

FREE

CityPULSE

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April 4-10, 2012



Can this happen here?

LSJ vs. mlive.com

Page 9



SAVE!
Lansing

ONLINE THIS WEEK!
SAVE 50% AT
RUM RUNNERS

see page 2



Scooters To Go, page 26

It has been my honor and privilege to serve you as your **Ingham County Drain Commissioner** for the past 20 years.



Together we have improved the quality of our water resources for the citizens of Ingham County and the Great Lakes. I look forward to many more years of working with you protecting these great resources of ours.

Thank you for your recognition and support by choosing me as **Environmentalist of the year** for the last 4 years in the City Pulse and WLNS Top of the Town awards.

Together we are making a better future and leaving a positive legacy for generations to come.

LINDEMANN
 For DRAIN COMMISSIONER
 To protect our natural resources ...



DEAL OF THE WEEK

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i love old town

YUM **Taste** and **Tour** **OH AH**

**Old Town Lansing
Progressive Food Sampling and Loft Tours**

Old Town Commercial Association is hosting its fifth annual Taste & Tour of Old Town on Saturday, April 14th from noon to 5pm. This event is a progressive food sampler and exclusive loft tour. The sampler gives visitors a chance to taste a variety of Old Town's finest fare and tour its unique real estate market, making it a great way to introduce people to Old Town who may be unfamiliar with its thriving businesses, hip living alternatives and delicious restaurants. Taste & Tour of Old Town is a fundraiser for the OTCA, to continue its mission of revitalizing Lansing's Old Town district.

Participants will check in at the OTCA office where they can purchase tickets, and receive a map and wristband for the tour. This year's participating restaurants include The Purple Carrot Truck, Golden Harvest, Cravings Gourmet Popcorn, Grand Café Sir Pizza, Favorites Café, Tallulah's Folly, Artie's Filling Station, Olympic Broil, Pablo's Panaderia, Spiral Dance Bar, Unicorn Tavern, Trailer Park'd, Aggie Mae's Bakery & Deli, and Grand Grillin! Participating lofts will be announced the day of the event.

The OTCA office is located at 1232 Turner Street, Lansing, MI 48906.

TICKET PRICES

\$13 in advance
\$15 day of
\$5 children 12 & under
\$5 loft tour only

Tickets can be purchased at www.iloveoldtown.org, Grace, Sir Pizza Grand Cafe, Tallulah's Folly or at the OTCA office.



**APRIL
EVENTS**

- 3 ROOT Group Meeting**
at 7pm at OTCA office
- 10 Economic Restructuring Committee Meeting**
at 11:45am at OTCA office
- 12 Old Town Board of Directors Meeting**
at 6pm at Perspective2

- 14 Taste and Tour of Old Town**
Noon to 5pm in Old Town Lansing
- 14 Capital City Film Festival**
Throughout the day at Old Town Temple Building
- 19 Festival of the Sun and Moon Committee Meeting**
at 5:30pm at OTCA office
- 21 Document Destruction Day**
8am to 2pm at Friedland Industries
- 23 Organization Committee Meeting**
5pm at OTCA office

Pickin' In the Park...Every Tuesday night at Sir Pizza Grand Café
For a complete list of events, visit www.iloveoldtown.org

Q&A Charles Ford Myra Ford

Lansing Board of Education President Myra Ford and Board Member Charles Ford fell on opposite sides of the vote to approve the Lansing schools consolidation plan. They appeared on "City Pulse Newsmakers" to discuss their votes and the reasoning behind them. (The show airs weekly at 11 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday on Comcast channel 16.) The following has been edited and condensed by Joan Bolander. Berl Schwartz, Andy Balaskovitz and Sam Inglot interviewed the two. The show can be seen at www.vimeo.com/channels/citypulse.

President Ford, the 8 to 1 vote shows some progress over last year when it seemed like every vote brought great arguments and debate. Why do you think there's a change?

I think for the most part it's because the plan that was presented to us we all felt was

very concise and very comprehensive. As our current interim superintendent indicated, it wasn't cherry picking; it wasn't we're going to do this over here and this over here and do it in different years. It is a comprehensive plan, and it's a plan that deals with academic success as opposed to just closing buildings. It's geared towards the research that shows certain configurations of schools are more successful and are where we need to focus our time and our money.

Mr. Ford, why did you find you couldn't agree with the other board members on this one?

First of all, the plan was never distributed to the public, and our school closure and consolidation policy clearly states that before final approval of the board that the public has to have the plan, then we'll have the public comment, and then we'll take final action on it. That didn't take place. My fundamental reason, though, is that it breaks up what makes Lansing work. We have community elementary schools where students go K through 5 and most of our elementary schools do very well. A lot of the research I've seen is that fewer transitions are more appropriate in this day and age for our students.

A March 27 Lansing State Journal editorial warns that the lack of a chance for the public to comment will cause some strong protests. President Ford, are you prepared for these protests?

Absolutely. By and large, the people I've talked to have been supportive of the plan. I think that the board was elected to do a job. People have complained over the past few years about the fact that the board didn't seem capable of stepping up and doing what they were elected to do. I think we recognize this as a plan, by and large, that's excit-



Myra Ford



Charles Ford

ing. I think if I had children in elementary school right now I would be incredibly excited about this new plan, because all of the research supports it. And I think that because of that the board finally said, "We believe in this, we can support this. And it's time we stepped up and did our job."

I was told that it was going to be introduced one week and voted on the next week. What was the rush?

There is a great deal of work that has to be done, and we just felt we had to move ahead.

Mr. Ford, what's your response to that?

I think it's somewhat disingenuous to our public that we did not have any type of public hearing. I didn't think there was any need to rush this quickly. I went to the Parent Advisory Meeting the Tuesday after that meeting and I have to disagree with President Ford — just about every parent at that meeting was concerned about the fact that they didn't get an opportunity to speak on the proposal. In the past they have.

President Ford, what is your response to Mr. Ford's earlier comment about not giving the public enough time to comment about these changes?

Well, obviously the public now has an opportunity to comment.

But after the fact.

We have had public hearings, and public hearings, and public hearings over the last couple of years.

But not on this specific reorganization plan.

That's correct. Let me back up for a minute and say there was, if you remember, a restructuring task force that was established during the winter months. Their recommendations to us were very much what you see in this plan. The only difference in this plan is from what was recommended and what we held public hearings on is that instead of doing it over a two year period of time we're doing it all in one year. That's really the only difference. And we did hold public hearings.

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News & Opinion 4
Public Notices 6, 7
Cover Story 9
Arts & Culture 12
Theater 14, 19, 21
Capital City Film Festival Insert 15
Books 20
Advice Goddess 23
Classifieds 23
Jonesin' Crossword 23
Out on the Town 24
Turn it Down 25
New In Town 26
Freewill Astrology 29
Uncorked 30

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7 p.m. Wednesdays

This week

Myra Ford, president of the Lansing Board of Education, and board member Charles Ford

Kyle Melinn, City Pulse columnist



MLIVE VS. LSJ by RACHEL HARPER • PHOTO by GENNA MUSIAL

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

HEALTH CARE REFORM: A BRIEF GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1) **SINGLE PAYER:** RATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, DEEMED POLITICALLY UNPALATABLE TO LOW-INFORMATION VOTERS. UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE IS THE FIRST STEP ON THE PATH TO COMMUNIST TYRANNY!
LIKE UP THERE IN CANADA!

2) **INSURANCE INDUSTRY PROFIT:** PRIMARY PURPOSE OF AMERICAN HEALTH SYSTEM AS CURRENTLY STRUCTURED. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: YOU PAY US PREMIUMS-- --AND WE LOOK FOR REASONS TO DENY YOU COVERAGE.

3) **PUBLIC OPTION:** WATERED-DOWN VERSION OF SINGLE PAYER; WOULD HAVE PROVIDED ALTERNATIVE TO PRIVATE INSURERS, DEEMED UNPALATABLE TO INSURANCE INDUSTRY. COMPETITION IS WELL AND GOOD, BUT LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY.

4) **INDIVIDUAL MANDATE:** MARKET-DRIVEN PLAN FIRST PROPOSED BY CONSERVATIVE HERITAGE FOUNDATION AND FIRST IMPLEMENTED BY MITT ROMNEY. IT WILL BE A TRIUMPH OF BIPARTISANSHIP! HOW CAN MY REPUBLICAN FRIENDS OBJECT?
IT'S THEIR PLAN!

5) **SOCIALISM:** TERM USED BY G.O.P. TO DESCRIBE HERITAGE PLAN AFTER ADOPTION BY OBAMA. "INDIVIDUAL MANDATE"? WHAT IS THAT, FRENCH FOR "GOVERNMENT DEATH PANELS"?
I BLAME SAUL ALINSKY!
ER--YES! QUITE RIGHT! I TOO AM OUTRAGED!

6) **SUPREME COURT:** JUDICIAL BODY WITH POWER TO OVERTURN OBAMACARE, THANKS TO ADOPTION OF INDIVIDUAL MANDATE. ISN'T THIS EXACTLY LIKE FORCING PEOPLE TO EAT BROCCOLI?
I HATE BROCCOLI!

7) **TRANSVAGINAL PROBES:** THE ONLY HEALTH CARE MANDATE CONSERVATIVES CURRENTLY SUPPORT. GOVERNMENT SHOULD KEEP ITS INVASIVE LAWS OFF OUR BODIES!
UNLESS WE ARE WOMEN SEEKING ABORTIONS. WHICH WE ARE NOT.

PULSE



news & opinion

City-sponsored swamps?

Neighborhood is not keen on negative effects of “greener” stormwater system

“It’s like having a swamp in your front yard,” said Jesse Draper, pointing at the large pools of water in the grass median on Barnes Avenue directly in front of his house.

“It’s like they’re small lakes with teeny tiny trees poking out of them,” Draper said.

Along with other residents of Barnes Avenue, Draper, who has lived at 419 Barnes Ave. for nearly 10 years, said the ditches are an eyesore. They fill up with water after heavy rains and melting snow, and there is usually trash that winds up in the pond from off the streets.

Along with diminishing the neighborhood aesthetics, residents say when the ponds retain water for lengthy periods of time they become breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

“The mosquitoes get out of control,” Draper said. “That’s the biggest deal for me because there is a noticeable difference.”

It turns out these are city-sponsored swamps.

The ditches, which dot the boulevard of Barnes Avenue from Bradley Avenue to Todd

Avenue, are part of a larger pilot program developed by the Lansing Public Service Department and private contractors to “find a greener approach to stormwater management,” said Chad Gamble, the city’s Public Service director.

The grass ditches are known as “swales” and are intended to catch stormwater runoff from the streets that would otherwise end up in the underground storm sewers.

The pools’ intention is in fact to collect water, Gamble said. But it’s not “a bathtub,” he insists. The basins are designed so water that runs into the basins from the road will “percolate through the soil,” and filter the water of pollutants and trash — sending a cleaner product into the river.

The grass medians used to be slightly raised, sloping down toward the street, which forced the road runoff down to the

sewer carrying trash with it, said Dorothy Jones, who has lived at 426 Barnes Ave. since 1963 and is a member of the Moores Park Neighborhood Organization.

“I thought the original plan was a good idea,” Jones said. “It sounded like a good environmental move.”

Other neighbors, like Draper, agreed with Jones.

“The concept I’m fine with,” he said. “It just doesn’t seem to be working.”

Since the project began three years ago it has been a “mess and a nuisance” for the neighborhood, Jones said. The ditches have been dug up three times because they never drained properly. The most recent construction took place last summer, she said.

The small, skinny trees that poke out of the ditches were added during the renovations, said Melvin Nealy of 409 Barnes Ave. He thinks the ditches should just be leveled



Sam Inglot/City Pulse

Jesse Draper, a Barnes Avenue resident, says the city is responsible for the swamp-like conditions in the median in front of house. The city says they’re fine and environmentally friendly.

out to match the rest of the boulevard.

“Some people are fed up,” he said. “No way is there an adequate level of drainage. It’s not cutting it. They created a problem.”

Lansing City Councilwoman Carol Wood said residents came to her with complaints last year when the ditches continued to pool excess water.

“To my understanding they’re still not doing what they’re supposed to,” Wood said, reaffirming eyesore and mosquito complaints.

“If there is a problem, the city needs to step up and hold somebody responsible,” she said. “That’s taxpayer money being used and they are not acceptable.”

The city has indeed held somebody responsible, Gamble said: the developers.

At first the pools did not drain correctly, but the problem was addressed through the rounds of construction last

year, he said.

People think that the city paid for the redesign and construction of the new swales, though Gamble said this is not the case. He said all the extra renovations were done on the contractor’s dollar after the Public Service Department complained about the problem. He said the city only paid developers once — for the initial construction.

Gamble said because the swales now adequately drain water, there is no reason they would contribute to a mosquito problem. He said the water doesn’t stand long enough to allow for mosquito larvae to hatch.

The Michigan Mosquito Control Association website has information that says “summer floodwater mosquitoes” lay their eggs in inches of water that pools in meadows and roadside ditches and can hatch within seven to 10 days.

Residents said the pools have persisted at those lengths but only after continuous, heavy rain for several days.

The fact that the swales collect trash from off the street is a good thing, Gamble said. It’s refuse that doesn’t wind up flowing into the river.

The city sees a great benefit to more environmentally friendly stormwater management, he added. There are several similar projects throughout the city with grass swales on Linden Street and “rain gardens” along Michigan Avenue. Both are designed to do the same thing, which Gamble said is to prevent “discharging chemicals and litter directly into the river.” He called it

“Mother Earth filtration.”

The swales are a new development that may take getting used to, Gamble said: If everyone looked at it as an important small step to helping the environment, then perhaps their perceptions would change.

Draper and Jones said this year has been drier than last year and the swales have not been as backed up with water, but they’re still concerned the problems of mosquitoes and murky water will persist. Gamble said the swales are indeed functioning properly, so the question is whether those living on Barnes Avenue can accept the fact that while the ditches may collect trash and water, they are in turn keeping Lansing’s riverways cleaner.

— Sam Inglot

Eyesore of the week



Property: 1603 Park Ave., Lansing

Owner: Jeffrey Nixon

Assessed value: \$50,500

Owner says: Could not be reached for comment

The smashed-in second story window of this house is like a black eye peering out onto the street. The missing front door screen offers an easy view of the several “Unsafe — Do not enter or occupy” signs stamped on the porch door.

The best, or worst, part of this house is the fact that it rests on a street corner, ruining the view on two separate streets. Venture to the north side of the house and you’ll be confronted by a large wall of burgundy-trimmed windows — eight of them and one boarded door — that dot the faded yellow or stained-white (it’s hard to tell) paint job.

The house, which is larger than it looks from the front, could be perfect for college students, though I doubt even the guys from “Animal House” would move into this place as it stands.

— Sam Inglot

Architecture critic Amanda Harrell-Seyburn says: Prominence is an important feature when siting a building. Corner lots were often the location of the largest house on the block in traditional neighborhoods, like this one at the corner of Park Avenue and Hammond Street. Located on a block of impeccably kept homes, a residence like this one is perfect for the conspicuous homeowner with a passion for vintage homes. It’s an opportunity for twice the curb appeal — a very turn-of-the-century notion that is regaining popularity.

“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.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING ADOPTED ORDINANCE #2567

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-4-2011
Address: 400 Block, Liberty Street
Parcel Number: PPN's: 33-01-01-09-279-132/-141/-151
Legal Descriptions: Lot 8, except that part used for highway purposes, and Lots 9 & 10, Block 5, Original Plat, City of Lansing, Ingham County, State of Michigan, from "C" Residential District to "F-1" Commercial District.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on March 19, 2012, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of seven (7) days from the date this notice of adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering an application from the SERF Foundation for modified Site Plan approval for the property at 1300 East Lake Lansing Road. The applicant is requesting approval for an approximately 5,400 square foot green demonstration office building. The property is zoned B-1, General Office Business District.

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

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

Marie E. McKenna
City Clerk

Divided African American field emerging in 68th



KYLE MELINN

Nobody thought Democratic Ingham County Commissioner Andy Schor would run unopposed for term-limited state Rep. Joan Bauer's seat.

The surprise is that all three of Schor's recently declared

opponents in the Democratic primary are African American. It's a dynamic that threatens to divide the community and leave Schor with an even better shot at winning the Lansing-based seat.

Former Ingham County Democratic Party Chairman Griffin Rivers announced in January. Ingham County Commissioner Dale Copedge filed paperwork with the secretary of state. Lansing City Councilwoman A'Lynne Robinson will officially announce April 12. A fourth African-American candidate, Lansing School Board member Charles Ford, had filed to run for the 68th, but decided Monday to run for the Circuit Court seat opened up by Judge Paula Manderfield's decision not to run again.

While Robinson declined to talk about the race until next Thursday, the other two admitted the concern among some within the African-American community is real and that there are ongoing discussions about what should be done about it.

Obviously, the city's African-American community isn't monolithic. Individually, the candidates wield great resumes, start with some real political support and have the potential to win.

The problem is they're all starting from square one at just about the same time. Robinson (3rd Ward) and Copedge (6th District) represent almost identical areas — south of Victor Street and west of Martin Luther King. Rivers lives steps away from the 3rd Ward, but technically lives in Lansing Township.

Schor has been knocking on doors and raising money for about a year. He's got some \$42,000 already in the bank. While the other candidates each have their own individual bases from which to start, the large-scale support networks like the NAACP or the black pastors are, at least initially, neutralized.

How can either group support one of the candidates without offending and alienating the others?

This isn't Paul Pratt v. Michael Murphy of 2000 — a mano-a-mano clash. This isn't even 2006 with Diana Rouse, when she ran as the only African American candidate in a six-horse Democratic primary for the 68th.

This is a situation where some endorsements and campaign cash simply aren't going to happen because of conflicts.

The ideal situation for the African

American community is one unifying candidate. But it's just hard to see Robinson, Copedge or Rivers getting out. For starters, any of the three, in a one-on-Schor situation, have a decent shot at winning, which is an obvious deterrent for any of them.

This is a free shot for Robinson. She's already served two one-year terms as City Council president. She's gotten about as much name ID out of the position as she's going to get. She's no longer a Jackson Public Schools administrator, so she's got some time.

And while she told me twice in the past eight months that she intended to serve all four years of her brand-new Lansing City Council term, she has a public office and other career opportunities to explore if this bid for the \$70,000-a-year state rep job falls through.

Copedge's recent retirement from the Department of Environmental Quality after nearly 30 years puts him, personally, in a good position to run, too. He's served on the County Commission for four terms and been a part of so much public service, it'd take half my column to list it all.

Copedge isn't running for the County Board of Commissioners again. In fact, a pair of potential replacements — Joe McDonald, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero's longtime aide, and Sarah Anthony, who was Bauer's legislative aide for a spell before joining the Michigan College Access Network — are already making the rounds.

Rivers, 72, was swept out of the Legislature when his former boss, House Appropriations Committee Chairman George Cushingberry was termed out of office and didn't win his state Senate race. Rivers' connections with local and statewide Democrats (not to mention donation-eligible lobbyists) are current.

He's got Murphy in his corner since Rivers ran Murphy's race in 2000. City Councilwoman Carol Wood and former Lansing Mayor Tony Benavides showed up at Rivers' announcement, too.

Will any of the four — Schor, Rivers, Copedge or Robinson — get out by the May 15 filing? My guess is no.

The Democratic nomination in the Lansing-based 68th House District is far from over. We still have the door-to-door stops, mail, parades, debates, public appearances and the typical maturation of a political campaign to go through.

As with most races, the person who works the hardest and makes the best case will win.

But it's hard to debate that if Schor's prospects looked good in December because he didn't have a declared opponent, they're looking just as good in April because he has too many declared opponents.

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

Smoking debate

Should the proposed Lansing Kewadin Casino allow smoking? Cynthia Hallett, the executive director of Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, and Roger Martin, who represents the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for the local public relations firm Martin Waymire Advocacy Communications, made their cases on the City Pulse radio show last week. (The show airs weekly at 7 p.m. Wednesdays on 88.9-FM The Impact. Podcasts are available at www.lansingcitypulse.com.) The following has been edited and condensed by Joan Bolander. Berl Schwartz and Andy Balaskovitz interviewed Hallett and Martin.

Cynthia Hallett

You said that there are casinos that do not allow smoking. Can you say where those are and how they came about?

In the United States there are 19 states that have casinos included in their state-wide smoke-free laws. That only applies to those state-owned and operated: tribal casinos obviously are sovereign. In the state of Illinois, which has a state-wide smoke-free law that includes casinos, one of their top-grossing casinos is state-owned. I think what folks may be forgetting is that nearly 80 percent of the U.S. population does not smoke. So when you go smoke-free, you're opening your casino doors to more potential patrons.

One of the things that Mayor Bernero said is he's relying on ventilation systems to largely solve the problem. What do you think about ventilation systems in casinos?

Unfortunately ventilation only deals with the comfort and odor in a facility. As we know, just because you can't see or smell smoke doesn't mean it isn't dangerous. Ventilation is insufficient to protect people from the gases and particulate contained in secondhand smoke, and that's particularly challenging and damaging for those employees who have to be in that environment for an eight hour shift.

Is there a ventilation system that can successfully remove the dangerous particulate?

I'm afraid there isn't. I personally attended an American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers meeting when their board of directors back in 2006 adopted a policy that said ventilation cannot deal with the hazardous particulate in secondhand smoke.

Are the developers correct in saying that the Lansing casino would lose revenue as the only nonsmoking casino in Michigan?

We really have not seen any evidence that smoke-free establishments lose money simply because they're smoke-free. There's a brand new casino that's opening up called the Revel that's going to be the only entirely smoke-free casino in Atlantic City. I think it's a smart business decision.

Roger Martin

Smoking is legal in all Michigan casinos. How did that come about?

It was an economic argument. When the legislation was being made, the three Detroit casinos made the argument that if you ban smoking here everyone's going to go to the casino in Windsor right across the river. Revenues will suffer and jobs and tax revenues will be lost.

Is there a possibility that three, four, or five years from now, if this casino does open, it might be a smoke-free casino?

It's impossible to predict. If this casino were opening in April, it would be a smoking property. If it opens next year, it will likely be a smoking property. Who's to say what it's to be like three, four, five, or seven years from now, assuming all federal approvals are had and the property opens.

Banning smoking in the casino has been called a deal breaker. Do you have any insight into that?

Well, it's an economic deal breaker. In today's market and knowing the demographics of gamers, smoking is something a large proportion of people who like to go to casinos like and prefer to do.

One of the biggest sales points of the people who want this casino is the Promise Scholarship Program. Isn't the cornerstone of the program going to be based on money coming from a building where people can go absorb secondhand smoke?

And consume a legal product?

Well, it is a legal product—but it kills.

We'll be serving alcohol at the casino, too, and some people could be saying, should we be funding a scholarship with revenues based on alcohol sales?

Was there any way of looking at this as making it more attractive to new casino visitors who may not come otherwise because they think of them as smoke-filled places?

Casino technology and air-scrubbing technology have improved significantly in the last few years. I can assure people of this: if, when we open, it is a smoking facility, we are going to have the best possible technology in there.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ANNUAL CONSOLIDATED STRATEGY AND PLAN
SUBMISSION AND ACTION PLAN
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUND RESOURCES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

The City Council of the City of Lansing will conduct a public hearing on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI on the City's proposed Annual Consolidated Strategy and Plan Submission which includes the budget for the use of Community Development Block Grant, HOME Program and Emergency Shelter Grant Program funds for the Fiscal Year starting July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013.

Copies of the proposed Annual Consolidated Strategy and Plan Submission and Annual Budget for the use of funds are available for review in the City Clerk's Office and in the Development Office of the Department of Planning and Neighborhood Development and will also be available for review at the public hearing.

All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing. 517-483-4477.

CHRIS SWOPE, LANSING CITY CLERK

CITY OF LANSING ADOPTED ORDINANCE #2566

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-1-2012
Parcel Numbers: PPN's: 33-01-01-16-276-002/-021/-031/-041/-151/-161/-182/-191 & part of /-050
Legal Descriptions: Lots 7 through 14, SUB of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 of Block 244, Original Plat & a parcel of land, in the NE 1/4 of Section 16, T4N,R2W, City of Lansing, Ingham County, MI., being part of Lots 2 & 3, Block 244, Original Plat, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Pages 36-38, Ingham County Records, described as commencing at the E 1/4 Corner of Section 16; thence N89°25'43"W along the E-W 1/4 line of said Section 16 a distance of 981.30 feet; thence NO0°37'58"E 889.50 feet to a point on the E line of Cedar Street & the point of beginning; thence N00°37'58"E along said E line 145.40 feet; thence S89°35'07" E 428.68 feet to the W line of Larch Street; thence SO0°38'43"W along said W Line 147.05 feet; thence N89°21'51"W 428.65 feet to the point of beginning; said parcel containing (62,682 square feet); subject to any vacated/not vacated streets or alleys and all easements or restrictions, if any, Original Plat, City of Lansing, Ingham County, State of Michigan, from "H" Light Industrial District to "G-1" Business District.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on March 19, 2012, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of seven (7) days from the date this notice of adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk

City PULSE NEWSMAKERS

This week's guests:

Mike
McLaren
& Ari
Adler



Hosted by
Berl Schwartz



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and the people behind the issues
in Greater Lansing

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That's the sound of the men ...

who come from state prison clearing brush along the River Trail

What do you do if your favorite running spot on the River Trail is overgrown with brush and unlikely to be on the city's overworked and understaffed forestry department's to-do list? If you're Daniel Heyns, you call on some prisoners to do the work.

Heyns, director of the state Department of Corrections, recently moved from Jackson to Lansing. He's also a runner.

"My boss, the director of the department, lives in Lansing and runs the River Trail. He loves it," said Russ Marlan, Corrections Department spokesman. "He noticed during his runs, parts of it are very overgrown. It's tough to run in some spots. So he contacted Mayor Bernero and offered to bring a work crew up here."

That's the story of how roughly 10 prisoners from a state prison in Chelsea came to Lansing every day for nearly a month to clear portions of the River Trail near Elm and Grand River parks. They would use little saws — "not chainsaws," Marlan said — to cut back brush. Afterward, the city came by and removed it. The exercise yielded some "pretty good results" in February and March, Marlan said. However, it was a one-time deal and no future plans are in the works to bring prisoners back.

"Absolutely, bring back the chain gang," Mayor Virg Bernero quipped last month when asked about state prisoners performing menial tasks for the city (they weren't physically shackled together). Bernero, who was speaking on the television show "City Pulse Newsmakers," said, "We took advantage of it," when the state approached the city about the work. "It behooves me to work with state government. We listen to them and we get a good listening ear."

"We had things along the River Trail and in parks that weren't getting done, that we couldn't get done, that we weren't gonna do," Bernero said. "It's not like we laid people off and brought in the prisoners. It was stuff that wasn't getting done and we had no money to do."

Brett Kaschinske, director of Lansing's Parks and Recreation Department, said even though Ingham County has agreed to maintain 40 parks and some River Trail maintenance — snow plowing, mowing, trash and debris cleanup — "it doesn't involve cutting brush. ... This isn't cart blanche any maintenance that happens is done by the county. It depends on what the situation is."

Kaschinske said it's not the first time the city has used prisoners to clear debris. He cited a tornado that blew through a few years ago. "They bring the individuals and staffing and we provide the scope

of work," he said. "It's things the city can't get to."

It's a rare occurrence these days, Marlan said, for the state to send prisoners out to do work for municipalities. The department has "largely scaled back on those" due to budget problems, Marlan said. While municipalities "paid a small fee, it was not enough to offset the costs of vans and officer salaries." Marlan added that the city did not pay the state anything for the work. In years past, Marlan said, the state would agree to long-term contracts where crews showed up "every day of the week" to clean cemeteries or parks, citing a former agreement with the city of Mason. "We had to cancel those contracts. Now it's sporadic assignments based on need."

Offenders must meet certain criteria to qualify for Public Service Assignments. The Department of Corrections lists 15 criteria on its website, including not having a history of arson behavior, sexual offenses or a lifetime sentence.

The news raised a few City Council members' eyebrows at a March 22 Ways and Means Committee meeting. At-Large Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar was unaware the city had done this. Third Ward Councilwoman A'Lynne Robinson said some might have concerns with the "shock and awe" of inmates working in the community, but was not against the idea. At-Large Councilwoman Carol Wood said it's "definitely a concern," citing possible public safety issues.

Marlan said the work was cut short three to four weeks because of concerns raised by local unions that it was taking away from seasonal employees' jobs.

"I think the UAW raised those concerns," said Lynne Meade, vice president of the Teamsters Local 580, which supervises the UAW workers "that used to do that work. Their work has gradually been given away and given away. We want to make sure the work is not given away completely."

Dennis Parker, chairman of UAW Local 2256, could not be reached for comment.

But Marlan, of the state Corrections Department, said his boss is working with the Legislature to bring back more inmate worker programs.

"It's kind of a rehabilitative process for inmates, promotes positive work ethics and gives back to the community," Marlan said. "My boss believes in the inmate work crew program. ... It's a fundamental part of the rehabilitative process."

— Andy Balaskovitz



»» As Gannett »» announces a paywall for online content, MLive moves in. Is there room for both models?

By **ANDY BALASKOVITZ**

In Mickey Hirten's second-floor office overlooking the downtown CATA bus station, the Lansing State Journal editor explains how his career has spanned seven centuries.

As a young reporter in college, he remembers the typing, gluing, lead slugs, lead pages and other Linotype components for putting a newspaper together. Now he's overseeing the LSJ's transition to a more digital-savvy, online-connected newsroom where access to that information is about to undergo a major transition.

"When I started, it was not radically different than when printing evolved in the Gutenberg era," Hirten said Friday. "I'm overseeing the transition to a highly digitized world, and I'm going to help shepherd that transition from a 14th century technology to 21st century technology in the span of my modest career. This is an important thing for the community."

On May 1, the LSJ will unroll a new business model that charges readers after a limited number of free stories on the paper's website. It's called a paywall and is used by publications like The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. The Journal's owner, Gannett Co., announced in February that it would migrate to paywalls for all of its 82 news publications, excluding USA Today.

"Establishing value for the content is really, really important, and people should pay for it," Hirten said. "We have to understand where we have particular strengths. The appetite for news and information is growing every year." He cites the music recording industry as a comparison: "It's about adapting to the disruption of digital models."

It's uncertain what new subscription rates will cost. It's also uncertain how many free articles readers will get before running into the paywall, though media reports say it will be between five and 15, depending on the market.

It's a bold move that some say could spell disaster for Lansing's oldest newspaper.

Others say it's at least worth a shot, including Hirten, because the current model is "unsustainable." And the paywall comes as another print newspaper staple — Booth Newspapers — is restructuring and positioning itself as the Journal's biggest competitor in Lansing (albeit without a print publication) in MLive Media Group.

About 10 blocks northwest of the Journal is 217 N. Sycamore St. This old house — which property records say was built in 1872 — was a bustling place as the former headquarters of Booth Newspapers' Lansing bureau. Today it's the headquarters of MLive's Lansing bureau, which launched in August. The broader MLive Media Group plan was announced in February.

The Lansing bureau includes about a half-dozen reporters covering Lansing and statewide issues. Stories are published online on an ongoing basis and also feed the print editions of Booth mainstays like the Grand Rapids Press, Kalamazoo Gazette and Jackson Citizen Patriot.

MLive officials declined City Pulse requests to comment for this story.

While giving a keynote address at a Society of Professional Journalists' conference in East Lansing last month, MLive's vice president for content, John Hiner, laid out the company's mantra.

"If you're working in journalism ... you are an innovator. You don't have a choice," Hiner said. If you don't accept the new territory and adapt, you're "writing the prescription for the end of your business."

For MLive, that means building "hubs" across the state, including in Detroit and Lansing; encouraging reporters to engage with readers; publishing stories in realtime and adding to them as they unfold; and writing for a "mobile" audience. "The most important content — locally relevant journalism — that doesn't change. Pushing unique content out into the market: That hasn't changed. The basic tenants of journalism are not changed. What has changed is the ability to know instantly what your audience is interested in."



Gennifer Musial/City Pulse

Lansing State Journal executive director editor Mickey Hirten is overseeing the paper's transition to a paywall, which will charge readers for online content after a certain amount of free articles, and a more digitally-focused newsroom.

Hiner added that MLive's strategy is about "pushing all your resources into your content. Which means investing in journalists." He was brought to tears in East Lansing when describing MLive employees' "amazing" response to the change: "I'm really proud of my people."

Trim first then innovate

Hiner and Hirten's descriptions of their respective employers' business moves indicate there is no clear sense of how to figure out the daily print journalism model. The Journal's owner, Gannett Co., is the nation's largest newspaper chain. Booth is part of Advanced Publications Inc., with newspapers in more than 25 cities, magazines such as The New Yorker and Vanity Fair as well the newspaper insert Parade carried by the State Journal. Both organizations have seen their share of struggles in the past few years and both are playing offense to right the ship. They have different game plans.

The two companies shared the need to downsize operations before going forward.

Booth Newspapers and MLive.com issued about 550 layoff notices in November as part of the restructuring process, but more than 200 new jobs were posted with MLive Media Group to bring some of those or new employees back, Dan Gaydou, president of MLive Media Group, told the Kalamazoo Gazette at the time.

"For me, this was a matter of getting people matched up to the needs of the new company," Gaydou told WMUK-FM in January, a Kalamazoo-based radio station.

Also, Booth Newspapers ceased printing the Ann Arbor News in 2009, moving it to the online-only AnnArbor.com, and all seven of its print publications are now on three- or four-day home delivery schedules to cut costs.

As for the Journal, at least 15 employees

were laid off as recently as June. At the time, Gannett cut its U.S. publishing division by 700 employees, or about 2 percent. Between August 2008 and July 2009, the LSJ cut 46 positions.

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— Mickey Hirten,
executive editor
Lansing State Journal**

At the same time, circulation numbers continue to decline. The latest figures from the Audit Bureau of Circulations show that as of Sept. 30, 42,610 copies of the Lansing State Journal are circulated during the week and 66,583 on Sundays. In 2008, the daily circulation was about 59,000 and Sunday's

Media

from page 9

was about 77,000, representing a 28 percent decline for its daily circulation and 14 percent on Sundays. Comparatively, the Kalamazoo Gazette saw a 22 percent decline in Sunday circulation and a 28 percent decline in its daily circulation between 2007 and now.

Despite layoffs over the past several years, both organizations are hiring. The LSJ hired Steven R. Reed in January as its investigative reporter. Hirten says another “four, five, six” hires are planned, which will include reporters and digital producers. The LSJ newsroom has a new computer system and is “completely renovated” and Hirten said 21 iPhones were purchased for the staff. Hirten also said the LSJ will focus on “four key areas” of reporting: Michigan State University sports; “Lansing and transforming Lansing”; “Michigander-type issues”; and state government.

“It’s increasingly difficult to think about traditional roles,” Hirten said. “This will reflect what readers and the audience want.”

The New York Times reported in February that Gannett hopes to bring in \$100 million through the nationwide paywall effort. Where the competition in Lansing will play out is the web. Hirten said the LSJ sees “800,000-plus” unique visitors a month. He added in a live web-chat Monday with

LSJ readers that the paper’s audience for local news tops 7 million page views. Hiner, during his speech in East Lansing last month, said MLive had 6.1 million unique visits to its sites statewide in December. By February, it climbed to 6.9 million unique visits, he said.

So how will this competition play out in Lansing? The LSJ claims to have built-in support with its print product, but online readers will soon have to pay. MLive aims to be more mobile — and free — but has fewer reporters covering the city of Lansing. As the battleground migrates from paper to the Internet, the lingering question is: Can MLive go head-to-head with the LSJ in Lansing? Hirten doesn’t think so. And Gaydou, in a radio interview in January, said paywalls are a bad idea.

“We give readers the complete package — we’ve got a newspaper here,” Hirten said in his office Friday, holding up a copy of the LSJ. “We provide expertise and we have a larger staff.”

In other markets, though, MLive/Booth newspapers are reaping the benefits of content coming from its “hubs” throughout the state. On Saturday, page one of the Kalamazoo Gazette featured four stories, all with MLive staff bylines (including one by former Journal business reporter Melissa Anders). On that same day, the Journal had two feature stories — one by LSJ staffer Scott Davis on strikes at the Red Cross and a Detroit Free Press story on proposed

funding cuts for MSU and the University of Michigan. MLive also runs content from Bridge Magazine, a product of the Center for Michigan that’s creating respected long-form, investigative journalism.

While some have speculated whether the Journal’s move signifies the end of a

they’ve figured out the model.” Speaking on the upcoming paywall, Nixon said: “They said we’re going to put it online and it’s going to be free. Now it’s not going to be free anymore. I just don’t know if you can rewrite that script. I hope for the sake of the community and public knowledge they can

“We’re not in favor of paywalls. We don’t think they work. In our new economy, we monetize traffic coming through our website. If you put up a paywall, it will stop that traffic. People are not going to pay online for news very easily.”
— Dan Gaydou, president of MLive Media Group, in a January interview with WMUK-FM

daily print paper and a migration to online-only (as was the case for Booth in Ann Arbor), Hirten said he’s “not aware of” that happening. “Some companies want to be able to do both. We are. We’re in this for the long run. Not to say we won’t change, but now is now.”

Gaydou, in a January radio interview, said: “We’re not in favor of paywalls. We don’t think they work. In our new economy, we monetize traffic” online. “We need traffic coming through our website. If you put up a paywall, it will stop that traffic. People are not going to pay online for news very easily. In general, information is free on the Internet.”

succeed. I have a lot of great respect for the Journal, but I am really nervous.”

Nixon and another former LSJ employee, who asked not to be identified, said there’s no doubt the Journal is a shadow of its former self. Both also agree that these are the results of directives from McLean, Va., where Gannett is based.

“The problem they’ve got right now is that you just gave the CEO of Gannett a retirement package and bonuses beyond that that could have paid for all those laid-off workers,” the former employee said. Indeed, former Gannett CEO Craig Dubow took home a \$1.75 million cash bonus in 2010, the year after his total earnings doubled to \$9.4 million. Hirten called that a “straw man” issue. “I deal with things I can control. My world is greater Lansing. Corporate salaries are a different world altogether.”

Those corporate decisions result in “the Mickey Hirtens of the world” having to make decisions about where to cut from the staff, the former employee said. And it’s showing. “There are things, granted, the State Journal could do better. The fact that the State Journal doesn’t own the state Capitol is ridiculous. They should dominate it.

“I still think the State Journal is a viable thing. I think the State Journal exists in a market place where it is the dominant media provider if it wants to be.”

The former employee credits MLive “for giving it a try” in Lansing, hiring talented reporters and partnering with Bridge Magazine. “The thing is, the State Journal has such a structural advantage. Even if Gannett sits there and penny pinches them, you have to work harder if you’re MLive. A tie is a loss for them. You have to win. It’s just the way it is for online.”

Rob South worked for MLive for five weeks after spending most of his career at WKAR before being laid off due to budget cuts in August. “All I can say is it was a bad fit,” he said of his five-week stint at MLive, citing a severance agreement he signed.

“I think MLive has an uphill climb to really be on top of the local market,” South said.

Will they work? Ex-journos weigh in

Clearly, the traditional notion of daily print newspapers is history. The LSJ and MLive can agree on that much. The question is whether their new models will work. Former LSJ and MLive employees, as well as professors and former journalists, have mixed opinions on how Lansing’s daily news environment will play out. Each organization has strengths and weaknesses, they say.

Indeed, some suggest that creating paywalls only fuels the market for competition and opens opportunities for publications (online or otherwise) that are free for consumers. In other words, more publications may try to provide for free what the Journal plans to charge for. Others say Gannett missed the boat by about 10 years by going to a paywall now, in that free news is so ingrained in our culture, we’ll seek it elsewhere if one publication doesn’t provide it. Yet still others believe the new environment of increased competition among publications benefits the readers most.

“Somehow, somebody is going to figure out how to run a midsize daily newspaper at a very handsome profit and still be answerable to the public it services,” said Mark Nixon, a former LSJ reporter and editorial page editor who recently retired as communications director of the Lansing Board of Water & Light. “But I don’t think

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Media

from page 10

“MLive’s challenge is going to be having more people with more time to actually do the work. They’re understaffed — I don’t mean that as a criticism, I mean that as reality,” he said, referring to covering the city of Lansing. However, while this may be true for covering the city of Lansing, MLive “does a good job covering the state,” he said.

But Bonnie Bucqueroux, publisher of Lansing Online News and a journalism faculty member at MSU, sees it differently: “I think Gannett is committing corporate suicide. ... I think the Journal is going to have real trouble with this: There are too many free alternatives out there. They may think they have a lock on it now, but it’s kind of a sad commentary when they’re suggesting that what they’re going to rely on is eyeballs for sports.”

While some might say it’s a worth a shot, Bucqueroux said it’s too late: “When they had the money to innovate, they didn’t. If this is such a great model, why doesn’t MLive use it?”

As for MLive, Bucqueroux believes they’re “really coming along strong, quickly. They seem to have an energy, excitement about them.” However, “We’ve seen publications come and go,” citing the Michigan Messenger. “It’s very difficult. There’s gonna be a huge big shakeout here. We’ll see who survives in this sort of head-to-head matchup. I don’t think (MLive’s) website is easily navigable

and the new design is kind of awful. There’s no perfect publication out there.”

Ari Adler, spokesman for House Speaker Jase Bolger, R-Marshall, also spent a great deal of his career working for small and mid-size dailies throughout the state. Adler is an adjunct journalism professor at MSU. He’s also skeptical about the Journal’s paywall and is impressed with MLive’s efforts.

“MLive certainly laid down the gauntlet as far as coverage of the Capitol and what is happening in state government,” Adler said. “The Lansing State Journal for a number of years now has reduced coverage at the Capitol.”

Adler says it’s the quality of journalism that’s produced by any outlet, not the delivery method. “Whoever is doing a better job of producing that news is going to be ahead.

“My hope would be they both survive. I’m a firm believer in competition,” Adler said. “If you don’t have competition, you end up becoming a bit complacent in what you’re doing. I think we saw that happening with the Lansing State Journal.”

Back in Hirten’s office on Friday, he’s excited about his paper’s venture. He’s a believer that people will pay for the Journal’s online content because it has the resources — the largest staff in the area — and the largest audience. People turn to the Journal for, say, MSU and high school sports, he said. And there’s the slight sense that, like all journalism models being tested, it’s part of a greater experiment: “And if it doesn’t work, we’ll have to try something else. The current model is not sustainable in the long run.”

(Sam Ingot contributed reporting to this story.)



Gennifer Musial/City Pulse

MLive Media Group’s Lansing bureau, 217 N. Sycamore St., is again open for business. Whereas the house was the former Booth Newspaper Lansing headquarters, a half-dozen reporters and editors covering statewide and city of Lansing issues use it now.

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 Ingham County Health Dept.
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Meet the design enforcer

Project Manager Craig Kiner keeps an eye on the Broad Art Museum

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Every day, thousands of passersby squint at the spot where the silvery-sleek Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum is taking final shape. Craig Kiner is watching the metamorphosis with a keener eye than most.

Kiner, the museum's project manager, flew to Lansing from architect Zaha Hadid's London offices for a few days in March to check on the small army of builders that is pulling Hadid's dynamic design from the drawing board to the physical world.

Every four to six weeks, Kiner or project architect Alberto Barba (or both) visit the site and report back to Hadid and her associate Patrik Schumacher.

"Our responsibility is to ensure that the execution of the building is in accordance with the design," Kiner said.

Kiner looked pleased as he wrapped up his most recent visit March 9. He'll be back later this month.

"This project is very close to what our aspirations are and were, even at the competition stage," he declared.

After months of watching the museum's glass and stainless steel exoskeleton form over its larval concrete, Kiner began last month to focus on the quickening life inside the shell.

"Internal work is really picking up," he said. "The work has really reached another level over the last couple of months, and it needs to, to get the building complete and ready for the exhibitions."

The most dramatic recent addition to the interior is a jagged "feature staircase" that rockets through the middle of the museum as if a hand grenade had rolled under it half a second ago. For now, scaffolding conceals its angular thrust, but the sight of the staircase hunching in the dark made Kiner's eyes flicker.



Craig Kiner

See Enforcer, Page 13



The retro-style lounge, left, at Spare Time Entertainment Center (formerly Holiday Lanes) will soon be replaced by the Grand River Bar and Grill. A two-story laser tag area and a deluxe arcade are also planned.

Geniafer Musial/City Pulse



Would The Dude abide?

Venerable Lansing bowling alley parts with tradition to court a new generation

By ANDY McGLASHEN

Nowhere else in Lansing would Don Draper look so at home as in the mid-century splendor of the Spare Time Entertainment Center's cocktail lounge. From the black leather booths to the pendant lighting and starburst bar top, it could easily double as a set for one of those soggy power lunches on "Mad Men."

But not for long.

You might still know the place as Holiday Lanes, the bowling alley that has stood near Frandor on Grand River Avenue since the 1950s. It's gotten new owners and a changed name since January. A lot more changes are coming.

The lounge will be demolished to make way for a full-service restaurant called the Grand River Bar and Grill, said Meredith Assande, Spare Time's event and marketing manager. The former site of eight lanes at the west end of the building will become a two-story laser-tag course and an arcade where players can win prizes ranging "from a teddy bear to an iPad," she said.

Another eight lanes at the opposite end will become a "boutique bowling" area — basically a VIP section with its own bar.

And, if all goes according to plan, the property's exterior will eventually feature a ropes course for team-building events and sand volleyball courts for summer leagues (because, as Assande said with no apparent irony, "we have beautiful weather in Michigan and it's truly a shame not to take advantage of it.")

"As the years have gone by, bowling alleys have had to change as their audience has changed," said Assande, the daughter of new owners Michael and Nancy MacColeman.

"We want you to have fun whether you're 3 or 93. We want to freshen things up and give people something new."

Not everybody wants something new.

"I don't like it," said Barney Eagan, association manager for the Michigan State Bowling Association, referring to the changes underway at Spare Time. "I'm kind of old-school. I like the old stuff."

But Eagan, a student of the game for more than a half-century, knows the status quo is no longer an option for many bowling alleys. "If they don't do something, they'll go out of business," he said.

The bowling industry ain't what it used to be. Your grandpa and his Blatz-chugging buddies from the factory were part of a surge in bowling that followed the introduction of the automatic pin-setter in the 1950s. That wave has long since crashed.

From 2007 to 2010, the number of Americans who bowled at least once in the previous year dropped by 9 percent, according to the White Hutchinson Leisure and Learning Group, a Missouri-based consulting firm. Perhaps more significantly, the number of certified league bowlers — long the meat and potatoes of the bowling business — dropped from 4.1 million in 1998 to 2.2 million in 2010. Between 2002 and 2010, 900 bowling centers throughout the country were shuttered, dropping from 6,300 to 5,400.

Waning participation has hit Michigan's bowling industry hard. In 2005, Brunswick — the world's largest maker of bowling equipment — moved its only bowling ball factory from Muskegon, where it had stood since 1906, to Reynosa, Mexico. Plainwell Lanes near Kalamazoo and Oxford Lanes

in Dearborn both called it quits last December.

You wouldn't guess the game was falling out of favor if you were at Spare Time on a recent Tuesday night. Trend-bucking league bowlers filled about two-thirds of the lanes, with college kids and families taking up the rest.

Longtime league member Trisha Sherman embraces Spare Time's new direction wholeheartedly, making the koan-like case that with fewer lanes, Spare Time can recruit more bowlers.

"I love it," she said after a good-luck shot of Hot Damn with her teammates. The arcade and other attractions will "bring the younger generation of kids to bowling," she said. "And hopefully my kid can get a job with the laser tag."

At the other end of the alley — and at the opposite side of the bowling-optimism spectrum — was Bill, who declined to give his last name.

"I've been bowling for 40-too-damn-many years," he said, but the only reason he still plays is to spend time with his 76-year-old dad, who has Parkinson's disease.

"My daughter doesn't get into it," he said, over a post-game Corona. "It's not like when I was a kid and we bowled every week."

Bill said he likes the new owners, but he isn't wild about the shift away from traditional bowling.

"I always thought this was the best one in Lansing," he said, comparing the alley to Royal Scot, Pro Bowl and others in the area. "To me, the big change is the eight lanes" that were taken out for the arcade and laser tag. "There's a lot of other bowling alleys if I want to go somewhere else."

Enforcer

from page 12

“What’s going to be amazing is when people move up and down that space, you’re going to experience the materiality of those concrete walls and the direct connection to Grand River Avenue, the city,” he said. Kiner often uses the word “materiality” to describe the textural and visual seduction exuded by the building’s naked haunches of steel, glass and concrete.

The stairwell, sheathed in glass, zig-zags up the museum’s north face as if it were meant to contain lightning. The scaffolds had to be braced off the walls because there’s nothing directly above or below them to fasten to.

“Look down below, where that wall hits,” Kiner said, with a smile. “Try to transfer a vertical line, and it doesn’t hit the roof.”

On the second floor, Kiner basked in the sunshine filtering into the building through the stainless steel fins outside.

“We wanted natural light in the galleries,” Kiner said. “We never believed some curators and advisers in the art world who think square white boxes without any natural light is the best way to display artwork.”

The glass that let the light in was the main cause of the delay in the museum’s scheduled opening date from April to September. Some panels were broken on arrival and others didn’t fit.

“Yes, there’s been some hiccups with glass getting broken before it leaves the factory, getting damaged in transit or getting broken in site, but all those things are normal, especially when you’re dealing with components that are challenging,” he said. “They’re very large pieces of glass, triple-glazed units, argon-filled, with lamination on the outside and inside, and they’re very heavy.”

He said the delayed opening date had its good side, including warm weather for the extensive landscaping to be done.

“I don’t think it’s unfair to say that people were relieved to have that extra time,” he said.

As a design enforcer, Kiner is used to shuttling back and forth from the abstract



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The downward-facing stainless steel panels and glazing on the angular west side of the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum are some of the trickiest parts of the shell to go up.

to the concrete — a long commute, where Hadid’s bold designs are concerned.

“We had aspirations, but we need to balance that with what is achievable construction-wise,” he said.

Thanks to carefully calculated cantilevering, hidden trusses extending halfway across the museum hold up its miraculous leaning west wall, as the architect envisioned. Other features called for more give and take between designer and builder. At first, Hadid’s team intended to pour the concrete for the entire café wall at the museum’s east side at one time, but this is no ordinary wall. No matter how carefully the forms were braced and built, pouring a 35-foot-high wall at a vertical inclination of about 15 to 18 degrees was asking for trouble.

“There would be incredible pressure at the bottom of those forms,” Kiner said. “There was a significant danger of that wall, basically, blowing out the form work.”

After a huddle, the team decided to pour the wall in two stages, with a control joint between, leaving a narrow horizontal seam above the café. It seems like a small thing, but Kiner and the team don’t take such

compromises lightly. If Hadid’s designs are about anything, they’re about clean lines and smooth planes, with no nubs or bumps to dispel the impression the visitor is being swept up in pure vectors of force.

“It looks fine,” he said. “It articulates the wall.”

Before he left the site, Kiner took a minute to reflect on the Broad Museum’s place in Hadid’s growing portfolio of architectural marvels.

“It’s a significant building for us, but not in terms of its size, because we’ve done much larger buildings,” he said.

That is an understatement. Around the world, Hadid’s office is erecting projects that dwarf the Broad Museum’s 43,000 square feet, from the Guangzhou Opera House to the tsunami-sized Aquatics Centre for the London 2012 Olympic Games. These days, Kiner is splitting his time between the Broad Museum and the 915,000-square-foot Dongdaemun Design Park & Plaza, a multi-use urban development project in Seoul, South Korea.

To Kiner, the Broad Museum is significant in Hadid’s portfolio for two reasons. One is that it’s only the office’s second building in

the United States. The first was Cincinnati’s Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Art, a very different animal, owing to its vertical thrust and urban setting.

“In Cincinnati, the site area was very restricted, on the corner of two streets,” Kiner said. “There’s no real space around it, except for the sidewalks.”

To invite people into the Rosenthal Center, Hadid rolled the sidewalk, like a carpet, up into the museum’s floating stack of rectangles. The Broad’s more spacious setting, with a courtyard and sculpture garden, called for a different strategy.

That leads to the second reason Kiner finds the Broad Museum significant in the Hadid corpus: the way the building nestles in its context.

That’s not to say the museum is shy; let’s say it’s socially adept.

“It’s not a contextual response you might find in a traditional building,” Kiner allowed.

“Spatially and geometrically, it reacts to the movement around it.” The museum’s lines, orifices and angles not only plug into vehicle traffic on Grand River Avenue, but also the north-south movement of students from East Lansing to campus and back.

“That movement was translated over the building,” Kiner said. “That became the patches and pleats, the folding of the skin across the external envelope.”

Kiner said the grand design will become clearer in coming weeks, when low site walls and planted areas go in. “There’s almost a wave current of the building’s geometry that’s spread across the foot of the building, across the landscape,” he said.

On the walk back to the work trailer, he looked back at the museum, crouching in the pines. The light was constantly changing as clouds rolled in the March wind. Kiner was due back for the U.K. that afternoon, but couldn’t resist a lingering look.

“An amazing aspect of the stainless steel is how it reacts to different kinds and qualities of light,” Kiner said. “It gets reflective, it gets dull, and then it starts glowing.”

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online at www.lansingcitypulse.com

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Still a thrill

Changes have been made, but 'Les Miserables' retains its musical power

By **ALLAN I. ROSS**

The thing about great art is that there's always something new to get out of it.

I'm not about to compare the students of the 19th century French June Rebellion depicted in Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables" with last year's American Occupy movement protesters, but you can't help but wonder if some of them weren't humming "Red and Black" while huddled over Manhattan café tables.

Claude-Michel Schonberg's musical stage adaptation is deservedly one of the world's most popular musicals, and your proof is at the Wharton Center this week.

Review



Courtesy Photo

Jean Valjean (Lawrence Clayton) can't escape the clutches of Inspector Javert (Andrew Varela) in "Les Miserables."

The show plays as a tension of opposites between the flawed altruist Jean Valjean and the letter-of-the-law enforcer Javert, with the latter always threatening to make the show his own. Andrew Valera, who embodies Javert as one charismatic mofo, finally succeeds in that attempt. You'll never root for the bad guy like you will for his Javert.

Similarly, Casey Erin Clark's angelic characterization of Fantine sears into your brain, and you genuinely miss her after her too-brief appearance.

"One More Day," the thunderous end to Act I is just as rousing as ever—if the soaring final note doesn't have your heart pounding, you don't have one. During the tender "A Little Fall of Rain," some members of the audience could be heard openly weeping. And the Thénardiens' songs ("Master of the House," "Beggars at the Feast") still work as perfect breaks in the brevity, providing much-needed mirth.

After 27 years, "Les Miserables" is sporting a new look.

Gone is the much talked about rotating stage and the transforming barricade set; in its place are some cutting-edge animation sequences inspired by sketches by Victor Hugo and gorgeous sliding set pieces that fluidly lock into place, and then nimbly spin out of the way when scenes are changing.

Not all the revisions are for the better. It's hard to say that a three-hour musical should slow down at all, but some of the more tender emotional scenes seem a little rushed. Some lighting equipment that borders the proscenium blocks some of the visuals to the extreme stage left and right. And newcomers should thumb through the program before the start of the show: A couple of time jumps and a character change-of-costume seem more confusing in this version.

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SCHEDULE OF FILMS + EVENTS

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TIME	EVENT	VENUE
4:30 p.m.	Red Carpet Premiere Party - FREE!	Troppo
7:00 p.m.	Elderly Instruments: All Things Strings	Lansing Center
8:00 p.m.	MUSICAL GUEST: Greensky Bluegrass	The Loft above Harem

FRIDAY

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
9:00 a.m.	TEDx Lansing	Lansing Public Media Center
2:30 p.m.	Media Sandbox Capstone Series	Lansing Public Media Center
6:30 p.m.	Man On A Mission	Lansing Public Media Center
7:00 p.m.	MUSICAL GUEST: Murder By Death	The Loft above Harem
9:00 p.m.	Searching for Sonny	Lansing Public Media Center

SATURDAY

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Noon	Student Shorts Block I	Lansing Public Media Center
	Professional Shorts Block I	Temple Building in Old Town
2:00 p.m.	Student Shorts Block II	Lansing Public Media Center
2:30 p.m.	Fake It So Real	Temple Building in Old Town
4:00 p.m.	The Bath School Disaster & everydayPeople	Lansing Public Media Center
5:00 p.m.	Professional Shorts Block II	Temple Building in Old Town
6:30 p.m.	Long-form Comedy Shorts	Lansing Public Media Center
7:00 p.m.	Detachment	Temple Building in Old Town
	MUSICAL GUEST: William Elliott Whitmore	The Loft above Harem
7:30 p.m.	Boogie Stomp!	Lansing Public Media Center
9:00 p.m.	Wes Anderson Double Feature - Free!	Temple Building in Old Town

SUNDAY

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
11:00 a.m.	Fortnight Film Contest Screening and Awards	Lansing Public Media Center
2:00 p.m.	teddy bear	Lansing Public Media Center
4:30 p.m.	AFI Directing Workshop for Women Showcase	Lansing Public Media Center
7:00 p.m.	We Need to Talk About Kevin	Lansing Public Media Center
7:00 p.m.	MUSICAL GUEST: LIGHTS	The Loft above Harem





CLOSING NIGHT

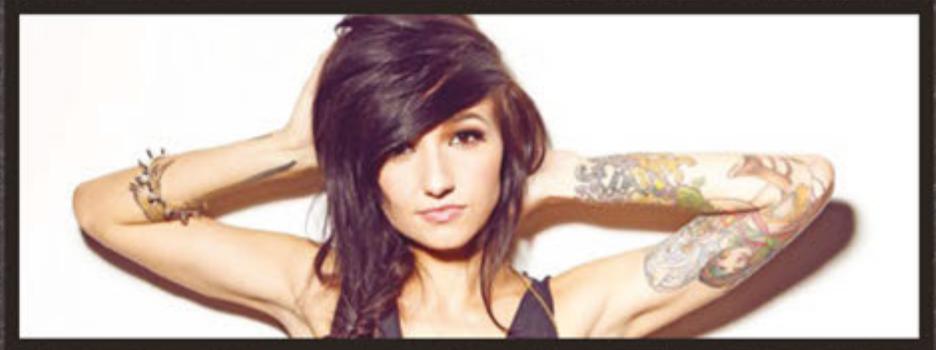


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ALL ABOUT: LIGHTS

When electro-rock sensation LIGHTS first hit the music scene in 2008, she was just a songwriter with a synth and a dream. Her name may have been pluralized but Lights Poxleitner was a one-woman show. Her latest album's (Siberia) beats skitter and thwack and the analog synths dirty up her trademark melodies. Call it anti-electro, dream-step or perhaps even grit-pop. Whatevs...Just rest assured that it's the same bright LIGHTS; she's just built herself a bigger city.



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TRACT I O N



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Photo by Kevin Fowler

A crew of 30 Lansing Community College dancers come together to demonstrate the diversity of American music in the "American Spirit" concert.

A musical melting pot

LCC's 'American Spirit' has a little of everything

By ADAM ILENICH

When you call your show "The American Spirit," you want a cast that reflects that idea. So director Vickie Diebold brought together 30 dancers and multiple styles for the Lansing Community College spring concert.

"We have everything," said Diebold, the head of LCC's dance department. "We have tap, jazz, ballet, hip hop, lyrical, modern — we have all genres of dance represented in the show."

As for her dancers, Diebold said, "We've got a wide range of performers. We've got high school students, which are the youngest, and of course the college students and then professional people from the Lansing area, and then the oldest are in their 60s."

The concert goes back to the days before

the country even existed.

"The show actually begins with a piece called 'New Beginning' by recognizing the Native Americans who were here before we got here," Diebold said.

"The idea behind the show was to show the melting pot and how we come together when times are tough, no matter where we're from or where our background is. We pull together as a nation and as a people, and that's what the show is about — the dancers come from such different backgrounds and places in their lives and we've pulled together to do this show."

"We're trying to show that even though we're all diverse, and come from different backgrounds and have different ideas that we're still one. We come together to accomplish the best things possible."

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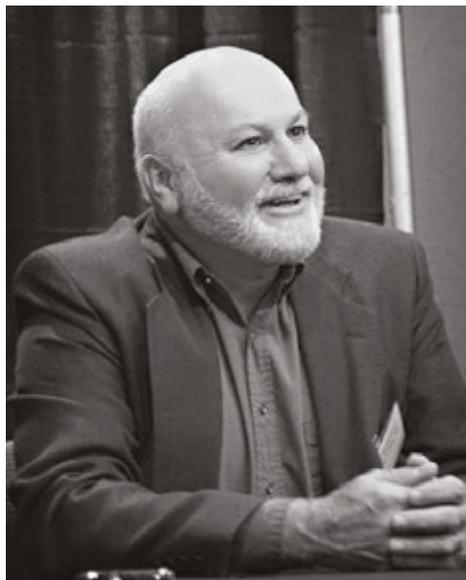
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Courtesy Photo

When it comes to writing, Loren D. Estleman won't give up his vintage typewriters. "I've never been online and I'm never going online," he said.

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'Writing well is the best revenge'

Loren D. Estleman is the keynote speaker at this year's Rally of Writers

By **BILL CASTANIER**

The Lansing Rally of Writers has been in it for the long haul. For 25 years, the rally has promoted writing and writers in Lansing.

This year's program features noted crime and western writer Loren D. Estleman who, in a career spanning more than 45 years, has written 60 novels and hundreds of short stories.

Estleman's fingers can never be far from an old-school typewriter.

A typewriter?

"I'm not giving up on the typewriter," Estleman, 59, said, in an interview from his home in rural Whitmore Lake — but then everything is rural in Whitmore Lake, which suits Estleman just fine.

"I've never been online and I'm never going online," Estleman said.

Only recently has Estleman acquiesced to publishers' demands of creating electronic files of his work, leaving that chore up to his spouse and fellow mystery writer Deborah Morgan.

Estleman still prefers using his 1967 Olympia and his 1923 Underwood to bang out his novels, including his more than 30 books featuring Detroit private eye Amos Walker. Walker, who would be just as home in the 1930s Detroit as he is in his novels' contemporary setting, is a tough-talking, no-nonsense gumshoe who is quick with his fists and quicker with the quip.

Estleman said his morning keynote address at the Rally of Writers would stress that "writing well is the best revenge for young writers."

He says writing well offers the best chance to get published and the best chance to make yourself critic-proof.

Estleman, whose career began when he submitted his first short story to a maga-

zine when he was 15, is not a fan of self-publishing.

"It should be the last resort for writers. It's so easy to self-publish that too many young writers don't go the regular route," he said.

And he sees a downside to that.

"You are never going to learn the craft unless you face editors," he said.

Estleman said he has belonged to a writers' group for 30 years. It meets every two weeks. He said a writers' group helps make you aware of your audience and "what rings untrue."

"Every writer after awhile becomes too familiar with what they are doing," he said. He said writers' groups make you aware of that and help you to avoid that common mistake.

Estleman said his advice to young or first-time writers is to "have faith in yourself." He also believes that every reader needs feedback during the writing process: "Establish someone close to you whose opinion you trust."

The author is a stickler for detail: It still bothers him that in one of his Walker books he placed the iconic giant Uniroyal tire from the 1964 World's Fair on the wrong side of I-94 in Allen Park.

He laments the decline of newspapers in the United States. He calls the situation "the new Dark Ages." "Who will keep the public record?" he asks.

Estleman always has several books in the pipeline, and one that he is very excited about is a fictional look at real-life gangster Al Capone. "Capone is very current in our culture," he said, "and the 800-page manuscript is the longest I ever submitted."

The rally takes place April 14 at the Conference Center of the Lansing

Community College West Campus.

A free Rally Warm-Up, titled "After Red Tails: Struggles on the Home Front," starts at 7 p.m. April 13 at the Schuler Books & Music Eastwood Towne Center location. Authors Lawrence P. Scott and Geoff Blair will discuss the World War II Tuskegee Airmen. Scott co-authored the book "Double V: The Civil Rights Struggle of the Tuskegee Airmen," and Blair is the grandson of one of the Tuskegee aviators.

The 2012 Rally of Writers features 16 break-out sessions with authors, playwrights and poets.

Mardi Link, who has two books focusing on Michigan history and a forthcoming memoir, will will conduct a luncheon workshop on essay writing titled "Three Books, the Hard Way."

Okemos author Lev Raphael will conduct a workshop on Estleman's nemesis, the e-book. Local poets Dennis Hinrichsen and Anita Skeen will conduct workshops on various aspect of poetry.

Other writers scheduled for the event include Andrea King Collier (multimedia storytelling), Mark Crilley (young adult graphic novels), George Dila (scenes in fiction), Michael Dwyer (travel writing), Carol Finke (magic realism), Meagan Francis (parenting), Dennis Hinrichsen (poetry), Steven Piziks ("Nuts & Bolts: Paradox of Cliches") and Rob Roznowski (playwriting).

A Rally of Writers

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Poet Anita Skeen is one of the workshop leaders at A Rally of Writers.

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A musical with a kick

Love, liquor — and video games? — are blended in unusual 'Usual'

By **MARY C. CUSACK**

The title of Williamston Theatre's latest production, "The Usual," is entirely misleading. It is anything but usual. In fact, it is unusual to the extent that it may polarize audiences. It is also one of the most off-beat shows of the season.

The full title of the play is "The Usual: A Musical Love Story." Williamston's run of the show is the world premiere of the original work, with book and lyrics by Alan Gordon and music by Mark Sutton-Smith. If that last name sounds familiar, it is because he is the brother of "The Usual" cast member and Williamston Theatre Development Director Emily Sutton-Smith.



Courtesy Photo

Love is on the line for Joseph Zettelmaier and Emily Sutton-Smith in Williamston Theatre's musical "The Usual."

"The Usual" follows the usual conventions of a love story: Boy and girl meet cute but face internal and external obstacles before achieving their happily-ever-after ending. The dark turn that the story takes at the end of Act One marks its journey into the unusual.

The play begins as computer nerd Kip (Joseph Zettelmaier) reconnoiters Sam's Bar as a possible hangout for his geek squad. As proprietor Sam (Leslie Hull) schools Kip on the customs of imbibing, Valerie (Sutton-Smith) crashes in, hiding from a bad Internet date. Learning that she is a serial Internet dater, Kip forges a pact with Valerie to meet at Sam's after every date to debrief.

At first this plan works out nicely, and the two exchange tales of past relationship disasters. These stories offer Hull the opportunity to stretch from her barmaid duties, playing a manic reality television show hopeful and an Internet fantasy girl. The latter also affords scenic designer Daniel C. Walker the opportunity to surprise the audience with an unexpected scenic element.

Act One ends on an unexpectedly serious note as Valerie experiences the ugly side of Internet dating, causing her to retreat from the world. This is when things get really, really unusual.

Act Two focuses on Valerie's rather unique form of therapy, as she rediscovers her first video game. It's at this point that some audience members may lose their connection to the play, as it incorporates the use of 1980s-style role-playing games as a metaphor for Valerie's struggle. Unlike today's role-playing games, with their fancy-pants, life-like color graphics and slick animation, back in the day RPGs were played using simple text directions and blobby, chunky characters that came

in green or amber, depending on the color of the computer's glowing cathode-ray tube screen.

Costume designer Holly Iler does a fantastic job recreating the look of such characters, aided by Lynn Lammer's pixelated props. As Valerie commands her character, typing furiously on her "Kebpro II" computer (to which an entire song is devoted), her Valkyrie avatar does furious battle, the hilariously low-tech special effects brought to life by the Dancing Crew: Brandon Piper and Carolyne Rex.

Director Tony Caselli chose his cast well. Zettelmaier is absolutely perfect as the schlubby but huggable Kip, and while

his voice isn't the most refined, it suits his character. Sutton-Smith moves seamlessly from confident cruiser to computer-obsessed shut-in, her voice strongest when she lets it all out. Hull has a blast with her side characters, lending an earnest charm as the matchmaking bartender. And she has pipes powerful enough to drown out a Harley.

While the end may tie up just a wee bit too neatly, it is not a spoiler to reveal that. After all, it is called a musical love story. Still, the unusual aspects of the "The Usual" set it apart from similar stories. It may not be everyone's game, but those of a certain age will revel in its quirkiness.

Review

'The Usual: A Musical Love Story'

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Pinonnault's picks

This year's Top of the Town Local TV News personality winner spotlights some of his favorite things about living in Lansing

By EVAN PINONNAULT

Editor's note: Raindrops on roses? Whiskers on kittens? No, Evan Pinonnault, our Top of the Town winner in the Local TV News Personality category, has many favorite things in Lansing — none of which were ever immortalized in a Rodgers and Hammerstein song. Here's his list, with his comments.

Common Ground Music Festival: It was the first community event I went to after starting as TV-6 morning anchor back in July of 2009. In fact, it was my first day of work at the station! I remember Tim (Barron) introducing me on the mainstage party deck that Monday night

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and poking fun at pronouncing "Pinonnault." Who'd have thunk that two years later I'd be co-hosting the event with him and interviewing many of the artists live on-air for WLNS. And I'm looking forward to repeating that success again this summer, both for the CG audiences each night and the viewers of TV-6.

Dusty's Wine Bar & Cellar: Not only was Dusty's a featured "Pick a Place" winner, but it's my go-to spot for unwinding (or should I say un-wine-ding). I'm a big red wine fan, especially Cabs and Pinot Noirs, and I love saddling up at the bar with Billy or C.J. or Matt and just talking vino and sampling new (and old) vintages. Plus, the people there become your friends as you trade wine stories, and sometimes wine bottles, adding to each other's experiences through great conversation and a shared appreciation for what you're drinking/trying.

Riverwalk Theatre: I love to act, as you know, and my time onstage at Riverwalk so far has been nothing short of amazing. One of the best things I did when I first moved here was audition for a Riverwalk show ("Into the Woods") so I could meet people around Lansing and get to know the community and the arts "scene." Well, six productions later ("A Few Good Men," "Fortinbras," "Puss in Boots," "Conspiracy" and two staged readings), I'm now a board member at the theater (as well as an actor whenever I can find the time for sleep and



Courtesy Photo

One of Evan Pinonnault's favorite things to do in Lansing is perform at Riverwalk Theatre, as he did in the fall of 2010 when he starred with Brittney Benjamin and Veronica Diebold in "Fortinbras."

rehearsals, LOL), always working on ways to connect people with Riverwalk and all it has to offer.

"Tell Me Something Good" and "Pick a Place for Pinonnault": These two franchises have allowed me to tell so many wonderful, inspirational and positive stories about mid-Michigan people, places, events and happenings. There's no better way to celebrate the place you live and the people living here than to see firsthand how they're making a difference locally and giving back in ways more beneficial than expected. I'm rewarded each day I come to work because this is my work — "telling the good news stories" of our city and community.

In fact, that's one of the main reasons I want to stay in Lansing and at TV-6 for a few more years: There are so many more positive and important stories that need to be discovered and told and I know I'm the journalist to do it.

Singing with Starfarm: Not only do I love acting, but also singing (hence the musical theater background in college). So when I was offered the opportunity to be a featured guest singer for the best '80s cover band around, it was a definitely a bucket list accomplishment. (Starfarm was also a top Pick a Place experience) My favorite songs to do lead vocals on are "The Safety Dance," "Whip It" and "You Spin Me Right Round (Baby, Right Round)."

Being a community volunteer: I'm very lucky to be doing the work I'm doing, especially at such a great and supportive station as TV-6 and in such a wonderful area. As a result, I feel it's important to give back to all the people who give me the chance to come into their homes and deliver the news each morning. I'm most active in organizations that promote the cultural and theater arts throughout Lansing and mid-Michigan, but

I also donate my time as an emcee and host for great causes like the United Way, Junior Achievement, the Ingham County Animal Shelter, the Waverly Foundation and the Lansing School District, the McLaren & Sparrow foundations and the downtown YMCA.

Stand-up comedy at Connxtions: I rediscovered my passion for stand-up comedy (I used to perform in D.C. at George Washington University and later in Syracuse during grad school) after interviewing Rob Schneider on the morning show in 2009, LOL. He was performing at Connxtions and wanted me to introduce him. So, naturally, I did some shtick to fill the three minutes — that included Seinfeld, Kramer and my Dad impressions (along with a bit about not ticking off the teleprompter guy).

From there, I've been back three times as a performer while also doing stand-up at the Country Club of Lansing and the Mint Festival Pageant. Laughter truly is the best medicine, and my personality has always gleaned towards the comedic. If I can make you smile, then I've done my job (and not just as a performer, or news anchor, or actor — but as another human being who appreciates everyone he meets). That being said, I believe everyone has a story — in fact, I know everyone has a story to tell. And I'm very lucky that I get the chance to tell those stories, using comedy and creativity in the process.

Anywhere I can golf: Especially the Country Club of Lansing — I joined as a junior member two years ago and have made so many connections and new friends since then. What a great place to network and establish lasting friendships, all while experiencing championship golf, top-flite dining (pun intended) and service and a fantastic social scene.

Check out this year's Top of the Town winners at tinyurl.com/TOTTWinners

ADVICE GODDESS

You lite up my life & stare way to heaven



AMY ALKON
advicemy@aol.com

Q: This man I've been dating didn't want anything serious. I don't either. I explained that I just wanted to hang out and have fun. We were going out several times a week, sleeping together at least once a week. Suddenly, he freaked, worrying I'd get attached. I reinforced that I absolutely don't want anything serious, but he seemed unconvinced. He went away on business and called the day he returned, and we hung out and slept together. The next day, he said we needed to slow things down because he wasn't feeling we were getting closer. (Isn't that the point of not getting serious?!) The whole thing started making me feel bad. I blew him off, and now — crazily enough — he's calling, texting, asking to see me again. Where do we go from here?

—Baffled

A: File you under "too good to be true." When you tell a man "I just wanna hang out and have fun — sometimes naked," you actually mean that. It is not secret woman-code for "Love me, or I'll cut up your shirts, set your lawn on fire, and stand under your window at 3 a.m. screaming, 'MY UTERUS IS BAAAARE!'"

He must've been pretty bewildered: "Come on...shouldn't you at least be trying to key my car?" Because so many women seem unable to keep things casual — even when they're sure casual's all they want — men tend to assume that's how all women are. But, there are outliers, and you're one of them. The problem was convincing him of that. Sure, you kept saying "no strings attached," but he figured you just had your hands full weaving them all into a big net.

He, on the other hand, is a man who knows exactly what he wants: "None of that mushbucket stuff!" Until he doesn't know: "Hey! Where's my mushbucket?!" It seems

the main thing he wants is to be in control. So, when it became clear you wanted things casual, he kind of blew you off — probably your cue to throw yourself at him — but you yanked him off his game yet again by blowing him off right back. (Men, especially, are compelled to ditch what's chasing them and chase what's trying to ditch them.)

The guy essentially set up a hamster wheel and then complained that the hamster wasn't getting anywhere. Unfortunately, people are messy. Part of what's messing him up may be the romantic mythology that says "fireworks or nuthin!" — that a relationship isn't legit unless it's "going somewhere." (You can't just plan something for Tuesday and, if that goes okay, maybe see a movie on Thursday.) As for where you go from here, a frank talk is in order: Can he handle the casual thing he thinks he wants — or is he a closet committer? If he can live without the promise of a future, you can probably have some good carefree fun in the present: "I love the way you hold me; I love the way you make love to me; I love the way that, afterward, you get out of bed, get in your car and go to your own house."

Q: A guy wrote you about a girl he sees at a coffee shop — a girl he suspects is out of his league. You said the way to know for sure is by asking her out. Bad Advice Goddess! This suggests that he should regard all women with whatever she's got — like if she's "too beautiful" — as out of his league. That just isn't right. There's probably a "too beautiful" woman out there who'd go for him.

—Irked

A: Sky's the limit! "You can do anything you set your mind to!" These are fantastically inspiring things to tell a person — when he's about to enter preschool and you're trying to teach him to use the potty. As an adult, you realize that the sky is not the limit. In fact, you sometimes realize that your life is taking place in the crawl space between the third- and fourth-floor apart-

ments — or that you'll never get a date, because you are Joe Ordinary but refuse to consider any girl who's less than a 9.95. As for this guy, I didn't advise him to avoid all beautiful women; I told him to stop slobbering into his latte and ask his crushgirl out. A guy who endlessly pines away either hasn't worked through his social awkwardness or *is* after somebody out of his league — and knows that — and pining allows him to pretend he's in the game without risking rejection. Rejection can be a good thing; it tells you where you fall on the "What kind of woman can I get?" scale — allowing you to either try to improve your mate value or make the required trade-offs to have dates with women you don't have to inflate with a bicycle pump.

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



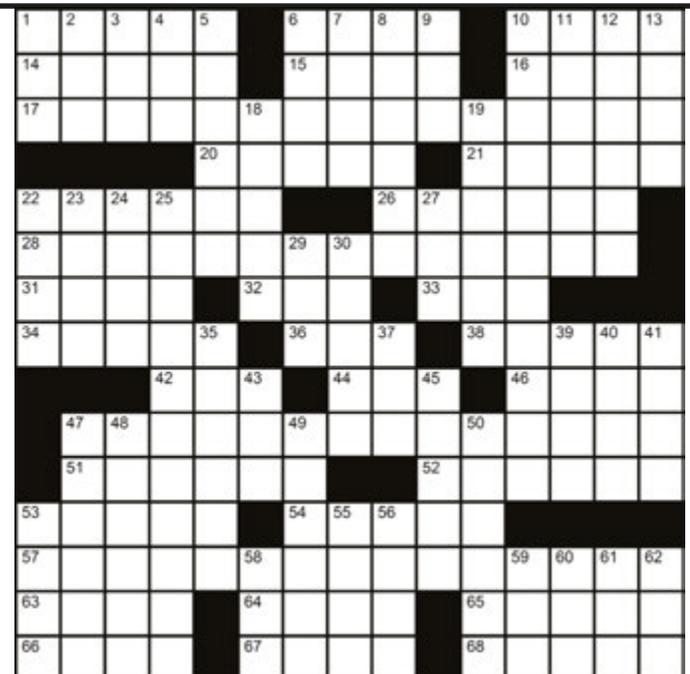
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Cutting in Line"
—hey, no fair!
by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 "The Alienist" author Carr
- 6 Stitch's friend, in a Disney movie
- 10 Vegetable in Cajun cuisine
- 14 By itself
- 15 With 60-down, "The Price is Right" prize worth freaking out over
- 16 Lousy
- 17 End up winning and coming second at the same time?
- 20 One of a biblical 150
- 21 "___ the loneliest number..."
- 22 Start
- 26 "Yo, ___!"
- 28 AKC winner plus a mini Shetland?
- 31 Actress Skye of "Say Anything"
- 32 ___ bran muffins
- 33 It may be obtained in a bed
- 34 Blind followers
- 36 Honey ___ (KFC sauce)
- 38 Belgian city of WWI battles
- 42 Mai ___ (drink)
- 44 Lawyers' gp.
- 46 Dinghy need
- 47 Soldier's comment akin to "It's time to join the line, dear"?
- 51 How some meds are taken
- 52 Wedding dress fabrics
- 53 Participate in a bee
- 54 Qatari leaders
- 57 Narrator's goal to maximally project his



- voice?
- 63 Effortlessness
- 64 Insurance variety
- 65 Ex who gave "The Donald" his nickname
- 66 "South Park" co-creator Parker
- 67 Word in many Scottish place names
- 68 Spine-tingling
- 10 It may include an "undecided" option
- 11 From Pyeongchang
- 12 Like violin bowstrings
- 13 Sciences' counterpart
- 18 Defensive schoolyard retort
- 19 Unlike volunteer work
- 22 Suffix for an illness
- 23 "That's not good..."
- 24 Fine-tune muscles
- 25 High school in a 1980s-90s fiction series
- 27 "Silent Spring" pesticide
- 29 Shoot the breeze
- 30 Facing the pitcher
- 35 Seafood-and-rice dish
- 37 Most Super Bowl MVPs
- 39 Political cartoonist Ted DiFranco
- 40 The shallowest Great Lake
- 41 Tax return nos.
- 43 Beastie Boys album "Licensed to ___"
- 45 Union for voice-over artists (FAR AT anagram)
- 47 Adorable bunny feature
- 48 Open-ended ultimatum
- 49 Sight to take in
- 50 Down Under native
- 53 "Leave it in," to a proofreader
- 55 Chess goal
- 56 Token in an old Monopoly set
- 58 Become droopy
- 59 "___ Been Everywhere" (Johnny Cash song)
- 60 See 15-across
- 61 Punk/folk singer
- 62 No, in Robert Burns poems

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OUT on the TOWN

Wednesday, April 4

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

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

Feminist Theology. Discuss several passages from the Bible from a Feminist Theological perspective. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434. www.PilgrimUCC.com.

Mid Michigan Photography Club Meeting. With Ron St. Germain on critiquing yourself and create your best final image. 6:30 p.m. FREE. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 482-0668.

Open Jam. Rock night. 8 p.m.-Midnight, FREE. Zeppelins Music Hall, 2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 580-8722.

EVENTS

Tissue Paper Crafts. For ages 4 and up. 1-2 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road,

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.

APRIL 4

'Professionals' makes its debut

Schuler Books & Music gives readers the chance to meet author Owen Laukkanen tonight. An alumnus of the University of British Columbia's Creative Writing BFA program, Laukkanen spent three years reporting for a poker website, traveling from plush casinos to seedy cardrooms. Laukkanen will be discussing his work and signing copies of his book, "The Professionals," the story of four recent college graduates plotting the ultimate kidnapping. To deal with their frustration with a collapsing economy and a bad job market, the group decides to target stockbrokers, hedge fund managers and bank vice presidents. Thomas Perry, author of "The Butcher's Boy" and "The Informant," called it "a spectacular debut novel written with intelligence, toughness, and heart. Owen Laukkanen is a writer to watch." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840. www.schulerbooks.com.

APRIL 7

Let the hunt begin

Beginning Saturday morning, the State Capitol lawn will be swarming with children in search of Easter eggs. (Be careful not to overlook any nook or cranny.) The Easter egg hunt is hosted by the Lansing Jaycees and features various activities for children of all ages, including crafts, games and prizes and an opportunity to explore a fire engine from the Lansing Fire Department. Starting at 10 a.m., children can meet several special guests, such as the Easter Bunny, McGruff the Crime Dog, Crash the Clown, Click! the Cricket, Big Lug and Sparty the Spartan. Parents can purchase raffle tickets to win Easter baskets and other prizes. 8 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Capitol Steps, Capitol Building, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. www.lansingjaycees.org.



Courtesy Photo

APRIL 11

A birthday party for the Bard

When thinking of April, most might immediately relate the month to spring and gardening. However, the Old Town Poets could not overlook poet and playwright William Shakespeare, who was baptized on April 26, 1564. On Wednesday, April 11, the Old Town Poets host Shakespeare's Birthday Party, an evening of tasty "bites and bits" of Shakespearian poetry and prose. The celebration is an open mic, limited to the first 14 participants to sign up. Those interested in performing — either as an actor or a poet — must sign up to identify which speech, sonnet or scene he or she wishes to present. There will be free refreshments and parking on the street and in the lot at the intersection of Turner St. and Grand River Ave. 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$5, \$3 for students. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Old Town Lansing. (517) 267-0410. stokesly@msu.edu.



Courtesy Photo

APRIL 11

From snapshots to photographs

For those photographers still trying to capture small details, like sunlight reflecting through the trees, a class might be helpful. The Harris Nature Center encourages those wishing to become more familiar with their cameras to join a three-week photography class held Wednesdays, April 11-25. Participants will work with award-winning photographer Ron St. Germain. St. Germain has over 30 years of experience in the classroom. Attendees should bring his or her camera and the owner's manual. Wednesdays, April 11-25, 6:30-9 p.m. \$55 for four-session program. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866. harriscenter@sbcglobal.net.



Courtesy Photo

See Out on the Town, Page 26

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TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

ILLNESS FORCES FOXY SHAZAM TO CANCEL LOFT DATE



Courtesy Photo

Foxy Shazam

If seeing Foxy Shazam at The Loft was on your Thursday list of things to do, scratch it off: The show is being postponed.

"A few of the guys have come down with a serious case of pneumonia and it needs to be treated immediately," a representative of the band wrote on Foxy's Facebook page on Tuesday. "Unfortunately, due to the declining health of the band, we are going to be postponing our shows on the current tour up to the 11th of April. This means Rochester, Pittsburgh, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Chicago, Omaha and Colorado Springs." A rescheduled date for Lansing should be announced shortly.

Illness aside, the Cincinnati-based band is on a roll with "I Like It," the hit single from its new album "The Church of Rock and Roll" (IRS Records/EMI Group).

NEW YORK HEAD-BANGERS HIT UPLANSING

The Blackened Moon Concert Hall is stocked with East Coast death-metal acts on Thursday. Bands set to thrash through some black metal include HellCannon (from Buffalo) and New Jersey-based rockers Legionary and Death Sick. Representing Lansing are Genocya and Seraphim Burial. Genocya has been playing a mix of thrash, death, and black metal for a decade. The band,

which recently released its first full-length album "Ever Descent," includes Dane Brown (vocals), Brad van Satan (guitar), Matt Cunningham (guitar), Tim Sever (drums) and Jim Albrecht (bass). Genocya returns to Blackened Moon on April 28 to play its 10th anniversary show, which will include performances from openers Sauron, Dozic and more.

Thursday, April 5 @ Blackened Moon Concert Hall, 3208 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing, 18 & up, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

CONVERGE AT THE LOFT

Converge plays an all-ages show at The Loft on Saturday, along with openers Loma Prieta, Git Some, The Armed and Endeavors. Since forming in 1990, the grindcore veterans have continued to play a distinct brand of obnoxious punk-metal on six (going on seven) releases. Converge, a Boston-based band, is working on an upcoming LP, tentatively titled "All We Love We Leave Behind."

Over the years, members of Converge have also taken part in various side projects, including Kingdom of the Sun, Old Man Gloom and Kid Kilowatt (which also included members



Courtesy Photo

Converge

of Cave In).

Saturday, April 7 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages, \$15 advance, \$17 doors. Doors 6 p.m.

HERTLER HEADLINES MAC'S BAR

Joe Hertler & the Rainbow Seekers recently dropped the "On Being" LP, via Lower Peninsula Records. On Saturday, the band plays Mac's Bar. Hertler, a growing figure in the Michigan indie-folk scene, has played alongside the likes of Frontier Ruckus, Chris Bathgate and Breathe Owl Breathe. Opening the show is Valentiger (Grand Rapids-based folk-pop), Alco ("ambient rock" from Holt), Redbird (Lansing-based indie), Red Pill (Blat! Pack rapper), Parent the Seas (Saginaw indie) and Aa. Also taking the stage is Skinny Black & Sloan Kettering, an indie-blues band from Lansing. The duo says it enjoys the "simpler, classic side of music." Fans of the Soledad Brothers or the Black Keys may want to check out Skinny Black.

Saturday, April 7 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, all ages until 9 p.m., then 18 and over. \$10 advance, \$12 door, 6:30 p.m.

BLACK MASS BRINGS NYC SOUNDS TO MAC'S

Specializing in dark wave, industrial, witch haus and electro music, Black Mass Sunday has become a weekly fixture at Mac's Bar. The series of shows serves as an avant-garde dance party and features classic and new-breed artists from the "dark spectrum of music." This week's event includes Le SphinxX, a Brooklyn-based electro-clash/dream-pop trio. Also making some noise is Gluuuu, a New York-based "one-woman sound machine," spe-



Courtesy Photo

Le SphinxX

cializing in magically-textured soundscapes. Another New Yorker, Matt Struck, plays his brand of ghost pop and dream-wave. Opening the show at 9 p.m. are Owl Cave Records artists Ein Sof Goyle, Jaysen Craves and Skellie Bat Lefleur, playing a variety of styles of industrial. Organizers ask that attendees appear in "appropriately gothic/post-punk/fetish attire — or at least wear black." Black Mass organizers also host LGBTQIA-friendly shows, noting, "We hope to create a safe environment for people of all colors, sexes and persuasions."

Sunday, April 8 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, \$3 for 21 and over, \$5 for 18 and over, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

BEAK AND BERT GET HEAVY

Drawing influences from the likes of Godflesh, Isis and Killing Joke, Beak was formed by vocalist Jason Goldberg and drummer Chris Eichenseer of the critically acclaimed post-rock outfit The Timeout Drawer. The Chicago-based band, which specializes in "blistering heaviness and melodic prog-rock," also includes Andy Bosnak (guitar) and Jon Slusher (guitars, lead vocals). The band plays Mac's Bar April 11. Opening the show is a roster of local heavy hitters, including The Plague Years, American Gothic and BeT.

Wednesday, April 11 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, 18 and over. \$7, 9 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
621, 621 E. Michigan Ave.	Phil Denny, 8 p.m.	Ray Potter, 8:30 p.m.	Flipside/DJ Radd1, 9 p.m.	DJ Leeky, 9 p.m.
Connxtions Comedy Club 2900 N. East St.	Comedy Open Mic, 8 p.m.	Mike Brody, 8 p.m.	Mike Brody, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.	Mike Brody, 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd.		DJ, 9 p.m.	Group Therapy, 9 p.m.	Group Therapy, 9 p.m.
Brannigan Brothers, 210 S. Washington Square		Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJs, 9 p.m.
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cloud Magic, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.		Tryst Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.	Summer of Sol, 9 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9 p.m.
The Firm, 227 S. Washington Square		DnW Sound DJs, 9 p.m.	Various DJs, 9 p.m.	DJ Donnie D, 9 p.m.
Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Driver & Rider Show, 7 p.m.	Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.	Karaoke, 7 p.m.	The Bear Band, 8 p.m.
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Gadget 2013, 9:30 p.m.	Big Willy, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9 a.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.		Foxy Shazam, 6:30 p.m.	Ben Keeler & the 500 Club, 9 p.m.	Converge, 6 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Infected, 9 p.m.	Ton y LaJoye Trio, 9 p.m.		Joe Hertler & the Rainbow Seekers, 6:30 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Rob Kladija Open Mic, 9 p.m.	Lincoln County Process, 9:30 p.m.	Harvestmen, 10 p.m.	Harvestmen, 10 p.m.
Rick's American Cafe, 224 Abbott Road	DJ Dan, 10:30 p.m.		ICE DJ's, 10:30 p.m.	ICE DJ's, 10:30 p.m.
Rookies, 16460 S. US 27	Sea Cruisers, 7-10 p.m.	Water Pong DJ with Ryan, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.	Karaoke with Bob, 9 p.m.
Rum Runners, 601 East Michigan Ave.	Open Mic Night, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 9 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.	Dueling Pianos & DJ, 7 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog & the Beeftones, 9 p.m.	Dr. Gun, 9 p.m.	Dr. Gun, 9 p.m.
Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.	DJ, 9 p.m.	DJ, 9 p.m.	Shelagh Brown, 9 p.m.	Shelagh Brown, 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., Uli's Haus of Rock.
Monday Steppin' In It, 9:30 p.m., Green Door; Easy Babies funk trio, 10 p.m., The Exchange. Open-Mic Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Michigan Brewing Company-Lansing.
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 24

East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. www.elpl.org.
"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Andrew Lloyd Webber's pop opera is taken from the Biblical story of the Coat of Many Colors. 7:30 p.m. Price varies. Celebration Cinema, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd. Lansing. (517) 393-7469. Also playing at Jackson 10, 1501 N. Wisner St., Jackson. (517) 782-8463.

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

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

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

Comedy Open Mic. Up and coming comics from all over mid-Michigan. 8 p.m. \$8, \$4 student. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 374-4242. www.connxtionscomedyclub.com.

MUSIC

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

Jazz Wednesdays. DJClarinet Combo: DJ clarinet, Joe Vasquez, bass, Nick Bracewell, drums. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracies Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.

Together, Let's Jam. For teen and adults of all can participate in various music activities. 7:30 p.m.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY FILM SERIES

FREE

Tuesday, April 10, 7:00 pm
Main Library, W449

THE MILL AND THE CROSS

Lansing Area Premiere

Presented by **Susan Bades**, Department of Art, Art History & Design
 Co-sponsored by the Department of Art, Art History & Design

"The Mill & the Cross invites us to inhabit a work of art along with the mind of the man who made it and to be enthralled by the images shared in vivid tableaux by visionary Polish director Lech Majewski."
 Linda Barnard, *Toronto Star*

FREE PARKING is available in stadium lot 62W on Red Cedar Road after 6:00 p.m.

LIBRARIES

www.lib.msu.edu

FREE. MSU Community Music School, 841-B Timberlane St., East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

Warm Winds and Cool Jazz. Vintage Wind Quintet with Betty Baxter and Arlene McDaniel. 1 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-4632.
 Stan Budzynski. 1/2 beer & Greg playing his new keyboard. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 319-4500.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

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

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

Owen Laukkanen. Talk and signing with author of "The Professionals." 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8840.

Author Spotlight. Featuring short story writers George Dila and Caitlin Horrocks. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495. www.schulerbooks.com.

Poetry Reading. "Daedalus Smokes Cigarettes on the Genial Sabbath" with the Writer's Collective of East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. \$3. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St. East Lansing. (517) 319-6832.

Thursday, April 5

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

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

Soil Care: Urban Garden. Learn to build up soil, and apply strategies to a backyard/community garden plot. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Road, Lansing. (517) 374-5700.

EVENTS

Maunder Thursday Service. Remember the Last Supper in scripture, music, and prayer. 7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

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

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

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

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NEW IN TOWN >> Scooters to Go



By Allison M. Berryman

Just in time for this season's rising temperatures and soaring gas prices, Scooters to Go has opened in Lansing, preparing to sell the economic benefits of scooter transportation to local commuters.

"We're just trying to help people get around, anybody that needs to travel a little bit cheaper," said Dale Woodyard, owner of Scooters to Go.

When Scooters to Go officially opened for business on March 21, it could not have happened at a more opportune time.

During a period of unusually warm weather, the store received many inquiries about its scooters, particularly from Lansing's student population.

"At Lansing Community College, they are charging \$10 a day for parking," Woodyard said. "We have a lot of LCC students coming down here because they can park scooters with the bikes and save money. At \$10 a day, the scooter is going to pay for itself."

Over the years, scooter travel has transitioned from recreational use to a primary method of transportation.

According to Woodyard, scooter popularity has



Genna Musial/City Pulse

Scooters to Go owner Dale Woodyard

particularly increased among Lansing residents looking to avoid paying high gas prices and parking fees.

"I sold scooters out of this building (in 2009) when it was a fad," Woodyard said.

"Today, scooters are needed as real transportation. I think people are looking at them as more serious transportation because of the crisis we are having with gas. Also, today they are a lot more affordable."

Scooters to Go carries the popular scooter brand TaoTao Scooters, which are designed for inner city and campus commutes. The scooters come in a range of sizes, colors and prices. The store also features a mechanic to assist customers with the maintenance and repair of their scooters.

"I would recommend a

scooter for anybody that has to commute within a 25-mile distance of home," Woodyard said. "We want to offer any safety tips for people. For people that have never ridden a scooter, we suggest they take a safety course. We let people test drive them in the parking so they kind of get the feel of it."

As more warm weather approaches, Scooters to Go anticipates a steep increase in business from people looking for a convenient way to travel around town.

"It's economical, but it's also fun just to get out there, slow down a little bit, and take a look around," Woodyard said. "You get to see more things on a scooter."

Scooters to Go

216 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
 (517) 348-7673

Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

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

Kids Time: Ages 5-11. Help east side youth grow food, develop leadership skills. 4:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community Garden House, 1400 block of E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3910.

Bananagrams Night. Play the hot new timed word game. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

"Rascal Flatts: Changed." In-theater concert

with concert footage and music from the album "Changed." 8 p.m. Price varies. Jackson 10, 1501 N. Wisner St., Jackson. Also playing at Celebration Cinema, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd., Lansing. www.fathomevents.com.

Andy Warhol Film Night. Dress in 1970s style. 8 p.m. FREE. Zeppelins Music Hall, 2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 580-8722.

Mike Brody. Comedy. 8 p.m. \$8, \$4 students. Connxtions Comedy Club, 2900 N. East St., Lansing. (517) 374-4242. www.connxtionscomedyclub.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 27

Out on the town

from page 26

Susan M. Reverby. A part of the World View Lecture Series. 7:30 p.m. \$20, FREE students and MSU staff. Wharton Center, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (800) WHARTON.

Art of Networking. Lisa Wiley Parker gives tips on talking about artwork or creative projects. 10 a.m.-Noon, \$5-\$10. MICA Gallery, 1210 N. Turner St., Lansing. (517) 372-4636.

Drop-in LEGO® Day. For ages 4 and up. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

MSU Film Collective Series. Showing "Le Million," 8-11 p.m. FREE. Wells Hall, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.english.msu.edu/film.

"Dirty Pretty Things." Film about two immigrants living illegally on the seedy side of London. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.lib.msu.edu/general/events/index.jsp?e=12.

MUSIC

Foxy Shazam. CANCELED. The Loft, Harem Urban Lounge, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. www.theloftlansing.com.

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

THEATER

"The American Spirit." With ballet, modern, tap, jazz or hip-hop, performed by a company of 29 dancers. 8 p.m. \$10; \$5 LCC students, faculty, alumni. Dart Auditorium, Lansing Community College, 500 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-1488. www.lcc.edu/showinfo.

"The Usual: A Musical Love Story." Original musical about love in a neighborhood bar. 8 p.m. \$22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-SHOW.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Writers Workshop. Grand Valley State University students and Michigan writers touch on working. 6 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum, MSU Campus, East Lansing. (517) 355-7474. www.museum.msu.edu.

Writers Roundtable. Get feedback and connect with other writers. 6-7:45 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

Friday, April 6

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

Cork and Canvas. An instructional art class. We provide the canvas, paint and instruction. 6-8:30 p.m. \$25. 1210 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 999-1212.

EVENTS

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

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

Good Friday Service. Join together in remembrance of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-4220.

Good Friday Service. In remembrance of Jesus' last hours and his crucifixion. 7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434.

Mike Brody. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$12. (Please See Details April 5)

"Hop." Movie about the Easter Bunny's son going to Hollywood. Call for showtimes, FREE 12 and under, \$4 adults. Celebration Cinema, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd. Lansing. (517) 393-7469.

Lansing First Fridays. Find restaurants and bars with unique specials, shops and galleries with extended hours. Prices vary. Throughout Greater Lansing. www.lansingfirstfridays.com.

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

MUSIC

Avon Bomb. Live music. 9 p.m. FREE. Green Door Blues Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376.

Musique 21. Live music. 8 p.m. FREE. MSU Music Building Auditorium, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.music.msu.edu.

Mighty Medicine and Davison Magpie. Live concert. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1000. www.lcc.edu/radio.

THEATER

"The American Spirit." 8 p.m. \$5 & \$10. (Please See Details April 5)

"The Usual: A Musical Love Story." 8 p.m. \$25. (Please See Details April 5)

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, April 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Relics of the Big Bang. 8 p.m. \$3, \$2.50 student-sandseniors, \$2 kids. (Please See Details March 30)

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

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

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

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

Your Retirement. Adapt investment strategy for long-term and short-term market trends. 10-11:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021. www.cadl.org.

Magic School Bus Exhibit. Learn about weather. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. \$5. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 485-8116.

EVENTS

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

Easter Egg Hunt & Raffle. Children can craft, play games and win prizes; several special visitors. 10 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Capitol Building, 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (248) 716-0539. www.lansingjaycees.org.

Run for Reading. 5K run or walk and kids run. 9 a.m. \$12-\$20. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4.

Bust the Bus. Bus operators and others will collect nonperishable food items for those in need. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Kroger, 4884 Marsh Road, Okemos. Kroger, 1550 W. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. Kroger 6430 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing.

See Out on the Town, Page 28

ERASER-FREE SUDOKU									EASY
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				2			7		

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

Music Made in Michigan!

Bowery

Indie rock from Grand Rapids quintet.

Thursday, April 5, at 10 p.m.

"BackStage Pass" is repeated Saturdays at 11 p.m. on WKAR-TV and Saturdays at 8 p.m. on WKAR World.

WKAR

BackStage

Watch #BSPwkar online anytime at WKAR.org!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Communication Arts and Sciences

YouTube

Lansing City Market

Sgt.'s Soups and Sandwiches

\$.50 off

any Soup & Sandwich Combo

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\$5 off

Purchase of \$20

Soups, Pastas, Grains & Snacks

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Hickory Corners

\$5 off

Purchase of \$20

Greenhouse and Gardens

Fresh produce and Gourmet foods

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\$5 off purchase of \$20

Cannot be used with any other discounts or specials | exp. 4/18/2012

Aggie Mae's

Bakery & Sweet Shoppe

\$2 off

Purchase of \$10

Cannot be used with any other discounts or specials | exp. 4/18/2012

IORIO'S

GELATERIA

Buy one gelato (any size)

Get a baby cone HALF OFF

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MARKET PLACE MASSAGE

Purchase a 15 to 30-min Massage & Receive \$2 off with this coupon!

Cannot be used with any other discounts or specials | exp. 4/18/2012

Caruso's

Candy Kitchen

\$2 off

purchase of \$10

Cannot be used with any other discounts or specials | exp. 4/18/2012

\$2 off

Ricotta Salatta & Pecorino Romana

Hills Homecured Cheese

Cannot be used with any other discounts or specials | exp. 4/18/2012

Lansing City Market

325 City Market Dr., Lansing

(517) 483-7460

Open T-F 10a-6p, Sat 9a-5p

Out on the town

from page 27

(517) 420-5519.

Mike Brody. 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$15. (Please See Details April 5)

"Hop." Call for showtimes. FREE 12 and under, \$4 adults. (Please See Details April 6)

MUSIC

Temesgen Hussein. Live music at dinnertime. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing. (517) 333-6295.

Avon Bomb. Live music, 9 p.m. FREE. The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 319-4500. www.lansingexchange.com.

THEATER

"The Usual: A Musical Love Story." 3 and 8 p.m. \$22 matinee, \$25. (Please See Details April 5)

"The American Spirit." 2 p.m. \$5 & \$10. (Please See Details April 5)

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Just Bring It Open-Mic Nights. Poetry, spoken word, hip hop, MCs, storytellers welcome. 9 p.m.-Midnight, FREE. Just B Yoga, 106 Island Ave., Lansing. (517) 282-7725. justbringit-openmic-first-fridays/.

LGBT Romance Novel. Attempting to start a LGBT Book Club in the Lansing Area through Everybody Reads Books and Stuff. Noon, FREE. Gone Wired Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 853-0550. vacafrank@gmail.com.

Sunday, April 8

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 and seniors, \$2 kids. (Please See Details April 7)

Bust the Bus. 8 a.m. FREE. (Please See Details April 7)

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.

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

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

Easter Sunday Services. Flowers, music and service. 9:30-10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.-Noon. FREE. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 349-4220.

Easter Brunch. An expansive brunch buffet with all the Irish staples and Easter favorites alike, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Price varies. Claddagh Irish Pub, 2900 Towne Centre Blvd. Lansing. (517) 484-2523. www.claddaghirishpubs.com.

"Hop." Call for showtimes. FREE 12 and under, \$4 adults. (Please See Details April 6)

Easter Cantata. The Sanctuary Choir will present "Song Everlasting," a choral cantata. 9:15 a.m. FREE. Grace United Methodist, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. (517) 482-5750.

MUSIC

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

THEATER

"The Usual: A Musical Love Story." 2 p.m. \$22 matinee, \$25. (Please See Details April 5)

Monday, April 9

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.

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

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

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

HomeWork Help. Drop-in help for grades K-8 from the MSU Student Michigan Education Association. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. www.elpl.org.

EVENTS

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

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

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

"Hop." Call for showtimes. FREE 12 and under, \$4 adults. (Please See Details April 6)

"Pleasantville." Showing of the movie. 1 & 6:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. www.elpl.org.

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

MUSIC

Open-Mic Mondays. 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. An acoustic jam featuring bluegrass and country pickers from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and "parts unknown." 7:30-10:30 p.m. FREE. VFW Club Post 6132, 3104 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing. (517) 372-2052.

Tuesday, April 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

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

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Anyone wanting to lose weight is welcome. 7 p.m. FREE to visit.. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. Judy @ (517) 543-0786.

Schizophrenics Anonymous Self-help Support Group. For persons with schizophrenia and

related disorders. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-3775.

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

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

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

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

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

Farm to Table: Herbs. Learn how to plan an outdoor herb garden. 6:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

Job Seekers Club. Share experiences, network, update your resume and more. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. FREE. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. (517) 321-4014 ext. 4. www.dtdl.org.

Yoga for Well Being. With Amy Noren, RYT 200, trained in alignment based yoga. 6:30-8 p.m. \$10. Full Spectrum Family Medicine, 2025 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

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

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

EVENTS

Lego Club. Drop by the library to build brick creations with your friends. Ages 6-14. 4 p.m. FREE. Williamston Library, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The Mill & the Cross." Film inspired by Pieter Bruegel the Elder's 1564 painting The Procession to Calvary. 7 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 100 Main Library, MSU Campus, East Lansing. www.lib.msu.edu.

"Hop." Call for showtimes. FREE 12 and under, \$4 adults. (Please See Details April 6)

Out on the town

from page 28

MUSIC

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

THEATER

Auditions "Folk Tales for Fun." The production dates are June 15 - 24 and June 30. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Mid Michigan Family Theatre, 440 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 339-2145. www.mmft.net.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books on Tap. Discuss "The Year We Left Home," by Jean Thompson. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

African American Authors. Discuss reviews of books and the latest additions to our Ethnic Collection. Featuring "Samson" by Jacquelin Thomas. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072. www.cadl.org.

Wednesday, April 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Grande Paraders Square Dance Club. Round dancing and alternating and more. 7:30 p.m. \$4 members; \$5. Holt 9th Grade Campus, 5780 Holt Road, Holt. (517) 694-0087.

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

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

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

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

E-Book Basics. Learn how to search for and download eBooks to your Kindle or Nook. 6 p.m. FREE. Mason Library, 145 West Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088.

EVENTS

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

Practice Your English. Speaking and listening to

English in a friendly, relaxing atmosphere. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

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

"Hop." Call for Show times. FREE 12 and under, \$4 adults. (Please See Details April 6)

Toddler Storytime. Ages 1-3. 9:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. FREE. Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5185. & at 10:30 a.m. FREE. Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 672-4072. www.cadl.org.

Preschool Storytime. Ages 3-5. Children will enjoy tales, songs and crafts. 10:30 a.m. FREE. Williamston Library, 201 School St., Williamston. (517) 655-1191. & at 10 a.m. Webberville Library, 115 South Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643.

MUSIC

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

Jazz Wednesdays. DJClarinet Combo: DJ clarinet, Joe Vasquez, bass, Nick Bracewell, drums. 7-10 p.m. FREE. Gracies Place, 151 S. Putnam, Williamston. (517) 655-1100.

Open Jam. Rock night. 8 p.m.-Midnight, FREE. Zeppelins Music Hall, 2010 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 580-8722.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Shakespeare's Birthday Party. The evening will be open-mic, limited to the first 14 to sign up. 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$5, \$3 students. Creole Gallery, 1218 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 267-0410.

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

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

Adult Book Discussion. Talk about "Love of My Youth" by Mary Gordon. 1 p.m. FREE. Leslie Library, 201 Pennsylvania St. Leslie. (517) 589-9400.

Pizza & Pages. Read any book that fits theme Michigan books, then come for discussion, snacks and activities. Grades 3 & up. 4 p.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

April 4-10

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Please study this testimony: "Born in a rancid, bat-infested cave at the base of the smoldering Sangay Volcano, I was raised by the half-bear demon princess Arcastia. At the age of four my training as a ninja shaman began when I was left naked and alone next to a stream of burning lava with only two safety pins, a package of dental floss, and a plastic bag full of Cheerios. My mission: to find my way to my spiritual home." Now, Aries, I'd like you to compose your own version of this declaration: a playful, over-the-top myth about your origins that gives you a greater appreciation for the heroic journey you've been on all these years.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Our ancestors owned slaves and denied education to girls. What were they thinking? *Time* magazine asked renowned historian David McCullough if there was anything we do today that our descendants will regard as equally insane and inexcusable. His reply: "How we could have spent so much time watching TV." I'll ask you, Taurus, to apply this same exercise on a personal level. Think of some things you did when you were younger that now seem incomprehensible or ignorant. Then explore the possibility that you will look back with incredulity at some weird habit or tweaked form of self-indulgence you're pursuing today. (P.S. It's an excellent time to phase out that habit or self-indulgence.)

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "I can't tell if I'm dealing well with life these days or if I just don't give a sh— any more." I stumbled upon that comment at somecards.com, and I decided to pass it along for your consideration. You may be pondering the same riddle: feeling suspicious about why you seem more relaxed and tolerant than usual in the face of plain old everyday chaos. I'm here to tell you my opinion, which is that your recent equanimity is *not* rooted in jaded numbness. Rather, it's the result of some hard work you did on yourself during the last six months. Congrats and enjoy!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): What excites you, Cancerian? What mobilizes your self-discipline and inspires you to see the big picture? I encourage you to identify those sources of high-octane fuel, and then take extraordinary measures to make them a strong presence in your life. There has rarely been a better time than now for you to do this. It could create effects that will last for years. (P.S. Here's a further nudge from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Every great and commanding movement in the annals of the world is the triumph of enthusiasm. Nothing great was ever achieved without it.")

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): While browsing in a bookstore, I came across a book and deck of cards that were collectively called *Tarot Secrets*. The subtitle of the kit was "A Fast and Easy Way to Learn a Powerful Ancient Art." I snorted derisively to read that claim, since I myself have studied Tarot intensively for years and am nowhere near mastery. Later, though, when I was back home meditating on your horoscope, I softened my attitude a bit. The astrological omens do indeed suggest that in the upcoming weeks and months, you just might be able to learn a rather substantial skill in a relatively short time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Writing in *The New Yorker*, Joanna Ravenna paraphrased German philosopher Nietzsche: "The best way to enrage people is to force them to change their mind about you." I'd like to see you mutate this theory in the coming weeks, Virgo. If possible, see if you can *amuse and entertain* people, not enrage them, by compelling them to change their minds about you. I realize that's a tricky proposition, but given the current astrological omens, I have faith that you can pull it off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In 1892, when Wrigley was just starting out as a company, its main product was baking powder. Free chewing gum was included in

each package as a promotional gimmick. But soon the freebie became so popular that Wrigley rearranged its entire business. Now it's a multi-billion-dollar company that sells gum in 140 different countries — and no baking powder. Maybe there's something like that on the verge of happening in your own life, Libra: What seemed like the main event could turn out to be secondary, or what seemed incidental might become a centerpiece. Is there something you are overvaluing at the cost of something you are undervaluing?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): People in intimate relationships are hypersensitive to negative comments from their partners. Psychologists say it takes five compliments to outweigh the effects of a single dash of derogatory criticism. I'm sure the ratio is similar even for relationships that aren't as close as lovers and spouses. With this in mind, I urge you to be extra careful not to dispense barbs. They would be especially damaging during this phase of your astrological cycle — both to you and to those at whom you direct them. Instead, Scorpio, why not dole out an abundance of compliments? They will build up a reservoir of goodwill you'll be able to draw on for a long time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Researchers report that the typical man falls in love 5.4 times over the course of his life, while the average woman basks in the glow of this great mystery on 4.6 occasions. I suspect you may be close to having a .4 or .6 type of experience, Sagittarius: sort of like infatuation, but without the crazed mania. That could actually be a good thing. The challenging spiritual project that relationship offers may be most viable when the two people involved are *not* electrifyingly interwoven with every last one of their karmic threads. Maybe we have more slack in our quest for intimacy if we love but are not obsessed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "I couldn't wait for success," said rich and famous comedian Jonathan Winters, "so I went ahead without it." I love that approach, and I suggest you try it out. Is there any area of your life that is held captive by an image of perfection? Consider the possibility that shiny concepts of victory and progress might be distracting you from doing the work that will bring you meaning and fulfillment. If you're too busy dreaming of someday attaining the ideal mate, weight, job, pleasure, and community, you may miss out on the imperfect but amazing opportunities that are available right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): On Reddit.com, Kaushalp88 asked the question, "What is the most badass thing that you have ever done, but that other people weren't impressed by?" Here's his own story: "I was at an ice-cream shop. At the exit, there was a small raised step I didn't see. I tripped over it with my ice cream cone in my right hand. The ice cream ball sprung out of the cone. I instinctively lurched my left hand forward and grabbed it, but at the same time I was already falling toward the pavement. I tucked my head into my chest and made a perfect somersault, rising to my feet and plopping the ice cream back in the cone." I suspect you will soon have comparable experiences, Aquarius — unusual triumphs and unexpected accomplishments. But you may have to be content with provoking awe in no one else beside yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Worry often gives a small thing a big shadow." So says a Swedish proverb. Can we talk about this, please, Pisces? Of course there are real hazards and difficulties in life, and they deserve your ingenious problem-solving. But why devote any of your precious energy to becoming embroiled in merely hyped-up hazards and hypothetical difficulties? Based on my analysis of the astrological omens, now is a propitious time to cut shadows down to their proper size. It's also a perfect moment to liberate yourself from needless anxiety. I think you'll be amazed at how much more accurate your perceptions will be as a result.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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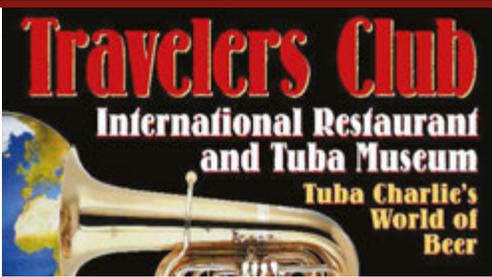
CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsny'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.

April Special: India
The entree begins with a refreshing **Mango Lassi** and a **Samosa**. Then enjoy the **Fenugreek Chicken** - served over fresh spinach alongside steamed **Basmati Rice**, some lightly curried **Green Peas**, and a **Chick Pea & Herb Salad** in lime dressing



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WLMJ 92.9

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Rhone retrospective

To truly enjoy Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines, drink them before they become too old



By MICHAEL BRENTON

The Southern River Rhone Valley region in Southeast France is home to the Châteauneuf-du-Pape appellation, where some of the world's great red wine is grown. Thanks to hot summers and strong winds, the rocky soils absorb heat by day and gradually release the heat to the grapes during the cool nights. Typically, the wines are bright, rich, and deep, made in a style that minimizes oak influence, if oak is used at all.

Up to nine red grape varieties can legally be grown in the appellation. Red Châteauneuf-du-Pape always consists of a blend of several varieties, usually focusing upon Grenache as the predominant grape in the blend, with Syrah and Mourvèdre in the second and third spots. Grenache contributes a ripe, red berry, jammy component to the wine, while the Syrah adds depth and complexity. The Mourvèdre adds even more intense color and a tannic backbone. The finished product can be berry-like, or it can emphasize herbal, forest floor, barnyard-y characteristics (but in a good way).

Châteauneuf-du-Pape (hereinafter "CdP") wines are known to age well, which brings us to the central theme of this column.

During hosted wine tastings, some of the most frequent questions posed to presenters are "what is the cellar life?" or "how long will it age?" Of course, predicting the future is difficult in any circumstance, but particularly difficult when predicting the evolution of a living beverage that may be subject to an array of good and bad events while in the bottle.

During a recent tasting, our group put to the test the aging characteristics of several CdP wines purchased upon release and maintained in temperature and humidity controlled conditions for more than a decade. The results may be instructive for wine aficionados interested in putting bottles down for a few years.

Our group started the tasting of "mature" wines by opening two white CdP wines, a 1998 Domaine du Pégau and a 1999 Domaine Bois de Boursan. The likelihood that virtually any white wine would be drinkable at age 13 or 14 is almost anathema to most modern white wine winemaking techniques, and we were pleasantly surprised to find that these wines were drinkable, albeit way past peak. That they were

drinkable at all probably is a testament to the quality of the fruit, the acidity and the structure. CdP white wine grapes are mostly unknown to Americans, and include Grenache Blanc, Roussanne, Bourboulenc, Clairette and Picpoul.

The white wines definitely showed bottle variation. The '98 Pégau was amber in color, with overtones of roasted nuts and vanilla. It still had depth of flavor, but some tasters felt that the wine was simply "gone." The '99 Boursan had a tangy edge, with almost a Sauvignon Blanc character on the back palate, reflecting good acidity. But the enjoyment of these older wines was more academic than hedonistic.

Seven red CdPs were sampled. When red wines are completely over the hill, they tend to lose color, develop a browning characteristic, and sometimes become sour and devoid of fruit. This group of CdPs managed to maintain medium ruby color, without too much browning, although certainly there was bottle variation (different characteristics from bottle to bottle of the same wine), which tends to become more prevalent as wines age.

The two favorite CdPs were both from Domaine du Pégau. The 1996 had a full, complex bouquet, still showing evidence of fresh fruit, herb flavors, a smoky character, and just a bit of a sharp edge on the mid palate. Although losing the fruit of its youth, it was

holding together well.

The 1998 Pégau demonstrated its relative youth by displaying more fruit, a greater intensity of lingering tannins and an herbal nose. This wine was in balance and still has life ahead of it.

The third favorite of the group, 1998 Domaine Raymond Usseglio, was from another well-known and reputable producer. For many, this was the favorite, and for others it was the favorite until they tasted the Pégau. Displaying nice acid balance, herbal nose, and a mineral, earthy, dark fruit presentation, it was holding together well. Also in the running with votes as favorite wine were 1998 Domaine St. Benoit and 1998 Domaine Charvin.

To some, the St. Benoit was clean, balanced, somewhat subdued, and continued to preserve some fruit and tannin, but showed a drying finish consistent with its age. For others, the St. Benoit was flat,



Michael Brenton/City Pulse

Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines comes from France's Southern River Rhone Valley.

foodfinder

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

EASTERN TASTES

OMI SUSHI — This sushi bar has a wide variety of sushi rolls, including tempura, spicy or vegetarian. Also features appetizers such as lightly salted edamame or miso soup. 210 MAC Ave., East Lansing. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Sunday (517) 337-2222. WB, TO, SF \$\$

PANDA HOUSE — An enormous menu and lots of lunch specials, from chop suey to chow mai fun. 3499 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; (517) 333-1818. SF, TO, D \$-\$\$.

RICE KITCHEN — Whether you've got a craving for late-night

munchies or are just in the mood for some fast Chinese food, Rice Kitchen should be a number on your speed dial. The mu shu pork is outstanding, and the restaurant does a mean fried rice, too. 551 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; 11 a.m.-4 a.m. Wednesday-Saturday; noon-12:30 a.m. Sunday. (517) 336-5810. D, TO, RES, OM at www.campusfood.com, WiFi, \$

SANSU — Located in East Lansing's Hannah Plaza, this Japanese restaurant offers a wide selection of sushi dishes, from five different kinds of California rolls to sashimi for more adventurous eaters. 4750 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 4:30-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday,

3-10 p.m. Sunday. (517) 333-1933. www.sansu-sushi.com. FB, TO, RES, OM, \$\$

SINDHU INDIAN CUISINE — This restaurant's buffet and a la carte menu offer classic Indian dishes like tandoori chicken and a variety of vegetarian meals. 4790 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-3 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 5:30-9:30 p.m. for dinner daily. (517) 351-3080. sindhurestaurant.com, FB, RES, TO, \$\$-\$\$\$

SUSHI MOTO — Serving sushi and teriyaki dishes on Lansing's west side. Don't see what you want on the menu? Order an "omakase," which translates to, "I leave it up to you," and leave it

up to the chef to impress you with whatever seasonal ingredients are available. 436 Elmwood Road, Lansing. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 580-4321. www.sushimoto.us. TO, RES, OM, WiFi. \$\$-\$\$\$.

TASTE OF THAI — This East Lansing eatery serves authentic Thai soups; meat, seafood and plenty of vegetarian entrées; and a wide selection of noodles and fried rice. 1105 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday; 1-10 p.m. Saturday; 1-9 p.m. Sunday. (517) 324-0225. TO, RES, SF, WiFi \$-\$\$. www.tasteofthaimsu.com

THAI PRINCESS — Artistic presentations of delicious Thai cuisine are served in a stylishly decorated environment in Okemos. 1754 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-9 p.m. Saturday; noon-8 p.m. Sunday. (517) 381-1558. TO, OM, R, WiFi, \$\$.

UKAI JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE — Diners get dinner and a show, as their food is cooked hibachi-style right in front of them by chefs who artistically prepare each meal. 2167 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-0820. 4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 4-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, noon-9 p.m. Sunday. www.iloveukai.com. FB, P, RES, OM,

WiFi \$-\$\$\$ Additional location at 754 Delta Commerce Drive, Lansing (off of West Saginaw, behind Bennigan's). (517) 853-8888. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; noon-9 p.m. Sunday.

XIAO CHINA GRILLE & LOUNGE — Fusion is difficult to do well, and this stylish, funky eatery — which includes a sushi bar — has mixed results with its menu. Full review at tinyurl.com/XiaoCityPulse. 3415 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-midnight Friday and Saturday; noon-9 p.m. Sunday (517) 580-3720 xiaochinagrille.com TO, OM, WiFi, \$\$\$

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

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

Uncorked

from page 30

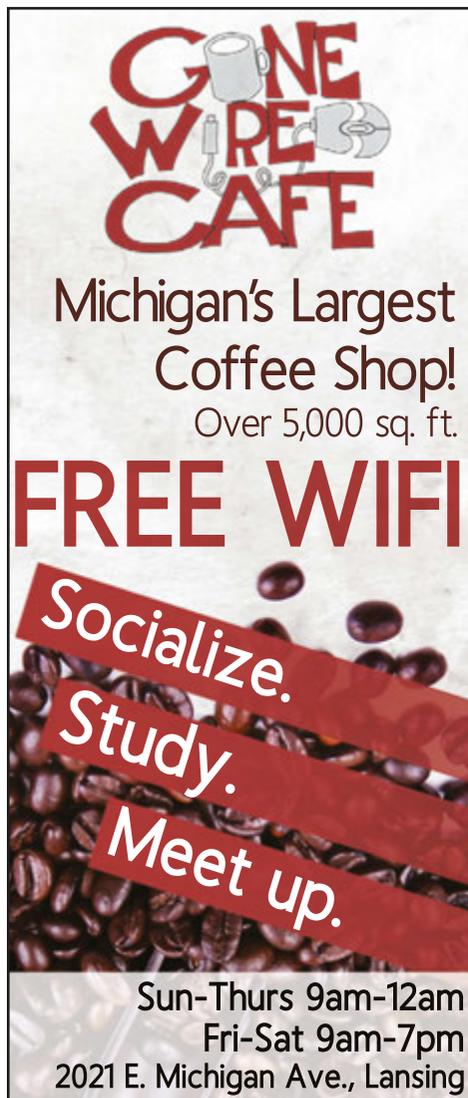
stinky, and just plain gone— highlighting bottle variation and demonstrating what can happen over time as wines age. The Charvin maintained some tannic structure, suggesting that it still had life left, and demonstrated a clean, balanced finish. Votes dropped off significantly for the 1998 Domaine Roger Perrin and the 1998 Domaine de la Charbonnière, reflecting their loss of character and fruit.

So what are the takeaways? Most wines are made to be enjoyed earlier in their life cycles, perhaps even as soon as one arrives home from the wine shop. Wines made to have long cellar life, particularly those with concentrated fruit and dominant tannic structure, can develop appealing additional nuances and complexity over time. But the point where a wine reaches peak is not only difficult to predict — until opening the bottle — but is also subject to an individual's perceptions and palate.

These wines were certainly enjoyable and tasting them was an interesting educational experience. My two cents: If you have bottles of Châteauneuf-du-Pape in the cellar that were produced in the last century, drink 'em up.

In Vino Veritas

(Michael Brenton is president of the Greater Lansing Vintners Club. His column appears monthly.)



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