

CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

February 8-14, 2012

Valentine
& Memories
& Gift Guide
see page 15



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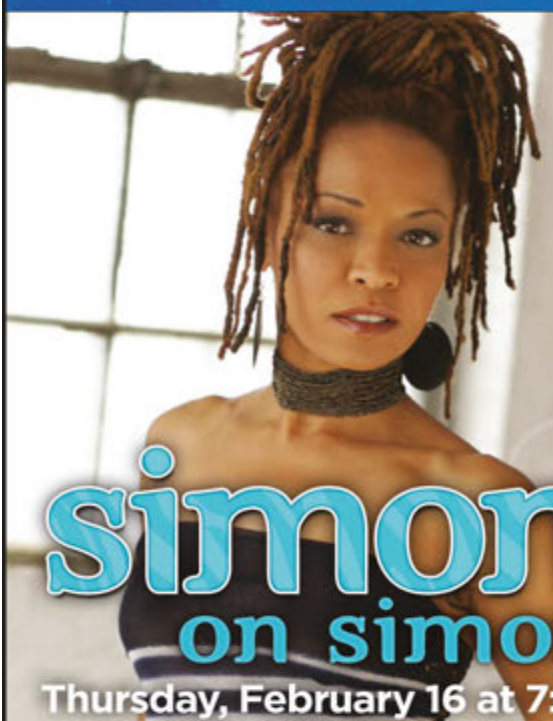
AT SMITH FLORAL
& GREENHOUSES
RED CEDAR CAFE
BONILLA'S SALON & SPA

SEE PAGE 27

**New
in town**
THAT'S WHAT'S
UP APPAREL
see page 29

JUSTIN Bilicki 2012

michigan state university
whartoncenter
for performing arts




A dazzling tribute to musical icon Nina Simone by her daughter Simone, a stunning singer in her own right and star of Broadway's *Aida* and *Rent*, in this night of classics and more.

simone on simone

Thursday, February 16 at 7:30PM


STUDENT TICKETS \$15

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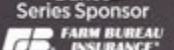
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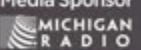
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The Ballet

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MSU's Wharton Center

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Feedback

Willard a winner

I always enjoy reading Tom Tomorrow's intelligent and insightful comic strip and his latest on Michigan's own Willard Romney is another classic. We all know that Romney is a "flip flopping" phony, he shows that on a daily basis. I mean, he'd still be dithering on about where Bin Laden is and what to do. Fortunately our bold and decisive President took care of that while Romney was waffling as usual on the campaign trail.

But Willard's problems are just starting and they are going to get worse. He says he's the "job creator." Really? He gutted thousands of jobs at Bain Capital, and as Massachusetts Governor he was almost at the bottom in job creation. Looks like Willard not only flip flops, he also makes up fairy tales. He reeks of George Bush and we know how disastrous that was.

The Tax Policy Center says his plan would give huge tax cuts to his rich Corporate buddies and raise taxes on the poor and middle class.

That isn't going to fly Willard. Huge majorities want the "one percent" like you to stop dodging and loopholing and pay up. He supports the horrendous "Ryan plan" that would gut Medicaid, make seniors pay thousands more for Medicare, and privatize Social Security. They're really not going to like that Willard. This is one tax dodging "culture" America doesn't need.

— Steve Jarvis
Lansing

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Fax: (517) 371-5800

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Ingham County Housing Commission, on behalf of the Ingham County Land Bank is accepting proposals for the **demolition and disposal** of various properties listed in Bid **Packet# NSP2 11-004-02** available after February 8, 2012 online at www.inghamlandbank.org or at the Ingham County Land Bank NSP2 Office, 600 W. Maple Street, Lansing, Michigan 48906, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. Proposals will be due at the NSP2 office before 11:00 am on February 22, 2012. The Bid Opening will be February 22, 2012 at 11:01 a.m. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE #1177

LANSING CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED AN ORDINANCE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2012, TO AMEND CHAPTER 1610 OF THE LANSING CODIFIED ORDINANCES, "UNIFORM FIRE CODE AND UNIFORM FIRE CODE STANDARDS," BY ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE 2009 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE.

EFFECTIVE DATE: UPON PUBLICATION

NOTICE: THE FULL TEXT OF THIS ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, 9TH FLOOR, CITY HALL, LANSING, MICHIGAN. A COPY OF THE FULL TEXT OF THIS ORDINANCE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CITY CLERK, 9TH FLOOR, CITY HALL, LANSING MICHIGAN AT A FEE DETERMINED BY CITY COUNCIL.

CHRIS SWOPE, LANSING CITY CLERK

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of East Lansing in the Counties of Clinton and Ingham

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF THE BROWNFIELD PLAN #16 FOR THE CITY OF EAST LANSING PURSUANT TO AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACT 381, 1996, AS AMENDED, OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

Please take notice that a Public Hearing shall be held before the Council of the City of East Lansing on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 7:30 pm in Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing, MI 48823 on the adoption of the Brownfield Plan #16 for the City of East Lansing, within which the Authority shall exercise its powers, all pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, being Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as amended.

The brownfield site includes the property at 1525 West Lake Lansing Road (former Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Central). The property consists of land and there is no personal property included. A detailed legal description of the property along with maps and a copy of the Brownfield #16 are available for public inspection in the Department of Planning and Community Development, City of East Lansing, 517-319-6930.

Please note that all aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing, at which all interested persons will be provided an opportunity to be heard and written communication will be received and considered. **The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbott Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, 517-319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.**

Marie McKenna
City Clerk

CityPULSE

Volume 11, Issue 26

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

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Editor & Publisher

Berl Schwartz

7 p.m. Wednesdays

This Week

MSU Board Chairman Joel Ferguson

Lori Black, mother of murder victim
Shayla Johnson

Kyle Melinn



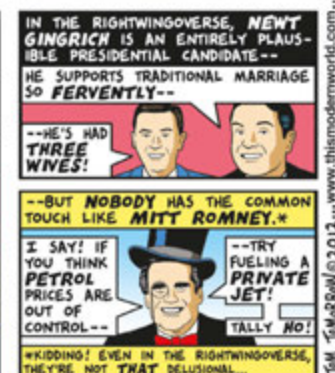
COVER ART



CUPID PERFORMS A MIRACLE by JUSTIN BILICKI

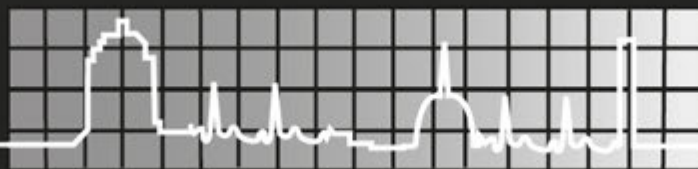
THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE



news & opinion

Recovering from the loss

Coping with the loss of a daughter, Lori Black opens up about the final hours of Shayla Johnson's life and why she thinks the media haven't accurately portrayed her family

"This is pretty much what my life has become," Lori Black says while walking into the dining room of her west Lansing home. She's carrying two stacks of paper. The first is about 3 1/2 inches thick with court hearing notifications. The second stack, of Lansing State Journal newspapers dating back to July 2010, is a little thicker.

The two stacks represent the ongoing struggle for Black as she and her family rebound from the brutal murder of her daughter, Shayla Johnson, 19, who was shot in a car trunk July 23, 2010, and died early the next morning.

For Black, Johnson's 42-year-

old mother, the past year-and-a-half has been a battle of facing the accused in connection to her daughter's death and living with the "huge issue" of her family's portrayal in the media.

"They've just twisted my words. There's not a whole lot on Shayla herself. It's been a huge issue with her portrayal," Black said of the media coverage following her daughter's death. "I immediately turned off to the media."

Particularly, Black fears the popular image is: "Oh, Shayla got killed over drugs so she must be a big dope head and her family is too."

As a 15-year Army veteran, Black said she worked for about seven of those writing for the Pentagon's historical archives and for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "I'm not ignorant to how the media works," she said.

While in the military, she served "three times down range during the Bosnia/Serbia conflict" and also has been stationed in Africa, Egypt, Thailand and Russia. Before that, she moved to Lansing when she was 12 years old and graduated from Holt High School, just like her daughter did.

Charles Lewis Jr., who was 13 at the time, was convicted of first-degree murder last week for his role in Johnson's murder. "I cried immediately," Black said when she heard the verdict. She awaits the 15-year-old's sentencing in April. "I don't want people to think I'm happy this child is going to have to spend the rest of his life in prison. ... I think it's unfortunate that a 13, now 15-year-old, child has to spend the rest of his life in prison and that another mother has to lose her child. I guess that's the forgiveness side that I'm trying to work on. I'm not there yet, but I do feel bad that he's going to lose his life too."

More than a half-dozen other people were initially suspects in the crime. Some have accepted plea bargains, while others' charges were dismissed. Others, including Lewis' own father, await trial in federal court. Lewis was 13 at the time of the shooting but was tried as an adult.

Black said another difficult issue she's faced is being asked: How could Johnson's own mother not know what's going on in relation to the drugs? "Because I'm a single mother trying to support my family. They didn't know anything about us," she said.

There was no marijuana being grown at the Lenore Avenue home where the shooting took place, which is near the Mt. Hope Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard intersection on the south side, Black said. "I'm not going to say my daughter didn't smoke marijuana, but as far as growing, it wasn't happening in our house."

"I know that they were there to take her and hold her to have someone bring them drugs, the drugs they were after. They weren't actually after her drugs. I'm relieved on that."

Black recounts the incident with calmness and clarity. She said she gained a better understanding of what exactly happened during testimony last week. She often thinks that it could have very well been her in the house — not Johnson. "I wish I were there. I would have taken every one of those for her," she said.

In an hour-long interview with City Pulse Monday afternoon,

Eyesore of the week



Property: 1020 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing

Owner: CCPL Real Estate Group

Assessed value: \$286,000

Owner says: Could not be reached for comment

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: It is highly likely that this vacant building is the victim of low visibility. Despite its size, it is easy to miss along the Trowbridge Road corridor. Hidden behind an intense amount of landscaping, the linear building blends in and out of sight, unseen by the hundreds of people who pass through the corridor daily and the thousands on game day. The building's form is highly adaptable to a multitude of uses: Make the entry more visible from the street and refine the landscaping.

Among the diverse cuisine choices near the Trowbridge Plaza in East Lansing stands this shuttered behemoth that once contributed to the Trowbridge area's eclectic food. Between Woody's Oasis and Wendy's is the old Oodles of Noodles/Bamboo Room Chinese restaurant — and before that, the Pretzel Bell, one of the area's most popular restaurants. Peeling green and red paint, trash and dead leaves decorate the nearly 1 1/2-acre lot. Christmas lights still hang from the pillars, but a glimpse inside reveals little more than buffet tables.

Bamboo Room's absence — which is one of the only vacancies around Trowbridge Plaza — isn't exactly devastating for consumers. Nearby you'll find anything from fast food, Korean, Mediterranean, pizza and pasta, Indian and crepes to three specialty food markets and a locally owned grocery store.

— Andy Balaskovitz



Gemma Musial/City Pulse

Lori Black discusses on Monday the aftermath of the 2010 murder of her daughter, Shayla Johnson. She keeps a stack of Lansing State Journal articles on her daughter, along with every court hearing notification she's received since July 2010. Black said she doesn't want Johnson to "be that girl that was murdered in 2010. I want people to know that we're a family that love her and miss her."

See Black, Page 6

"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.

Black

from page 5

Black not only recounted the night of Johnson's shooting, but also Johnson's relationships and dreams of the future; how the family is coping with the loss of her daughter; and her thoughts on the

accused. Johnson's ashes sat in an urn on the dining table.

"Shayla is an awesome person — I still talk about her like she's still here," Black said. "She's the type of person that you love her or hate her, and even if you hate her, you still like her a little bit just because she's sassy. She was a person who spoke her mind."

One of Black's favorite memories of

Johnson is on the day she died. "She sat with me for about an hour and told me how much she loved me, how beautiful I was and what a great person I was. That's a memory I'm always going to be thankful for."

Johnson graduated from Holt High School in 2008. Black said about 500 people attended her funeral. At the time of her death, Johnson was working for Great Lakes Specialty Finance, or a "check and go," for about six to eight months, Black said.

Black said she attempted to have dinner with her two children every night of the week and every Wednesday night was "date night," which involved dinner at World Buffet for all-you-can-eat crab legs.

"That was kind of our big thing," Black said. "I always wanted to spend time with her. She was just fun. I thought of her as my best friend."

Johnson was planning to move to Texas where her best friend from high school lives, Black said. "That was her plan. A week before that could happen she was killed. She was all set to go," Black said. "Her initial plan was to get out of Lansing, move to Texas and get a change in life."

On the night of the shooting, Black said she, her now 18-year-old son Anthony Johnson and his girlfriend were at the westside home where this interview took place packing for a weekend trip to Michigan's Adventure amusement park near Muskegon. Black said she asked Johnson if she wanted to come help, but Johnson declined, saying: "No, Mom, I'm tired. I just want to sleep," Black said.

Black was living at the Lenore Avenue home where the shooting took place, but spent time going back and forth between the westside home, where her boyfriend, Brainard Davis, lives.

"I immediately moved here," after the shooting, she said. Black's teenage son and his girlfriend, Kali Pahl, along with Black and Johnson, were living at the Lenore Avenue home at the time of the shooting.

Now, Black is living in west Lansing with her grandson Brayden Johnson, Davis and two dogs named Daisy and Baby. She's considering a second anniversary party for Johnson, but something more modestly sized than last year's. She fears her son is still having difficulty coping with the incident. Black credits her own spirituality for guiding her through the past year and a half. She has no immediate plans for leaving the city, though she hasn't ruled it out, either.

"I'm actually doing great. I'm not going to say I don't have my moments where I break down and cry. I miss my daughter immensely," she said. "I just try to keep her spirit and memory alive and I feel like that's my job now. I can't sit around and cry and mope about it. I won't be able to get anything done, I won't be any good to anybody."

It was her own fault, she admits, for reading the comments section of the State Journal's website that she says mischaracterize her and her family. Black said she doesn't want Johnson to "be that girl that was murdered in 2010. I want people to know that we're a family that love her and miss her."

That will take some work, she said, which will likely involve the media. As she places her hands on the court documents and news clippings toward the end of our interview, Black said: "We're a long way from this being a finished project."

— Andy Balaskovitz

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Could Hoekstra ad be political genius?

POLITICS



Pete Hoekstra kicked up a political storm with a Super Bowl ad packed with B Movie Chinese stereotypes.

The rice paddies, straw hat, crappy bike, broken English. It's all there with a

corresponding website so offensive I could feel the sadness in my Chinese friend's voice as she reacted to it.

The explosive reaction generated news coverage in India and England. Political bloggers at The New York Times, Washington Post and Politico panned it. Slate tweeted that it's "stupid and blatantly xenophobic to an embarrassing degree." Comedy Central awarded it the "Creepiest Super Bowl ad."

So what was Hoekstra doing?

A few things. First, it took the "China issue" — which Democrats used against Republicans Dick DeVos and Rick Snyder — completely off the table for future use. It started the catchy "Debbie SpenditNow" name play. It galvanized the perception that Hoekstra will be the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate.

More important, it's getting new people to donate to the Hoekstra camp by putting a previously unnoticed Stabenow re-election effort on the national radar.

Its outrageousness was a calculated gamble, a realization from the former congressman from Holland that he needs to play big or go home.

Let's play this out. Let's say Hoekstra runs the non-offensive, bland, "Hi, I'm Pete" ad from his 2010 gubernatorial campaign. Let's say he runs nothing at all, which is about the same thing.

Stabenow is a smart and measured two-term incumbent. She's great with the party line and makes few mistakes. She travels the state and gets in the news.

Her campaign has banked about \$6 million. She's running with President Obama heading the ticket in a traditionally blue state with an improving economy.

Hoekstra is a traditionally poor fundraiser (\$1.5 million in the bank) running in a contested primary against Clark Durant (\$1.2 million) who rubs elbows with deep-pocketed people.

If Hoekstra beats Durant in August, he'll blow his limited cash to do it. That sets him up nicely for a first-class beating against cash-flush Stabenow Nov. 6.

Don't believe this scenario? Ask Mike Bouchard how 2006 treated him. His low-fizzle campaign got bogged down by Keith Butler's nuisance primary. He then got lost amid the Jennifer Granholm-Dick DeVos hoopla and a fearmonger-China campaign. Stabenow smoked him.

Hoekstra only becomes a U.S. senator if he gets air support from the National

Republican Senatorial Committee and conservative, faceless third party PACs who will bombard TVs with bombs similar to the anti-Congressman Mark Schauer ads of the '10 Congressional race ... something that hasn't happened in a Michigan U.S. Senate race since 2000.

Without national help, Hoekstra is toast, even if Michigan-raised Mitt Romney tops the ticket.

Before Super Bowl Sunday, Hoekstra v. Stabenow either bottomed the national pundits' lists for U.S. Senate battleground races or wasn't there at all.

At best, Michigan is "lean Democrat," joining fellow high-dollar media-market states Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Republicans need only a few winners for majority, so Hoekstra must stand out to join the golden circle.

Standing out means raising money. In Michigan, raising money is limited, as he knows. Hoekstra can't suck up to the rich mucky mucks. Durant walks in those circles. The Michigan Tea Party types like the American Family Association's Gary Glenn and a motley crew of characters who've never voted to raise a debt ceiling.

Hoekstra needs small contributions from a large number of people. That means going national early, before Scott Brown in Massachusetts or George Allen in Virginia suck up the oxygen.

Going national means causing a splash. Get people's attention. Get their money.

Now people are paying attention, but who is giving one penny after watching that ad?

Certainly not the independents who will decide the election, but Hoekstra isn't going after them right now. He's got nine months to help them (fingers crossed) forget about this.

He's going after the backlash to the backlash, the social conservative types who watch Lou Dobbs — who praised Hoekstra on Fox News as "doing a terrific job." He's going after those who look past the racism and focus on a candidate who is highlighting the country's uncontrolled spending and America needing China to holds 26 percent of its debt.

These folks may give few bucks now. Hoekstra emails them back in April and gets a few more. He emails again in July and September and October and gets much more.

Tea Party U.S. Senate candidate Sharron Angle used a low-dollar strategy to raise \$14 million in one quarter in Nevada. She lost the race, but not for want of money.

So what was Hoekstra thinking with this ad? Money.

Will the money be worth the negative publicity? It's a gamble Hoekstra is willing to make.

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

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visit the Lansing City Pulse page



PUBLIC NOTICES

B/12/071 Mold Remediation Services 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 **FEB. 16, 2012**, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Late bids will be rejected. Mandatory Walk thru Feb. 9th, 2012 9am: 621 E. Hazel St, Lansing Mi. 48912**

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

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

CITY OF EAST LANSING ELECTION NOTICE

**PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012
FOR
THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING
INGHAM AND CLINTON COUNTIES, MICHIGAN**

To the electors of the City of East Lansing, please take notice that an election will be held in the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, Michigan, on **TUESDAY, February 28, 2012.**

For the purposes of nominating candidates of the Republican and Democratic Parties for the following partisan office:

PRESIDENT

Also to vote on the following proposal:

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY
OF EAST LANSING

GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND
PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN
THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$53,000,000

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of School District of the City of East Lansing, 841 Timberlane Street, Suite A, East Lansing, Michigan 48823, telephone: (517) 333-7420.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

For complete ballot wording, contact the East Lansing City Clerk at 517-319-6914 or log on to the Ingham County Clerk's website at www.ingham.org or Clinton County Clerk's website at www.clinton-county.org.

Polls at said election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m.

LIST OF POLLING LOCATIONS:

- Pct. 1 – Brody Hall, MSU
- Pct. 2 – Peoples Church, 200 West Grand River Avenue
- Pct. 3 – East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road
- Pct. 4 – Capital City Vineyard Church, 1635 Coolidge Road
- Pct. 5 – Shaarey Zedek Congregation, 1924 Coolidge Road
- Pct. 6 – Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road
- Pct. 7 – St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3383 Lake Lansing Road
- Pct. 8 – East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road
- Pct. 9 – Bailey Community Center, 300 Bailey Street
- Pct. 10 – Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road
- Pct. 11 – Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive
- Pct. 12 – All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road
- Pct. 13 – Shaw Hall, MSU
- Pct. 14 – West Akers Hall, MSU
- Pct. 15 – East Wilson Hall, MSU
- Pct. 16 – Wesley Foundation at MSU, 1118 S. Harrison Road
- Pct. 17 – Shaarey Zedek Congregation, 1924 Coolidge Road

All polling places are accessible and voting [instructions](#) are available in alternative formats of audio and Braille.

The East Lansing City Clerk's office will be open Saturday, February 25, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to issue and receive absent voter ballots to qualified electors.

PICTURE IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED TO VOTE – Every Michigan voter who offers to vote in the polls must comply with the requirement by showing picture identification or signing an affidavit attesting that he or she is not in possession of picture identification. (See MCL 168.523)

To see if you are registered, and to find your polling location, check the Secretary of State Voter Information Web site at www.michigan.gov/vote

Marie E. McKenna
East Lansing City Clerk
Election Coordinator for East Lansing School District

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO PUBLIC
AVAILABILITY OF SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO ACTION PLAN (7/1/11-6/30/12) FOR
EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) FUNDING
OF
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION FY 2013 (7/1/12-6/30/13)
CITY OF LANSING

SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO ACTION PLAN, 7/1/2011 – 6/30/12 – ESG –
SECOND ALLOCATION

The City of Lansing is submitting a substantial amendment to its FY 2012 Action Plan (7/1/2011-6/30/2012) for the Emergency Solutions Grant Program. There were two allocations for that time period. The City of Lansing's first allocation of \$97,326 is subject to the Emergency Shelter Grant Program regulation. The City of Lansing's second allocation of \$54,746 must be exclusively used for **homelessness prevention assistance, rapid re-housing, assistance, Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) and administration.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This interim rule, published in the Federal Register on December 5, 2011, revises the regulations for the Emergency Shelter Grants program by establishing the regulations for the Emergency Solutions Grants program, which replaces the Emergency Shelter Grants program. The change in the program's name, from Emergency Shelter Grants to Emergency Solutions Grants, reflects the change in the program's focus from addressing the needs of homeless people in emergency or transitional shelters to assisting people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness.

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), enacted into law on May 20, 2009, consolidates three of the separate homeless assistance programs administered by HUD under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act into a single grant program, and revises the Emergency Shelter Grants program and renames it as the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. The HEARTH Act also codifies into law the Continuum of Care planning process, a longstanding part of HUD's application process to assist homeless persons by providing greater coordination in responding to their needs.

PURPOSE: To provide citizens the opportunity to examine and comment on the City of Lansing's Substantial Amendment to the Action Plan (7/1/11 – 6/30/12) for Emergency Solutions Grant for the Second Allocation of the amounts and spending restrictions on the use of the second allocation of FY 2012 (7/1/11-6/30/12) Emergency Shelter Grants/Emergency Solutions Grants funding (including requirements for established expenditures limits for emergency shelter and street outreach activities and requirements for receiving the second allocation and requirements that apply to the FY 2012 (7/1/12-6/30/13) and future Consolidated planning

A copy of the **Substantial Amendment for ESG to the City of Lansing FY 2012 (7/1/2011 – 6/30/2012) Action Plan** will be available for public review and comment at the City of Lansing Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, 316 N. Capitol, Lansing, MI and department website at: www.lansingmi.gov/pnd/development., and at the Capital Area District Library (Reference Desk, 2nd flr.), 401 S. Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI. The comment period for the **Substantial Amendment for ESG** will commence at **8:00 a.m. on February 9, 2012 and expire at 5:00 p.m. March 9, 2012.**

All written comments submitted by citizens of Lansing will be reviewed and considered. The Substantial Amendment for ESG to the City of Lansing FY 2012 (7/1/2011 – 6/30/2012) Action Plan will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development on or about **March 26, 2012.** A summary of all comments received will be attached to the final document.

For further information regarding this notice, please contact: Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner City of Lansing, Michigan, Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development, 316 North Capitol, Suite D-1, Lansing Michigan 48933-1236. Telephone (517) 483-4063.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION FY2013, 7/1/2012 – 6/30/13
-INCLUDING CHANGES TO ESG

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: LANSING PLANNING BOARD

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING ON FEBRUARY 21, 2012

TIME AND PLACE: **6:30 p.m., Fire Station #1, Community Room, 120 E. Shiawassee, Lansing, MI,**

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2013 (7/1/2012 – 6/30/2013).

PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
FY 2013 (7/1/12 – 6/30/13)

CITY OF LANSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of Lansing's Housing and Community Development Program is the development of a viable community which will provide standard housing in a suitable living environment, principally to benefit low and moderate income persons, preserve and expand existing businesses and industries, and create an atmosphere conducive to stability in neighborhoods. Specific objectives are enumerated as follows:

a. Provide standard housing in a suitable living environment through rehabilitation, new construction and improvement of the housing stock primarily in CDBG eligible neighborhoods and in specifically designated housing target areas.

- b. Provide housing counseling and assistance that will benefit low and moderate-income households.
- c. Promote home ownership for low and moderate-income households.
- d. Maintain at current levels the number of public and assisted housing units available to low and moderate-income households.
- e. Provide assistance to develop housing and supportive human services for people with special needs and who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- f. Provide assistance to rehabilitate housing and deliver supportive human services to low and moderate income households with special needs.
- g. Promote economic opportunity for low and moderate-income individuals by facilitating economic development, providing employment and sponsoring job training, business and educational programs and initiatives.
- h. Promote economic development to provide jobs, business services and shopping opportunities for residents located in CDBG eligible areas.
- i. Provide community services, recreational opportunities and public facilities to improve the quality of life in CDBG eligible neighborhoods.
- j. Increase security and safety in neighborhoods by supporting public safety and crime prevention initiatives, public educational programs and citizens' awareness in CDBG eligible areas.
- k. Improve the city's transportation, public facilities and infrastructure systems in CDBG eligible areas.
- l. Protect and improve the city's physical environment, including preventing or eliminating blight, removing lead or other safety hazards, preserving historic resources, promoting healthy housing and improving energy fitness in housing occupied by low and moderate-income households.
- m. Promote fair housing objectives.

PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS
FY 2013 (7/1/12 – 6/30/13)

CDBG Single-family, Owner-Occupied Rehab Program

Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing units through city sponsored programs, and in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations and other state and federal agencies. Includes funds to meet lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures, funds to assist in emergency rehabilitation, market analysis activities and technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, contractors, low- and moderate-income households. Includes loans and grants for owner-occupied single-family units through city sponsored programs, loans to rehabilitate historic homes in conjunction with rehabilitation of the unit, and loans or grants for ramps or weatherization. Includes staff, office space, technical assistance, training and other direct project costs associated with delivery of Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Shelter Grant and other State and Federal Programs. 20 housing units estimated. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds.	\$1,000,405
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CDBG Rental Rehab Program

Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of rental housing units through city sponsored programs. Includes funds to meet lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures. 7 units estimated.	\$150,000
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Weatherization

Includes financing of an Energy Fitness Program and/or Energy Optimization Program to benefit low and moderate-income households, 60 housing units estimated with current funding. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds.	\$40,000
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Acquisition

Includes acquisition, maintenance and security of properties acquired through programs, and activities related to acquisition, disposition, relocation and clearance of dilapidated structures. Funds may also be used to acquire properties in the flood plain. Also includes staff time associated with this activity. 1 housing unit estimated. Prior year funds may be used.	\$1,000
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Public Improvements

General street, sidewalk, water/sewer improvements, including assistance to income eligible owner-occupants or those in CDBG-eligible areas for special assessments related to new improvements. Includes improvements to neighborhood parks, recreational facilities; public neighborhood, medical and community facilities in CDBG priority areas. Some improvements may be made with prior years' funds.	\$1,000
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Public Services (limited to 15%)

Includes homeownership counseling and education, neighborhood counseling, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes, tool lending programs, employment training, and community safety. Services are for low- and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits.	\$272,000
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Economic Development

Loans, technical assistance and training to low- and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprises within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. (A micro-enterprise is a business with five or fewer employees, including the owner(s).) Estimate 8 people trained and 4 loans issued. Prior year funds may be used.	\$100,000
Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate-income city of Lansing residents. Estimate 3 jobs.	
Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion, referrals for the attraction of new business and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing. Estimate 40 individuals and 4 businesses assisted.	

PUBLIC NOTICES		
CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)		
Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with the delivery of CDBG, HOME and other state and federal programs. Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs. Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the city.		\$255,469
Total F Total FY2013 CDBG:		\$1,819,874
PROPOSED HOME PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS FY 2013 (7/1/12 – 6/30/13)		
HOME Owner Rehab Program		
Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of at least two owner-occupied housing units. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds.		\$75,000
Down Payment Assistance		
Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$15,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance not limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership counseling fees associated with this activity. Estimate 12 housing units. Prior year funds may be used.		\$150,000
New Construction		
Includes funds for loans and grants for construction of 1 affordable housing unit. Additional units to be completed with prior year funds.		\$80,150
HOME Development Program		
HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) activities, and Homeowner Purchase Rehab (HPR). Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. Funds may also be transferred for use in single-family, owner-occupied rehabilitation projects. Also includes staff time associated with these activities. 2 housing unit estimated. Additional units may be completed with prior year funds.		\$105,444
Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating (limited to 5%)		
Funds reserved at option of the city to provide operating funds to CHDO's utilizing HOME funds provided by the city to produce affordable housing in the community.		\$30,000
CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)		
HOME Program set-aside reserved for housing developed, sponsored or owned by CHDOs in partnership with the City. 1 unit estimated. Prior year funds may be used.		\$90,000
HOME General Administration (limited to 10%)		
Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver HOME program.		\$60,000
Total FY2013 HOME:		\$590,594
EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS* GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS (Formerly Emergency Shelter Grant) FY 2013 (7/1/12 – 6/30/13)		
Homeless Assistance		
Funds provided to address homelessness		\$25,858
Homeless Prevention		
Funds provided to prevent homelessness		\$38,786
Administrative Activities (limited to 7.5%)		
Funds provided to offset the cost of administering emergency solutions program.		\$13,103
Shelter Operation/Street Outreach		
Funds provided to shelter providers to cover cost of maintenance, operations, insurance, utilities and furnishings in shelter facilities. Funds provided for street outreach activities		\$96,966
Total FY2013		\$174,713
SUMMARY		
Estimated Thirty-Eighth Year Community Development Resources:		
CDBG Entitlement Grant:		\$1,819,874
HOME Program Funds:		590,594
ESG Program Funds:		174,713
TOTAL:		\$2,585,181
Administrative, management and operation costs for the above programs include the administration, management and operations of the eligible activities, as well as other federal and state community development programs in which the city is now or may be participating.		
*Changes due to the HEARTH Act have resulted in transitioning the program name and activities from Emergency Shelter Grant Program to Emergency Solutions Grant Program.		

Mayor helping mayor

Why Hollister has warmed to a downtown Lansing casino

Former Lansing Mayor David Hollister says a casino makes much more sense for the city now than it did during his administration. But he still stopped short of endorsing it, even though he has agreed to organize the college scholarship program that would result from a casino.

Hollister appeared on City Pulse’s radio show last week to discuss his apparent change of heart since January 2011, when reacting to the pro-casino movement he said at the time: “I don’t think it’s an appropriate economic development strategy. ... Gambling would be a diversion, a sideshow with lots of down-sides as far as addiction and impoverishing people. It overpromises and under-delivers.”

That was consistent, he said, with his position on gaming as a legislator before he was mayor, as mayor and as the director of the state Department of Labor and Economic Growth after he was mayor. He served as mayor from 1994 to 2003.

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Hollister, 69, is senior vice president of Prima Civitas, an economic development foundation in East Lansing.

Hollister said on the radio show that two tribes — one instate and one out-of-state — sought his support as mayor for a Lansing casino, but he didn’t want a casino to be the “centerpiece” of downtown’s revitalization. Instead, he chose to focus on a baseball stadium because it offered family entertainment. The result was what is now known as Cooley Law School Stadium.

“Originally, I was concerned that as mayor if I developed gaming, that would have characterized the city pretty much as I described in my January remarks. The city was pretty much dead — the downtown (had) no nightlife, no vitality, no entertainment district at all.

“We now have an entertainment district, and this gaming operation if the mayor is successful will be part of that, it will not be the defining part of it,” he said. Also, his administration was instrumental in the development of Old Town.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians have proposed building a casino adjacent to the Lansing Center along Cedar Street. The agreement includes an estimated \$5 million to \$6 million a year of revenues for scholarships and another \$1.2 million for public safety.

Hollister is still not sold on a casino for Lansing.

“I still think it overpromises and under-delivers,” he added. “I still think there are negative consequences.”

“But,” he added, “the mayor’s also negotiated some money for expanded police and human service programming for addiction behavior, so I think it’s been pretty thoughtfully put together.” That’s in addition to the scholarship program.

See Hollister, Page 10



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Hollister

from page 9

Hollister's full interview is available by podcast at www.lansingcitypulse.com.

Hollister said that when Bernero approached him to discuss heading the Promise program, like the one heralded in Kalamazoo, he was "pretty reluctant" to get into a discussion.

"But as it evolved," he said, "and he dedicated the funding for the Promise Zone scholarships and knowing what it did for Kalamazoo as far as stabilizing property tax revenues, housing values and increased enrollment in the schools, I concluded that I would stay out of the gaming side of it."

"There's going to be a three-to-five-year process of getting that in place, and I'm not interested in that part of it, which I made clear to the mayor, but if he's successful and there's a revenue stream, I would commit to working" with others to implement the program.

Referring to local residents who travel to casinos in Mount Pleasant, Battle Creek, Windsor and elsewhere, he said Bernero "makes a pretty strong case to keep the money local." He added that he does not frequent casinos himself.

He said that he is glad the proposed casino is "not one of those huge monstrosities we see in other communities." He also pointed to the possibility of the casino's spawning more business for the city-owned Lansing Center, which is running an \$800,000 to \$1 million annual deficit.

Hollister said he will "not be part of any strategy group or legal effort or whatever he needs to do to get it done," referring to Bernero's casino efforts.

He said Bernero has "come a long way, even further than I thought he could" on the road to making the casino happen.

But he cites major obstacles, from the opposition of Gov. Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette as well as substantial legal issues. "It's going to be a tough slug."

He also cited the political risk to Bernero if it fails.

"I wish him well. If he succeeds, I'll be there to help him. If not, he gave it his best shot and I didn't stand in his way."

— Berl Schwartz

On Monday night, the Lansing City Council began its first round of public discussion on the administration's casino proposal. For details on the Comprehensive Development Agreement and some Council members' reaction to the plan, see this week's edition of Kids in the Hall at www.lansingcitypulse.com.

A modest wind

Micro-turbines may soon harness the hot air at City Hall

They come in sets of three cylinders about 3 feet tall and swirl like barber poles or washing machine agitators. They can be stacked or lined up like Legos on roofs, ledges and other high places.

Unlike the towering three-bladed windmills Don Quixote mistook for giants, vertical micro-turbines nestle modestly into urban areas, converting modest winds into modest amounts of energy.

In his State of the City address Jan. 30, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said the city was working with an Indiana manufacturer to put micro-turbines on city buildings as the first in "a series of small-scale green energy technologies" to be piloted here.

The mayor's spokesman, Randy Hannan, said it would be the first municipal installation of micro-turbines in the nation.

"We are working through the scope of the project, cost and site location," Hannan said. The administration hopes to have the turbines in place by summer.

Mark Clevey, consumer education and renewable energy program manager at the state of Michigan's energy office, called it a "smart play."

"We have an asset — roof space," Clevey said. "There's buildings all over Lansing that can handle them. The bottom line is, get 'em up there, on the city's tallest buildings, as high as you can."

There's an ample supply of wind in Lansing, and not just from the state House chambers, City Council and the mayor's office. Micro-turbines, designed to catch winds as low as 4 or 5 miles per hour, are a way for cities to fish for energy right off the side of the boat.

"You can't put a nuclear generator or an oil refinery on top of City Hall," Clevey said. "You can't drill a hole in City Hall and take oil or uranium out. But you can put up solar panels and wind turbines."

Windstream approached the city about a year ago, attracted by the Board of Water and Light's renewable energy initiatives, which Clevey called "among the best in the state." A pitch from Windstream CEO Dan Bates impressed Bernero and his staff.

At about \$1,200 to \$1,500 for each three-turbine unit, micro-turbines are cheaper than Quixote's giants, and not just because they're micro. "It's a much simpler device," Clevey said. "The stress on them from wind buffeting and vibration is much lower."

Installation is also cheap. "You don't have to dig a hole and put up a tower," Clevey said.

The city plans to use part of its \$1.2 million Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, or EECBG, from the federal government, to pay for the turbines.

Compared to the horizon-spanning wind

farms going up across the country, micro-turbines are the energy equivalent of a backyard chicken pen, but the industry is growing fast. According to Pike Research, the global small wind market will billow from \$203 million in revenue in 2009 to \$412 million in 2013. There are over a dozen micro-turbine manufacturers in the United States, using a variety of designs.

Most windy spaces are in the middle of nowhere, and it's costly to move energy from rural wind farms to cities.

"The Holy Grail for renewable energy is to figure out how to bring it to places where people are," Clevey said.

"The reason people are looking at urban wind is because the cost of putting the system up is much lower."

Until last month, WindStream, founded in 2008, ran its micro-turbines in small pilot programs that generated more promotion than production. In November 2011, 30 WindStream turbines started twirling under the west scoreboard at the Buffalo Bills' windy Ralph Wilson Stadium. The American Embassy in Finland also sports a set.

But in the past two years, WindStream tapped into an emerging market in rural, off-grid corners of the world where a little free power can make a big difference. WindStream's first big contract was with a Brazilian distributor, for 10,000 units, and it's sealing a deal with Ghana for 30,000 more. Mexico is the newest big client.

On Jan. 26, WindStream micro-turbines, under the trade name of TurboMill, went into large-scale production mode, rolling off the assembly line at a factory in North Vernon in southeast Indiana.

The most conspicuous micro-turbines in Michigan are about 10 times larger than the ones proposed for Lansing. On Earth Day 2010, six 30-foot-tall Windspire vertical units, made in Manistee, Mich., were installed at the Rogell Drive entrance to Detroit Metropolitan Airport and a parking lot on Eureka Road.

Airport communications director Michael Conway called it a "demonstration project" that is generating "some" energy. The turbines help power parking lot lights and an illuminated sign.

"Will it pay for itself in the next few years? Probably not," Conway said.

WindStream's Bates claims a three-year return on investment for his TurboMills, but Clevey said the numbers are bound to be "site specific."

"It's not like building a natural gas plant," Clevey said. "Location is key. You're not going to get nice clean wind speeds in the city."

Clevey recommended that the city do careful wind mapping, from a "credible" source, before it selects the sites. Hannan said the studies will soon be under way.

Clevey is working on a lot of renewable energy products throughout the state, including a bio-generator at the Detroit Zoo that will run on camel dung and food scraps, and he said they all come down to the same cost-benefit analysis.

"It's not rocket science," Clevey said. "We brought in an engineer, they are taking samples of the poop, looking at the energy content and volume of the poop. Once we have that, and we know how long it takes to convert the poop into energy, we run the numbers."

Hannan said the city will work with the Lansing Board of Water & Light to see how the turbines perform and evaluate their potential to beef up the city's renewable energy portfolio in the long term. Private partners, including downtown businesses, may also be brought into the Lansing deal.

Clevey finds Lansing is "in an ideal



Courtesy of Wayne County Airport Authority/Vito Palmisano

Six 30-foot Windspire turbines were installed at Detroit Metropolitan Airport on April 22, 2010, as part of a pilot program. Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero wants to put vertical turbines about 10 times smaller on top of Lansing buildings.

position to do more green energy," in part because BWL is owned by the city.

"A community that has a municipal utility has control over its energy future," Clevey said. "Wyandotte is putting up wind farms around the city. It can be done, and it's a lot easier if you have a municipal utility, you have the legal authority."

Clevey and Hannan both expressed the hope that "early adopter" initiatives like Lansing's micro-turbines will help spark a new round of interest and investment in renewable energy in the business and residential sectors. They might not be giants, but the twirling turbines downtown will send a message that Lansing is hip to renewable energy, even if the return on investment proves to be marginal.

"They're going to look cool, you're going to see them moving," Clevey said.

"We like the idea of being a laboratory for new and promising ideas," Hannan said. "We want to be leaders in this field, and visibility is a key part of it."

— Lawrence Cosentino

Arts & Culture

art • books • film • music • theater

Keeper of the flame

Simone — daughter of the legendary Nina Simone — honors her mother's musical legacy

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The magnificent jazz, pop and soul singer Nina Simone pumped so much blood and skill into a song that all other versions shriveled to pale little peas in your mind, even if the original artist was Bob Dylan or The Beatles.

Think what it felt like to Nina Simone's daughter.

The powerful singer and Broadway star, who simply calls herself Simone, visits the Wharton Center next week for "Simone on Simone," a program devoted to her mother's music.

"I thought my mother had written every single song she ever sang," Simone said, in a phone interview. "Of course she wrote 'Just Like a Woman!'"

People with no filial relation felt the same way. Nina Simone recast the Dylan song as a fragile ballad, dusted with harp and strings, suspended over a gritty gospel groove. She sealed the steal by changing Dylan's third-person "she" to "I" in the last verse.

While the rest of us marveled at Nina Simone's ability to take charge of a song, her daughter took it for granted. "I heard her sing 'Here Comes the Sun' first, and then when I heard the Beatles do it, I was like, 'Ewww,'" Simone said, laughing.

Simone the younger, born Lisa Celeste Stroud in 1962, is ripe for a reckoning with her mother's mighty legacy. She's already conquered Broadway, having laid down a definitive Mimi in the 1996-98 national tour of "Rent" and nailed the title role of Disney's "Aida" in 2002-2003, among other star turns on the boards.

Now she's applying her powerful pipes to a touring show of free-wheeling jazz quartet arrangements based on her big-band CD, "Simone on Simone."

There was no agonizing over whether to



Courtesy photo

"I thought my mother had written every single song she ever sang," Simone said of Nina Simone. "Of course she wrote 'Just Like a Woman!'"

do "Simone on Simone."

"I knew I was going to do this sooner or later," she said. "When I was culling the songs, it was a very simple, fast process. I've been living with these songs all my life. It's just a matter of which ones I want to do first."

But Simone's polished, ebullient performances of her mother's songs belie the grief she felt while working on the project.

"When I got in the studio, I realized that a lot of the songs I chose to put on the CD, I'd never performed alone," she said. "I always sang along with my Mom."

Nina Simone died in 2003.

"I can't just call her on the phone anymore," Simone said. "I'm it."

More than anyone, Simone knew how her mother could give a song a transfusion of soul and authenticity, turning a song as cheesy as "Feelings" into a raw suicide note.

"Feeling Good," a highlight of the

younger Simone's CD and live shows, is a case in point. Anthony Newley and Leslie Bricuss wrote the song for a 1965 Broadway show called "The Roar of the Greasepaint — The Smell of the Crowd," but who remembers that now?

"Mommy took it and turned it into what is now a standard," Simone said. Poor Anthony Newley. The Wikipedia entry on "Feeling Good" goes straight to bullet-point 1: "Nina Simone version," followed by bullet-point 2, "samples" of same.

"From Michael Bublé to Oleta Adams, Jennifer Hudson and on and on, everybody does the song, and when they do it, they do it Mommy's way," Simone said.

(By the way, Nina Simone also recast Frank Sinatra's chest-thumper "My Way" with swaying hips and rocking congas, and ran off with that one as well.)

Simone the younger is on firmest ground exuding the upbeat confidence of "Feeling Good," but steers away from the politically charged songs her mother wrote, including "Mississippi Goddam," a searing response to the murder of Medgar Evers in Mississippi and the 1963 bombing of a black church in Birmingham, Ala.

"I'm not singing protest songs," Simone said. "I'm not singing about politics — at least, not right now I'm not. But my views about the social and political environment in which we're living very much mirror my mother's."

For now, the lyrics of "Feeling Good" — "this old world is a new world and a bold world for me" — suit her well. The "Simone on Simone" CD and tour have sparked a surge of creativity, helped along by a deep immersion in yoga. She's working on a new CD of original songs, to be released in 2012.

"When I imagine myself, it's like a kid," she said. "I literally imagine myself standing on the world, and the world has sunglasses on — not the people, the planet."

She recently uncorked one of the new songs, "All is Well," at a New Mexico gig, and liked the audience's reaction.

"They were singing it back to me," she said. "I got a glimpse into some of the joy that I will be able to bring to the world in due time, to add to the legacy my mother has already begun."

Simone

7:30 p.m. Thursday,
Feb. 16
Wharton Center's
Pasant Theatre
\$15-38
(800) WHARTON
www.whartoncenter.com



Courtesy photo

After helping out in the community, ePIFany participants gather to share their stories.

Forward thinking

At ePIFany Now events, kindness is contagious

By ALYSSA FIRTH

What would you do if a stranger gave you \$50?

"I would probably laugh," Bob Hoffman said.

Yet giving away \$50 to a stranger is exactly the random act of kindness that Hoffman, public relations manager for Michigan State University's Wharton Center, promotes at his "ePIFany Now" events.



Bob Hoffman

The "PIF" in "ePIFany Now" stands for "pass it forward," and the idea came to Hoffman, 42, in the form of an epiphany back in 2009.

After being cut off in traffic one day, Hoffman said he got angry with the other driver for not paying attention to him.

"I thought, 'Wait a minute, I'm not paying attention to anything else around me,'" he said.

Hoffman said he began thinking about the way people end up stressing out over their busy lives and end up only thinking about themselves.

"We're so isolated with everything going

ePIFany Now

Michigan State University
Federal Credit Union
3777 West Road,
East Lansing
2-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12
Free
www.epifanynow.org



Courtesy photo

Nina Simone was known for her deep, distinctive voice and her civil-rights activism.



Courtesy photo

Teens exercise their right to free speech in Michigan State University's workshop production of "Pump Up the Volume," a musical based on the Christian Slater movie.

Making waves in the airwaves

A cult movie from 1990 becomes a stage musical

By CHRISTOPHER HORB

Area audiences will have the chance to see something new — and yet perhaps familiar — when the Michigan State University Department of Theatre offers free performances of the semi-staged workshop of "Pump Up The Volume," a musical adaptation of the 1990 Christian Slater film.

According to director David Solomon, a guest artist in residence, the show serves

'Pump Up the Volume'

Michigan State University
Arena Theatre
7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10 and
Saturday, Feb. 11; 2 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 12
Free
(517) 355-6690

as both a chance for students to work on a new play under development and for audiences to inject feedback to help the musical's creative team fine-tune the show before a full production is launched.

"These students are used to doing established works, previously produced shows,"

Solomon said. "I wanted them to feel like they were a part of creating this show."

Although the show is fully memorized and choreographed, the design elements — from lighting to costumes to orchestration — are very limited.

"We're making adjustments, tweaking lines; I'm just trying to see what works and what doesn't, said Solomon, who has worked on such Broadway shows as "9 to 5," "Pal Joey" and "Sunday in the Park with George."

Adapted from Allan Moyle's original screenplay, "Volume" tells of a lonely Arizona teen who starts a pirate radio station using the persona of irreverent DJ Hard Harry. His broadcasts inadvertently start something of a revolution among the disaffected youths at his high school.

"It was a very good movie, and it's such a relevant story," Solomon said. "No matter what generation you're a part of, there's something about being a teenager when you realize you have something to say and no one to say it to."

The cast includes Nick Strong, Brandon Piper, Claudia Dibbs, Trish Amanda Hubbard, Hajin Cho, Nicholas Dressel, Dana Brazil, Brittany Ann Nicol, Christopher Robinson, Adia Alli, Michael Ryan Cleland, Teriah Fleming, Neva Keuroglian, Andrea Miller, Eric Miller, Nick Reid and Joshua Whitson.

A talkback session with the cast, writers and director will follow each performance.

Classical soirees

Absolute Music series brings chamber music to Old Town gallery

By ALYSSA FIRTH

Jazz and blues have been a staple in Old Town for some time now with the annual Lansing JazzFest, but one gallery is bringing classical music into the mix.

Since 2009, Absolute Gallery has offered the Absolute Music Chamber Series. Described as a "European soiree," each concert includes music, art, refreshments and a Q&A session with the musicians.

"I just had this notion that bringing classical music to the greater Lansing area would be nice, to get it out of the academic setting," said Richard Sherman, co-founder of the event and Flute Professor at Michigan State University.

Sherman suggested the idea of a concert series to friend and Absolute Gallery owner Kathy Holcomb years ago.

"What I like about it is I'm able to come up with eclectic programs that I'd like to hear and get younger people involved for a great date night," Sherman said.

Sherman, along with cellist Robert deMaine and

'Icarus Trio on Fire'

Absolute Gallery
307 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
Doors 7 p.m., concert 8 p.m.
\$15, students \$5
Tickets available at Arts Council
of Greater Lansing or Absolute
Gallery
www.absolutemusiclansing.org

pianist James Wilhelmsen make up the Icarus Trio, which presents "Icarus Trio on Fire" this Friday. Wilhelmsen is the owner and

director of the Clarkston Conservatory of Music, and deMaine is principal cellist of



Courtesy photo

Michigan State University Flute Professor Richard Sherman co-founded the Absolute Music Chamber Series with Absolute Gallery owner Kathy Holcomb two years ago; Sherman is also part of the Icarus Trio, which performs Friday.

the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

"We have a lot of energy and we sort of aspire for the highest heights of energy and play level," Sherman said.

The last concert for the season, "Saxophone Al Fresco!" will be March 30, featuring a quartet of graduate students from MSU. Not only does Sherman hope that the concert series brings classical to Lansing, he wants it to put Lansing on the map for the arts.

"I want us to be as well known for the arts as Detroit and Grand Rapids, and I think it's working," Sherman said.

ePIFany

from page 11

on in our life. Millions of other people have other stuff going on. We have to step out of that and treat each other nicely."

After some brainstorming, he came up with the first "ePIFany Now" event. At each event, a list of 100 random acts of kindness is given out to guests. Guests form into groups and go off to perform these acts. Some tasks include paying for someone's groceries, paying for someone's gas, doing yard work for a stranger, or the groups can come up with their own ideas.

After a few hours, guests come back to share their stories.

The first event was advertised by e-mail to Hoffman's friends only, but more than 250 people showed up for the East Lansing party. Since 2009, "ePIFany Now" has expanded to Grand Rapids, St. Johns and Naperville, Ill., with 11 events throughout

the four cities.

Other Pay It Forward programs exist throughout the country, but Hoffman said what makes this group different is people coming back to share their experiences.

"When people show up, many people come and say, 'I don't why I'm here, but I feel like I should be,'" he said. "They have the epiphany (that) they can do this right now."

The acts of kindness have inspired others outside of the group. When one group offered to buy gas for a man who owned a Mercedes, the man declined the offer and bought gas for the other three cars at the gas station instead.

Steve Hartman of CBS' "On the Road" contacted Hoffman and said he was interested in coming to East Lansing for the ePIFany Now party on Sunday. It hasn't been verified that a CBS crew will show up, but Hoffman said it doesn't matter.

"What matters is that we're getting people together to make a difference in other people's lives," he said.

'The Screening Room' will return next week

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The art of love

Gallery 1212 presents work by 'the matriarch and patriarch of the art renaissance in Old Town,' Clif and Jane McChesney

By CITY PULSE STAFF

"Art must be an expression of love, or it is nothing." — Marc Chagall

In August 1966, Michigan State University Art Professor Clifton "Clif" McChesney went to Kyoto on a yearlong sabbatical with his two sons and his wife, Jane, a fashion illustrator and fellow artist. While the children attended an international primary school, Jane McChesney taught art and Clif McChesney painted every day in a home studio. Over the course of the sabbatical, the family took time to tour Japan and revel in the country's natural beauty.

"Everywhere we went we brought our sketchbooks and supplies," says Jane McChesney, in a press release (she was unavailable for an interview, due to a recent illness). "There are over 2,000 temples in Kyoto alone, and we visited many, inspiring a multitude of work — sketches, poems, and watercolors. It was a year of such production in art for both of us."

At the end of the year, all of this work was shipped back to U.S. in boxes, only to sit, forgotten, for more than 40 years.

Clif McChesney died last March at 82 before any of this work could be enjoyed or, in some cases, completed. However, an inventory of his work last fall at last revealed these long-hidden treasures; this month, Gallery 1212 in Old Town is showing these never-before-seen works in an exhibit entitled (appropriately, for Valentine's Day) "A Love Story." The show includes a very

special collaborative work from the McChesneys.

"Before Clif passed away, he left one of his pieces ('Whispers') unfinished, with a note for Jane to finish it," says Gallery 1212 co-owner Donna Randall. "She told me at first that she didn't think she could bring herself to touch it, but fortunately she did. The result is absolutely amazing, and I'm very excited for the public to see this piece."

In the 1960s, Jane McChesney did freelance fashion illustration work for Fairchild



Courtesy photo



Artists Clif and Jane McChesney (seen in a City Pulse file photo from 2003) were married for almost 60 years. Above, one of Clif McChesney's paintings that is featured in "A Love Story: Recently Uncovered Works by Jane and Clif McChesney," which continues through Feb. 29 at Gallery 1212 in Old Town.

Publishing in New York, publishers of Women's Wear Daily and W. She also taught for a year in New York at the Traphagen School of Fashion.

Meanwhile, Clif McChesney earned his master of fine arts degree at Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills before

arriving at the MSU Art Department, where he taught from 1960 until his retirement in 1991. His work has been displayed at the Detroit Institute of Arts and the University of Michigan Art Museum, as well as in corporate and private collections internationally. During his tenure, he was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award, and one of his more famous local pieces, "MOBY II," still hangs in the lobby of the Wharton Center.

"Clif and his colleagues helped to transform MSU's Art Department into a leading institution in the study of art," Randall says. "His travels with Jane provided both of them with adventure and intrigue, and inspired them as artists and citizens of the world."

"A Love Story" features works from both McChesneys in a variety of mediums. Jane McChesney's realistic work stems from her world of fashion illustration — which she taught at Lansing Community College from 1976 to 1994 — contrasting with Clif McChesney's more abstract technique.

"Clif had a lyrical, expressionistic style that was quite poetic," says LCC Art Professor Brian Bishop. "He had a wonderful, artistic soul."

Bishop attended graduate school under Clif McChesney and got to know both McChesneys personally through years of home-cooked meals, conversations and parties at the couple's house in Williamston.

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DIRECTED BY DAVID WOLBER

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600 Curtis St., Mason, MI 48854.
www.ingham.org/ac/home.htm

Tiny Tim

Tiny Tim's owner, who rescued him from a ditch as a small kitten, passed away in October so he's looking for a new forever family.



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Hazelnut

Hazelnut is a quiet girl who doesn't need a lot of play time, just a home with a nice window to sleep in.



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Pinky is an eager to please pitbull pauppy who is looking for a family who appreciates a girl who has "bull in the china shop" tendencies!



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Zena is often overlooked because she looks like every other black cat, but she has a great personality!



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Nolan

Nolan is a young pitbull who has been waiting a long time for his home. He recently earned his Canine Good Citizenship certificate.



Happy Birthday Jimmy Guerre

Kirk

Kirk (and his brother Cousins!) are two lab mix puppies that are ready to go to their forever homes.



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Valentine's Gift Guide

for him & her

by Adam Ilenich, Allison Berryman & Genna Musial

Remember back in grade school when Valentine's Day was as simple as exchanging handmade cards and boxes of candy hearts? Somewhere between adolescence and adulthood, the simple romantic spirit of the holiday turned complicated and expensive. Too often, the challenge of finding the perfect Valentine's Day gift can overshadow the love and appreciation you are trying to express to the person you are buying for. Suddenly, it becomes just another Hallmark Holiday. How do you decide which gift says "I love you" the best? Be creative. Think of a gift your love would enjoy receiving, but would not normally think to purchase for himself or herself.

Still stumped? Take a look at this list of ideas that are sure to make your valentine feel appreciated, whether you have been together for over 30 years or less than 30 days.

For her:

RING BOXES

from Leon G. Jewelers

Ring boxes from Leon G. Jewelers, located within Kositchek's, keep jewelry secure. They are available in several unique styles, including a clownfish mouth, stiletto shoebox and cupcake. Prices range from \$40-\$50.



Leon G Jewelers, located within Kositchek's | 113 N. Washington Square, Lansing | (517) 482-1171
9 a.m.–6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Sat.; closed Sun.

DIFFUSERS & CANDLES

from My Sista's Boutique

Create a romantic atmosphere with candles and diffusers from My Sista's boutique in downtown Lansing. These sweet-smelling candles, made with hand-poured soy, are available in two sizes: 8 oz. (\$8) and 20 oz. (\$20); the Red Hot Cinnamon diffuser is priced at \$17.



My Sista's (Style by Design) | 113 S. Washington Square, Lansing | (517) 367-7088
11 a.m.–7 p.m. Tues.–Sat.; Sun. and Mon. by appointment only

ACCESSORIES

from Polka Dots

Surprise your valentine with a trip to Polka Dots Bead-a-Full Boutique in Old Town, where she can select beads to make anything from earrings to decorated letter openers. Or plan a Girls' Night Out by scheduling a party; each guest must spend a minimum of \$20, and prices vary by the item and beads used.



Polka Dots Bead-A-Full Boutique | 1207 Turner St., Lansing | (517) 267-1479
11 a.m.–7 p.m. Tues.–Fri.; 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Sat.; noon–4 p.m. Sun.

For him:

HATS

from Double Up

A baseball cap from Double Up might be what your guy needs to update his wardrobe. There are dozens to choose from, with the logos of all the major teams.



Double Up | 611 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing | (517) 324.5555
Noon-7 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; noon-9 p.m. Fri. & Sat.; noon-6 p.m. Sun.

WOODEN BOWLS

from Saper Gallery

An unexpected gift to give on Valentine's Day might be these Cocobolo wood trays made in Costa Rica and available from Saper Gallery. They can be used to hold your man's shaving items, cologne, mail or maybe even his car keys — use your imagination.



Saper Gallery | 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing | (517) 351-0815
10 a.m.–6 p.m. Mon.-Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10 a.m.–9 p.m. Thurs.; 1–4 p.m. First Sundays

TENNIS RACQUETS

from Dunham's

Tennis has always been considered a sport for romantics. Getting yourself — and your partner — tennis racquets might be a way to start an invigorating new hobby once the weather warms up.



Dunham's Sports | 3301 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing | (517) 337-3827
9 a.m.–9 p.m. Mon.-Sat.; 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Sun.
Second location at: 5184 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing | (517) 321-2435
10 a.m.–9 p.m. Mon.-Sat.; noon-6 p.m. Sun.

More gifts for her on page 16
and more gifts for him on page 17

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GIFT BASKET

from Katalyst Art Gallery

Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique in Old Town has put together several Valentine's Day-themed gift baskets. If you don't find the gift basket you like, Katalyst lets you chose your own items.



Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique | 1214 Turner St., Lansing | (517) 708-8916
10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday

VINTAGE RECORDS

from Lambs' Gate Antiques

Vintage records from Lambs' Gate Antiques, located in Old Town, make an inexpensive gift idea for Valentine's Day.



Lambs' Gate Antiques | 1219 Turner St., Lansing | (517) 999-2617
11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tues.-Sat.

BE MY LOVE BOUQUET

from Smith Floral

Smith Floral and Greenhouse of Lansing has several Valentine's Day arrangements, including the Be My Love bouquet. Made up of red roses, carnations, Asiatic lilies and chrysanthemums, this bouquet is available for \$47.95, or as a deluxe arrangement for \$57.95.

Smith Floral and Greenhouse | 1124 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing | (517) 484-5327
8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat.



60-MIN MASSAGE

from Renewed Spirit

Renewed Spirit of Okemos offers a Valentine's package that includes a 60-minute full-body massage and her choice of a 30-minute facial or haircut for \$95. Complimentary champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries are included; couples massages are also available.

Renewed Spirit | 2110 Hamilton Road, Okemos | (517) 580-4734
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CHAMPAGNE FLUTES

from Mackerel Sky

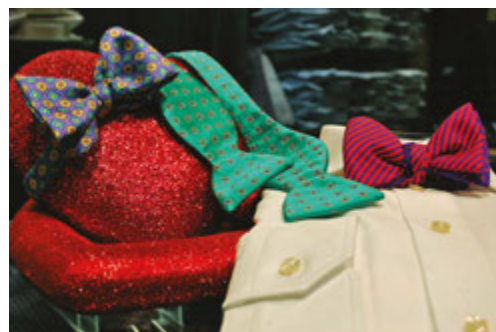
Serve your valentine champagne in flutes from Mackerel Sky in East Lansing. The Iridescent Blue Champagne flutes by Rosetree Glass Studio (\$60) are made of clear glass with blue, green and purple iridescent stems.



Mackerel Sky | 211 M.A.C Ave., East Lansing | (517) 351-2211
10 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thurs. & Fri.; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat.; noon-5 p.m. Sun.

For her: (continued from page 15)

For him: (continued from page 15)



Kositchek's | 113 N. Washington Square, Lansing | (517) 482-1171
9 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.; closed Sun.

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from Kositchek's

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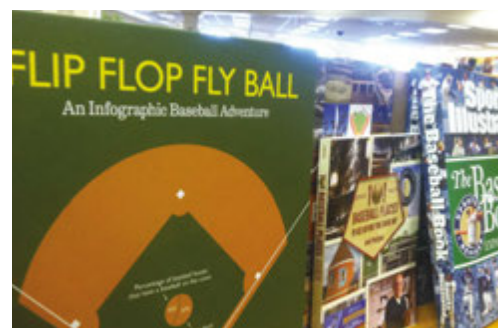


Steam Railroad Institute | 405 S. Washington St., Owosso | (989) 725-9464

VALENTINE'S EXCURSION

from Steam Railroad Institute

This train ride for two (available to 21 and up only) leaves from Owosso's Steam Railroad Institute at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, and drops you off at the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt. Pleasant. A \$20 voucher for the casino and a \$5 voucher for food are included. A first-class ticket includes champagne on the way back.



Meridian Mall, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos | (517) 349-8840
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Second location at: 2820 Towne Center Blvd., Lansing | (517) 316-7495
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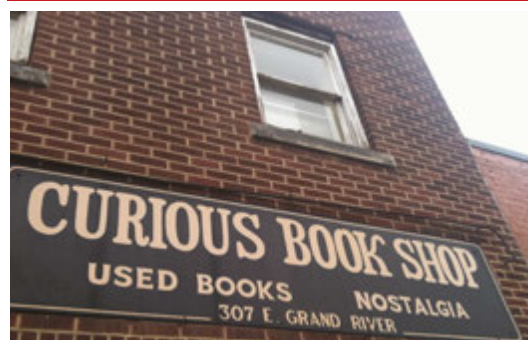


Massage & Wellness | 201 E. Grand River Ave. #19, East Lansing | (517) 203-1113
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from Massage & Wellness

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Curious Book Shop | 307 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing | (517) 332-0112
10 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Sat.; noon-5 p.m. Sun.

BOOK SPECIALS

from Curious Book Shop

For those long-out-of-print gems you can't find anywhere else, visit the Curious Book Shop in East Lansing. On Valentine's Day, the store is taking 14 percent off the prices of all used hardback books, paperback books, magazines and comics.



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Coyote Wisdom | 2432 N. Grand River Ave. | 517.323.1707

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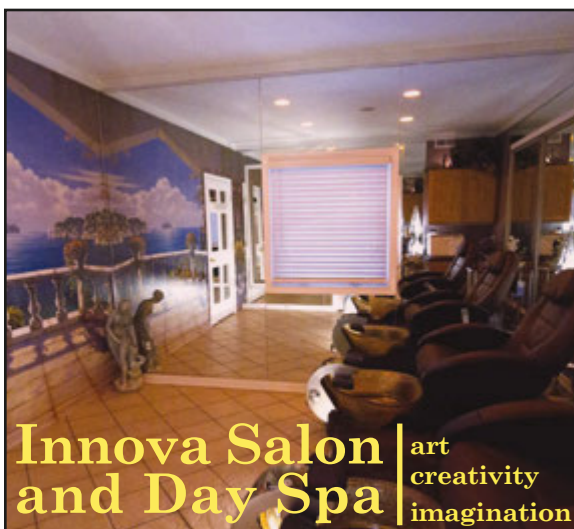
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Valentine's Events

Thursday, February 9

Laugh Special. Get two admissions, four beverages to share, see comedian Fred Potter. 7 p.m. \$49 for special, \$8 single entry. Connxtions Comedy Club, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 374-HAHA.

"My First Time." Reading of a show based on a website that allowed people to share their stories about their first sexual experiences. 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$8 students. Pasant Theatre, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

"Romantic Fools." From a date with a caveman to the joys of dull sex, two actors play out 12 scenes showing the faces of love. 7 p.m. \$18, \$16 senior, \$10 student. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane (in Frandor), Lansing. www.stormfieldtheatre.org.



Courtesy Photo

Lisa Sodman and Roger Ortman play multiple roles in a dozen vaudeville-style comic scenarios depicting various kinds of love in Stormfield Theatre's "Romantic Fools," directed by Rob Roznowski.

Friday, February 10

Laugh Special. Get two admissions, four beverages to share, see comedian Kevin Bozeman. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$49 for special, \$12 single entry. Connxtions Comedy Club, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 374-HAHA.

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change." Musical vignettes celebrate the mating game, revealing the truths and myths behind the conundrum known as "the relationship." 8 p.m. \$10, \$5 seniors and students. LCC Black Box Theatre, Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488.

"Romantic Fools." (See Thursday, Feb. 9) 8 p.m. \$24, \$22 senior, \$10 student. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane (in Frandor), Lansing. www.stormfieldtheatre.org.

Saturday, February 11

"My First Time." (See Thursday, Feb. 9) 8 p.m. \$10, \$8 students. Pasant Theatre, Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

Laugh Special. (See Friday, Feb. 10) 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$49 for special, \$15 single entry. Connxtions Comedy Club, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 374-HAHA.

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change." (See Friday, Feb. 10) 8 p.m. \$10, \$5 seniors and students. LCC Black Box Theatre, Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488.

"Romantic Fools." (See Thursday, Feb. 9) 8 p.m. \$24, \$22 senior, \$10 student. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. www.stormfieldtheatre.org.

Valentine Cards. Create a Valentine for that special someone. Supplies provided. 1:30 p.m. FREE. Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

Sunday, February 12

Burning Desires. An afternoon of love poetry (erotic and otherwise) that brings together poets and performance artists. "Emcee d'amour" Samuel Mills hosts puppeteer Fred Engelgau and poets Etta Abrahams, Kate Butler, Elaine Earl, Carol Jo Kanners, Robert Rentschler, Ruelaine Stokes, Leonora Smith and more. Doors open at noon, readings being at 1 p.m. Free, although donations are encouraged. MICA Gallery, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 371-4600.

The Un-Valentine's Show. Songs and tales of forgiveness (or lack of it), heartbreak, dysfunction and revenge. Performers include John Latini, Dave Boutette and Jamie-Sue Seal. 7 p.m. \$15, \$18 at door. The Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 651-5487.

Lansing Symphony Big Band. A Valentine's Day concert featuring Ryan DeHues and jazz musicians. 3 p.m. \$15, \$5 students. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. www.lansingsymphony.org.

Psychic Fair. Maria Shaw Lawson will give a "Love Forecast Lecture," offering readings for couples and individuals. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Prices vary. Hampton Inn West, 525 N. Canal Road, Lansing. (810) 631-6887.

"Romantic Fools." (See Thursday, Feb. 9) 2 p.m. \$20, \$18 senior, \$10 student. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane (in Frandor), Lansing. www.stormfieldtheatre.org.

Valentine Crafting. Make a valentine for that special someone. All materials provided. 1 p.m. FREE. Haslett Library, 5670 School St., Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

Tuesday, February 14

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change." (See Friday, Feb. 10) 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$5 seniors & students. LCC Black Box Theatre, Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488.

Powering the Future. Show some love for the planet. Learn to reduce greenhouse gasses, replace high carbon energy sources with lower carbon sources while moving the university towards renewable resources. 12:10-12:50 p.m. FREE. MSU Main Library N. Conference Room, W449, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.lib.msu.edu.

Ulf Hoelscher. Violinist, performing classic-romantic-modernist music by Mozart, Max Bruch and more. 7:30 p.m. \$6-8. Michigan State University Music Building, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

Drop-in Valentine Crafting. Celebrate Valentine's Day with a craft project. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. FREE. Williamston Library, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191.

Valentine Cards. Stop in and make a craft to take home. 3 p.m. FREE. Dansville Library, 1379 E Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511. Also at Leslie Library, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

Need more of our *Valentine's Gift Guide*? Visit lansingcitypulse.com

Valentine's Memories

In fourth grade I was infatuated with a little girl who had straight brown hair parted in the middle. That girl is responsible for my lifetime obsession with the Land-O-Lakes maiden in the fringed buckskin: My mother never figured out why I blushed whenever she asked me to put the butter away.

On a sunny afternoon in mid-March, with snow melting all around, I biked past my little inamorata's house, giving the usual sideways-eye when she appeared at the gate and beckoned me into the backyard. I had never been in her backyard, or even dared imagine what the dirt in her backyard was like.

"Let's play," she said. I was still wearing my white school shirt, with a sharp No. 2 pencil in the pocket. All I could think of to do to impress her was to stand in the middle of the yard, throw the pencil as far into the air as I could and catch it just before it impaled my face. I was really shocked at how fast she tired of this.

Her mother took one look at me and ordered me away. I biked numbly to the corner drugstore. You recall that it was mid-March. By now, the Valentine's Day candy was 75 percent off, and some of it was marked even cheaper, with a yellow sticker. I discovered that for \$1.30 I could buy the biggest heart-shaped box of bon-bons I had ever seen.

I had to put the box under my bed because none of my drawers were big enough. The solid chocolates were the first to go, followed by the nuts and creams, the nougats and the fruity creams, and the caramels. I stacked the brown pleated under-papers as they emptied until the stack leaned and fell over. One bon-bon was full of green stuff that had become gristly and inedible. I left that one in the box, with tooth marks.

Two days later, I stepped on the empty box and bent it into four layers, sweating, so it could fit into our kitchen garbage can, covered by a magazine.

— Lawrence Cosentino

For years, I thought of valentines as nothing more than sweet, trivial cards that you sent out once a year in the hopes of brightening someone's day. Sometimes they were pretty, sometimes funny, sometimes romantic. I never imagined them as having the power to save someone.

Many years ago, one of my closest friends had left Michigan to attend school on the East Coast. It was a terrific opportunity, but after she settled in at her new college, the initial excitement gave way to uncertainty. She felt surrounded by people who seemed dauntingly smart, sophisticated, uninhibited and unshakably self-confident.

I could only glean hints of this from the letters she sent and our few long-distance calls (that was how you were forced to stay in touch in the pre-Facebook, pre-e-mail era). While she was not as humorous and lively as usual, I chalked it up to a busy schedule and the challenges of living on her own for the first time.

With Valentine's Day on the way, I picked out what I thought was a cute little card,

showing a fluffy little gray cat holding a big red heart: "Valentine, you stole my heart," it read. I wrote a note inside, mailed it off and thought no more about it.

For the next three months, I did not hear a word from my friend. Calls were not returned. Letters were not answered. I was sure something must be horribly wrong, but she was almost 900 miles away; the car I had would never have made that journey, and I didn't have the money for a plane ticket.

I kept wondering: Did that valentine have something to do with this?

Yes, it did. My friend, I would later learn, had been in enormous pain. She had fallen in love and been rejected. Some supposed friends had turned out to be backstabbers. The workload for her classes was punishing. She felt there was no one she could trust or talk to.

Although I think everyone who goes to college has times when they feel

isolated or under attack, there is a great difference between having a few bad days and plunging into the depths of severe depression. My friend told me she had actually stood in the bathroom, counting out pills one night.

Then, she got that valentine. "It completely devastated me," she said, when we met up again in May. "It made me realize there really were still people who cared about me, and that I needed to get some help."

She found a therapist and, soon afterward, some real friends — as well as a boyfriend who would eventually become her husband. Of course, the valentine did not cure her overnight, but it helped her confront an illness she had tried to deny for months.

I probably didn't spend more than \$2 on that card. But I will always be grateful that I sent that particular valentine.

— James Sanford

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Splendid 'Shoes' finds humor — and horror — in the Old West

By PAUL WOZNAK

The stakes are higher and the situation more dire in Williamston Theatre's world premiere of Joseph Zettelmaier's "Dead Man's Shoes." By placing his character's lives at risk, the renowned Michigan playwright creates real suspense with his latest work. At its heart, "Dead Man's Shoes" is a comical examination of unlikely friendships and coincidental meetings. But impending deaths force moral choices that enrich Zettelmaier's story in dark and entertaining ways.

Set in the post-Civil War western United States, "Dead Man's Shoes" tells a familiar tale of a quest for vengeance. Drew Parker plays the notorious outlaw "Injun" — pronounced "engine" — Bill Picote, a man on a mission to settle

'Dead Man's Shoes'

Williamston Theatre
123 S. Putnam Road,
Williamston
Through Feb. 26
8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays;
3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2
p.m. Sundays
\$20 Thursdays, \$25 Friday
and Saturday evenings, \$22
matinees (\$2 off for seniors);
\$10 students
(517) 655-7469
www.williamstontheatre.com

ferent fate awaits him.

Along the way, Bill and Froggy encounter a number of characters (played by Paul Hopper and Maggie Meyer), including forgotten kin and a psychotic villain known as



Courtesy photo

Easy-going Froggy (Aral Gribble) teams up with vengeance-seeking "Injun" Bill Picote (Drew Parker) in Williamston Theatre's "Dead Man's Shoes."

the Pale Rider.

Parker's performance pays tribute to all the Western anti-heroes that have gone before him. With a dark trimmed beard and a steely gaze, Parker conjures all of the most bad-ass qualities of Clint Eastwood's early characters with his efficient use of words and his imposing stature. He's even accompanied by his own ballad — sung by Hopper and Meyer — complete with descriptions like, "He ate coal and crapped fire." Although Bill supposedly killed countless people and uses a knife because he likes the challenge of close combat, he follows a personal code of justice that forbids indiscriminant slaughter.

Following Bill like a lost puppy, Froggy provides a steady stream of comic relief, with running jokes about obesity and under-

stated reactions to tense moments. Zettelmaier has said the part was written with Gribble in mind; the actor always manages to make his characters feel fresh and authentic. His precise comic timing and expressive gestures make him the perfect goofball to Parker's straight man. Best of all, Gribble's characters always elicit audience empathy, even at their most juvenile.

Filling in as a host of characters are Hopper and Meyer, who portray everything from musical narrators strumming guitars to bloodied nuns and carnage-craving zealots, Hopper and Meyer imbue each role with distinct traits that color in Zettelmaier's world. Arguably the most memorable of these is Hopper's spine-tingling portrayal of the Pale Rider. Although he saunters in with a hearty laugh, Hopper's thunderous growl accompanies the Pale Rider's hauntingly righteous manifesto, providing his villain with creepy charisma.

Visiting director David Wolber strikes the perfect balance of suspense and humor, reintroducing classic thriller elements as soon as you've let down your guard. Technical elements, from scenic designer Kirk Domer's stunning black-and-white panorama backdrop to Will Myer's perfectly integrated sound design, allow the show to fill the space through audience imagination, instead of via cumbersome set pieces.

"Dead Man's Shoes" utilizes the saltiest language yet for a Williamston show. Never mind the 1883 date stamp: "Injun" Bill is an outlaw who tosses around the f-word as liberally as he pleases. Regardless, "Dead Man's Shoes" might be Zettelmaier's strongest script yet, sharply witty and gripping where it counts. Executed by a top-notch cast under precise direction, "Dead Man's Shoes" stabs you in the sweet spot.

Getting in harmony

LCC musical examines the many facets of love

By ALYSSA FIRTH

Valentine's Day comes a little bit early to Lansing Community College's Black Box Theatre, with this weekend's opening of the musical "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change."

The cast features LCC students Scott Laban, Miranda Amy, Devin Faught, Meghan Malusek and LCC alums Emily English Clark and Gordon Hicks Clark.

Act I follows how relationships lead to marriage, while Act II encompasses marriage, children and dating for the elderly.

The show unfolds in a series of comic vignettes. "Every (actor) plays a different character every time, so that's what makes it interesting," said director Connie Curran. "It's done in a very light manner, so I think a lot of people will have a lot to relate to."

Rob Roznowski, the head of acting and directing at Michigan State University, was in the original casts of "I Love You" in New York City and California in 1996. Roznowski said he performed the play over 1,500 times, and plans to see one of the performances, because it was a big part of his life for three years.

Doing the show taught him how to play comedy, he says. "It's (about) getting laughs in the right places and in the right way," he said. "It's really a great show."

'I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change'

Through Feb. 18
Lansing Community
College Black Box
Theatre
Room 168, Gannon
Building
411 N. Grand Avenue
8 p.m. Fridays and
Saturdays; special 7:30
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Risky business

Despite a few star players, Holt-Dimondale's 'Company' doesn't work

By UTE VON DER HEYDEN

Here's the one-paragraph review: In the hands of the Holt/Dimondale Community Players, Stephen Sondheim's 1970 musical classic "Company" is lifeless, listless and long. Save your money. Stay home.

Why would that be when you're dealing with the work of a dominant artistic force

like Sondheim and a potentially exciting (if somewhat dated) show like "Company?"

And also, how can that be when you have some of the biggest and best names in community theater in the cast?

One first has to look to director Kelly Stuibie. She does not have a cohesive grip on how she wanted to interpret the show, neither its spirited and funny aspects nor

'Company'

Holt-Dimondale Community Players
Through Feb. 11
Holt Junior High School,
1784 Aurelius Road, Holt
7 p.m. Thursdays and
Fridays; 2 and 7 p.m.
Saturdays
\$12; \$8 students and
seniors
(517) 694-3411

its darker undertones. If she does, her vision does not get communicated — definitely not to the audience.

This leaves the actors meandering both emotionally and physically, giving the production an overall stiff and static feel.

(It could not have helped the show's energy level that on opening night there were only a disheartening 20 people in the cold, cavernous Holt Junior High School auditorium.)

On the practical side, Stuibie simply

does not have enough good voices (a couple of them could make a person literally shudder) to handle "Company's" gorgeous lyrics and musical complexity. And although she does have the above-mentioned talent and star power in people like Chad DeKatch, Joe Quick and Doak Bloss, in a non-professional cast of 14 there are going to be folks who can't act.

Luckily, there are exceptions to this overall assessment. First and foremost, there is the small but spot-on orchestra under the direction of pianist Bryan Guarnuccio, effectively placed upstage center. All excellent musicians, they are strong, tight and well-rehearsed. One can only imagine the added disaster if this hadn't been the case.

In addition, two women in the cast stand out, Nicole Martin and Amanda D. Knowlton.

Martin combines a strong singing voice with natural acting ability to make the panicky, neurotic Amy both believable and theatrical in her rendition of "Not Getting Married Today."

Knowlton, as ditzy stewardess April, is a natural comedienne. She gives the curtain speech in the character of April and, if you pay attention to curtain speeches, you get an early hint of how funny this woman can be. Her duet with DeKatch ("Barcelona") also proves she can sing.

Then there is DeKatch as perennial bachelor Bobby, the central protagonist who links the show's disconnected vignettes. The only caveat to his being an exception is that it takes him too long to get there. DeKatch can act, he can sing, he has appealing stage presence, but on opening night he waited until the closing number to shine.

But then shine he did in the magnificent "Being Alive," tenderly wrapping up the central theme of the show and making the audience believe in Bobby's new willingness to have a real love relationship and not just to keep "Company."

that waited until after marriage to people who were date-raped, and numerous other circumstances.

"You get everything," Goldstein said. "Some of the goofy, some of the hilariously funny, but (also) some of the bittersweet experiences and some that were heroic — and some that were tragic."

Goldstein describes one story in particular about a boy dying of leukemia. His sister takes it upon herself to help him have a sexual experience before he dies, something Goldstein sees as truly admirable.

The play is broken down into sections with themes. Each story is told in a monologue by an actor, and scored by music from the era in which the monologue is set. Goldstein chose the music based on what he felt right for the moment: "Everything from the Beatles to the Spice Girls," he says.

'First' base

Staged reading revisits sexual awakenings

By ROBERT SANCRAINTE

Myfirsttime.com launched in 1998 with a simple goal: allow people to share their stories of how they lost their virginity. The site became a huge success, drawing tens of thousands of submissions.

Writer-producer Ken Davenport ("Altar Boyz") read some of the stories, and thought they would make an interesting play. He compiled material from the website for the off-Broadway production of "My First Time," which just finished a two-and-a-half-year run last month.

"It was kind of a cult hit," says Bert Goldstein, the director of the staged reading of the show, which will be performed Thursday and Saturday as a co-production of Williamston Theatre and the Wharton Center.

The stories run the gamut from couples

'My First Time'

Pasant Theater, Wharton Center
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8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11
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'Our stories are not being told'

Lolita Hernandez writes about living and working in the Rust Belt

By **BILL CASTANIER**

"Rust Belt" is a term coined to describe a region that is characterized by old, rusty and derelict motor vehicles and the factories that turned them out. It's derivative of "Corn Belt" and "Bible Belt," but it's not to be confused with rustic.

If the Rust Belt had a capital city, it would be Detroit, where people have been making cars for more than 100 years. That may sound like a Clint Eastwood Super Bowl half-time ad, but Lolita Hernandez, author of "Autopsy of an Engine and Other Stories from the Cadillac Plant," insists, "The factory is the city."

"The factory is a city of itself and permeates it," Hernandez says. "You can't get away."

Hernandez, who worked more than 30 years in automotive plants (including 21 in Detroit's Clark Street Cadillac Plant) before retiring, joins four other speakers in discussing race, class and labor at the second installment of Michigan State University's College of Arts and Letters' "Community Conversations" series Feb. 22. The first program in the series featured novelist Bonnie Jo Campbell discussing her book, "American Salvage" and Michigan's crystal meth epidemic.

Ned Watts, MSU Professor of English and associate chairman and organizer of the event, said the program's goal is to show the importance of working-class writing and to stimulate community discussion.

Michigan literature has deep roots in

the worker culture, reaching back to the experiences of iron ore and copper mining workers in the Upper Peninsula and to the factory represented in Harriet Arnow's "The Dollmaker."

You can find the industrial heritage of the city in the poetry of United States Poet Laureate Philip Levine and the more modern "Punching Out" by Detroit's Paul Clemens.

Hernandez, in an interview from her Detroit home, said that factory life and the "sequential bonding nature of industrial work still permeates the city," even though factories have closed.

"You develop a whole family in the plant," she said. "Everyone knows who you are; you rename each other and develop your own language. It's like a secret society."

She believes that because of the loss of industrial jobs, "we are losing a part of our culture that is significant."

Hernandez chronicled that culture in her critically acclaimed "Autopsy," which portrays life and work in an auto plant through 12 interconnected stories. She said writing about work is important because "that's what people do."

"Very few people don't work," she said. "They are defined by their work."

Since retiring, Hernandez has been committed to writing about and teaching working-class literature and writing.

"Our stories are not being told," she said. She tells her students in creative writing at the University of Michigan's Residential College who believe that "their lives are not literature-worthy" that the issues and lives of the working class are rich with potential. Hernandez also believes that Detroit's industrial plants helped create a different atmosphere between the races.

"After Jim Crow, everyone was able to

work on the line," she says, "and there was a sense of family and a sense of unity."

She said she still resents it when she hears the word "diversify": "It's almost as if we've been kicked to the curb," she says.

Hernandez, who has also written two books of poetry with working themes, said that when "helicopter journalists" describe the city of Detroit as being empty, the description doesn't work.

"It feels as full to me as ever. The city doesn't feel any different to me. There is a sense of community."

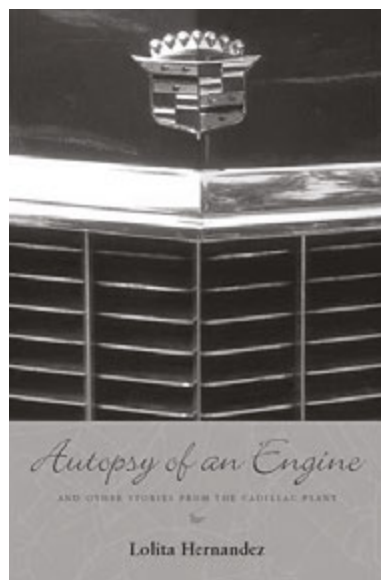
And she believes that there is more attention being paid recently to worker writing and worker art.

The final Community Conversations program takes place March 22 (time and place are yet to be determined) and features mystery author Joseph Heywood, discussing his books about a Michigan "woods cop."

But that won't be the last chance area residents will have to hear about working-class writing. On March 27, "Rivthead" author Ben Hamper speaks at MSU's Main Library. Hamper, who is originally from Flint, was a columnist for Michael Moore's Flint Voice newspaper.

Hernandez said that Hamper was genuinely grounded in the plant. "He had been there for a long, long time and it made him a sojourner in that situation," she says.

An excellent way to keep in touch with programs about worker culture is to subscribe to the e-mail alerts on the weekly Brown Bag programs sponsored by Our Daily Work, Our Daily Lives. The programs are organized by John Beck, associate professor and director of the Labor Education Program. He can be reached at beckj@msu.edu.



Courtesy photo

Lolita Hernandez's critically acclaimed "Autopsy of an Engine" portrays life and work in an auto plant through 12 stories.

'Running the Rift' author Naomi Benaron cancels Schuler appearance

The Eastwood location of Schuler Books & Music announced that a Wednesday evening event with



Naomi Benaron

2011 Bellwether Prize for Fiction winner Naomi Benaron has been cancelled, due to illness.

Benaron is touring to promote "Running the Rift," her novel set in 1990s Rwanda, during the time of the Hutu/Tutsi battles.

"We do not know at this time if the event will be rescheduled," said Schuler promotions coordinator Whitney Spotts.

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J. Gabriel Gates is the author of Dark Territory: The Tracks, Book 1 and The Sleepwalkers. He currently lives in Southwest Michigan.

6 pm Wed. Feb. 15

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Jacobson's: I Miss It So!

Join us as we welcome department store historian Bruce Allen Kopytek as he talks about Jacobson's: I Miss It so. Reenter the marvelous stores and meet the personalities who transformed Jacobson's from its humble Reed City origins to a staple of sophistication throughout Michigan and in Florida.

1 pm Sat. Feb. 18

For more information, visit www.schulerbooks.com

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ADVICE GODDESS

Some unenchanted evenings & once you go Lewis Black...



AMY ALKON
advicemy@aol.com

Q: My boyfriend lacks romantic ambition. In our two years together, we've never gone out to dinner someplace I can wear a dress and heels, and he never brings me flowers or does anything for our anniversary or Valentine's Day. I've suggested he pick out lingerie he'd like to see me in and shown him how to set a romantic mood in our apartment. I've told him things like "Nothing makes me happier than fresh flowers, especially lilies," and tried flat-out asking him why he never brings me flowers. He said, "I was thinking about doing it yesterday, but then I forgot! But now that you've asked me, I don't want to because it will seem like I bought them just because you asked." When I encourage him to take initiative in planning a night out, he'll say that he's worried he'll choose wrong and that I complain about things I don't like, so I always end up deciding what we do. I know he loves me (from his other actions); I just want some romance! It's as important to me as good sex and intimacy. Should I just accept this as his flaw?

—Roseless

A: You two have a fairy-tale romance. Unfortunately, it's the part of the fairy tale where two elves stand around scratching themselves in a mud hut.

You aren't asking for much. It would just be nice if Valentine's Day felt like something other than a Tuesday and if, on some random Tuesday, he'd stop at the grocery store and pick you up some flowers. Otherwise, even St. Paddy's Day can be a downer. You'll see him getting himself a green paper hat and drinking two-for-one green beers — which stands in stark contrast to how he celebrates your anniversary: by getting amnesia.

sary: by getting amnesia.

You've done everything but hand him a pictorial to-do list complete with store addresses and closing times. So what's stopping him? Well, maybe because he doesn't need this flowers and chocolates business, he thinks you shouldn't, either. And if he starts doing sweet things for you, he'll have to keep doing them. And we all know how buying flowers and making reservations at a restaurant with white tablecloths is like breaking rocks in a quarry.

The problem is, as I wrote in a recent column, women evolved to feel a need for commitment cues from men. They didn't have cute cards back in the Stone Age, but a thoughtful gift of fresh roadkill (some wildebeest that got trampled by elephants) probably made some ancestral lady's heart go pitter-patter. And that's the point here. Falling in love isn't like falling in a big bottomless hole (one tumble and you're done). There's maintenance required. Your boyfriend should care about doing the little things that make you happy. If he doesn't, maybe instead of going for "long walks on the beach" (planned by you), he should be making short trips out to his car to load up boxes of his stuff.

Explain that you need him to do these things so you feel loved, and explain that the only way he can really go wrong is by doing nothing. Even the smallest remembrances count — like scrawling a heart on a Post-it and anchoring it with a chocolate or drawing "You 'N' Me Forever" on your dirty car window. You, in turn, need to be sure you show appreciation for whatever effort he does make — even as he's seductively drinking Champagne out of your scuzzy old bedroom slipper.

Q: My boyfriend loves making fun of me, although he calls it "just ribbing." I'm not humorless, just tired of hearing about how badly I drive or how long I take to order food. Yesterday I mispronounced "cumin" while reading a recipe, and he had a field day.

What ultimately bugs me is that I'm most often made the brunt of a joke when others are around to witness his hilarity.

—Ridiculed

A: Just because a convenient subject for humor presents itself (or you happen to pick it up in your car and take it out to a restaurant) doesn't mean you should seize the opportunity. If your current relationship were a movie, it would be "Eat Prey, Love." Good-natured teasing can be a bonding thing, but publicly making fun of somebody sensitive is often an act of aggression. It's possible that the behaviors your boyfriend "ribs" you about annoy him and his joking is scorn dressed up in clown shoes. Tell him that being the joke butt isn't working for you and that he either needs to find another source of material or another girlfriend. If he loves you, he'll take the mature, restrained approach to getting laughs and stand on a chair trying to light his farts on fire.

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To read more of Amy's advice and guidance, please visit our Web site at www.lansingcitypulse.com

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Jonesin' Crossword

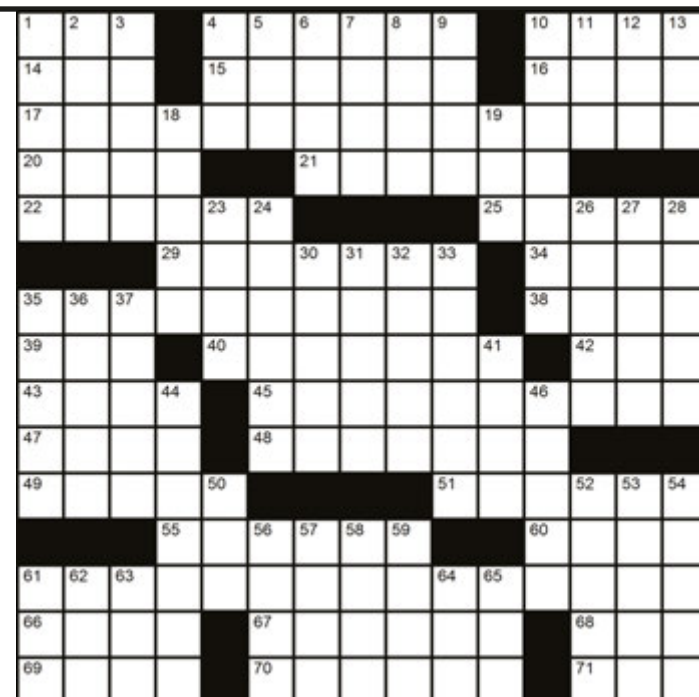
By Matt Jones

"I Oh You One" — or for four, actually.

By Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Multi-purpose shot, for short
4 "___ on a Plane"
10 E-mail from Nigeria, maybe
14 Big Band, for one
15 Start, as a riot
16 What programmers write
17 Cameraman's question about which talk show star to film?
20 Maritime patrol org.
21 Malaria-carrying fly
22 Concert memento
25 Darkest part of a shadow
29 Reagan aide Peggy and aviator Fred
34 Shrinking Asian body of water, with 63-down
35 Spanish NBA player who explodes in a volatile fuel mix?
38 Tell the cops everything
39 Coffee server
40 Title role for Peter Weller
42 They tow broken-down cars
43 Use a shiv
45 Menu phrase meaning "you can add pineapple to any item"?
47 Put on the payroll
48 Atones
49 Country on the Red Sea
51 Accompany
55 Genie's home
60 Song from Sarah McLachlan's "Surfacing"



- 61 Must decide which pitching feat to choose?
66 Ice skating jump
67 Save from peril
68 It's small and strum-mable
69 Side
70 Lower, like regions
71 1/525,600th of a yr.

Down

- 1 Introduction
2 Bridge part
3 Ripped jeans cover-up
4 Obedience school lesson
5 Dir. opposite SSE
6 Eight, in Essen
7 Sportages and Spectras
8 Smurf suffix
9 Splinter group
10 Psychological patterns

- 11 Dove bar?
12 Super Bowl highlights?
13 Got together with
18 Getting older
19 Home of the Beavers, for short
23 MGM opening sound
24 "And I'm ready ___ right through the sky" (Richard Marx lyric)
26 Prickly bush
27 Tried to attack
28 Pond scum
30 Like some gases
31 "Girl with ___" (Renoir painting)
32 Night, to Noriega
33 Everett of "Citizen Kane"
35 Like annoying salesmen
36 "Glee" character
Abrams

- 37 Take weapons from
41 Pie charts show them: abbr.
44 Flower that helps heal cracked skin
46 Musician's org.
50 Smoking alternative, once
52 Strong loathing
53 Talk show host Lake
54 Occupied
56 Undecided, in an angsty way
57 Old school pronoun
58 Shopping trip sheet
59 ___ A Sketch
61 Head cover
62 Fire
63 See 34-across
64 Election Day day: abbr.
65 "Love, Reign ___ Me" (The Who)

City Pulse Classifieds

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

The Apothecary Drugs, Inc. seeks a Pharmacy Manager to work in Lansing, Michigan. Responsible for ensuring correct & safe dispensation of prescriptions & developing policies & procedures for QA. Must have Bachelor's Deg. in Pharmaceutical Sci., 5 yrs exp as a Pharmacy Manager & MI license. Send resume & cover letter (no calls) to: The Apothecary Drugs, Inc., ATTN: HR/REF#3550.001, 737 North Grand Ave, Lansing, MI 48906.

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OUT on the TOWN

Wednesday, February 8

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.

Christian Fundamentalism. Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-484-7434.

EVENTS

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

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

Daddy Daughter Butterfly Ball. Children can bring a parent or guardian as "date." 7-8:30 p.m. \$14. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580 ext. 0.

Psychological Thriller. Film stars Joe Mantegna and Lindsay Crouse. 6:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3297.

Comedy Open Mic Night. Show starts at 8 p.m. 7 p.m. \$8, \$4 students. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 374-HAHA.

Health Fair. Services Available: AIDS testing, fitness testing, and more. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. FREE. LCC

See Out on the Town, Page 27

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

Feb. 9

Hope for the homeless

Volunteers of America Michigan is holding a fundraising event at the Kellogg Center to benefit the homeless. The goal for "Homeless No More" is to raise more than \$100,000, but an anonymous donor has already provided a challenge grant to match donations and ticket sales up to \$30,000. A service auction will be held, in which attendees can bid to provide services to 18 veterans, such as one day of housing and employment services. Samples of "comfort food" served at VOAMI Community Kitchen will be served as well. "Homeless No More" takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m.; tickets are available at the door. Kellogg Center, 55 South Harrison Road, Lansing. \$100. (517) 862-4673, or www.voami.org.

Feb. 10-11

Cultivating conversation

Urban gardening, fair trade and food ownership are among the many subjects to be discussed at "Everybody Eats: Cultivating Food in Democracy," a local food system conference that's being held at Pattengill Middle School. Discussion topics include food security, whether the food system can provide producers with a decent living and whether voices within the community can be heard. The conference starts on Friday with keynote speaker Katherine Kelly, founder and executive director of Cultivate Kansas City. On Saturday, 20 workshops will be held, along with a special luncheon with keynote speaker Malik Yakini, executive director of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network. The Friday event is free; the Saturday event is \$15. Attendees can register online at www.every-body-eats.com. Pattengill Middle School, 626 Marshall St., Lansing. 7-9 p.m. Friday; 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. www.every-body-eats.com



CULTIVATING FOOD DEMOCRACY

Courtesy Photo

Feb. 10-11

The showcase must go on

Short shows about dreams, eating disorders, recycling, adoption and other issues are on the schedule during Mid Michigan Family Theatre's Actors Showcase Feb. 10-12 and 17-19. The 13 one-acts will be presented over the course of the two weekends. Director Bill Gordon said the showcase was designed to give actors of all ages an opportunity to work with scripts dealing with pertinent themes. Performers include Nicole Clyne, Joy Oslund, Maddie Membiela, Nick Vogel, Mia Grant, Julianna Markham-Adkison, Tyrah Daniels, Catrice Ferguson, Audrey Knapman, Claire McCabe, Lena Oslund, Stephanie Reid, Anderson Stevens, Emily Stevens, Cassidy Gardner, Ralph Maldonado, Noah McPherson, Jaleigh Keyes, Katie Graham, Hannah Oslund and Jennifer Keyes. 7 p.m. Feb. 10, 11, 17, and 18; 3 p.m. Feb. 12 and 19. Mid Michigan Family Theatre, 440 Frandor Ave., Lansing. \$6 general admission; \$4 pre-school-aged children. (517) 339-2145, or www.mmft.net.

Feb. 14

A classic-romantic evening

Classical music lovers treasure a legendary run of CDs — from the 1970s to the 1990s — by violinist Ulf Hoelscher. Hoelscher had a way of making you love everything he loved, leaping from crystalline Mozart to lush Korngold to the glassy modernism of Alban Berg; he was like a mountain goat hopping from crag to crag. (The quadruped metaphors don't stop there; one critic wrote that Hoelscher played the Korngold concerto "like an angelic jaguar.") Hoelscher comes to Michigan State University to do his classic-romantic-modernist leap in person, with music by Mozart, Max Bruch and the Soviet polystylist Rodion Schedrin. 7:30 p.m. MSU's Music Building Auditorium, \$6-\$8. Hoelscher will also lead a master class at Hart Recital Hall 2:30-5:30 p.m. (517) 353-5340. Events.msu.edu.



Courtesy Photo

TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S
MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

GREEN DOORS HOSTS ZYDECUNCH CD RELEASE PARTY



Courtesy Photo

Zydecrunch

Zydecrunch plays a melting pot of American music, fusing New Orleans R&B, Cajun, country two-steps and waltzes, Creole struts and blues-inspired rock'n'roll. On Thursday, the band releases its new album, "Zydefaux Pas," at the Green Door. The show has no cover charge. The new disc is a follow-up to 2001's "Ton Son Ton" CD. The band was formed in 1998 by longtime friends Mike Lynch (accordion and Hammond organ) and Steve Olson (guitar and lead vocals). It also includes Tahmineh Gueramy on fiddle and vocals, Jason Strotheide on bass, and Bob Bryan on drums. While this band may have originally started with the intention of being a one-time-only band for an Elderly Instruments holiday party, 14 years later the band is still churning out Louisiana-style funkiness with a healthy dose of Michigan rock.

Thursday, Feb. 9 @ Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 21 & over, FREE, 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

BLAT! PACK REPS LANSING HIP-HOP



Courtesy Photo

P.H.I.L.L.T.H.Y.

A Lansing-based collective of hip-hop heads known as the BLAT! Pack performs a showcase featuring many of its crew members on Friday at Mac's bar. The show features P.H.I.L.L.T.H.Y., JYoung The General, The Amature, Red Pill, Chell and Yellokake as well as music supplied by DJ Carmine. Also featured is a beat showcase by Hir-O and Kuroioto. Since its inception in the summer of 2008, the BLAT! Pack has grown into a multi-faceted collective of emcees, vocalists, producers, DJs, fine artists, radio personalities and writers such as William E. Ketchum III. The crew decided to pool its resources to revitalize a once-thriving music scene. The pack was created with the idea that, "talented people driven by similar goals and dreams should work together to use their talents to the benefit of all and make dreams a reality."

Friday, Feb. 10 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over, \$5, 10 p.m.

FIDDLER AND CELLIST BRING SCOTTISH/CELTIC FLAIR

Dynamic Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser and American cellist Natalie Haas often team up to perform an exciting style of Scottish and Celtic music. On Friday the pair, which has toured across the globe, brings its infectious dancing rhythms and grooves to the Ten Pound Fiddle. In 2001, the California-based duo released "Highlander's Farewell," its third collaborative album. Fraser has been releasing fiddle albums since the early 1980s, while also operating Culburine Records and a few fiddle

campers. Haas, a graduate of the Juilliard School, privately teaches cello at the Berklee College of Music. Fraser says the two have a dynamic on-stage chemistry. "Natalie Haas unleashes textures and deep, powerful rhythms that drive fiddle tunes," Fraser said. "We can duck and dive around each other, swap melody and harmonies lines and improvise on each other's rhythmic riffs. She has such a great sense of exploration and excitement for the music; it's a joy to play with her."

Friday, Feb. 10 @ Ten Pound Fiddle — Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing. Gate opens at 7 p.m., doors 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m. show. \$18 public, \$15 Fiddle members, \$5 students. www.tenpoundfiddle.org.

BOB MARLEY BIRTHDAY BASH AT THE LOFT

A night of roots reggae happens on Friday at The Loft in celebration of the birthday of Bob Marley, who would have turned 67 this year. Set to perform is One Love, a Detroit-based roots band. Also making some noise is Tone I, a native of Jamaica now living in Detroit. The night will also offer \$2 Red Stripes and Jamaican rum drinks.

Friday, Feb. 10 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., \$8 advance, \$10 at door, 18 and over, Doors 8 p.m.

UN-VALENTINE'S SHOW-CREOLE GALLERY

For those who prefer to not fall into the Hallmark trap of Valentine's Day, perhaps some local music might suffice as a way to celebrate the holiday. The 7th Annual "Un-Valentine's Show: Songs & Tales of Unforgiveness, Heartbreak, Dysfunction & Revenge" happens Sunday at the Creole Gallery in Old Town. The concert, which sold out last year,



Courtesy Photo

John Latini and Jamie-Sue Seal

features area songwriters Dave Boutette, John Latini and Jamie-Sue Seal — all performing in-the-round.

The concert provides an evening of laughs, healthy cynicism and fine music. Hilarious songs about heartache and other comedic love-inspired songs can be expected, along with a few tearjerkers: One song tells of a love triangle at a gun-and-knife swap meet, and another ditty is Latini and Seal's politically incorrect "Stalker Song," a twisted retake on "Frankie and Johnny." For more information, visit www.SmokinSleddogRecords.com.

Sunday, Feb. 12 @ The Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing, Doors 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance, and \$18 at the door.

BREAK-BEATS, GLITCH-TWEAKED ELECTRO AT MAC'S

The Polish Ambassador, a touring Oakland-based electronic DJ and musician, drops his own unique blend of electro-funked, glitch-tweaked, IDM, wobble-freaked break-beats on Feb. 15. The Ambassador, who performs in his signature neon-colored jumpsuit, builds all of his live sets from a monstrous stash of original drum, bass, synth, and vocal lines. His deep, engaging arrangements draw influence from '80s video game music and the bit-mapped pixel art that adorns his disc and jewel case. The Polish Ambassador (real name: David Sugalski) first garnered attention in 2005 after his debut DIY release, "Diplomatic Immunity." From there he signed with 1320 Records to crank out more albums of upbeat electronic dance music with layered melodies. His latest album, "Future, Sex, Computers," was released last April. Opening the show at Mac's is local DJ iNoV8.

Tuesday, Feb. 7 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$13 advance, \$15 at door, 18 and over, doors 8 p.m.

UPCOMING SHOW?

POST IT AT

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/TURNITDOWN

LIVE AND LOCAL

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

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.			
Brannigan Brothers, 210 S. Washington Square		Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.
Dublin Square, 327, Abbot Road	DJ Juan, 10 p.m.	Circuitry & DJ Beats, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314, E. Michigan Ave.	Pork Chop Express, 9 p.m.	Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Starfarm & DJ Beats, 10 p.m.
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Compared to What, 9:30 p.m.	Zydecrunch, 9:30 p.m.	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Banned & Burned, 6 p.m.	Burton's Garden, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	The Delightfuls, 9 p.m.	Valentine's Day Massacre, 5 p.m.	The Fake Take, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic with Rob Kladjia, 9 p.m.	Gadger 2012, 10 p.m.	Cavalcade, 9 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road	DJ Dan, 10:30 p.m.		From Big Sur, 10 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sea Cruisers, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ with Ryan, 9 p.m.	
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.		Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.			Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & The Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Keri Lynch, 9 p.m.
			The Bear Band, 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.

Out on the town

from page 25

Gannon Building, 422 N Washington Square, Lansing. www.lcc.edu/pfw/kinesiology/.

Youth Service Corps. Help the Eastside youth to grow food, develop leadership skills. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

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.

LITERATURE AND POETRY
Naomi Benaron. Author of "Running the Rift." CANCELED. www.schulerbooks.com

Thursday, February 9
CLASSES AND SEMINARS
Yoga XL. 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. Recovering from eating disorders & talk about recovery. 7-7:45 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 899-3515.

EVENTS
Karaoke. Every Thursday Night with Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.
Morning Storytime. Songs & rhymes. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014.
Euchre. Meet new people. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.
Mid-day Movies. Watch recent releases. 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.
Poker Fundraiser. Need volunteers to help Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame. 3 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Stacks Hold'em Bar, 4750 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 484-1880.
Experiments in Dance. A selection of experimental dance films. 8-11 p.m. FREE. Wells Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.english.msu.edu/film/.
Fred Potter. Comedy, that everyone can relate to. Impressions, music, or family related situations. 7 p.m. \$8. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 374-HAHA.
Kids Time: Ages 5-11. Eastside youth can grow food and get life skills. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

MUSIC
Jazz Thursdays. Various artists. 6:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Mumbai Cuisine, 340 Albert St., East Lansing. (517) 336-3150.
Symphony. With guest artists Molly Fillmore, soprano. 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE students. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.
THEATER
"Company." Stephen Sondheim musical about couples trying to find a mate for a single friend. 7 p.m. Holt Junior High School, 1784 Aurelius Road, Holt. \$12; \$8 students and seniors. (517) 694-3411
"Dead Man's Shoes." The year is 1883. The notorious outlaw Injun Bill Picote has escaped from prison, along with a hard-luck drunk named Froggy. 8 p.m. \$25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW.
"Romantic Fools." Sketches about the many faces of romance. 7 p.m. \$18, \$16 senior, \$10 student. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. www.stormfieldtheatre.org.

Friday, February 10
CLASSES AND SEMINARS
Relics of the Big Bang. Emphasizes research currently underway at CERN. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. Abrams Planetarium, 400 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.
Howl at the Moon. Bring your best friend, 2-footed or 4-footed, and walk through the moonlit woods. 7 p.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road,

See Out on the Town, Page 28

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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

Answers on page 29

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Out on the town

from page 27

Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

EVENTS

Element: Air. Reception, of multi-media exhibit with works by Carole Steinberg Berk & more. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Technology Innovation Center, 325 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 319-6861.

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

Guided Walk. Guided evening walk for people and dogs. 7 p.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Night Glow. Proper nightclub attire is required for admittance. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, Ladies FREE before 10pm. The Firm, 227 S Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 980-0018.

Poker Fundraiser. Need volunteers, helps Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame. 3 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Stacks Hold'em Bar, 4750 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 484-1880.

East Lansing Film Festival's 48/5 Contest. Begins with the distribution of elements, rules and regulations. 5:30 p.m. Price varies. Beggar's Banquet, 218 Abbot Road, Lansing. (517) 980-5802.

Kevin Bozeman. Gives a unique perspective on traveling, dating, social and controversial issues. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$12. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St. Lansing. (517) 374-HAHA.

Habitat House Party. Celebrate 25 years with Dr. Fab and a silent auction with sports memorabilia. 7:30 p.m. \$50 couple, \$30. Troppo, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-1313.

MUSIC

Delta Twins. A Farmington-based blues/Americana band. 7 p.m. FREE. Jackson Coffee Co. 201 S. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 990-6770.

Jazz Octet. Jazz Octet I, II, III, IV. 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE students. MSU Demonstration Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

Musique 21. 8 p.m. FREE. MSU Music Building Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing.

Greater Lansing Community Concert. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Medical Care Facility, 3860 Dobie Road, Okemos. (517) 353-9958.

THEATER

"Company." 7 p.m. \$12; \$8 students and seniors.

(Please See Details Feb. 9)

"Dead Man's Shoes." 8 p.m. \$25. (Please See Details Feb. 9)

"Romantic Fools." 8 p.m. \$24, \$22 senior, \$10 student. (Please See Details Feb. 9)

"Robin Hood." Sword fights, adventure and comedy in Sherwood Forest. 7 p.m. \$7, \$5 17 and under. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 333-2580 ext. 0.

"Pump Up the Volume." Musical-in-the-making, based on the popular 1990 film about a loner teen who begins broadcasting on pirate radio. 7:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Auditorium, 150 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-6690. www.events.msu.edu.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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.

Saturday, February 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Relics of the Big Bang. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 students & seniors, \$2 kids. (Please See Details Feb. 10)

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 donations. 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.

Disney Goes to War. The Walt Disney Company's short films in support of the American war effort. 1 p.m. Adults \$6, Seniors \$4, Ages 6-17 \$2, 5 under FREE. Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 241-6852.

EVENTS

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

Owl Prowl. Discover the secrets of the elusive Michigan owls. 5-9 p.m. \$8, \$5 members. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 322-0030.

Guided Walk. Guided walk at Meridian Township's Central Park on Marsh Road in Okemos. 10 a.m. \$3. Central Park, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866.

Poker Fundraiser. Need volunteers. 2:30 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details Feb. 10)

Kevin Bozeman. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$15. (Please See Details Feb. 10)

MUSIC

Rendezvous. Live music. 8:30 p.m.-Midnight, FREE. Spag's Bar and Grill, 1268 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 655-4888.

THEATER

"Company." 2 and 7 p.m. \$12; \$8 students and seniors. (Please See Details Feb. 9)

"Dead Man's Shoes." 3 & 8 p.m. \$22 matinee, \$25 evening. (Please See Details Feb. 9)

"Romantic Fools." 8 p.m. \$24, \$22 senior, \$10 student. (Please See Details Feb. 9)

"Robin Hood." See sword fights, adventure and comedy in Sherwood Forest. 2 p.m.&4:30 p.m. \$7, \$5 17 and under. (Please See Details Feb. 10)

"Pump Up the Volume." 7:30 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Feb. 10)

Sunday, February 12

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.

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 & seniors, \$2 kids. (Please See Details Feb. 10)

Snowflakes. Connect with nature and learn about snow. 3 p.m. \$7 per family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

EVENTS

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.

Occupy Lansing Meeting. Followed by general assembly. 5 p.m. FREE. Gone Wired Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 853-0550.

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.

Poker Fundraiser. Need volunteers. 3 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details Feb. 10)

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.

Weavers Guild. Learn to make socks and more on a sock-knitting machine. 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 2418 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-0978.

MUSIC

University Chorale. With Yuri Gandelsman, viola. 7 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE students. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. www.music.msu.edu.

Greater Lansing Community Concert 2 p.m. FREE. Hospice of Lansing, 4052 Legacy Parkway, Suite 200, Lansing. (517) 353-9958.

THEATER

"Romantic Fools." 2 p.m. \$20, \$18 senior, \$10 student. (Please See Details Feb. 9)

"Pump Up the Volume." 2 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Feb. 10)

Monday, February 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Divorced, Separated, Widowed Conversation 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. www.stdavidslansing.org.

GriefShare Seminar. A DVD series, with small 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.

My Cub & I. 3 years olds can enjoy nature activities, games, walks, crafts, stories and songs. 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$35 for six weeks. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Timber Tots. For 3 & 4 year olds. Enjoy nature activities, games, walks, crafts, stories and songs. 9-10 a.m. \$35 for six weeks. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

Collage Workshop. Artists Gail Bohner and Melissa Dey Hasbrook use image and word to explore stories and attitudes about violence and healing. 7-9:30 p.m. FREE. RCAH Arts Studio, Basement of Snyder/Phillips Hall, MSU Campus. (517) 897-5833.

EVENTS

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

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

JAMM Meeting. Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan, open to all. 7:30 p.m. FREE. 1267 Lakeside Drive, East

Lansing. www.jazzjam.com

Statewide Call for Artists. Deadline to be in "Lease-Purchase" exhibition. Can submit up to ten entries. Noon, FREE. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square, Suite 101, Lansing. (517) 374-6400.

MUSIC

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

Pickin' Parlo. Featuring Bluegrass and Country pickers from Michigan, and more. 7:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. VFW Club Post 6132, 3104 W. St Joseph St., Lansing. (517) 372-2052.

THEATER

Monday Morning Movie. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext.4.

Tuesday, February 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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.

Yoga 40. Yoga is for anyone of any age. 7:15 p.m. Suggested \$7. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 488-5260.

Schizophrenics Anonymous Self-help Support Group. Those 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 instruct attendees in the basics everyone needs to know. 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 an informative, motivational format. 9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. \$10. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 349-9536.

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

EVENTS

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.

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 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Kids Time. 4:30-p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Feb. 9)

MUSIC

Jazz Tuesdays. Hosted by the Jeff Shoup Quartet. 10 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Ulf Hoelscher. Violin, guest artist recital. 7:30 p.m. \$10, \$8 seniors, FREE students. MSU Music Building Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.music.msu.edu.

Wednesday, February 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Meditation. 7-9 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Feb. 8)

Community Yoga. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Feb. 8)

Drop-in figure drawing. 7:30-10 p.m. \$5, \$3 students. (Please See Details Feb. 8)

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Out on the town

from page 28

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

Ants. Guest speaker Bernice Bacon DeMarco on the lives of ants. 7:00 p.m. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 887-0596.

EVENTS

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

Practice Your English. 7-8 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Feb. 8)

Youth Service Corps. Ages 11-17. 3:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400

block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

J. Gabriel Gates. Talk and signing, Michigan author of "The Sleepwalkers." 6 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840.

Colonial Village Neighborhood Meeting. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 482-5750. cvnnews.com.

MUSIC

Jazz Wednesdays. 7-10 p.m. FREE. (Please See Details Feb. 8)

Jazz Wednesdays. . 7-10 p.m. FREE.(Please See Details Feb. 8)

Community Concert. Haobing Zhu, piano solo. 7 p.m. FREE. Independence Village of East Lansing, 2530 Marfitt Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-9958.

Youth Symphony. "Winter Concert." 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing High School, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. www.midmichiganyouthsymphony.org.

NEW IN TOWN That's What's Up Apparel



Gennifer Musial/City Pulse

By CHRISTINA TOSCANO

In high school, it was Jeanette Taylor’s dream to own her own clothing line. That fantasy — with a few alterations — has become her career with the opening of That’s What’s Up, a fine apparel store for men and women.

Taylor launched That’s What’s Up in Detroit, but moved the business to Lansing last July. “People here don’t dress in big city style,” Taylor said. She’d like to change that.

Taylor’s store features three categories. There’s “the core,” as she calls it, which provides customers with the basic clothes needed for everyday wear; it is her store’s “meat and

Jeanette Taylor moved her That's What's Up Apparel business from Detroit to Lansing last summer.

potatoes,” she says. The “premium” section includes the high-end and designer goods and imports from the fashion capitals of the world. Finally, the “casual” section offers sweaters, slacks, blazers — comfortable separates for work, court, church and executive style needs. Taylor says her customer base is between 25 and 65 years old, but adds that “a young lady can find jeans from \$40 to \$300.”

Taylor also says she prides herself on placing special-orders from various

designers. Her idea is to keep the store trendy, to remain true to the name That’s What’s Up, which she says represents “the latest trend of what the style is now.”

That's What's Up Apparel
6250 S. Cedar St., Suite 1B,
Lansing. 3-8 p.m. Tuesday-Friday
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday

Last week's New in town:
Vine & Brew
2311 Jolly Road, Okemos. 10
a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday 10
a.m.-8 p.m. Friday-Saturday (517)
708-2030

Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezsný

February 8-15

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Marriage must be a relation either of sympathy or conquest," said author George Eliot. I believe the same is true even about intimate bonds that have not been legally consecrated. Each tends to either be a collaboration of equals who are striving for common goals or else a power struggle in which one party seeks to dominate the other. Which of those two models has characterized your romantic history, Aries? Now is an excellent time to begin working to ensure that the partnership model will predominate for the rest of your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Love loves to love love," wrote James Joyce in his 1922 novel *Ulysses*. "Nurse loves the new chemist. Constable 14A loves Mary Kelly. Jumbo, the elephant, loves Alice, the elephant. Old Mr Verschole with the ear trumpet loves old Mrs Verschoyle with the turned-in eye. The man in the brown macintosh loves a lady who is dead. His Majesty the King loves Her Majesty the Queen." What Joyce said 90 years ago is still true: The world is a churning, burning uproar of yearning. The droning moan of "I want you, I need you" never dies down. Give yourself to that cosmic current without apology this Valentine season, Taurus. Celebrate your voracious ache for love. Honor your urge to merge with reverence and awe for its raw splendor.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): I've ghostwritten a personal ad for you to give to your Valentine or potential Valentine: "I'm looking for a free yet disciplined spirit I can roll down hills with on sunny days and solve thorny puzzles with when the skies are cloudy. Can you see the absurd in the serious and the serious in the absurd? Are you a curious chameleon always working to sharpen your communication skills? Might you be attracted to a sweet-talking wise-ass who's evolving into a holy goofball? Emotional baggage is expected, of course, but please make sure yours is organized and well-packed. Let's create the most unpredictably intriguing versions of beauty and truth that anyone ever imagined."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): On average, an adult on planet Earth has sex 103 times a year. But I'm guessing that in the immediate future, Cancerians everywhere may be motivated to exceed that rate by a large margin. The astrological omens suggest that your tribe's levels of sensual desire may reach astronomical heights. Do you know anyone you're attracted to who might be willing help you out as you follow your bliss? If not, be your own Valentine. One way or another, it's prime time to celebrate your relationship with eros.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I'd love for you to be able to always give the best gifts you have to give without worrying about whether they will be received in the spirit with which you offer them. But that's just not realistic. I would also be ecstatic if you never had to tone down your big, beautiful self out of fear that others would be jealous or intimidated. And yet that's not a rational possibility, either. Having said that, though, I do want to note that now and then both of those pleasurable scenarios can prevail for extended lengths of time. And I believe you're now in one of those grace periods.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In accordance with the astrological omens, here's what I wish and predict for you in the near future: You will be a connoisseur of temptations. By that I mean you will have a knack for attracting and playing with allurements and enticements. More importantly, you'll have a sixth sense about the distinction between good bait and bad — between provocative temptations that will serve your most fervent dreams and debilitating traps that will dissipate your integrity. And when you get a lock on the invigorating, ennobling kind, you will know just how to work with it so that it drives you wild with smart longing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Eliphas Levi was a 19th-century author and hermetic magician whose work has had a major influence on Western mystery schools. The great secret of magic, he said, is fourfold: "to KNOW what

has to be done, to WILL what is required, to DARE what must be attempted, and to KEEP SILENT with discernment." Your assignment, Libra, is to apply this approach to your love life. How can you create a relationship with love that will be a gift to the world and also make you smarter, kinder, and wilder? KNOW what magic you have to do. WILL yourself to do it. DARE to be ingenious and inspired. And don't tell anyone what you're doing until you achieve your goal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): After analyzing the astro data for this Valentine season, I realized that you could really benefit from being less sober, solemn, and serious about your intimate relationships. That's why I decided to collect some one-liners for you to use as you loosen up your approach to togetherness. Please consider delivering them to anyone you'd like to be closer to. 1. "Let's go maniacally obsess about our lives in a soothing environment." 2. "We'll be best friends forever because you already know too much about me." 3. "It would be great if you would schedule your social events around my mood swings." 4. "I'm sorry I drunk-dialed you before realizing you were already in bed with me." 5. "I wanna do boring things with you." (All the one-liners come from Someecards.com.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "The world is an oyster, but you don't crack it open on a mattress," said a character in Arthur Miller play. He was referring to the idea that if you're obsessed with sex and romance, your level of worldly accomplishment may be rather low. It jibes with what a friend in my youth told me when he noticed how much of my energy was engaged in pursuing desirable females: "They don't build statues in parks for guys who chase women." I realize you may not be wildly receptive to ruminating on these matters during the Valentine season, Sagittarius. However, the omens suggest I advise you to do just that. It's a good time to fine-tune the balance between your life-long career goals and your quest for love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Ancient Egyptians thought that drinking bear grease could stimulate ardor, while the Greeks believed that eating sparrow brains would do the trick. When potatoes first appeared in Spain in 1534, imported from the New World, they were used in love potions and worth more than \$1,000 a pound. The Asian rhinoceros was hunted nearly to extinction because its horn was thought to have aphrodisiac properties. Just in time for Valentine season, I'd like to suggest that you call on a very different kind of romantic stimulant that costs nothing and doesn't endanger any species: *being a good listener*.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Maybe there is a soul-mate for you in this world. Maybe there isn't. But you can count on this: If that person is out there, you will never bond with him or her by clinging to a set of specific expectations about how it should happen. He or she will not possess all the qualities you wish for and will not always treat you exactly as you want to be. I'm sure you already know this deep down, Aquarius, but hearing it from an objective observer like me might help liberate you further from the oppressive fantasy of romantic perfection. That way you can better recognize and celebrate the real thing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "We are all a little weird and life's a little weird, and when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness and call it love." So proclaimed Dr. Seuss. I think this is an excellent meditation for you during this season of love. You need more permission to share your idiosyncrasies and eccentricities, and you need more freedom to ally yourself with people whose idiosyncrasies and eccentricities you're compatible with — and on behalf of the cosmos, I'm hereby giving you that permission.

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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

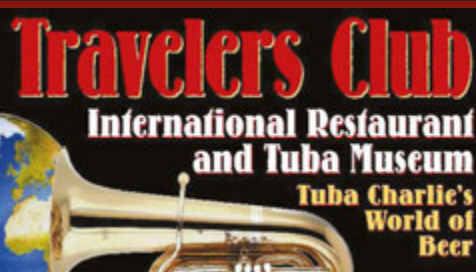
From Pg. 24

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Seoul food

Don't let first impressions fool you: Korea House is well worth visiting

By JOE TOROK

Korea House is modestly situated along the western face of the Trowbridge Plaza. Mirrored window film gives the exterior a distinctive, though opaque, look. One is happy to read the black sign with orange lettering near the door with the reassuring message, "Yes, We are Open."

Like the exterior, the interior is modest with minimal décor, save for the sushi bar. An alcove of blonde woodwork surrounds Japanese artifacts and a glass case filled with the oranges, greens and reds of sushi cuisine.

The sushi bar is an oasis in an otherwise dumpy environ; elsewhere, cobwebs, ripped paper square window coverings and an overall sense of dinginess (not helped by bins full of dirty dishes wheeled throughout the dining room and parked next to your meal while a multitasking waitress busses her own tables) could be a major turn-off. But we came for the food.

Our party of three (plus a precocious 17-month old) decided on an appetizer and three entrées, the total of which came to less than \$50, including tip.

Korea House serves meals with banchan, complimentary side dishes that, in past experiences, were served before the main course arrives. Banchan at Korea House includes a few kimchis (including the well-known napa cabbage version and two different kinds of radish), bean sprouts and a seaweed salad.

Our banchan were brought out, along with the appetizer and three entrées all at once. It was a beautiful array of colors and smells, but dining becomes unwieldy with so much to maneuver on the table.

We originally wanted the kim bob seaweed roll as an appetizer, but the sushi chef was away, so we went with the stir-fried rice



James Sanford/City Pulse

Korea House's lunch specials include a bubbling bowl of seafood, tofu and spices.

cakes instead. Little cylindrical rice cakes, with a firm, doughy texture, mixed with small slices of tofu and julienned vegetables in a thick, mildly spicy chili sauce. The heat of this dish contrasted nicely with the cold, piquant kimchis.

We eschewed the bulgogi and kalbi dishes — highly popular marinated beef entrées with a house sauce — which we had enjoyed in past visits to Korea House. We knew they were good.

Our first choice was the tang-su yuk, a house specialty made with sweet and sour pork. Breaded strips of pork were combined with fresh vegetables, pineapple and raisins over a near-gelatinous sweet and sour sauce. Gently acidic from the pineapple and other elements with a touch of sweetness punctuated by the raisins, the dish pleased my companions. The best part, to my palate, were the crunchy cucumber chunks that, when covered in the sauce, transformed into fresh pickles.

Like the kalbi and bulgogi, the jab-che was something we had ordered in the past, but we found it impossible to resist on this trip. A mound of crystal-clear noodles mixes with marinated strips of shredded beef, mushrooms, onions and other vegetables. It's savory in nature, but there's just a hint of sweetness that adds a layer of complexity. And the clear, springy noodles are fun, too, for both toddlers and adults.

For our final dish, we went with a bibimbap, roughly translatable as mixed rice. It's a dish so popular in Korea that the recipe can be found on the official Seoul tourism website.

We went with Korea House's dol-sot bibimbop, served sizzling in a stone bowl.



Review

Korea House

978 Trowbridge Road,
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Korea House

from page 30

Strips of dark green lettuce cover an over-easy fried egg that rests on crunchy bean sprouts, slices of zucchini, marinated beef and seaweed seasoned with sesame. White rice lines the bowl and acts as a bed in which everything becomes mixed together.

It's not a dish that exploded with flavor, but even a half-hour into the meal the stone bowl remained warm, almost hot to the touch. And that explains my favorite part of bibimbap: The rice along the sides of the bowl browns and turns crispy. That rice is hard to separate from the bowl with chopsticks alone, but it's worth it when you do.

The service at Korea House wasn't of the same caliber as the food during our visit. All the food was prepared quickly, a plus in some people's book, but it arrived all at once.

Halfway through our meal we were politely approached with our bill, and asked if we could settle that as shifts were changing. We understood, but the interruption, along with a server lingering



Joe Torok/City Pulse

Korea House's no-frills exterior doesn't begin to suggest the flavorful, exotic cuisine that's waiting inside.

until a credit card was fished out of a wallet, didn't make for the most ideal dining experience, to be polite.

Korea House could use a makeover — or at least a good spring cleaning—and the service might be spotty. But if you want an interesting, delicious culinary experience, expect Korea House to deliver.

foodfinder

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