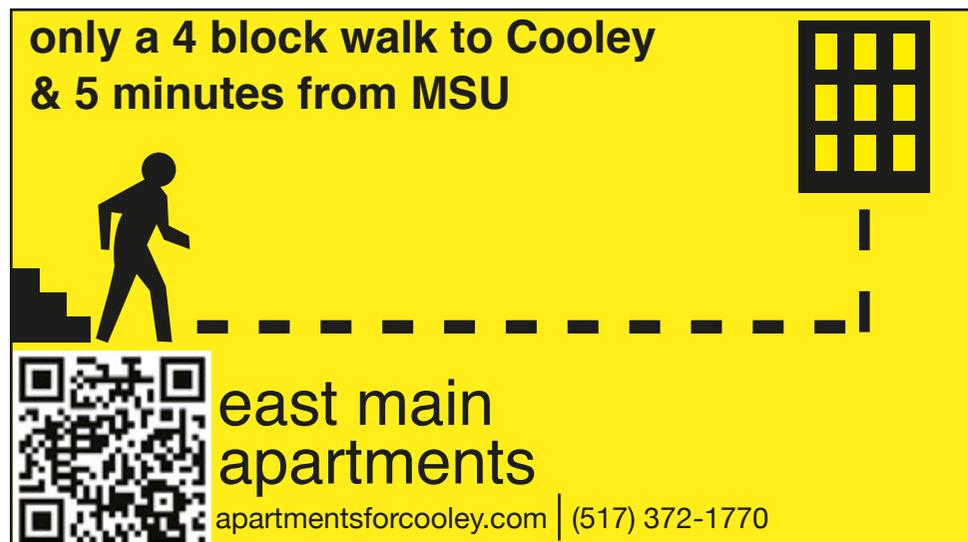


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## Out on the town

from page 30

Chmurynsky and starring Bob Purosky, Michele Booher and Sarah Sonnenberg as Marsha. 6:30 p.m. Price varies. Starlight Dinner Theatre, Waverly East Intermediate, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 243-6040.

"Becky's New Car." 8 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors & students. (Please See Details March 22)

"Dance is the Answer." 8 p.m. \$13, \$10 students, \$11 seniors. (Please See Details March 21)

"The Usual: A Musical Love Story." 8 p.m. \$15. (Please See Details March 22)

"Hairspray." 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$5 students. (Please See Details March 21)

"Hello, Dolly!" Lansing Eastern High School's production. 8 p.m. \$7, \$5 students and seniors. Eastern High School, 220 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 755-1050. www.lansingschools.net.

"Nine to Five." 7 p.m. \$8, \$6 students. (Please See Details March 22)

"Riverdance." The U.S. tour is playing final performances. 8 p.m. \$30-\$55. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com.

"Next Fall." 8 p.m. \$15, \$10 seniors & students. (Please See Details March 22)

### Saturday, March 24

#### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Relics of the Big Bang.** 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 student-seniors, \$2 kids. (Please See Details March 23)

**Beginner Tai Chi.** Can build strength and reduce stress. 8-9 a.m. \$8. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

**Tai Chi in the Park.** Meditation at 8:45 a.m. followed by Tai Chi. 9:30 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. Contact Bob Teachout (517) 272-9379.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 9:30 a.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-6003.

**Parenting Group.** Lecture and group discussion each week. 10-11 a.m. Call to Register. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.

**Working Together.** Presentations on Michigan's current corrections system. 8:30 a.m.-Noon, FREE. St. Stephens Church, 1007 Kimberly Drive, Lansing. (517) 484-2180. nbauer@juno.com.

**Garden Leaders Training.** On starting a new community garden, joining an existing garden. 9 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing.

**Babysitting Class.** For teens. Learn emergency procedures, CPR and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. Dewitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. (517) 669-3156. www.dewittlibrary.org.

#### EVENTS

**Pets & Easter Bunny.** Bring pets to get photos taken with Easter Bunny. To benefit the Animal Placement Bureau. Noon-5 p.m. \$5 donation. Preuss Pets, 1127 N. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 339-1762. www.preusspets.com.

**Mom 2 Mom Sale.** Featuring maternity through pre-teen clothes, baby gear, cribs and more. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$2. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. (612) 743-0778.

**Salsa Dancing.** DJ Adrian "Ace" Lopez hosts Lansing's weekly salsa event. Singles welcome. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5. Gregory's Bar and Grille, 2510 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. (517) 323-7122.

**Used Book Sale.** The Friends of the Haslett

See Out on the Town, Page 32

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**Ricotta Salatta & Pecorino Romana**

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# Out on the town

from page 31

Library, paperbacks are \$.50 and hardcovers are \$1. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

**Macaroni & Cheese Cook-Off.** Come by to be a taster. 1-2 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

**Build & Grow.** For kids. Participants receive an apron, goggles, and collectable project badges. 10-11 a.m. FREE. Lowe's, S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 699-2940.

**Michael Malone.** Comedy. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$15. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 374-HAHA.

**Ballroom Dance Club.** With music by 'Sea Cruisers, a cha cha lesson by Mary Benjamin and open dancing. 7-11 p.m. \$30 per couple. Grand Ledge Country Club, 5811 E. St. Joseph Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 484-3130. www.lesdanseurs.com.

**Occupy Lansing Picnic.** To reawaken Occupy movement. Music, guest speakers, general assembly. Bring a picnic basket. 1 p.m. FREE. Reutter Park, Corner of Kalamazoo & Townsend St., Lansing. festival@occupylansing.net.

**80s Flashback to Benefit.** Dance, celebrate, and help REACH Studio. With Starfarm, food, cash bar and much more. 7 p.m.-Midnight. \$50 couple, \$30 single, \$15 student. University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 353-5113.

## MUSIC

**The Fabulous Heftones.** Live music at dinnertime. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-6295. www.EatAtAltus.com/music.

**The DJClarinet.** With Joe Vasquez and Nick Bracewell playing standards and light jazz. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Wanderer's Teahouse, 547 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 580-4043.

**Tyler Vander Maas Sax Quartet.** Playing compositions by Vander Maas that could be classified as progressive jazz. 7:30 p.m. \$5, \$3 students. Scene MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832. www.scenemetrospace.com.

## THEATER

**"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."** 8 p.m. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College. \$10; \$5 students, alumni, faculty. (Please See Details March 23)

**"Becky's New Car."** 8 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors & students. (Please See Details March 22)

**Fairy Dust Theatre.** Kellie Stonebrook performs stories as Wanda the wacky witch and helps teach children to make own stories. 2 p.m. Price varies. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. (517) 488-8450.

**"Let's Murder Marsha."** 6:30 p.m. Price varies. (Please See Details March 23)

**"Dance is the Answer."** 2 p.m. \$13, \$10 students, \$11 seniors. (Please See Details March 21)

**"The Usual: A Musical Love Story."** 8 p.m. \$15. (Please See Details March 22)

**"Hairspray."** 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$5 students. (Please See Details March 21)

**"Hello, Dolly!"** 8 p.m. \$7 Adults; \$5 students & seniors. (Please See Details March 23)

**"Nine to Five."** 7 p.m. \$8, \$6 students. (Please See Details March 22)

**"Riverdance."** 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. \$30-\$55. (Please See Details March 23)

**"Next Fall."** 8 p.m. \$15, \$10 seniors & students. (Please See Details March 22)

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Janie Lynn Panagopoulos.** On her book, "Little Ship Under Full Sail: An Adventure in History, the

story of Nellie Lytle." 2-4 p.m. \$6, \$4 seniors, \$2 kids. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-1359.

## Sunday, March 25 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** Meets on the third floor. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300. www.cadl.org.

**Discover Bird Watching.** Learn techniques for identifying birds with a naturalist. 3 p.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 2 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-8789.

**Relics of the Big Bang.** 4 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students and seniors, \$2 kids. (Please See Details March 23)

**Gardener's Roundtable.** Discuss various garden topics, seed catalogs and garden books. 12:30-1:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

## EVENTS

**Cohousing Community Tour & Info Session.**

Learn about living in community in Downtown Lansing. 2 p.m. FREE. Genesee Gardens Cohousing, 800 Bancroft Ct., Lansing. (517) 282-6858.

**Pets & Easter Bunny.** To benefit the Animal Placement Bureau. Noon-5 p.m. \$5 donation. (Please See Details March 24)

**Salsa Dancing.** DJ Mojito spins salsa, merengue, bachata. 7 p.m.-Midnight, \$5 21, \$7 under 21. Fahrenheit Ultra Lounge, 6810 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** Closed meeting for those who desire to stop drinking, with American Sign Language interpretation. 9 a.m. FREE. Alano Club East, 220 S. Howard St., Lansing. (517) 482-8957.

**Capital Area Singles Dance.** Meet new friends with door prizes. 6:30-10:30 p.m. \$8. Ramada, 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. (517) 819-0405.

**Poker Volunteers.** Help poker event to benefit Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame. 3:30 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Stacks Hold'em Bar, 4750 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 484-1880 X 203.

## MUSIC

**Music of Haydn.** Features faculty artists Suren Bagratuni, cello; Yuri Gandelsman, and more. 3 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE students. MSU Music Building Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.music.msu.edu.

## THEATER

**"Next Fall."** 2 p.m. \$15, \$10 seniors & students. (Please See Details March 22)

**"Dance is the Answer."** 2 p.m. \$13, \$10 students, \$11 seniors. (Please See Details March 21)

**"The Usual: A Musical Love Story."** 8 p.m. \$15. (Please See Details March 22)

**"Hairspray."** 2 p.m. \$10, \$5 students. (Please See Details March 21)

**"Becky's New Car."** 2 p.m. \$14, \$12 seniors & students. (Please See Details March 22)

**"Hello, Dolly!"** 2 p.m. \$7 Adults; \$5 students & seniors. (Please See Details March 23)

**"Nine to Five."** 2 p.m. \$8, \$6 students. (Please See Details March 22)

**Theater of War.** Readings of Sophocles' Ajax and Philoctetes to military and civilian communities. 6 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. rcach.msu.edu/war.

## Monday, March 26

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversa-**

**tion Group.** For those who have gone through loss and are ready to move on with their lives. 7:30 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

**GriefShare Seminar.** DVD series, with support group discussion. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 490-3218.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 7 p.m. FREE. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (989) 587-4609. www.stdavidslansing.org.

**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.

**Creating your Vision.** On the value of a vision and how it can propel you towards your goals. 7 p.m. \$15. Art Alley, 1133 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. www.evolve4health.com.

**Farm to Table: Cooking with Herbs.** Learn to grow herbs and use them in nutritious recipes. 6 p.m. FREE. CADL Dansville Library, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511. www.cadl.org/farm.

**Transnational Labor Symposium.** On "Union Feminism, Sexual Politics and Transnational Labor Activism." Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. International Center, 450 Administration Bldg. East Lansing.

## EVENTS

**Euchre.** Play euchre and meet new people. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

**Social Bridge.** Play bridge and socialize. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

**Monday Morning Movie.** Get your film fix at the library. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext.4.

**LCC Community Strategic Forum.** RSVP to Adrienne Jenkins. 4:30-6 p.m. FREE. LCC Livingston County Center, 402 Wright Road, Howell. (517) 483-1415. http://web.lcc.edu/strategy/forum/.

**Poker Volunteers.** Help poker event to benefit Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame. 3:30 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Stacks Hold'em Bar, 4750 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 484-1880 X 203.

## MUSIC

**Open-Mic Mondays.** Sign up to play solo, duo, with your band. Spoken-Word acts welcome. Drink specials. 6:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. Michigan Brewing Company, 402 Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 977-1349.

## THEATER

**Theater of War.** Readings of Sophocles' Ajax and Philoctetes to military and civilian communities. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Kellogg Conference Center, 55 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. rcach.msu.edu/war.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Fanged Fiction Book Group.** Looking at "Sights" by Kaaron Warren. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. www.schulerbooks.com.

## Tuesday, March 27 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Schizophrenics Anonymous.** A self-help support group for those affected by the disorder. 10 a.m. Room 215-F, Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

**Yoga 40.** For those in their 40s, 50s, 60s and beyond. 7:15 p.m. Suggested \$7. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Anyone wanting to lose weight is welcome. 7 p.m. FREE to visit.. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton

Rapids. Judy @ (517) 543-0786.

**Schizophrenics Anonymous Self-help Support Group.** For persons with schizophrenia and related disorders. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 7 p.m. FREE. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 505-0068.

**Intro to Computers.** Professionals from Career Quest teach the basics. 2:30-4 p.m. FREE. Capital Area Michigan Works, 2110 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 492-5500.

**On the Way To Wellness.** Barb Geske provides nutrition and wellness coaching in a positive, informative format. 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. \$10. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 349-9536.

**Mindful Motivator.** For weight loss, stress management and healthy goal achievements. 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. FREE. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 930-4265.

**Computer Class.** Learn Excel. 7 p.m. FREE. Community of Christ, 1514 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 882-3122.

**Laughter Yoga.** With Kiran Gupta a licensed clinical social worker. 5:30-6 p.m. FREE. Campus Village Center, 1151 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. (517) 775-4834.

**Quit-Tobacco Workshop.** Quit-Tobacco Workshop. 1-3 p.m. FREE. Justice in Mental Health, 520 Cherry St., Lansing. (517) 887-4315.

**Speakeasies Toastmasters.** Become a better speaker. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Bldg., 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

## EVENTS

**Behind the Gates.** Networking activities, food and drink, see the Airport's features. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Lansing Airport, 4100 Capital City Blvd., Lansing. www.granddriverconnection.com.

**"Monumental."** Story of unlikely men and women who helped shape life in the U.S. 7:30 p.m. Price varies. Jackson 10, 1501 N. Wisner St, Jackson. & at Celebration Cinema, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd., Lansing. www.FathomEvents.com.

**Morning Storytime.** All ages welcome for stories, songs, rhymes, and fun. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

**Mid-day Movies.** Watch recent releases on the big screen. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. www.cadl.org.

**Game On.** Play a variety of board and video games. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** 5:45-6:45 pm, FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-990

**Compassionate Friends.** For grieving parents. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Salvation Army Community Center, 701 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 351-6480.

**Kids Time: Ages 5-11.** Help the Eastside youth to grow food, develop leadership and life skills. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

**Storytime.** Stories, rhymes, songs and a craft for ages 2-5. 10:30-11:15 a.m. & 6:30-7:15 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**LCC Strategic Forum.** RSVP to Adrienne Jenkins. 4:30-6 p.m. FREE. LCC Clinton County Center, 1013 S. U.S.-27, St. Johns. (517) 483-1415.

**Poker Volunteers.** Help poker event to benefit Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame. 3:30 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Stacks Hold'em Bar, 4750

# Out on the town

from page 32

Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 484-1880 X 203.  
**Gluten Free Baking Tips.** For persons who have Celiac Disease or are Gluten Intolerant. 7 p.m. FREE. Community of Christ, 1514 W. Miller Road, Lansing. (517) 349-0294. www.micapitalceliacs.atspace.com.

## MUSIC

**Jazz Tuesdays.** With Jeff Shoup Quartet, artists from the MSU Jazz Studies Department and the Mid-Michigan jazz community. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

## THEATER

**"Memphis."** Award-winning musical that takes place in underground clubs of the segregated 1950s. 7:30 p.m. \$30. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Ben Hamper.** Ben Hamper author of "Rivethhead: Tales from the Assembly Line." will read/speak. 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

**Writers Series.** With Ben Hamper, columnist for the Flint Voice and author of "Rivethhead: Tales from the Assembly Line." 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.lib.msu.edu.

## Wednesday, March 28

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**Community Yoga.** Power yoga class. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

**Drop-in figure drawing.** Easels and drawing boards provided, bring other supplies. 7:30-10 p.m. \$5, \$3 students. Kresge Art Museum, located at Physics and Auditorium roads, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 337-1170.

**Knee High Naturalist.** Ages 2-5 for a playgroup featuring a different nature theme each week. 1-2 p.m. \$5. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

**Feminist Theology.** How do women and men read the Bible differently. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

**Vegetable Gardening.** Tips and tricks from advanced gardener Jim Weese. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive,

Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.  
**Retirement Accounts.** Learn strategies to more effectively manage income and plan for the future. 6:40-8 p.m. FREE. Lansing Community College East Campus, 2827 Eyde Parkway, East Lansing. (517) 483-1860. lcc.edu.  
**Ecology & Socialism Talk.** With Chris Williams on "Ecology and Socialism: Solutions to Capitalist Ecological Crisis." 7-9 p.m. FREE. MSU Berkey Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.facebook.com/events/238927512870265/.

## EVENTS

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 7 p.m. FREE. Grand Ledge Baptist Church, 1120 W. Willow Hwy., Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954.

**Practice Your English.** Speaking and listening to English in a friendly, relaxing atmosphere. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Youth Service Corps.** East side youth grow food, and develop leadership skills. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community Garden House, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

**Calling Volunteers.** RSVP by March 23. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 393-9889.

**Poker Volunteers.** Help poker event to benefit Michigan Women's Historical Center&Hall of Fame. 3:30 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Stacks Hold'em Bar, 4750 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 484-1880 X 203.

## MUSIC

**Jazz Wednesdays.** Live entertainment. 7-10 p.m. FREE. ENSO, 16800 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-1656. www.enjoyenso.com.

**Jazz Wednesdays.** Featuring the Jeff Shoup Trio. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracies Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.

## THEATER

**"Theory Of Mind."** A sensitive yet unsentimental portrait of a young man with Asperger's Syndrome. 7:30 p.m. \$12, \$8 youth. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. 1-800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Baby Time.** Books & songs for ages 2 years & younger, with caregiver. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 x3.

**Lansing Area Science Fiction Association Meeting.** New location. Informal dinner and lively conversation every week. 7 p.m. FREE. Buddies Grill, 2040 Aurelius Road, #13, Holt. (517) 402-4481.

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

March 21-27

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Not bad for a few weeks' work, or play, or whatever it is you want to call this tormented, inspired outburst. Would it be too forward of me to suggest that you've gone a long way toward outgrowing the dark fairy tale that had been haunting your dreams for so long? And yet all this may just be a warm-up for your next metamorphosis, in which you make an audacious new commitment to becoming what you *really* want to be when you grow up.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): This week I'm taking a break from my usual pep talks. I think it's for the best. If I deliver a kind-hearted kick in the butt, maybe it will encourage you to make a few course corrections, thereby making it unnecessary for fate to get all tricky and funky on you. So here you go, Taurus: 1. The last thing you need is someone to support your flaws and encourage you in your delusions. True friends will offer snappy critiques and crisp advice. 2. Figure out once and for all why you keep doing a certain deed that's beneath you, then gather the strength and get the help you need to quit it. 3. It's your duty to stop doing your duty with such a somber demeanor and heavy tread. To keep from sabotaging the good it can accomplish, you've got to put more pleasure into it.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): The German word *Weltratsel* can be translated as "World Riddle." Coined by the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, it refers to questions like "What is the meaning of existence?" and "What is the nature of reality?" According to my reading of the astrological omens, Gemini, you're now primed to deepen your understanding of the World Riddle. For the next few weeks, you will have an enhanced ability to pry loose useful secrets about some big mysteries. Certain passages in the Book of Life that have always seemed like gobbledygook to you will suddenly make sense. Here's a bonus: Every time you decipher more of the World Riddle, you will solve another small piece of your Personal Riddle.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): "The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man." So wrote George Bernard Shaw in his book *Man and Superman*. From the hints I have gleaned, Cancerian, you are now in an ideal phase to be the sort of unreasonable man or woman who gets life to adapt so as to better serve you and your dreams. Even if it's true that the emphasis in the past has often been on you bending and shaping yourself to adjust to the circumstances others have wrought, the coming weeks could be different.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): In his book *Word Hero*, Jay Heinrichs offers us advice about how to deliver pithy messages that really make an impact. Here's one tip that would be especially useful for you in the coming days: *Exaggerate precisely.* Heinrichs gives an example from the work of the illustrious raconteur, American author Mark Twain. Twain did not write, "In a single day, New England's weather changes a billion times." Rather, he said, "In the spring I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of four-and twenty hours." Be inspired by Twain's approach in every way you can imagine, Leo. Make things bigger and wilder and more expansive everywhere you go, but do it with exactitude and rigor.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Liminality" is a term that refers to the betwixt and between state. It's dawn or dusk, when neither night nor day fully rules. It's the mood that prevails when a transition is imminent or a threshold beckons. During a rite of passage, liminality is the phase when the initiate has left his or her old way of doing things but has not yet been fully accepted or integrated into the new way. Mystical traditions from all over the world recognize this as a shaky but potent situation — a time and place when uncertainty and ambiguity reign even as exciting possibilities loom. In

my estimate, Virgo, you're now ensconced in liminality.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The Argentinian writer Antonio Porchia said there were two kinds of shadows: "some hide, others reveal." In recent weeks, you've been in constant contact with the shadows that hide. But beginning any moment now, you'll be wandering away from those rather frustrating enigmas and entering into a dynamic relationship with more evocative mysteries: the shadows that reveal. Be alert for the shift so you won't get caught assuming that the new shadows are just like the old ones.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Every winter, hordes of ants have overrun my house. At least that was true up until recently. This winter, the pests stayed away, and that has been very good news. I didn't have to fight them off with poison and hand-to-hand combat. The bad news? The reason they didn't invade was because very little rain fell, as it's supposed to during Northern California winters. The ants weren't driven above ground by the torrents that usually soak the soil. And so now drought threatens our part of the world. Water shortages may loom. I propose that this scenario is a metaphor for a dilemma you may soon face, Scorpio — except that you will have a choice in the matter: Would you rather deal with a lack of a fundamental resource or else an influence that's bothersome but ultimately pretty harmless?

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're entering one of the most buoyant phases of your astrological cycle. Your mandate is to be brash and bouncy, frothy and irrepressible. To prepare you, I've rounded up some exclamatory declarations by poet Michael McClure. Take them with you as you embark on your catalytic adventures. They'll help you cultivate the right mood. McClure: "Everything is natural. The light on your fingertips is starlight. Life begins with coiling — molecules and nebulae. Cruelty, selfishness, and vanity are boring. Each self is many selves. Reason is beauty. Light and darkness are arbitrary divisions. Cleanliness is as undefinable and as natural as filth. The physiological body is pure spirit. Monotony is madness. The frontier is both outside and inside. The universe is the messiah. The senses are gods and goddesses. Where the body is — there are all things."

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You know those tall, starched white hats that many chefs wear? Traditionally they had 100 pleats, which denoted the number of ways a real professional could cook an egg. I urge you to wear one of those hats in the coming weeks, Capricorn — or whatever the equivalent symbol might be for your specialty. It's high time for you to express your ingenuity in dealing with what's simple and familiar . . . to be inventive and versatile as you show how much you can accomplish using just the basics.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): As I was driving my car in San Francisco late one night, I arrived at a traffic signal that confused me. The green light was radiant and steady, but then so was the red light. I came to a complete stop and waited until finally, after about two minutes, the red faded. I suspect you may soon be facing a similar jumble of mixed signals, Aquarius. If that happens, I suggest you do what I did. Don't keep moving forward; pause and sit still until the message gets crisp and clear.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): A woman named Joan Ginther has won the Texas Lottery four times, collecting over \$20 million. Is she freakishly lucky? Maybe not, according to Nathaniel Rich's article in the August 2011 issue of *Harper's*. He notes that Ginther has a PhD in math from Stanford, and wonders if she has used her substantial understanding of statistics to game the system. (More here: [tinyurl.com/LuckAmuck](http://tinyurl.com/LuckAmuck).) Be inspired by her example, Pisces. You now have exceptional power to increase your good fortune through hard work and practical ingenuity.

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 29

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

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

G	L	O	S	S	I	N	G	A	M	E	N	D					
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P	T	E	R	O		E	Y	E	C	H	A	R	T				

**March Special: Middle East** - start with some **Babaganoush** and **Pita**, then enjoy the broiled **Tilapia Filet** drizzled with citrus tahini and a side of **Ginger Garlic Rice**, with a fresh **Vegetable Salad** and vinaigrette dressing, finished by the classic dessert of **Dates and Oranges**

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Joe Torok/City Pulse

The Black Rose is new to Lansing, but it operated in Grand Rapids for almost six years.

## Black Rose is in bloom

One new tavern and two new Coney Islands open

By JOE TOROK

The Black Rose, a tincture of the Emerald Isle, opened two weeks ago — just ahead of St. Patrick's Day — in downtown Lansing.

A part of the Urban Feast restaurant management group that has footprints in the Lansing area (with Troppo, Tavern on the Square and Edmund's Pastime) and on the west side of the state, the Black Rose is a reboot of a bar that formerly slung drafts in downtown Grand Rapids. That location closed in 2009.

Inside the new Black Rose on South Washington Square, you'll find fine woodwork, Irish-themed aphorisms, plenty to drink and a menu that matches its comfy confines.

A map may help when ordering drinks. Whiskey comes from three regions: Ireland, Scotland and America.

On tap last week were Bass Ale, a product of England, and the Irish-bred Guinness and Harp beers.

The British Isles also inspire Black Rose's menu. Potato nachos (\$8.25) combine cheddar and pepper jack cheese, bacon, sour cream and scallions on top of crispy fries. The small menu also offers smoked sausage bites and corned beef sliders, among other options.

Look for daily specials, and if you need a bridge to the Lugnuts' Thirsty Thursdays this summer, head to the Black Rose for Whiskey Wednesdays when the amber spirit sells for less and a hot toddy or Irish coffee is only an order away.

**Leo's Coney Island**

In another downtown a couple of miles

east, Leo's Coney Island opened for business late last year month inside the East Lansing Marriot complex.

The East Lansing Leo's is the westernmost franchise of the southeast Michigan-based chain, which now has over 40 locations.

Leo and Peter Stassinopoulos opened what would later be named Leo's Coney Island in Southfield in 1972. The Greek immigrants not only built a thriving franchise but also sell their Leo's Famous Greek Salad Dressing — a family recipe — by the case.

Coney dogs anchor the menu, of course, but general manager Sean Morris says the chicken fingers pita (\$4.99) and Greek salad (\$5.99 medium) are the store's biggest sellers. Greek specialties like the flaming-cheese saganaki, spinach pie and baklava pay tribute to the Mediterranean heritage of Leo's founders. Leo's offers a full breakfast menu any time of day, homemade soup, burgers, sandwiches and pitas. For dessert there are brownies, sundaes, brownie sundaes and more. Full-service catering is available, too.

**T&D Coney Grill**

If you keep heading east, you'll find another Coney Island headed by immigrants from southern Europe.

Okemos' T&D Coney Grill is owned and operated by Gus Gjidoda and his wife, Marsela, the general manager. Gus came to the United States 20 years ago and learned

**Leo's Coney Island**

333 Albert Ave. Suite  
100, East Lansing  
(517) 708-8580  
7 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Monday-Wednesday  
7 a.m.-4 a.m.  
Thursday-Saturday  
8 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday  
TO, P, WiFi, OM, \$

See Coney Grill, Page 35

# foodfinder

Food Finder listings are rotated each week based on space. If you have an update for the listings, please e-mail [food@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:food@lansingcitypulse.com).

## EASTERN TASTES

**APPLE JADE** — Traditional Taiwanese and Chinese cuisine served in the Frandor Shopping Center. Featuring beef, chicken, pork, seafood and vegetarian entrées, as well as daily lunch specials. 300 N. Clippert St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Every day. (517) 332-1111. TO, RES, \$\$.

**CHEN'S RESTAURANT** — This north side stalwart serves standard Chinese fare from a uniquely shaped domed building. 600 E. Thomas St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday & Saturday; Noon-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 372-7292. TO, D, OM, \$.

**CHINA EXPRESS** — Offers a wide selection of traditional dishes and lunch and dinner specials. Party trays also available. 1630 Haslett Road, Suite 2, Haslett. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Sunday. (517) 339-8318. TO, \$.

**EMOS** — This deli offers Korean cuisine, including spicy chicken bulgogi made with thinly sliced chicken marinated in

garlic, ginger, and soy sauce, then sautéed with onion and peppers. 20 different \$5 lunch specials on Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.. 901 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Noon-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 803-4921. D, TO, RES, OM, \$\$

**FINE CHINA RESTAURANT** — Twenty-three chef's specialties highlight an extensive menu that focuses on seafood and poultry. Plenty of lunch special combination plates, and a kids' menu also available. 1701 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. (517) 321-1879. www.finechinarrestaurant.net. TO, D, RES, OM, WIFI, \$-\$\$.

**FORTUNE HOUSE** — This Thai and Chinese restaurant across from the Lansing Mall serves a wide variety of Asian specialties. 5407 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday. (517) 321-8808. TO, \$

**GOLDEN WOK** — Dim

sum, spicy Szechuan fish soup, sesame balls and salt and pepper squid are among the exotic items on the menu at this East Lansing eatery. 2755 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. daily. (517) 333-8322. TO, D, SS.

**HONG KONG** — Authentic Sichuan cuisine, typically served hot and spicy, dominates the menu, which features everything from lo and chow mein to beef with tripe and pork blood. 315 S. Homer St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday; Noon-10 p.m. Saturday; Noon-8:30 p.m. Sunday. (517) 332-5333. TO, D, RES, OM, \$-\$\$.

**HOUSE OF ING** — A mixture of traditional Chinese fare and American choices, with many seafood, beef, chicken and pork entrées to choose from. Friday and Saturday night specials include prime rib and crab legs. 4113 S. Cedar St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; Noon-11 p.m. Saturday; Noon-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 393-4848. www.houseofing.com. FB, WB, TO, RES,

OM, \$-\$\$.

**KAMP BO** — Carry-out Chinese food served fast. Mandarin and Szechuan dishes, house specialties and two dozen combination platters. 2220 N. Larch St., Lansing. 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday. (517) 482-3880. TO only, \$.

**THE KUNG FU SZECHUAN CUISINE** — The Szechuan menu ranges from egg rolls and fried rice to stir-fried kidney and deep-fried pork intestine — something for everyone. Weekday lunch buffet and bubble tea available, too. 730 N. Clippert St., Lansing. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-10:30 p.m. Saturday; noon-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 333-9993. TO, D, WIFI, \$

**LAMAI'S THAI KITCHEN** — Famous for its rotating, daily buffet, Lamai's is a Thai restaurant with a cult following. Try Pla Pad Prik Khing, fried catfish in curry breading with lime leaves, for milder tastes. 2033 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. daily. (517) 267-3888. TO, RES, \$\$

Average price per person, not including drinks:  
**\$** Less than \$8 | **\$\$** \$8 to \$14 | **\$\$\$** \$14 to \$20 | **\$\$\$\$** Over \$20

**FB** Full Bar **WB** Wine & Beer **TO** Take Out **OM** Online Menu  
**RES** Reservations **P** Patio **WiFi** Wireless Internet **D** Delivery

## Coney Grill

from page 34

the gourmet hot dog trade by working in a Detroit restaurant for 11 years before heading in-state to join his brother, who owned his own local Coney Island restaurant.

Then, two-and-a-half years ago, Gus opened his own restaurant in the spot where Restaurant Villegas formerly stood.

T&D, though, is more than fancied-up wieners — much more. A quick tally finds over 150 menu options, not including drinks, soups or half-orders. And it's international in scope.

Take a deep breath, because T&D offers stir fry, taco salad, Philly steak, corned beef,

chicken kabobs, wing dings, gyros, pan fried salmon, slim Bettys or slim Jims, chicken quesadillas, olive burgers, French toast, steak and eggs, biscuits and gravy, omelets in Greek-, American-, Mexican-, or Western-style, seven different breakfast skilletts, breakfast sandwiches, waffles, pancakes and much more.

Oh, and there's a half a dozen-item Coney menu, too.

Among the abundant offerings, Marsela is quick to recommend the rice pudding.

"It's my own recipe, Albanian Style," she says. "It's the best rice pudding in town."

### T&D Coney Grill

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 Better Health Market  
 42875 Grand River Ave., Novi  
 RSVP: (248) 735-8100

Thursday, March 22, 2012 1-3 pm  
 Better Health Market  
 305 N. Clippert Ave, Lansing  
 RSVP: (517) 332-6892



Speaker Terry Lemerond is passionate about health and nutrition and has over 40 years of experience. He has helped thousands of people find a way to better health. For more information on Terry, see his website [www.TerryTalksNutrition.com](http://www.TerryTalksNutrition.com)

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