

CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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March 13 - 19, 2019

FREE

Local Methodists stand their ground

See page 15



W H
A R T
O N



MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL ON TOUR

FEATURING CÉCILE McLORIN SALVANT, BRIA SKONBERG,
MELISSA ALDANA, YASUSHI NAKAMURA,
CHRISTIAN SANDS & JAMISON ROSS

SUN., MARCH 24, 6:30 PM

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W H
A R T



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MAR. 19, 7:30PM

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C E N T E R
FOR PERFORMING ARTS

W H
A R T



I AND YOU

A play by Lauren Gunderson
Directed by Bert Goldstein
A WHARTON CENTER
PRODUCTION

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and the beauty of human
connection.

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
W H A R T O N
C E N T E R
FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Favorite Things

Lansing singer Rose Cooper and her motorcycle Minwoo



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Heard on Lansing streets singing gospel tunes, Rose Cooper sits on her Harley Davidson Heritage Softail motorcycle.

The funny thing is people might think this is my favorite thing because I get out on the motorcycle and sing, but I sing in my car, shower and walking down the street. Singing is a byproduct of my freedom, but the bike is how I express my joy. I am my true self when I'm on my motorcycle.

In 1990, I went to a local Honda shop to pick up a helmet and saw a little Honda Rebel that looked like a pretend Harley. Once I sat on it, I felt at home and have been riding ever since.

I've only ever liked Heritage Softails. When I saw the big boominess with the studs, it was a no brainer to get one.

It suits my personality — it is big, out there and enjoyable.

My first Harley Davidson Heritage Softail I got in 2003. I picked it up and brought it home on my birthday on Dec. 23. I rode it home while it was snowing.

The reason this is so significant to me is I've ridden my bike in all but four states of the US, including Alaska.

I've ridden with the president of Michigan State University on my bike. I've also taken international students from all around the world on my bike.

The caveat is people have to sing with me. I've had the president of the university tell me she didn't sing, but it was my bike and my rules.

Once you start singing, it is fun and anyone who notices you only notices you for two seconds. When you learn to let go, there is such a freedom in that.

I just recently retired last October. Primarily, I would ride from work and back and I always took the long way around so I was almost always late for work. I worked at MSU so I would go drive down Michigan Avenue and around to REO Town and through the backstreets of East Lansing.

What I also always tried to do is ride to south Lansing to the places where there are a lot of black girls to show them they could have this too. I make a point to let young black kids see there is nothing special about me. It is an expensive bike, but I saved up and bought it.

I have a gospel background so almost all the time when you hear me singing it is a shuffle of gospel songs. I do have songs I always like to start the season with.

The first is "O, What a Beautiful Mornin'" from the musical "Oklahoma!" No matter what, whether it's my very first ride or when I take someone for a ride, it is my first song to sing.

(This interview was edited and condensed by Dennis Burck. If you have a recommendation for "Favorite Things," please email dennis@lansingcitypulse.com.)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
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Madeleine L'Engle's

A WRINKLE IN TIME

Adapted by Tracy Young

Directed by Ryan Welsh

March 15-24, 2019

Arena Theatre

A Wrinkle in Time is produced by special arrangement with Crosswicks, Ltd. and Stage Partners.

BREAKING DOWN BORDERS

2018
2019
SEASON

A Field Guide to Bad-Faith Social Justice Activists

These species are often mistaken for actual civil rights advocates.



Dunkus opportunistica

Has done little for cause they purport to care about beyond weaponizing it against opponents



Opprobrium selectivus

Engages in chest-puffing display while ignoring massive prejudice on own side



Wokeum impersonatus

Claims to hate "social justice warriors" except for when mimicking them



Bigotus blurtus

Can't help saying bigoted things while trying to make an argument against discrimination



If you see one of these invasive pundits in the wild, IGNORE and DO NOT FEED.

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"Fight Girl Battle World" comes to The Robin Theatre



Spring is here and the ukes are returning to Old Town



New sub shop focuses on Michigan-made products



Cover Art

Photo by Skyler Ashley

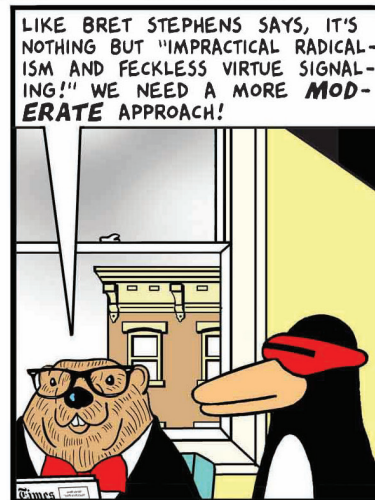
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Tom Tomorrow©2019

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Cold snap freezes wheels of justice

Pregnant woman spent needless week in jail, judge says

After repeated winter-weather closures at the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office, a 22-year-old pregnant woman was forced to spend an unnecessary week behind bars, said 55th District Judge Thomas Boyd.

And it could happen again without plans to keep the wheels of justice rolling when the county freezes.

"The point is, it was cold and (prosecutors) didn't go to work," Boyd explained to City Pulse. "When people don't go to work, bad things can happen. I'm not suggesting we tell anyone what to do. I'm not advocating for anything. All I'm saying: When there's a scheduled court hearing, it's not generally not very nice to ignore it."

Ingham County — except for a few key services — entirely closed on Jan. 28, 30 and 31 as a polar vortex ravaged mid-Michigan and windchill temperatures dropped below -30 degrees. Boyd kept the 55th District Court open in Mason, but he was ultimately forced to call off every scheduled hearing in the abrupt absence of the prosecution.

Emails obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request showed Siemon on Jan. 30 emailed Boyd, "calling off witnesses for all scheduled hearings" on Jan. 31 out of concern for both the safety of her staff and subpoenaed witnesses. The move effectively halted all casework that involved the Prosecutor's Office.

Boyd emailed back about an hour later, demanding Siemon reconsider plans to close.

"You have no authority to do so," Boyd wrote to Siemon. "We have people being held in jail only for the purpose of these hearings. Wouldn't a case-by-case review be more appropriate than simply announcing your intention to fail to appear? With all due respect, a phone call should have been made before this decision was made."

Among those jailed at the time was a 22-year-old woman, pregnant seven months, with a clean record. She was charged with a felony that was later reduced to a misdemeanor before it was wiped from her record entirely, Boyd said. But without a prosecutor in the courtroom, that plea deal was ultimately delayed seven days.



Courtesy Photo

The jail in Mason was home to a woman for an extra week when January's deep freeze closed the Prosecutor's Office, delaying her court date. District Judge Thomas Boyd cried foul.

mately delayed seven days.

"They came back and offered for her to plead to a misdemeanor and she was being held on a felony," Boyd said. "If they had came back the day they were supposed to come back — or even telephoned it in — she wouldn't have needed to stay in jail. There's no reason not to make these types of arrangements over the phone."

Boyd said he didn't have "any inkling" of the situation at the time, only recently realizing the consequences of the weather-related closure before taking his concerns to the county Board of Commissioners.

Siemon declined an interview with City Pulse but had an assistant prosecutor provide a brief, emailed statement.

"In any individual situation, like a county weather closure, illness of an essential person, or any other emergency, someone is often inconvenienced," Siemon said. "We'd prefer to not have weather-related closures, but they are simply sometimes warranted."

Prosecutors said the unnamed pregnant woman's criminal case was ultimately sealed from public disclosure under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act. That statute gives youthful offenders a second chance to keep their criminal record clean in exchange for a guilty plea and some court-ordered

probation or treatment.

"I think she's going to struggle," Boyd added. "I think she's going to need a little TLC. It's just an example of the type of things that happen if you don't take cases when you're supposed to take them. This does sound like common sense, but it seems I always get in trouble when I try to fight for these common-sense things."

Records show Siemon and Boyd bickered back and forth throughout the day. Siemon said she wasn't trying to "overstep" Boyd's authority, referencing a "moral obligation" to keep her colleagues safe from the frigid weather. Boyd suggested the two of them meet to "have a conversation about the difference between morals and ethics."

"I really would like to discuss processes for the future because I am committed to working with everyone in the criminal justice system and have no desire to challenge anyone else's authority," Siemon explained to Boyd. "This just isn't simple. And if someone died or was harmed, I would feel I'd violated my ethical responsibility."

Plans to assemble "skeleton crews" to keep county services operational during future weather-related closures are already underway. Bryan Crenshaw, who chairs the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, said a group of de-

See Jail, Page 6



2206 W. Jolly Road

A recent reader nomination brings us to this this week's "really terrible" southside eyesore, but this one probably would've made our listings at some point regardless. The property is for sale. And it's a total mess.

This residential-looking building at the corner of Jolly and Pleasant Grove roads is listed as commercial office space in county records, owned by a company only identified as Jones, Thomas & Robbyne. A phone number spray-painted on the front of the delapidated structure leads to a generic voicemail. Multiple messages left there were not returned, but the property is clearly "FOR SELL" according to its graffiti.

Boards cover doorways and the windows. The siding is peeling off the nearby garage. The awnings are caving in. Landscaping is non-existent. Gutters are falling off the worn-down rooftop. It's difficult to drive past that southside corner without the building catching attention for all the wrong reasons.

Taxes appear to be paid in full and the property doesn't have any active code enforcement issues. Built in 1948, the building totals to about 1,400 square feet. Just call "CALL BUY 517-394-1856" for details. County property records indicate the site is listed by "Best Realty Inc." but attempts to contact an agent there were unsuccessful.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

"Eyesore of the Week" is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call it in at 517-999-6715.

Jail

from page 5

partment leaders plan to continue discussions on the potential consequences of weather disruptions. It's a balancing act, Crenshaw added.

"The prosecutor decided to go along with the rest of the county recommendations and close because of the temperatures," Crenshaw said. "The judge decided to keep the court open. There needs to be communication between those two entities, and we need to explore the cause and effect of these types of interactions."

Commissioner Carol Koenig suggest-

ed a makeshift team of "core services" could be expected to maintain some county operations during weather-related closures. She and her colleagues plan to explore the "most logical way" to address Boyd's concerns while still ensuring county employees remain safe during bad weather.

"It all comes down to this: Who wants to do it?" Koenig said. "We're not going to make people do this. I would assume that we would allow for these skeleton crews to get together, but it depends on a lot of different elements. There are union implications, facilities implications, concerns about safety and security — a lot of little pieces."

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

B/19/086 APTA VEHICLE as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the **CITY OF LANSING C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, 1110 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, MI 48912 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on March 26, 2019** at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson, CPPB at (517) 702-6197, or email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com, or go to www.mitn.info** . The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#19-071

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF EAST LANSING
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at 7:00 pm, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. The hearing will be for the purpose of accepting comment on a proposed application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. The grant is requesting funds to construct pedestrian connections to the Northern Tier Trail on Colorado Drive and Riveria Drive, including installation of pedestrian bridges. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard. Contact Wendy Wilmers Longpre, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts at (517) 319-6940, for additional information.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#19-066

CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1450

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 32-6 OF ARTICLE I – IN GENERAL – AND SECTION 32-105 OF ARTICLE III – SPECIFICATIONS FOR REGULATED SIGNS – OF CHAPTER 32 – SIGNS – OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO AMEND PROVISIONS RELATED TO TEMPORARY WINDOW SIGNS AND PROJECTING SIGNS

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1450 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at the regular meeting of the Council held on March 5, 2019, and will become effective immediately upon the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1450

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Ordinance 1450 amends Sections 32-6 and 32-105 of Chapter 32, Signs, of the Code of the City of East Lansing by allowing businesses to utilize 100 percent of the storefront windows for temporary window signage during construction and reduces the setback from the edge of tenant space for projecting signs to be within three feet of the edge of tenant space with the option to have no setback with the adjacent property owner's authorization.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1450 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal **business hours**.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

Dated: March 7, 2019
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#19-069

City of Lansing
Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on March 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Plan #72 – Red Cedar Development Project pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for property commonly referred to as 203 South Clippert Street located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

Part of Lots 6, 15, 17, and Outlot "A", also vacated portion of Church Street, part of vacated Cooper Street, part of vacated Olin Avenue and vacated portion of Reniger Court (platted as Fredrick Street), Supervisor's Plat No. 1 as recorded in Liber 12 of Plats, Page 27, Ingham County Records; also part of the plat of Riverside as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 25, Ingham County Records; also part of the "Plat of the Subdivision of all that part of the Southeast quarter of Section 14 and all of that part of Section 23 lying North of the Cedar River" according to the True Copy of the Original recorded June 13th, 1856; also part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 13 and part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 14, T4N, R2W, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, all being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the West 1/4 corner of Section 13 also being the East 1/4 corner of Section 14, T4N, R2W; thence S00°33'40"W, 119.50 feet along the West line of Section 13 and the East line of Section 14 to the South line of Michigan Avenue and the North line of Lot 19 of Supervisor's Plat No. 1; thence S89°49'55"W, 1.85 feet along the South line of Michigan Avenue to the Northwest corner of Supervisor's Plat No. 1 and the Point of Beginning of following described parcel; thence S00°44'26"W (platted as South), 540.51 feet along the West line of Supervisor's Plat No. 1 to the Southwest corner of Lot 23; thence S89°58'26"E (platted as N89°15'E), 182.60 feet along the South line of Lot 23 and its Easterly extension; thence N00°22'22"W, 100.00 feet along the West line of the East 1/2 of vacated Olin Avenue; thence S89°58'26"E, 998.91 feet along the North line of the South 100 feet of the East ½ of vacated Olin Avenue, the North line of the South 100 feet of Lot 17, the North line of the South 100 feet of vacated Cooper Street, the North line of the South 100 feet of Lot 15, the North line of the South 100 feet of vacated portion of Reniger Court (platted as Fredrick Street) and the North line of the South 100 feet of Lot 6 to the East line of Lot 6; thence S00°15'20"E, 50.00 feet along the East line of Lot 6; thence N89°49'17"E, 330.21 feet to the East line of Supervisor's Plat No. 1; thence S00°16'54"E (platted as S01°09'E), 690.78 feet to the Northerly floodway limit of the Red Cedar River; thence along said floodway limit, the following thirty (30) courses:

- 1) N46°10'15"W, 15.48 feet;
 - 2) N56°47'13"W, 30.48 feet;
 - 3) N55°43'09"W, 66.24 feet;
 - 4) N65°03'09"W, 93.92 feet;
 - 5) N64°01'30"W, 216.39 feet;
 - 6) N70°25'57"W, 74.47 feet;
 - 7) N61°25'31"W, 56.19 feet;
 - 8) N60°47'42"W, 67.03 feet;
 - 9) N57°32'05"W, 71.96 feet;
 - 10) N65°20'26"W, 16.79 feet;
 - 11) N57°44'47"W, 53.83 feet;
 - 12) N73°17'40"W, 35.93 feet;
 - 13) N86°48'53"W, 39.97 feet;
 - 14) S86°37'02"W, 46.11 feet;
 - 15) S84°50'08"W, 84.32 feet;
 - 16) S82°06'51"W, 75.07 feet;
 - 17) S86°19'27"W, 52.44 feet;
 - 18) S88°21'50"W, 138.94 feet;
 - 19) N77°32'06"W, 66.35 feet;
 - 20) N78°22'00"W, 73.45 feet;
 - 21) N83°02'49"W, 104.05 feet;
 - 22) N80°18'41"W, 104.78 feet;
 - 23) N81°25'50"W, 29.98 feet to the West line of Section 13;
 - 24) continuing N81°25'50"W, 63.00 feet;
 - 25) N84°40'04"W, 94.88 feet;
 - 26) N84°12'26"W, 174.71 feet;
 - 27) N86°42'58"W, 153.92 feet;
 - 28) N87°08'16"W, 100.89 feet;
 - 29) West, 119.66 feet;
 - 30) S82°46'50"W, 89.82 feet;
- thence N53°29'47"W, 224.96 feet; thence S89°26'11"W, 305.00 feet to a point which as 24.75 feet East of the West line of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 14, according to the plat of Urbandale as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, Page 49, Ingham County Records; thence N00°30'13"E, 608.40 feet parallel with said West line to the South right-of-way line of Michigan Avenue; thence S89°51'10"E, 1279.97 feet along the South right-of-way line of Michigan Avenue to the Point of Beginning. Contains 35.57 acres, more or less.

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer – Director of Business Development, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, 1000 South Washington, Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48912, (517) 702-3387.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#19-070

Schor: Diversity remains priority in City Hall

Looks to move past rift with former fire chief

Weeks before a new chief arrives at the Lansing Fire Department, tensions are still flaring over an obvious lack of diversity in last year's newly hired class of firefighters. And Mayor Andy Schor is continuing to take the heat.

Former Chief Randy Talifarro last week penned an open letter to Schor, noting he only quit last year when the workplace became "extremely uncomfortable" after former Mayor Virg Bernero left office. And he offered a warning to Schor — and other department heads — about the need to further bolster inclusion in city hiring.

"I call on you to set the example," Talifarro, who is African American, wrote to Schor, questioning why incoming Chief Michael Mackey was hired without interviewing a single minority candidate for the job. "It is disappointing to say the least and says a great deal about your concept of inclusion. ... You have a responsibility not to be blind to these matters."

Mackey, a white man, will take the reins at the department next month and help supervise 16 paramedics hired into the service last year. Nearly all of them are white men, edging the department down to 19.5 percent African American in a city where 23 percent of the population is black. The situation was "disappointing," Schor said.

Schor also said he was disappointed that no qualified minority candidates had applied to become Talifarro's eventual replacement. He doubled down on a renewed focus to continue to expand inclusion efforts in Lansing.

"It really is important to have leadership that reflects the community and is qualified for the job," Schor added.

Schor came under fire earlier last month when Talifarro and former Assistant Chief Bruce Odom criticized the shifting hiring practices. Odom contended the changes only helped to bolster racial tensions in the department. He pointed to a "cultural issue" stemming from a "good ol' boys" type of atmosphere in the city.

"Is racial discrimination a part of that? Yes. That's all part of it," Odom previously explained to City Pulse.

Schor said priority was placed on hiring licensed paramedics last year after a staffing shortage loomed on the hori-



Talifarro



Schor



Bernero



McGrain



Crawford



Jackson Johnson



Sanchez-Gazella



Maxwell



Plummer

zon. The Fire Department needed those skilled professionals in order to legally complete high-priority medical calls. Diversity ultimately took a backseat in order to bring in the most qualified staff, Schor said.

The results weren't ideal, Schor emphasized, but they were necessary. Talifarro set a focus on on-the-job training over credentials — allowing a more diverse array of local residents to be hired at the Fire Department. Schor was forced to temporarily divert course, at the inadvertent expense of diversity, to keep operations running smoothly.

"My priority was hiring paramedics so that we can have ambulances on the road. Diversity is a goal, but having ambulances respond is a requirement," Schor said. "I was disappointed with the

lack of diversity in that pool."

Talifarro's recent letter also claims Schor "pre-judged" or "completely disregarded" Fire Department personnel, as well as other outgoing African American department heads that served under Bernero's administration. He contended those employees needed to be treated with more "dignity and respect" on their way out the door.

Schor countered that diversity has always been an integral focus for his administration — not just for race, but for gender and sexual orientation as well. And the statistics reflect that. Last year's class of firefighters is no reflection of a racist mentality or a continued pattern, Schor emphasized.

"This was just the situation that we had to deal with," Schor added. "I do

want to see diversity in hiring at the Fire Department. I want to make sure this doesn't happen again, and we have a plan in place to make that happen. We do need to diversify the hiring class, much like we've done across the rest of our city leadership."

Bernero's administration was a melting pot. While many white men had prominent roles with the city, a number of black employees were also well represented. Mary Riley was the human resources director. Bob Johnson handled economic development and planning. Jeanine McIntyre was the city attorney. Talifarro was fire chief. Bernero influenced the hiring of two African Americans to run the Lansing Housing Commission.

Schor said Riley — although she was offered another job — was replaced with a "strong, qualified Latina," Linda Sanchez-Gazella. Johnson was replaced with both Andrea Crawford and Brian McGrain. Crawford is female. McGrain is gay. Diversity is about more than just proportionate racial representation, Schor emphasized.

Chief Information Officer Collin Boyce and Chief Labor Negotiator Nicholas Tate — both black men — were also hired under Schor's incoming administration last year. And while Lansing ultimately cut ties with Riley and Johnson, Schor vehemently denies that their race had anything to do with the decision to appoint replacements.

"When I set up my cabinet, we looked at who was already there and who I wanted to bring in," Schor said. "There were five people that I specifically wanted to bring into my administration: Brian McGrain, Linda Sanchez-Gazella, Andy Kilpatrick, Andi Crawford and Nick Tate. I thought they'd do the best job. That's it."

Other black employees employed under Schor include City Assessor Sharon Frischman and Constituency Director Marilyn Plummer. Joan Jackson Johnson was also retained as human relations and community services director. Bishop David Maxwell also stayed on as the city's director of Community and Faith Based Initiatives.

Schor also noted that Sanchez-Gazella didn't identify a qualified minority candidate before Mackey was hired. He was ultimately the only candidate recommended by the city Fire Board — making him a shoo-in for the job. Schor

See Diversity, Page 8

Diversity

from page 7

would have liked to make greater inclusionary strides but his hands were also tied by the applicant pool.

“A lot of it is about the candidate pool,” Schor said. “We have to work to create our own pool. We’re going to get into our schools and see what types of further steps we can take to attract these candidates to these positions.”

Under a policy Schor rolled out last week, the city is now looking to bring in a mix of paramedics and lesser-trained EMTs with hopes to expand the job search. A cadet program for firefighters is also designed to engage local, prospective employees at an earlier age. The city will also continue its Youth Leadership Academy.

Despite continued objections from Talifarro over the efficacy of those programs, the city’s newly implemented and proactive steps should help alleviate concerns of racial disparities in the future, Schor emphasized. The goal: Target a more diverse population for employment opportunities and train them to meet the qualifications.

A City Pulse investigation last year revealed several key disparities among government employees across the

Greater Lansing region. The overarching trend: Municipalities like Lansing have made strides toward gender and racial diversity but the statistics, by and large, are still inherently skewed toward white men.

The city of Lansing was among the worst gender offending municipalities in the region. While the city boasts a 52-percent female population, women only account for about 29 percent of city staff. And while 23 percent of the city is black, African Americans only compose about 15 percent of the city of Lansing’s payroll records.

Schor said he has kept a closer eye on the composition of his staff. Most of those long-standing inequities are based on a history of imbalance, he said. Since he was elected mayor, Schor has been intentionally careful to hire a more equitable mix of men and women — and people of color — into city leadership positions, he contended.

Officials at the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights then cautioned local officials across the region to take a “long and hard look” at their hiring and recruitment efforts. When the decision-making table doesn’t look like the community, everyone suffers, several officials contended.

“Passively waiting for people of color and women to apply in hopes that this

will somehow create a diverse staff is a formula for failure and puts the blame on people of color and women for not applying rather than a recruitment process that leaves people out,” said Rana Elmir, deputy director of the ACLU of Michigan.

Elmir suggested a “robust” recruitment plan would foster relationships with organizations and other people who are committed to diversity and can help identify potential hires for the municipalities. It’s about making it a priority, she said. And that’s exactly what Schor intends to do over the coming months at the Fire Department.

It’s a sentiment also echoed by Bernero, who weighed in last week on the rift between Talifarro and Schor.

“City leaders should pause to carefully consider what (Talifarro) has to say,” Bernero said. “Reaction is not the same as thoughtful reflection and response. Racial reconciliation and healing is



Elmir

possible only when all sides are at the table with a listening ear and an open mind. That is the kind of dialogue Lansing must strive for, now more than ever.”

Schor previously said Lansing was “really doing our best” to increase diversity, but now he plans to put a renewed focus on inclusion efforts following the community concerns. Advertisements for open positions will be posted in prominent, black-oriented local newspapers like the Chronicle News and the New Citizens Press.

Schor is also working with local churches to identify scholarship opportunities for potential trainees, he said. It’s all still a work in progress — but one that will hopefully lead to more inclusionary hiring practices in the future.

“I think what we had with the Fire Department was a series of extremes and we’re dealing with that,” Schor said. “We had the extreme of hiring no paramedics. We had the extreme of hiring all paramedics. Now, we’re looking at bringing in a mix and getting people trained. We have to strike the right balance and meet department needs.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF EAST LANSING
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Applications

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at 7:00 pm, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. The hearing will be for the purpose of accepting comment a proposed application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a Natural Resources Trust Fund grant. The grant is requesting funds to renovate the pavilion and both restrooms at Patriarche Park. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard. Contact Wendy Wilmers Longpre, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts at (517) 319-6940, for additional information.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#19-067

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1449, an ordinance to add Division 8 - Building Height Overlay District - and Sections 50-805 and 50-806 to Article VII - Other Districts - of Chapter 50 - Zoning - of The Code of the City of East Lansing to create an overlay district for building height.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-377.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

Dated: March 7, 2019
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#19-068

B/19/080 SWOC GENERATOR INSTALLATION as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept **sealed bids** at the City of Lansing, C/O LBWL, Purchasing Office, 1110 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing, Michigan 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **March 21 2019** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197 email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com or go to www.mitn.info** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#19-065

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that three Public Meetings will be held for the purpose to receive public input on:

The submission of three (3) separate grants by the Department of Parks and Recreation to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for three (3) Land Acquisition grants.

Parcel #33-01-01-34-425-011, 1624 E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing
Parcel #33-01-01-21-202-011, 700 River Street, Lansing
Parcel #33-01-01-21-202-001, 342 E. St. Joseph Street, #1, Lansing

Lansing Park Board meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Avenue, Lansing MI, and;
Committee on Ways and Means meeting on Friday, March 22, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. in the City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI, and;

Monday, March 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public meetings or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Meeting at the City Clerk’s Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#19-072

What’s the damn road fix?

That’s the \$2.5 billion question — and 45 cents a gallon isn’t the answer.

The 45-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax hike that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer proposed last week isn’t going to happen.

Some gas tax increase? More than likely, yes. It’s just not going to be 45 cents the Democratic governor wants.

“The proposal that she put forward is a non-starter for my caucus, because the people in our districts cannot afford it,” said Republican House Speaker Lee Chatfield.

The idea of raising \$2.5 billion to fix Michigan’s roads is a different story. Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, also a Republican, said last week, “This \$2.5-2.6 number has now survived two administrations, so I think we can safely conclude that is a consensus we can rally around.”

Shirkey and Whitmer may quibble over whether that’s \$2.5 billion on top of the Legislature’s \$1.2 billion funding plan for 2015 or including the \$1.2 billion plan. Regardless, some taxes will be increased. More road funding revenue will be generated.

So, if not a 45-cent-a-gallon gas increase, then what? That’s the question.

Increasing the state’s income tax to 5.3 percent, from 4.25 percent, would get the \$2.5 billion. Republicans don’t like that idea. Raising the state’s corporate income tax to 19.5 percent also gets \$2.5 billion, but the R’s like that idea even less. The sales tax could go up 7.4 percent from 6 percent. That was tried at the 2015 ballot box and defeated.

Why do we need to raise taxes? Have you driven on our Michigan roads?

Outside of the many, many stories of folks’ excellent adventures on the Michigan roads, there are professional projections.

The Department of Transportation



reported that raising no new additional revenue will mean 42 percent of Michigan roads will be in good or fair condition by 2029. We’re at 78 percent in good or fair condition, if you can believe that.

The national transportation group TRIP reported Tuesday that the average Michigan driver spends \$646 per year on car repairs, which is up from \$562 in previous reports.

According to the Tax Foundation, Michigan’s 26.3-cent gasoline tax and the corresponding sales tax puts our total state tax on gasoline at 44 cents, the nation’s sixth highest. Michigan needs to raise the gas tax only 15 cents a gallon to top Pennsylvania for the nation’s highest rate.

Chatfield is trying to avoid the distinction. He’d like to get rid of the sales tax on gasoline — which raises about \$1.1 billion a year, \$800 million of it going to the schools — and replace it with a higher gas tax to raise more road revenue.

For now, the plan is stalling out right about the time you look at how to replace the \$800 million in K-12 education money, which Whitmer would need. One idea is stop funding community colleges and universities out of the School Aid Fund, but then how do you fund those two expenses?

Whitmer won’t sign anything that cuts education. Increasing the sales tax needs voter support. Chatfield sponsored the bill to cut the income tax last session, not increase it.

So once again, where does the revenue come from?

Shirkey really would like to see no-fault auto insurance reforms passed before tackling the budget. His wants to tell ratepayers that real relief is on the way before asking residents to reach into their pockets for more state investment.

Government doesn’t see much savings from lower car insurance rates, but real people do. And if the Senate leader can deliver cost-saving reforms to taxpayers, he’s more comfortable asking those who use the roads to pay more for them.

The Mackinac Center reported commercial trucks pay about 10

cents per mile to use the roads — but produce about 60 cents per mile in damage. Passenger cars pay about 3 cents per mile to use the roads while essentially doing no damage.

Still, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Jim Stamas said Friday he’s not keen on having truckers paying a higher tax than passenger cars.

Shirkey has talked vaguely about a fee that’s based on how many miles

a driver puts on his or her car. In concept, the idea makes sense ... until you get to the question about how this information is verified?

Asking Michiganders to put any type of tracking device on their vehicles to record miles isn’t going to fly.

It gets back to the original \$2.5 billion question. If not the 45-cent-per-gallon tax, then what?

(Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS is at melinnky@gmail.com.)

ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

Sealed bids marked **S/19/090, ABANDONED VEHICLES** will be accepted at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 1232 Haco Dr, Lansing MI. 48912 until but no later than, **1:00 PM**, local time in effect **WED. APRIL 17, 2019**
Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Stephanie Robinson, Buyer, at (517) 702-6197 or email: stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com - 30day notice.

Vehicles may be inspected **WED. APRIL 17, 2019**, as follows:
Shroyer's, 2740 Eaton Rapids Rd, Lansing Mi. 48911 8:30am
PJ Towing, 1425 Rensen St. Lansing MI 48910 9:15 am
Northside Towing, 226 Russell, Lansing, MI 48906 10:00am

Auction AD Report

NORTHSIDE	
2013	KIA
2004	HONDA
2007	INFINITI
2004	DODGE
2000	MERC
2015	CHRYSL
2003	FORD
2006	CAD
2000	FORD
2007	HYUN
2006	FORD
2016	CHRYSL
1994	CAD
2015	CHEV
2001	LEXUS
2004	CAD
2018	BMW
2001	JEEP
2005	FORD
PJ	
2013	KIA
2014	HEV
2014	JEEP
2001	SATURN
2007	SATURN
2011	KIA
2005	FORD
2012	TOYO
2012	CHEV
2015	DODGE
2012	CHRYSL
2018	FORD
2015	CHEV
SHROYERS	
2010	CHEV
2001	JEEP
2007	PONT
2003	FORD
2001	VW
2015	HYUND
2005	NISSAN
2007	DODGE
2008	BUICK
2003	CHEV
2013	CHEV
2006	CHEV
2009	SATURN

Omar's gift to the GOP

Trump, who said neo-Nazis are 'very fine people,' has a new talking point: 'Democrats hate Jewish people.'

If ever a story was situated perfectly at the intersection of 2020 politics and the perpetual outrage machine of cable news, this was it.

Naturally, it sucked up all of the media's oxygen, fuel feeding a fire stoked on allegations of anti-Semitism and doused with gasoline by a racist president desperate to show that the other guys are the real racists.

I refer, of course, to the saga surrounding U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minnesota, a Somali immigrant and one of the first Muslim women elected to Congress. Omar is an avowed critic of the Israeli government's treatment of Palestinians,



JEFFERY C. BILLMAN

INFORMED DISSENT

and an equally avowed critic of the notion that criticizing that government is inherently anti-Semitic. But in doing so — and particularly while focusing on pro-Israeli money in American politics — she's said ill-advised things that echoed anti-Semitic tropes and vile stereotypes, intentionally or not. Most recent was her suggestion that American supporters of Israel are pushing for "allegiance to a foreign country."

If you're inclined to give her the benefit of the doubt, this dual-loyalty smear could be seen as more thoughtless than insidious when read in context. But most politicians — Republicans and many Democrats — weren't willing to do that.

Omar was at a Q&A on Feb. 27, riffing on why she drew such condemnation for criticizing pro-Israeli groups but not when she bashed the NRA or Big Pharma. This followed

widespread denunciations for a tweet in which she said that lawmakers' support for Israel was "all about the Benjamins, baby" — which prompted a 424-0 vote last month for a Republican House resolution condemning anti-Semitism. She didn't help matters when she later tweeted at a Democratic colleague that she "should not be expected to have allegiance/pledge support to a foreign country in order to serve my country in Congress."

No sooner had Omar uttered her dual-allegiance remarks than Republicans — who for decades welcomed white supremacist Steve King into their ranks before finally rebuking him — demanded that Democrats denounce her, including Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, who took a Holocaust denier to the State of the Union, and Rep. Louie Gohmert of Texas, who falsely accused George Soros of collaborating with the Nazis during World War II. Meanwhile, Rep. Steve Scalise, who once boasted that he was like Ku Klux Klan leader "David Duke without the baggage," suggested she be denied access to intelligence briefings.

It's possible some of this outrage

isn't entirely in good faith.

There were, however, a number of House Dems genuinely unnerved by Omar's comments, and Democratic leaders wanted to put the mess behind them. So they began crafting a second resolution to condemn anti-Semitism. But they were met with a backlash from the young progressives now animating the party's base, who argued that Omar was being unfairly targeted. The media found a shopworn Dems-in-disarray narrative, and Republicans saw an opportunity to paint their opponents as unwilling to call out bigotry.

As she always does, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi found a way out, a compromise resolution denouncing all "expressions of hateful intolerance" along with white supremacy, anti-Semitism, dual-loyalty slanders and Islamophobia — including bigotry against "African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other people of color, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, the LGBTQ community, immigrants, and others."

It passed 407-23, with Democrats (including Omar) in favor and only

See Billman, Page 11



Thursday, March 21, 2019 • 7:30 PM
From Bach to Bernstein in song

Jane Bunnell, voice, Marc Embree, voice,

Derek Polischuck, piano

The Absolute Music Chamber Series offers its tenth season at the acoustically-superior Urban Beat Event Center in Lansing's old Town. In this highly welcoming space, everyone sits only a few feet away from the musicians to experience chamber music up close and personal.

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In the Old World soirée tradition, light refreshments are served following every concert.

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Urban Beat Event Center, 1213 Turner Street Lansing, Michigan 48906 in Old Town

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Billman

from page 10

Republicans (including Gohmert) opposed. (Steve King voted “pres-ent.”) The Democrats moved on the HR 1, a sweeping election-reform and anti-corruption bill designed to make it easier for people to vote and to require dark money groups to be transparent about their campaign spending. (Or, as Senate leader Mitch McConnell calls it, a “power grab.”) Republicans, though, have remained fixated on Ilhan Omar.

On Sunday, Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming accused Democrats of “enabling anti-Semitism,” which is quite the thing to say, considering her party has two Jewish members of Congress and Democrats have 34, including quasi-Dem Bernie Sanders, who, incidentally, is a leading candidate for the party’s presidential nomination.

As is his wont, President Donald Trump cranked the rhetoric to 11. At a Mar-a-Lago fundraiser Friday night, Trump told donors, “The Democrats hate Jewish people.” The

day before, he called Democrats the “anti-Jewish party.”

This is an actual talking point, apparently.

Trump isn’t the GOP’s best messenger here, of course. He’s the same man who said the neo-Nazis marching on Charlottesville in 2017 contained “some very fine people,” who told the Jewish Republican Coalition in 2015, “You’re not going to so support me because I don’t want your money,” and whose Department of Health and Human Services just granted a waiver allowing South Carolina’s foster care program to discriminate against Jewish (and LGBTQ) families.

But, as with all things Trump, intellectual congruity isn’t the point. The point – and what Trump does so well – is an endless barrage of bullshit and distraction, such that it’s impossible to separate the meaningful from the inane, such that Trump’s myriad scandals and screw-ups can be countered with dismissive whataboutism.

When Omar’s comments surfaced, Trump was coming off another godawful week, with the bungled North Korea summit, Michael

Cohen’s damning testimony and the looming Senate rebuke of his fake border emergency. They proved useful. The president won’t want to move on. He wants to keep Omar in the news, to make her an avatar of run-amok leftism and a creeping Islamist threat so as to rile and

enrage his base, in the same way Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez symbolizes the coming socialist nightmare.

This is how he plays the game. It’s dirty pool, sure. But it’s effective.

(Jeffrey Billman, the editor *INDY Week in Durham, North Carolina*, is at jbillman@indyweek.com.)

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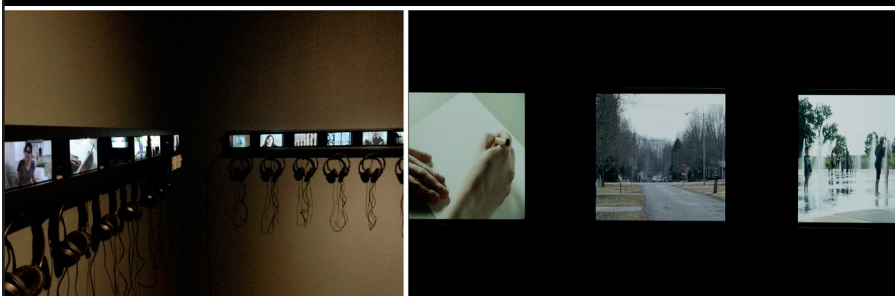
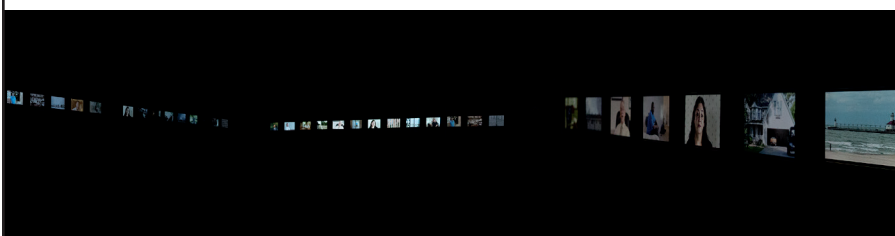
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The video installation will run
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Gallery open on Saturdays and
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By Tirtza Even, Meg McLagan and Elyse Blennerhassett

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This event is generously hosted & sponsored by • The Injustice Must End Committee (TIME) 4Efren.com • Casa de Rosado • Peace Education Center PeaceEdCenter.org • Voces De La Comunidad VocesDeLaComunidad.org Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development LLEAD.ORG • RCAF LookOut! Art Gallery www.HTFL.info

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ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

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**Gretchen Morse, DMA,
BCNS**

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Most tubs are going to last between 10-18 years but our current tubs, Jacuzzi and Nordic, have extended warranties to consider before making any repairs. Nordic is even made in Michigan!

Some think having a hot tub will require a lot of maintenance, but it's only about 10 minutes a week. We want people to use their tubs in the healthiest way. We can teach you to balance water chemistry and check the filter once a month to make sure it's good to go. Relax Hotwater Works!



Jessica Graham &
Michelle Humes

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Often the guru is asked, "why is insurance so expensive?" In the most disarming voice the guru responds, "is insurance expensive when you've been t-boned while driving westbound on Jolly Road, totaling your Prius and lacerating your kidney, and your insurance company must pay more than you've ever paid in your premiums?" Smiling, the guru says- without uttering a word, "of course not." The guru is wise, and knows insurance can be your dear friend while a loyal and humble (and cat loving) insurance agent can be your dearest friend.



Scott Harris, LUTCF

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ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Danny Black and the decline of leprechaun rentals

By DENNIS BURCK

Lansing native Danny Black has been performing as a leprechaun in local and national gigs since 1979. He is a divisive character in the little people community. Some liken him to comedians like Richard Pryor, who held a mirror to stereotypes and turned the exploitative into progressive. Others say he is capitalizing off harmful stereotypes that are bringing down the little people community as a whole.

In 2003, “Little People Big World” star Matt Roloff kicked Black out of a Little People of America convention in Boston for selling a shirt that said “Amish Midget Militia.” In 2005, Black made the front page of The Wall Street Journal after regulators investigated Fidelity investor Thomas Bruderman for using company funds to hire Black to entertain at a bachelor party in Miami. The FBI later subpoenaed him to testify as a material witness before a grand jury in Boston.

Black said more than anything he is a businessman. He has performed locally as a clown, doctor, elf and ape. During his prime, Black traveled nationally and had a list of 18 characters for patrons to choose from.

His first gig as a leprechaun was in 1979 for Roller World in Lansing.

“They were real hesitant for fear of offending me even back in the ‘70s. I grabbed some old clothing and dyed it

green. Then I went to the drug store and bought green makeup, but didn’t apply it right. Anyway, they loved it.”

Black said he worked the local circuit as a leprechaun at Harper’s, Houlihan’s, Claddagh, Moriarty’s and The Pantry.

“I used to start with a costume beard then thought the costume beard looked like trash. You need a real beard,” Black said.

“Within the last 15 or 20 years, I would grow a beard starting in October and it wouldn’t come off until after St. Patrick’s Day. I used to bleach it a week before so when I dyed it orange, the red would stand out.”

But times have changed for the once popular mainstay leprechaun gig at Irish bars during St. Patrick’s Day. “The peak for the leprechauns was in the late 2000s, then it started coming down, especially in the last two years.”

Black said the question of whether renting a leprechaun is politically correct is driving out leprechaun entertainment.

“I’ve felt a dent. More and more people over the years ask if it is politically correct to do this,” Black said. “In these times we are living in, it is a fair question. I’d always leave it up to the client if it was appropriate: You know the crowd better than I do.”

According to Black, his website and booking business shortdwarf.com can reach up to 250 little people for talent



Courtesy photo

Black wearing his leprechaun attire.

booking. He can count on 20 entertainers to make any gig.

“This number varies depending on the political correctness of some of these gigs, which has changed in the last five years or so, especially with Donald the orange Cheeto.”

Michelle Kraus, advocacy director for Little People of America, said she respects Black’s choice to work as an entertainer as a career.

“What we take issue with is there are

not sufficient opportunities available. If there was a wider range of employment available with little people, there would be more choice,” she added. “What we have to do is do a better job with is profiling little people as being able to be skilled in many different things.”

According to Kraus, the LPA wants to move away from the perception of little people working solely as entertainers.

“It was the yesteryear of the dwarf, midget and little people, and how they were perceived back in the day.”

In response to Kraus’ comment, Black said “I don’t feel it is my taking the role that limits other dwarf talent. I stifle myself from using the phrase ‘little people.’ The only thing that is limiting other dwarfs is their mindset.”

This year, Black is suiting up to perform as the character “Lucky McBuckets” in Chicago as part of a St. Patrick’s Day themed March Madness party. It is his only scheduled gig.

“It is my fourth year for a financial investor’s party. He closes out a bar and rents it out for him. He has me in a basketball jersey with shorts with an Irish leprechaun theme. I’ll have a basketball and people can take pictures of me.”

Though this year has been slow with bookings, some bars wait until the last minute to hire leprechauns, Black said.

“I’m still going to do it and not turn down any other opportunities.”

Celtic quintet takes on East Lansing just shy of St. Patrick's Day

By DENNIS BURCK

Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton musicians coalesce for driving Celtic bravado with this award-winning quintet of musicians from far-flung places.

The Outside Track
Friday, March 15
7:30 to 10 p.m.
\$20
MSU Community Music
School
4930 S. Hagadorn, East
Lansing
tenpoundfiddle.org
(517) 337-7744

In its twelfth year, The Outside Track won “Best Group” in the 2012 Live

Ireland Awards and performed in over 5,000 gigs across 5 continents.

East Lansing will be the last stop on the leg of its Michigan tour through



Courtesy photo

The Outside Track

Traverse City and Frankfort.

Since 1975, Ten Pound Fiddle has hosted everything from concerts to contra dances in the Lansing area. Through partnerships with local venues – like Robin Theatre and Michigan State University – this folk club has managed to consistently pull in noteworthy national acts.

According to Sally Potter, the booking manager, The Outside Track is a big deal.

“We have a real Irish band two days before St. Patrick’s Day,” Potter said. “They’re young, they’re fresh and they’re graduates in schools of traditional music.”

Accordionist Fiona Black hails from the Highland village of Evanton, Scotland. She graduated with a BA in Irish Music and Dance from the University of Limerick.

“It’s going to be a fun filled night of song and music, dance and banter,” Black said. “Sometimes we are even funny.”

Black is joined by violinist Mairi Rankin of Nova Scotia, flautist Teresa Horgan of Ireland, harpist Ailie Robertson of Edinburgh and guitarist Michael Ferrie of Callander, Scotland.

“We love touring the world and it is

See Outside Track, Page 14

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Generously sponsored by the Belle and Julius Harris Visiting Artist Fund established by Lauren Julius Harris. The Opera Theatre season is generously funded by the Worthington Family Foundation.



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CURTAIN CALL

Love and war in Vietnam

By PAUL WOZNIAK

If you leave "Miss Saigon" without singing any of the songs, you're not alone. The latest touring production of

Review

the Broadway revival, now running at the Wharton Center, has many things to brag about — from a stellar cast and production values to jaw-dropping visual effects.

"Miss Saigon"

Through March 17
Tickets start at \$43
Wharton Center for Performing Arts
750 E. Shaw Ln., East Lansing
whartoncenter.com
(517) 432-2000

Like Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg's other tragic musical

"Les Misérables," you will hear the people sing but you might not be singing along with them.

Based on Puccini's "Madame Butterfly," "Miss Saigon" tells a tragic tale of doomed romance set against the end of the Vietnam War. Kim (Emily Bautista) works at a brothel run by The Engineer (Red Concepción) and falls in love with an American G.I. named Chris (Anthony Festa). But Chris and Kim are separated before the fall of Saigon and Kim has to reunite her new son with his American father.

Bautista is a force as Kim, growing

quickly from a timid girl to a fearsome woman. She and Festa share a convincing chemistry that lays roots for their heartbreaking separation in Act II.

Red Concepción is incredible as the charismatic creep The Engineer. It's not easy making such an unlikeable character engaging to the audience, but Concepción has the gift of charm, a strong voice and the show stopping Act II number "The American Dream."

The rest of the cast, including J. Daughtry as Chris's friend John, Stacie Bono as Chris's new wife, Ellen, and Ryder Khatiwala as Kim's son, Tam, are essential in their limited roles.

But the strongest elements of the show are the production values. The set morphs from a filthy hovel to a glitzy brothel aided by Bruno Poet's lighting design and Mick Potter's sound design. The American embassy evacuation scene with a full-scale helicopter in Act II is the show's signature special effect for a reason.

For those looking for a Cameron Mackintosh produced melodrama in a historic setting, "Miss Saigon" should impress. It's unfortunate that the show doesn't have more blockbuster Broadway songs to go with the blockbuster visual effects.

Outside Track

from page 13

exciting for us to go to places where we can meet new people and see the cool things to do," Black said. "We are excited to come here to Michigan and we've been a few times before."

The band recently released its full-length album "Rise Up" in December 2018. It was funded via Kickstarter for £8,104 of its £6,000 goal. It is the group's fifth entry starting with its self-published, self-titled album of 2007.

"We made this album full of music and songs by and about women. We want to focus on the amazing amount of women in traditional music. We want to be positive and celebratory," Black added.

In addition to emphasizing the narratives of women in their music, The Outside Track is also unique in their style.

"They are phenomenal musicians who also know how to present and weave in vocals, where to put those vocals and how many layers they should have at that time during a song," Potter said. "Some traditional acts fall into the cliché of six guys in a backing band with one female lead singer."

"This is the new Irish band and this is the new Celtic band scene. If more and more bands have more and more women you have more piano represented."

Attendees are welcome to partake in Irish step-dancing during the show. The East Lansing Hannah Community Center offers free parking for the event.

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Saigon**

GIVING UP UNITY FOR LENT

Area churches cope with Methodist split over gay marriage

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

March winds knocked on the doors of Williamston United Methodist Church Sunday as Pastor Linda Stephan told her congregation she was giving up "a number of things" for Lent.

She warmed them up with small stuff, like using less plastic. She talked about "being more mindful of those around me."

She pushed her gentle, bell-like voice to ring out louder. Two weeks ago, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church doubled down on its rules against same-sex marriage and gay clergy.

"I'm giving up provisions in the general denominational rules that harm some of our most vulnerable church members and friends," she declared, almost shouting the word "harm."

Her voice softened again.

"It will take me a while to figure out what all that means. I trust you'll do it with me. Will you do it with me?"

A warm breeze of "yesses" floated from the congregation of 150 or so.

The United Methodist Church is closer to disunion than it has ever been. Lansing area churches are bracing for separation.

Hail Mary pass

At the General Conference in St. Louis Feb. 26, a delegation of about 800 clergy and lay people defeated a plan that would have allowed each United Methodist congregation to decide on its own whether to perform same-sex unions and allow openly gay clergy who are married or in relationships to serve.

The conference not only affirmed the ban on gay marriage, it also stiffened the penalties for ministers who perform them: a year of unpaid leave for the first offense, defrocking for the second.

The letter board sign outside Williamston United Methodist Church usually announces upcoming events or the theme of the next sermon. Last week, the message was brief: "Our hearts are broken, our open doors are still open."

After Sunday's service, Stephan called the defeated One Church Plan a "Hail Mary pass" that fell short.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Pastor Mark Thompson of Central United Methodist Church, in downtown Lansing, was the first openly gay pastor appointed in Michigan. Friday, the Williamston Congregation sent him flowers in the wake of anti gay church rules adopted two weeks ago.

"We cannot abide, in the long term, by the rules now set forth by the General Conference," Stephan said.

After services Sunday, church members milled around over coffee and cookies. A workshop on helping local refugees was about to begin, but the recent conference was on everyone's mind. Two longtime members, Sondra Dunn and Nancy Ham, stopped to hug and chat. (There was a lot of hugging Sunday.)

"What happened in St. Louis was a devastating blow," Dunn said. "We have a lot of anger at the denomination right now, and it's hard to stay a Methodist."

What the global church is going through now, Ham said, is similar to what happened in Williamston in 1992. About a third of the congregation left Williamston United in protest when it became the first Methodist church in Michigan to join Reconciliation Ministries, a gay-friendly church network.

"It's pretty much our identity in this church, being tolerant and open to all people," member Mark Adams said. "We believe that's what the scriptures require."

In the two weeks since the St. Louis conference, Ham said, over 1,000 people have flocked to Reconciliation Ministries.

"It lays the groundwork for a separate church," Ham said.

Pushback against the conference results is well underway. Before services Sunday, Stephan asked the congregation if they were ready for some good news.

"Yes," came the reply.

**"There will be some honest conversations about — can the church stay together?"
— Michigan Area Bishop David Bard**

Church

from page 15

"Are you tired of bad news?"

"Yes!"

She announced that an 'out worship service' will be held at Central United Methodist Church in downtown Lansing Saturday at 10 a.m.

"Reconciling and affirming Methodists from across the state will be there," Stephan said.

She told the group that in the coming weeks, full-page ads will begin to appear in newspapers across Michigan with "very strong statements" from Methodist clergy supporting LGBTQ rights. So far, over 150 Michigan clergy have signed on to the statement.

"And," she added, "we sent flowers to Pastor Mark."

Pastor Mark Thompson of Lansing's Central United Methodist Church, across from the State Capitol downtown, grinned at the crimson bromeliad blossom delivered to his office Friday.

"If I know Linda, there's some symbolism there," Thompson said.

Awakened giant

Mark Thompson was the first open-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Pastor Jon Pohl of Asbury United Methodist Church is proud his congregation joined Reconciliation Ministries, a gay-friendly network of churches, a year ago.

"We cannot abide, in the long term, by the rules now set forth by the General Conference."

— Pastor Linda Stephan of Williamston United Methodist

ly gay Methodist pastor appointed in Michigan. The Methodist Book of Discipline allows the ordination of gay and lesbian ministers, so long as they are not in a relationship and remain celibate.

Two weeks ago, Thompson drove to the St. Louis conference, proudly wearing his rainbow stole, to see history made. He left early, in a numb shock, when it became clear the traditional plan would prevail.

The spear-like leaves that encircle the



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Pastor Linda Stephan of Williamston United Methodist Church told her congregation Sunday that for Lent, she's giving up anti-gay church rules "that harm some of our most vulnerable members."

flaming red bloom in the center of a bromeliad symbolize protection.

At 61, Thompson is nearing retirement and jokes that he'll go on his first date the day after he hangs up his frock.

Dark humor is one of Thompson's coping strategies. He once told Nancy Ham of the Williamston UMC that it's easy to be a gay Methodist pastor — it's just hard to be happy.

"I'm looking forward to falling in love with a man and being able to be married to him some day," Thompson said. "If you equate that wish I have with what happened in Sodom and Gomorrah, then you're not only off base, you're inhuman. I can get very angry about that but I choose not to."

Thompson said he's willing to perform same-gender marriages, despite the church ban. Nobody has asked him yet, knowing the consequences would be severe.

A gay marriage in a Methodist church could be reported to the bishop, potentially leading to loss of livelihood for the minister who performed it.

To Williamston's Pastor Stephan, that is simply unacceptable, not so much for the clergy's sake, as the congregation's.

"People shouldn't have to decide whether they're going to get married as some form of protest," she said. "They should just have a normal, happy marriage that everyone is celebrating in their church. That breaks my heart the most right now."

"I'm willing to be patient — to a point," Thompson said. "I see a new thing coming. I don't know what it is. It might be a change of heart or a schism, but things are not going to stay the way they are."

He compared the church's present divide to a schism that divided the Methodist church in 1844, when the national debate over slavery was reaching a peak.

When the General Conference censured a bishop who came into posses-

sion of slaves by marriage, the conference split into two. In 1939, the sects joined back together.

"It took a very long time and there were a lot of hurtful words," he said. "So schism is not always bad."

The Sunday after the St. Louis conference, Thompson attended a church service in Royal Oak UMC packed with 450 people and 54 clergy, "all of like mind."

"If we'd had that gathering a year ago, we'd have gotten maybe 50 people," he said. "People are saying, 'Enough, already.' A giant has been awakened."

Something new

On the north side of Lansing, Pastor Jon Pohl of Asbury United Methodist Church on Lake Lansing Road took advantage of his church's proximity to the Biggby's next door to decompress over a large coffee. Pohl has been pastor since July 2017, after six years at a country church south of Ludington.

See Church, Page 17

"The decision made in St. Louis was so counter to who we are," he lamented.

An avid outdoorsman, Pohl has a lifetime goal of hiking the entire 4,600-mile North Country Trail.

"I started at the Ohio border, going north, and will probably do another hunk this spring," he said.

The trail ahead of his church is not as well marked.

"This decision has forced a lot of us to make a stand," Pohl said. "Those of us who might have been on the sidelines or on the fence before, we're in the game now, standing up for inclusion. People have found their voice about what they feel is right."

Asbury UMC joined the gay-friendly Reconciliation Ministries about a year ago. About half the congregation's 120 members turned out to vote. Only one vote member voted against it.

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Church

from page 16

"We saw this conference was coming, and we wanted to make a stand about who we were," Pohl said.

Most Michigan churches are opposed to the anti-gay conference rules. Michigan Area Bishop David Bard said he foresees two possible outcomes.

In one scenario, some churches accept gay marriages and gay clergy and others do not, but they respect each others' choices and stay within the same tent — the One Church option.

But that plan was voted down at the St. Louis conference. Many church leaders think there is little reason to expect a different outcome at the church's next general conference a year from now.

Most U.S. delegates voted for the One Church plan, but a growing bloc of delegates from traditionalists in Africa, along with Indonesia, Russia and other countries, joined U.S. traditionalists to tip the vote the other way.

For now, about 7 million of the world's 13 million Methodists are in the United States, but that could change in a few years, as the church grows overseas and shrinks in the United States.

"Conversations about human sexuality are very different in the global south than they are in the United States," Bard said. "And we have churches that are doing quite well in some of those parts of the world."

Bard described the other possible outcome as "some kind of division."

"We're not sure just what the next phase of life together in the United Methodist Church might be," Bard said.

"There will be some honest conversations about — can the church stay together?"

A March 1 blog posted by Reconciliation Ministries hinted that "the Holy Spirit is already creating something new from the ashes."

Dissenting churches could form a new denomination or simply become independent, one by one.

"My hope is that, if there is some kind of division, we can work on something that is has some orderliness to it," Bard said.

Flat-out embarrassed

To the east of Lansing, at University



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Pastor William Bills of University United Methodist Church is ready to shepherd his church through a possible split.

United Methodist Church, Pastor William Bills wasn't grieving over the conference results.

"This stuff's been going on since Martin Luther," he said.

A no-nonsense former Navy chaplain, Bills looked like he has his duffel bag packed for whatever comes next. He wore a black "Sermonator" T-shirt, a gift from his son.

"We have liturgy in our Book of Worship for blessing animals, blessing houses," he said. "Sometimes I ride out to Baldwin and get my motorcycle blessed. You can bless a motorcycle or a puppy dog, but not a gay couple? That's a bunch of crap."

Under the bluff exterior, he suffers for his flock, and for Pastor Thompson.

"Mark is an effective pastor and has been for 32 frickin' years," Bills said. "Don't give me this B.S. about gay

people can't be clergy."

He brushed off calls for church unity as another "bunch of crap."

"What we have is enforced unity," he said.

Bills was referring not just to the conference result, but to the United Methodist Church's "trust clause" — an ancient provision that dates back to the days of church founder John Wesley. It states that all the UMC churches, properties and assets are held by the congregations in trust for the denomination.

"My congregation could leave the denomination tomorrow," Bills said. "We'd just have to vacate the building and sign off on all the bank accounts."

Chalk up Bills' equanimity to his background. He didn't grow up in the Christian church. (He tells people he grew up a "heathen.") He was a

hell-raiser in high school and turned to the church while serving in the military.

"People who have been brought up, taught and trained in this institution — it means a lot to them," he said. "I just don't have that institutional loyalty to preserve this thing at all costs."

The Methodist Church's equivalent of the Supreme Court will rule late next month on the constitutionality of the traditional plan. But even if the plan is ruled unconstitutional, Bills said, "that just gets us back to Square One."

"Clearly, we don't have the votes," Bills said. "So do we do it again next year?"

Even with the trust clause in its back pocket, the United Methodist Church would be hard-pressed to deal with a mass exodus of, say, half the nation's United Methodist congregations — about 15,000 churches — and the financial chaos and blizzard of lawsuits that could follow.

"I don't believe that the United Methodist Church, under the traditional plan, could start a new congregation in East Lansing," Bills said. "It ain't gonna happen." University United adopted a gay-friendly "hospitality statement" a year before Bills arrived in 2016.

The way Bills sees it, if the new antigay rules stick and his congregation votes to split from the church, University United will either "negotiate its way out" or "walk down the road to start a new church."

"We'll deal with these things as we go forward," he said. "Hand-wringing or staying awake at night isn't going to help."

He thought about retiring this month to get away from the mess, but he thought better of it and now plans to stick around to shepherd his flock through whatever comes next. In the unlikely event his largely progressive congregation votes to stick with the United Methodist Church under the traditional plan, he'll be out the door for sure. In fact, when the dust settles on the church's next phase, he may retire anyway, whatever the outcome.

"I've been preaching and teaching and praying and marrying and burying people for 30 years," Bills said. "It might be time to do something different. Right now, I'm just flat-out embarrassed to be a member of the Methodist Church."

"You can bless a puppy dog or a motorcycle, but not a gay couple? That's a bunch of crap."
— Pastor William Bills of University United Methodist



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A tale of clashing robots and alien overlords

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Ixion Theatre Ensemble is no stranger to science fiction. Its last two productions, “Chalk” and “Welcome to the White Room,” delved into heady, cerebral concepts à la the greatest episodes of “The Twilight Zone,” or the modern day “Black Mirror.” But its latest show “Fight Girl Battle World” promises to toss the philosophical ponderings aside for over-the-top combat action.

“Fight Girl Battle World”

Ixion Theatre Ensemble
Opens Saturday,
March 16, 8 p.m.
\$15
The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington
Ave., Lansing
ixiontheatre.com
(517) 775-4246

“Fight Girl Battle World” is a product of high-level schlock master Qui Nguyen’s imagination, who’s best known as the ringleader of New York’s Vampire Cowboy Theatre Co. The play is an aesthetic mish-mash of “Star Wars,” “Star

Trek” and “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” with the tongue-in-cheek production values of the terribly low budget — though genuinely endearing — “Plan 9 From Outer Space.”

“We do pretty heavy shows. They tend to be dramas; they tend to be very

serious shows. But it’s fun to kick up our heels and have some goofiness for awhile,” creative director Jeff Croff said.

“Fight Girl Battle World,” which is set in the impossibly distant future on an imaginary planet, follows the story of the last non-mutated human woman in the galaxy, E-V. She’s a gladiator that spends the majority of her time fighting aliens, but finds herself thrust into a typical, against all odds sci-fi adventure when the last human man, Adon-Ra, is discovered. The discovery leads to a quest to repopulate the human race.

This isn’t the first Vampire Cowboy Theater Co. show Ixion has tackled. “She Kills Monsters,” a similarly-toned play based on Dungeons & Dragons, was performed at the Robin Theatre in 2016. Croff, a self-described video game aficionado, has a particular fascination for Vampire Cowboy Theater Co. and its nerd-in-chief Qui Nguyen.

“Having grown up as a role-playing gamer from the ‘80s, ‘She Kills Monsters’ intrigued me as an idea that actually brings gaming to the stage,” Croff said. “It had such a heartfelt message in support of folks who had been

bullied in high school and, in this case, were also dealing with coming out. It was a really good message.”

The secret weapon for pulling off the integral battle scenes has been the choreography of LCC’s John Lennox, who also choreographed “She Kills Monsters.” Storm Kopitsch, the actress playing E-V, brings several years of stage combat training to the role.

“There’s so many different little fights between all of these different characters,” Kopitsch said. “It’s all about trying to figure out how your character moves; how your character reacts in a situation where there is combat and being able to sell it.”

Kopitsch, who also starred in “She Kills Monsters,” shares an interest in nerd culture with Croff, making her a natural fit to star in another Vampire Theater Co. production.

“I am a huge geek and a huge nerd. Every time I describe this show I say, ‘If you took ‘Star Wars,’ ‘Star Trek’ and ‘Firefly’ and put them all together, you get ‘Fight Girl Battle World,’” Kopitsch explained. “It’s something so different that the Lansing community hasn’t



Courtesy photo

Charlsie Kussmaul is J'an Jah in “Fight Girl Battle World.”

really done before — that’s what really draws me to it.”

Though Ixion will eventually return to its typically serious fare, Croff believes in the importance of balancing out the edges with campy action from time to time.

“If anyone remembers spending Saturday morning eating cereal and watching cartoons or reruns of ‘Flash Gordon’ — it’s that kind of fun,” Croff said. “We all need to thaw out after this long winter, it’s a good chance to thaw out and laugh a bit.”

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS GUIDE

Everyone is going to be looking for some fun this weekend to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Here's a smattering of what's going on around Lansing:

Saturday, March 16 >> Shamrock 5k

The MSU Tower Guard hosts its 19th annual Shamrock 5k. All proceeds go toward funding the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at MSU or RCPD. Founded in 1971, the RCPD continues its work to assist all members of the MSU community with disabilities.

1 to 4 p.m.

434 Farm Lane Dr., East Lansing
towergrd@msu.edu
msutowerguard.org

Saturday, March 16 >> Shamrock Ball

Hosted by Asio Aviance and the men of Delta Lambda Phi, Spiral Dance Bar celebrates St. Patrick's Day early with music by Klees, gogo dancers, shot boys and drag performances. There is no cover before 9 p.m.

9 p.m. to 2 a.m., \$5 (Ages 21+), \$10 (Ages 18-20)

Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., Lansing
(517) 371-3221
spiraldancebar.com

Sunday, March 17 >> EagleMonk St. Patrick's Day Party

EagleMonk Brewery welcomes the clover cheer with musical performances by The Kitchen Band and Jimmy Likes Pie. It will also feature \$2 off any pizza and door prizes every half hour.

Noon to 9 p.m.

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery, 4906 W. Mt. Hope Hwy., Lansing
(517) 708-7350

www.eaglemonkbrewing.com

Sunday, March 17 >> Coach's Pub and Grill St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Coach's Pub and Grill will embrace the luck 'o the Irish by serving traditional corned beef, cabbage and shepherd's pie. Live music provided by The B's Brian Shelley and Bob Motycka.

10 a.m. to Midnight

Coach's Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd., Lansing
(517) 882-2013

coachspubandgrill.com

Sunday, March 17 >> Crunchy's St. Patrick's Day Party

Celebrate with green beer and eat hearty with a breakfast buffet at Crunchy's for

an East Lansing St. Patrick's Day tradition. A ticket guarantees entry until 10 a.m. Attendees will receive a 2019 St. Patrick's Day t-shirt.

8 a.m. to 2 a.m., \$18, Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

(517) 351-2506

crunchyseastlansing.com

Sunday, March 17 >> 5th Annual Shamrocks and Shenanigans St. Patrick's Day Show

The pot of gold at the end of the week is a diverse lineup at Mac's Bar. Featured performers include DJ D, The "US" Band, Ichiban Cy Mask & Will Hayden, O.C.E., Knowledge Da MC, Roulette, Trouble Tha Tease, Asylum Insane, Ant G, Bake Lo, Bobby Knucklez, Napaulm and Noize.

7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

(517) 484-6795, macsbar.com

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, March 15-17 >> Three Day St. Patrick's Day at Claddagh

The Claddagh Irish Pub is hosting a

three-day St. Patrick's extravaganza featuring a lineup of live music for each day.

3 p.m. to 10 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to midnight, Saturday, 8 a.m. to 1 a.m., Sunday

The Claddagh, 2900 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing

claddaghirlishpubs.com

(517) 484-2523

Friday and Saturday, March 15-16 >> Grand Ledge Opera House's 16th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration

On Friday evening the Grand Ledge Opera House will host traditional Irish music and dance. On Saturday, there will be traditional Irish dishes and a parade in downtown Grand Ledge.

5 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. Saturday

Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge

(517) 627-1443

gloperahouse.com

Through March 17 >> Curious Book Shop's St. Patrick's Day Sale

Stop in to Curious Books to purchase any green, used book at 17 percent off.

Through Sunday, March 17

10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday-Saturday

Noon to 5 p.m., Sunday

Curious Book Shop, 307 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing

(517) 332-0112

curiousbooks.com

Sunday, March 17 >> St. Patrick's Day at Waterfront

Waterfront opens early to offer several St. Patrick's Day-themed drink specials. Opens at 8 a.m., Sunday

Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr., Lansing

(517) 267-3800

waterfrontlansing.com

Sunday, March 17 >> Corned Beef and Cabbage at Delhi Café

Delhi Café is offering to provide your corned beef and cabbage fix on Sunday morning.

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Delhi Café, 625 E. Willoughby Rd # 9, Holt

(517) 694-8655

delhicaferestaurant.com



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MSU Music

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Jazz Artist IN RESIDENCE

Steve Davis, jazz trombone
 FAIRCHILD THEATRE, MSU AUDITORIUM
Concert: Friday, Mar. 29, 8:00 p.m.
with MSU Jazz Orchestras

Considered a leading improviser on the trombone, **Steve Davis** has a lyrical, hard-swinging style that has earned him critical acclaim since the 1990s. An artful collaborator, he has worked with a variety of jazz greats and led his own groups, both on stage and in the recording studio.

Tickets: music.msu.edu
517-353-5340

MORE UPCOMING JAZZ:

APR. 11-13, 2019
 Jazz Spectacular
 • Thursday, 4/11 Jazz Octets
 • Friday 4/12 Swing Dance
 • Saturday 4/13 Finale Concert

 College of Music
 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



New anthology shares personal Michigan-centric tales

By **BILL CASTANIER**

As a child, I recall visiting my uncle's cottage near Whitefish Point nestled along the shores of Lake Superior. While my relatives played cards, I watched Canadian crime shows on a small black and white television set. Nothing like that was on TV back home.

Ann-Marie Oomen

Free
7 p.m., Thursday,
March 21
Schuler Books
1982 Grand River
Ave., Okemos
schulerbooks.com
(517) 349-8840

As a Michigander, it is in our nature to piece together childhood memories when looking at a state map. Countless trips to lakes, historical sites and passing by vast crop

fields. However, it is not often that one reflects on how these experiences connect us to the land. It takes a writer to break these rituals down to their atomic level in efforts to show the connection.

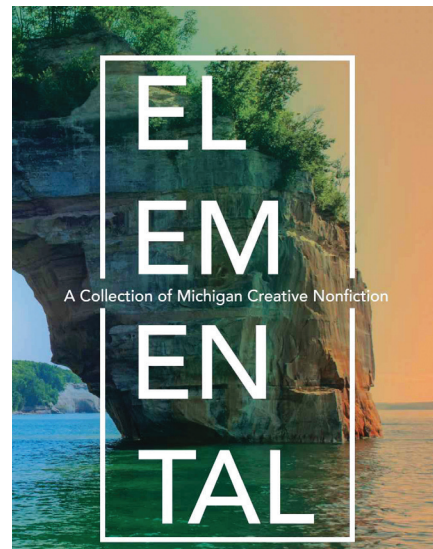
"Elemental" is an anthology about Michigan composed by 23 well-known local storytellers. Editor Anne-Marie Oomen, is a creative writing instructor at Interlochen College of Creative Arts and the Solstice MFA at Pine Manor College, Massachusetts.

Previously, Oomen has published collections of essays and poems about growing up in Michigan with titles such as "Love, Sex and 4H" and "The Lake Michigan Mermaid." However, when she was approached by Wayne State Press to edit a collection of non-fiction essays she knew she wanted to do something different.

"I knew immediately I wanted to do something with the elements — that would be the concept drawing the essays together," she said. "Earth, wind, fire and water would be the way we come to understand the vast differences we see in the state. Not only are we grounded, we are also united by the water and our closeness to water overrides everything."

After being approached about the book, Oomen emailed 40 out of a "super long list" of potential writers. She received responses from authors including Benjamin Busch, Mardi Jo Link, Jerry Dennis, W. S. Penn, Rhoda Janzen and Davy Rothbart. Additionally, "Elemental" includes essays by Michael Steinberg, W. S. Penn and Marcia Aldrich, all of whom have taught writing at Michigan State University.

I caught up with Oomen by phone while she was on-site working with Safe Passage, a non-profit focused on



education accessibility for youth in Guatemala City.

"I've never seen poverty like this," she said, referring to the harsh realities of many children who leave school to work as dump scavengers.

While in Guatemala, Oomen is also researching the art of weaving by exploring how local cooperatives provide fair wages to artists preserving the creative tradition. Oomen's essay, "Twelve Waves," examines life as a series of reminders that her time on Earth is heavily dictated by natural elements.

In the essay, Oomen also recounts learning how to "walk on water" while using a paddle boat. In 2010, Oomen found herself in open waters paddling to save a woman experiencing advanced hypothermia.

Oomen talks about maintaining balance while pulling the woman onto her board and paddling back to shore. "I looked at the water, lifted it to my face, kissed its cold power, that would let me rescue one of its own — who was me," Oomen writes.



Oomen

Many of the essays in "Elemental" are meditative, yet Oomen believes that all of them speak to what defines "Michigan literature." One way she hopes to show this is by highlighting Michigan educators.

W.S. Penn is a professor of creative writing at Michigan State University and one of the founding members of the Native American Writer's Circle. In his submission, "A Harvest Moon," Penn recalls speaking to his granddaughter's class about indigenous cultures in Michigan.

Penn's writing contains an acerbic wit when grappling with his own "Indian" identity with all the usual trappings of living in a white-enforced reality. Including works like Penn's offers one perspective on what it means to be a "Michigan native" and how biology is another element that can cause a disconnect from the land.

Finally, I turn to Michael Steinberg's essay "From Manhattan to Leelanau: How Place Shapes Our Sense of Self." Steinberg is the founding editor of the literary journal, "The Fourth Genre: Exploration in Nonfiction," and has presented at several international and national writer's conferences.

Steinberg laments his early days in Michigan when he couldn't get a copy of The New York Times. The narrative traces his coming of age as a writer and revisits his youth in Rockaway Park and the streets of Greenwich Village.

"Elemental" was selected as one of Michigan's 2019 Notable Books and will be feted at the Night for Notables celebration at the Library of Michigan in April.

SchulerBooks

Your Local & Independent Bookstore

March Author Events

More information may be found on our website and Facebook page

Local Author Night Wednesday, March 13 @ 7pm

Discover two local authors one fiction, one non-fiction: Brandon G. Kroupa presents his newest book published by Schuler Books Chapbook Press *The Game Jinx'd* and Kirsten Fermaglich teacher of history and Jewish Studies at Michigan State, presents her book *A Rosenberg by Any Other Name*.

Anne-Marie Oomen + Guests Thursday, March 21 @ 7pm

Author and editor Anne-Marie Oomen presents *Elemental: a Collection of Michigan Non-fiction* featuring twenty three of Michigan's most well-known essayists, some of which will join her.

Children's Story Time Saturday, March 16 @ 11am

Join us for a story-time on the third Saturday of each month designed to instill a love of reading in little ones. This week super reader Abby Perry reads *Unbudgeable Curmudgeon* and guides a small craft project.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Paul at (517) 999-6704.

Wednesday, March 13

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

AARP Genealogy 101. 1-3 p.m. Delta Township District Library, Lansing. www.facebook.com.

Active Senior Exercis. 9:15-10:15 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Intermediate Ukulele. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Mindfulness Meditation. From 7 to 9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing.

Libraries Book Design Using Adobe InDesign. D11 a.m.-1 p.m. MSU Library, 366 West Circle Drive, East Lansing.

MSU Libraries' Game Studies Guild: Literature Discussion. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. free MSU Library Digital Scholarship Lab, 2W. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

MSU Libraries' Quilting Bee Wednesdays. From 12 to 1 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

Police Youth Citizens' Academy. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Public Safety Building, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos. www.meridian.mi.us

ARTS

Artist's View. Free. 1210 Turner St., Lansing.

Thursday, March 14
Clay on the Pottery Wheel - Winter D. 6:30-8 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. www.reachstudioart.org.

"Inspirations" - A Multi-Media Art Exhibit - 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. www.thepeopleschurch.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Discussion Group (Adults). This month: As Bright as Heaven by Susan Meissner 1-2 p.m. Leslie Branch Library, 201 Pennsylvania Street, Leslie. www.cadl.org.

Family Storytime (Ages up to 6). 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. Webberville. www.cadl.org.

Fiction Book Club. "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" - 1-2:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Meet Storybook Character Taco Dragon (Ages 3-6). 10:30-11:15 a.m. Aurelius, 1939 South Aurelius Road, Mason. www.cadl.org.

Mobile Library Stop--Meridian Stratford Place Apartments (All ages). 2790 Sirhal Dr., East Lansing 1-1:30 p.m. Meridian. www.cadl.org.

Nonfiction Book Club. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Reading Month Calendar (Ages 3-8). 1-7 p.m. Foster Branch Library, 200 North Foster, Lansing. www.cadl.org.

Wednesday Morning Book Discussions. "Becoming" by Michelle Obama 10-11 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

EVENTS

TRHT: Impact of Microaggressions in the Workplace. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham Counties, 812 East Jolly Road, Lansing. www.eventbrite.com.

MUSIC

Blue Wednesdays With The Good Cookies Band. 8 p.m. The Exchange, 314 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-319-4500. lansingexchange.com.

Dj trivia. 8-9 p.m. Coaches Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd, Lansing. 517-882-2013. www.coachspubandgrill.com.

Ukulele 101 Series (Adults & Teens). 6:30-7:45 p.m. Okemos. www.cadl.org.



45th annual Fenner Nature Center Maple Syrup Festival

Tap into a tree to harvest sap, learn about converting sap to syrup and enjoy all things maple- flavored

Syrup Fest

Saturday March 16
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$8
Fenner Nature
Center
2020 E. Mt. Hope
Ave., Lansing, MI
(517) 483-4224

with Fenner Nature Center's annual Maple Syrup Festival. Fenner Nature Center staff will demonstrate the various ways sap was harvested through history - from the Native American sugaring log to the long pan evaporator. "Flapjacks for Fenner!" begins at 4 p.m. Guinness

World Record pancake chef, Chris Cakes, will be on hand flinging pancakes for kids to catch. Purchasing a ticket for "Flapjacks for Fenner!" will provide an all-you-can-eat pancake supper served with sausage, orange juice and coffee. Proceeds will go toward supporting the Fenner Conservancy, the non-profit responsible for managing the nature center. Group tours are welcome and volunteers are needed.

To take a tour or volunteer, inquire at info@mynaturecenter.org.

Okemos Road, Okemos. www.cadl.org.

Thursday, March 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Capital Area Community Emergency Response Team - Basic Class. 6:30-9 p.m. Lansing Fire Department #4, 1435 E. Miller Rd., Lansing.

Conflict in Yemen. "Conflict in Yemen" panel featuring (among others) Shireen Al-Adeimi (MSU) and Abdullah Alrebh (GVSU) 3:30-5 p.m. Erickson Kiva, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Conversational Spanish (Adults). 10:30-11:30 a.m. Okemos Branch Library, 4321

Country Line Dancing & Lessons at VFW Post #7309. 7-9 p.m. Mason VFW Post #7309, 1243 Hull Road (just south of, Mason. business. masonchamber.org.

Google Seminar: Using Data to Drive Growth. From 10 to 11 a.m. Free! To Register Call: (517) 483-1291. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

Sea Shells in Watercolor. 1-4 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

See Out on the town, Page 23

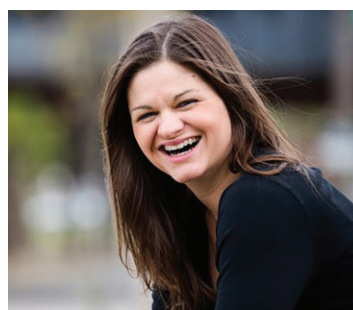
WEDNESDAY MARCH 13 >> HISTORY HOUNDS: THE DE ZWAAN WINDMILL



Famous for appearing with a field of tulips in Holland, MI, the De Zwaan Windmill is the only operating Dutch windmill in the U.S. Originally built in the Netherlands in 1761, the mill was brought to Michigan in 1964. Alisa Crawford, De Zwaan's miller and event coordinator, will delve into the history of the windmill - a recently certified Michigan Historic Site.

7 to 8:30 p.m., \$7, Historical Society of Michigan, 5815 Executive Dr., Lansing (517) 324-1828, hsmichigan.org

FRIDAY MARCH 15 >> STAND UP FOR THE FIRECRACKER FOUNDATION



National comic and attorney Brooke Cartus headlines this show benefiting The Firecracker Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to treating children who have survived sexual trauma. Cartus' comedy album "I Have Straight Friends & Other Confessions" debuted at the top of iTunes in April 2018. Local comedians Aaron Putnam, Nick Leydorf and Pat Sievert will also perform.

18 to 11 p.m., \$20, The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing, MI (517) 230-7679 thefirecrackerfoundation.org

Out on the town

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www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Strength & Balance (Adults). 2:30-3:30 p.m. Okemos. www.cadl.org.

Stretch, Flex & Balance II. 10:45-11:45 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Tentative scout workshop – Erica Q. 6-7:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. www.reachstudioart.org.

EVENTS

American Sign Language (ASL) Storytime (Ages up to 6). Come and sign with us! 5:30-6:15 p.m. Williamston. www.cadl.org.

East Lansing – World Famous Popovich Comedy Pet Theater. 7-8:30 p.m. East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.eventbrite.com.

English Country Dancing. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. \$6/students \$4/MSU students FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, The intersection between Grand River Ave. and Bogue St. on MSU campus East Lansing. (517) 355-1855.

Food and the Heart. 5:15-6:30 p.m. Center for Optimal Health, 1520 Ramblewood Dr., East Lansing. www.eventbrite.com.

Just for Her. 6 p.m. Mason City Hall, 201 w ash st, Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

MSU Libraries' Therapy Dog Thursdays. From 3 to 4:30 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

Origami's Evening of Reflections 2019. 6:30-8 p.m. Peckham, Inc., 3510 Capital City Blvd., Lansing. www.eventbrite.com.

Thursday Night Dance Exchange. 7-10 p.m. Lucky's, 400 Baker Street, Lansing. www.eventbrite.com.

Toddler Storytime (Ages 1-3). Event

Description: Stories, songs and activities designed for toddlers and their caregivers 10:30-11 a.m. Haslett. www.cadl.org.

ARTS

"Inspirations" – A Multi-Media Art Exhibit. 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. www.thepeopleschurch.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Meet Storybook Character Taco Dragon (Ages up to 6). 10:30-11:15 a.m. Downtown, 401 South Capitol Avenue, Lansing. www.cadl.org.

MUSIC

Country-ish – Featuring Sadie Bass, River Melcher & Tyler Roy. 8 p.m. The Loft, 414 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. www.facebook.com.

Free Thursday Indie•Rock at The Avenue. 8 PM Orc - Lansing/Ann Arbor two-piece stonery rock n roll Towner - Ann Arbor catchy 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Lansing. www.facebook.com.

Jeff Shoup & Friends. 8:30 p.m.-2 a.m. The Exchange, 314 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-319-4500. lansingexchange.com.

Luca, Livehead, Tiny Tree, Leonis. 6 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-484-6795.

Shenanigans is back right on time to celebrate St Patty's Day! Turner-Dodge Music Room! For those who don't know... 7-10 p.m. Lansing. www.facebook.com.

THEATER

Miss Saigon. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, Corner of Bogue & Shaw Lane, East Lansing

Friday, March 15

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Active Senior Exercise. 9:15-10:15 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Continuing Meditation. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Dichroic Cluster Necklace – 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

MSU Libraries' Special Collections Pop-Ups. From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

Zumba. 10-11 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

EVENTS

Continuing Meditation. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Friday Mid-day Movies (Adults). A Star is Born 1-3 p.m. Downtown Lansing Branch Library, 401 South Capitol Avenue, Lansing. www.cadl.org.

Michigan Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show. From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Adults \$4, Seniors \$2, Students \$1, 5 & Under free.. Jackson County Fairgrounds, 200 W. Ganson St. Jackson.

MSU Community Club March Meeting. From 1 to 3 p.m. free. MSU Federal Credit Union (Farm Lane Branch), Corner of Mt. Hope and Farm Lane East Lansing.

Stand Up for the Firecracker Foundation Join us for a night of Stand Up Comedy benefiting the Firecracker Foundation. 8-11 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka Street, Lansing. www.eventbrite.com.

ARTS

End of Keys at the Lansing Mall estate sale. From 12 to 9 p.m. Donation of \$5 or more will be very much appreciated.. Keys to Creativity, 5746 W. Saginaw Highway Lansing.

Michigan Collegiate Art Exhibition Reception. 6-8 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400. www.facebook.com.

Mud & Mug – 7-10 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. www.reachstudioart.org.

LITERATURE ANDPOETRY

Wellness Workshop. "Writing for Life," Nancy Seubert, Prime Time instructor. 1-2 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

THEATER

A Wrinkle in Time – A Wrinkle in Time By Madeleine L'Engle Adapted by Tracy Young Directed by Ryan Welsh. 8 p.m. Arena Theatre, Lansing. calendar.cal.msu.edu.

Miss Saigon COLLEGE NIGHT: RSVP – Our last College Night of the 18-19 Season! 6:30-8 p.m. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. www.eventbrite.com.

MUSIC

Circuit Band – All the way from Saginaw, bringing a high-energy mix of blues with soul, funk and R&B to every performance. 7-11 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. www.urbanbeatevents.com.

Live Entertainment! – Coachs Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd, Lansing. 517-882-2013. www.coachspubandgrill.com.

The Outside Track – 7:30 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing. www.bandsintown.com.

Spartan DJ Club – 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-484-6795.

St. Patrick's Day Celebration – annual celebration is set in historic downtown Grand Ledge and consists of an Irish Stew cook-off, live music, Irish dance performances and a grand 121 South Bridge Street, Grand Ledge. www.michigan.org.

Saturday, March 16

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Make Up Workshop. From 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$20/members and \$25/non-members.

See Out on the town, Page 24



Ingham County Animal Shelter

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Golden Grahams is a happy playful guy. He loves everyone and has a personality big enough to fill the room!

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Tru is a sweet bouncy guy looking for an active home. He would love a couple of sturdy kids or another dog to run around with.

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Meowly Cyrus is a shy gal looking for a new family. A home with adults and not a lot of coming and going would be perfect for this gal.

Sponsored by
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Marie is a sweet happy gal looking for a new home. She's a very easy going cat that just wants a new family to love.

In memory of
Rodica's cats

Out on the town

from page 23

The Downeaster Theatre, 1120 N Pennsylvania Road Lansing.
Learn & Play (Ages up to 6). 2-2:45 p.m. Downtown Lansing Branch Library, 401 South Capitol Avenue, Lansing. www.cadl.org.

Introduction to Chinese Astrology. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, LLC, 335 Seymour Avenue, Lansing. www.eventbrite.com.

MUSIC

DJ. 9-10 p.m. Coachs Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd, Lansing. 517-882-2013. www.coachspubandgrill.com.

Elden Kelly Live at Henry’s Place. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Henry’s Place, 4926 Marsh Road, Okemos. www.facebook.com.

Grady Hall and the Disciples of Funk. 8-11 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. www.facebook.com.

Homespun Rocks. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Coachs Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd, Lansing. 517-882-2013. www.facebook.com.

St. Patrick’s Day Celebration. 121 South Bridge Street, Grand Ledge. www.michigan.org.

Ukulele Strum-n-Sing (Adults & Teens). 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. www.cadl.org.

Ten Pound Fiddle: Contra and Square Dance. From 7 to 10 p.m. \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members, and \$6 for students and first time dancers. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave. Lansing.

The Jump Off [Beat Battle] . 7 p.m. The Loft, 414 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. www.facebook.com.

THEATER

A Wrinkle in Time – A Wrinkle in Time By Madeleine L'Engle Adapted by Tracy Young Directed by Ryan Welsh By confronting the evil in

the universe you can break down 8 p.m. Arena Theatre, Lansing. calendar.cal.msu.edu.
Fight Girl Battle World. From 8 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door or via eventbrite.com. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Lansing.

ARTS

BLOCK PRINTING WITH REGINA. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. www.reachstudioart.org.

“Inspirations” – A Multi-Media Art Exhibit. 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. www.thepeopleschurch.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Freshly Brewed Book Club (Adults). 3-4 p.m. South Lansing Branch Library, 3500 South Cedar Street, Lansing. www.cadl.org.

Friends of the Holt–Delhi Library Used Book Sale (All ages). Proceeds benefit the library. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Delhi - Held in the library, Holt. www.cadl.org.

Green Eggs and “Froggy”! 2:30-3:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library -- Main Branch, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Learn & Play (Ages up to 6). 2-2:45 p.m. Downtown Lansing Branch Library, 401 South Capitol Avenue, Lansing. www.cadl.org.

Reading to Dogs. 2-3 p.m. Williamston. www.cadl.org.

Super Special Storytime (Ages up to 6).Event Description: MSU’s Making a Memory student group seeks to inspire others to find magic in the world. 3-4 p.m. Downtown, 401 South Capitol Avenue, Lansing. www.cadl.org.

EVENTS

Customer Love Event – 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Mother & Earth Baby Boutique, 1212 Turner Road, Lansing. www.eventbrite.com

Family Classic Movie (Adults). Mary Poppins 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Leslie. www.cadl.org.

Maple Syrup Festival – Fenner Nature Center invites everyone to come and explore some of the natural and cultural history Michigan’s own “liquid gold” at the annual Maple 11 a.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing. www.michigan.org.

Project FISH Fishing Instructor Workshop. 480 Wilson Rd. Room 152, East Lansing. www.michigan.org.

Reading to Dogs. 2-3 p.m. Williamston. www.cadl.org.

Saturday Family Matinee (All ages) – 3:30-5:30 p.m. Downtown Lansing Branch Library, 401 South Capitol Avenue, Lansing. www.cadl.org.

Sock Hop. 4-5:30 p.m. East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Woke Drumming Meditation. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Woke Mind Body Studio, 1133 South Washington Avenue, Lansing. www.eventbrite.com.

Sunday, March 17

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Juggling. From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St. East Lansing.

Project FISH Fishing Instructor Workshop - Please tell your friends and local news sources and let’s fill these Project FISH workshops. 480 Wilson Rd. Room 152, East Lansing. www.michigan.org.

MUSIC

Lansing Symphony: Chamber 4 – Strings Spectacular. From 3 to 5 p.m. General Admission \$20 Student \$10. Molly Grove Chapel of First Presbyterian Church, 510 West Ottawa St. Lansing.

Woldumar Folkgrass Jam. From 2 to 6 p.m. Free. \$4 donation suggested for adults, \$2 for seniors. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road Lansing.

THEATER

A Wrinkle in Time – A Wrinkle in Time By Madeleine L'Engle Adapted by Tracy Young Directed by Ryan Welsh By confronting the evil in the universe you can break down 2 p.m. Arena Theatre, Lansing. calendar.cal.msu.edu.

Sunday Matinee of Fight Girl Battle World 2-4 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing. www.facebook.com.

EVENTS

Family Special: Lucky Shamrocks. 2-3:30 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. www.meridian.mi.us.

Movie Screening--The Hate U Give (Teens) – 2-4:15 p.m. Okemos. www.cadl.org.

St. Patrick’s Day Celebration. 10 a.m.-11:55 p.m. Coachs Pub and Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd, Lansing. 517-882-2013. www.facebook.com.

Monday, March 18

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

4 Ever Young Drumming. 3-4 p.m. Prime Time Seniors’ Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Acting/Improvisation Workshop. L2-4 p.m. Prime Time Seniors’ Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Active Senior Exercise. 9:15-10:15 a.m. Prime Time Seniors’ Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

All About Uber. T1-2 p.m. Prime Time Seniors’ Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Capital Area Community Emergency Response Team – Basic Class. 6:30-9 p.m. Lansing Fire Department #4, 1435 E. Miller Rd., Lansing.

Intro to Italian Conversation. I1-2 p.m. Prime Time Seniors’ Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Joy-Ann Reid: World View Lecture. 7:30-10 p.m. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. www.facebook.com.

Line Dancing. 1-2 p.m. Prime Time Seniors’ Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Nature Tots. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. \$50/8-week class. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

No-Fire Tile Casting. 1-2:30 p.m. Prime Time Seniors’ Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

See Out on the town, Page 27



MASTER WORKS 04

TCHAIKOVSKY SYMPHONY NO.6

NICHOLAS CANELLAKIS, CELLO

MAR 30 SAT 7:30PM

WHARTON CENTER

TICKETS 517.487.5001 LANSINGSYMPHONY.ORG

VISIT LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM FOR A CHANCE TO WIN TWO FREE TICKETS!

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"In the Neighborhood"—along with the owl and the pussycat.

Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Biblical fratricide victim
- 5 Ragged peak
- 9 Passing lines
- 13 "3 Feet High and Rising" group ____ Soul
- 14 Pick up
- 16 Controversial director Riefenstahl
- 17 Current U.S. Secretary of Transportation
- 19 Cheap bar
- 20 Calico pony
- 21 Vaccination
- 23 Patch of grass
- 24 Holiday in Hanoi
- 25 Suffix for novel
- 28 In a genial manner
- 30 1992 song by The Cure that goes through the week
- 33 Airline from Stockholm
- 34 Likely
- 35 Fanning of "Maleficent"
- 36 Magazine for teens since 1965
- 40 " ____ Is Us"
- 42 Charged-up particle
- 43 Settings for med. dramas
- 46 Thought experiment featured in an episode of "The Good Place"
- 50 Meat dish with a filling
- 51 Mop & ____ (floor cleaner brand)
- 52 French possessive meaning "your"
- 54 Contribute
- 55 Thailand, formerly
- 57 "Inconceivable!"
- 59 "Cool, man"
- 61 TV host with a

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14			15		16			
17				18						19			
20							21			22		23	
24				25	26	27		28			29		
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	40	41					42			43	44	45	
46					47	48				49			
50								51			52		53
54				55			56			57	58		
59			60		61			62	63				
64					65					66			
67						68				69			

- "Neighborhood of Make-Believe" (where the starts of the theme answers were found)
- 64 Letterman rival, once
- 65 Meditation teachers
- 66 "Language" of "haxored" and "pwn'd"
- 67 Agitated state
- 68 Word before or after break
- 69 Airport data, for short
- Down
- 1 Not so klutzy
- 2 Philosophy
- 3 2019 Hyundai model
- 4 Café au ____
- 5 A.L. Central team, on a scoreboard
- 6 Tape deck button
- 7 Oohs' followers
- 8 S'mores flavor component

- 9 Antiquarian
- 10 Diamond game, in Santo Domingo
- 11 Make use of
- 12 Create a colorful T-shirt
- 15 Swedish actress Rapace of the "Millennium" series
- 18 Domino's ad character, once
- 22 ____ pedis (athlete's foot)
- 26 ____ paneer (Indian spinach dish)
- 27 Do some keyboarding
- 29 2008 Verizon acquisition that once had naming rights to Jacksonville's stadium
- 31 "And ____ don't know what's going on!"
- 32 "Let ____!" ("Go ahead")
- 37 Cuba y Puerto Rico,

- por ejemplo
- 38 "Star Trek" collective
- 39 Compound with a double bond
- 40 Walked on
- 41 Harry who died on Halloween
- 44 Amplify a certain message
- 45 Spoke ill of
- 46 Hiker's routes
- 47 Inform
- 48 ____ the Pig (2019)
- 49 "With or Without You" singer
- 53 Complex orgs.
- 56 Prefix with byte or hertz
- 58 Stare at in a gross manner
- 60 "I ____ You Babe"
- 62 Talk smack about
- 63 Q-U filler

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Answers Page 27

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

March 13 - March 19, 2019

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The coming weeks might be a good time to acquire a flamethrower. It would come in handy if you felt the urge to go to a beach and incinerate mementoes from an ex-ally. It would also be useful if you wanted to burn stuff that reminds you of who you used to be and don't want to be any more; or if you got in the mood to set ablaze symbols of questionable ideas you used to believe in but can't afford to believe in any more. If you don't want to spend \$1,600+ on a flamethrower, just close your eyes for ten minutes and visualize yourself performing acts of creative destruction like those I mentioned.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus aphorist Olivia Dresher writes that she would like to be "a force of nature," but "not causing any suffering." The way I interpret her longing is that she wants to be wild, elemental, uninhibited, primal, raw, pure—all the while without inflicting any hurt or damage on herself or anyone else. In accordance with your astrological omens, Taurus, that's a state I encourage you to embody in the coming weeks. If you're feeling extra smart—which I suspect you will—you could go even further: You may be able to heal yourself and others with your wild, elemental, uninhibited, primal, raw, pure energy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In some major cities, the buttons you push at a crosswalk don't actually work to make the traffic light turn green faster. The same is true about the "Close Door" buttons in many elevators. Pushing them doesn't have any effect on the door. Harvard psychologist Ellen Langer says these buttons are like placebos that give you "the illusion of control." I bring this phenomenon to your attention, Gemini, in hope of inspiring you to scout around for comparable things in your life. Is there any situation where you imagine you have power or influence, but probably don't? If so, now is an excellent time to find out—and remedy that problem.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Philip Boit was born and raised in Kenya, where it never snows except on the very top of Mount Kenya. Yet he represented his country in the cross-country skiing events at the Winter Olympics in 2002 and 2006. How did he do it? He trained up north in snowy Finland. Meanwhile, Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong competed for Ghana in the slalom in the 2010 Winter Olympics. Since there was no snow in his homeland, he practiced his skills in the French Alps. These two are your role models for the coming months, Cancerian. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you'll have the potential to achieve success in tasks and activities that may not seem like a natural fit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In the process of casting for his movie The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, director David Fincher considered selecting A-list actress Scarlet Johansson to play the heroine. But ultimately he decided she was too sexy and radiant. He wanted a pale, thin, tougher-looking actress, whom he found in Rooney Mara. I suspect that in a somewhat similar way, you may be perceived as being too much something for a role you would actually perform quite well. But in my astrological opinion, you're not at all too much. In fact, you're just right. Is there anything you can do—with full integrity—to adjust how people see you and understand you without diluting your brightness and strength?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In 1993, an English gardener named Eric Lawes used his metal detector to look for a hammer that his farmer friend had lost in a field. Instead of the hammer, he found the unexpected: a buried box containing 15,234 old Roman silver and gold worth more than four million dollars today. I bring this to your attention, Virgo, because I suspect that you, too, will soon discover something different from what you're searching for. Like the treasure Lawes located, it might even be more valuable than what you thought you wanted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "The role of the artist is exactly the same as the role of the lover," wrote

author James Baldwin. "If I love you, I have to make you conscious of the things you don't see." To fully endorse that statement, I'd need to add two adverbs. My version would be, "The role of the artist is exactly the same as the role of the lover. If I love you, I have to kindly and compassionately make you conscious of the things you don't see." In accordance with current astrological omens, I recommend that you Libras enthusiastically adopt that mission during the coming weeks. With tenderness and care, help those you care about to become aware of what they've been missing—and ask for the same from them toward you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): For thousands of generations, our early ancestors were able to get some of the food they needed through a practice known as persistence hunting. They usually couldn't run as fast as the animals they chased. But they had a distinct advantage: they could keep moving relentlessly until their prey grew exhausted. In part that's because they had far less hair than the animals, and thus could cool off better. I propose that we adopt this theme as a metaphor for your life in the coming weeks and months. You won't need to be extra fast or super ferocious or impossibly clever to get what you want. All you have to do is be persistent and dogged and disciplined.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Womps!kuk Skeesucks Brooke is a Native American woman of the Mohegan tribe. According to her description of Mohegan naming traditions, and reported by author Elisabeth Pearson Waugaman, "Children receive names that are descriptive. They may be given new names at adolescence, and again as they go through life according to what their life experiences and accomplishments are." She concludes that names "change as the individual changes." If you have been thinking about transforming the way you express and present yourself, you might want to consider such a shift. 2019 will be a favorable time to at least add a new nickname or title. And I suspect you'll have maximum inspiration to do so in the coming weeks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): For many of us, smell is our most neglected sense. We see, hear, taste, and feel with vividness and eagerness, but allow our olfactory powers to go underused. In accordance with astrological omens, I hope you will compensate for that dearth in the coming weeks. There is subtle information you can obtain—and in my opinion, need quite strongly—that will come your way only with the help of your nose. Trust the guidance provided by scent.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Essayist Nassim Nicholas Taleb says humans come in three types: fragile, robust, or antifragile. Those who are fragile work hard to shield themselves from life's messiness. The downside? They are deprived of experiences that might spur them to grow smarter. As for robust people, Taleb believes they are firm in the face of messiness. They remain who they are even when they're disrupted. The potential problem? They may be too strong to surrender to necessary transformations. If you're the third type, antifragile, you engage with the messiness and use it as motivation to become more creative and resilient. The downside? None. In accordance with the astrological omens, Aquarius, I urge you to adopt the antifragile approach in the coming weeks.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 2014, NASA managed to place its MAVEN spacecraft into orbit around Mars. The cost of the mission was \$671 million. Soon thereafter, the Indian government put its own vehicle, the Mangalyaan, into orbit around the Red Planet. It spent \$74 million. As you plan your own big project, Pisces, I recommend you emulate the Mangalyaan rather than the MAVEN. I suspect you can do great things—maybe even your personal equivalent of sending a spacecraft to Mars—on a relatively modest budget.

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

SUDOKU

Advanced

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	5	7					4	2

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.

Answers on page 27

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

Sun. March 24

MIGHTY UKE DAY HOSTS FUNDRAISER AT LANSING BREWING CO.



Show features The Ukulele Kings, The Springtails and more

Mighty Uke Day, the annual event dedicated to celebrating the ukulele, hosts its annual FUNdraiser March 24 at the Lansing Brewing Company. According to Ben Hassenger, aka “Michigan’s Ukulele Ambassador,” the fundraiser helps raise the operating capital needed to kick off their May festival.

This year, the daytime FUNdraiser features live performances from The Ukulele Kings, Hedda & the Skat Kats,

The Springtails, Sylvie Keckeisen, the PT Strummers and various Michigan uke groups. Attendees can also partake in group strums, a silent auction, and more. The \$10 suggested donation not only supports the festival, but also Music is the Foundation, a nonprofit that offers programs in Michigan classrooms and communities.

Hassenger said he first got hooked in 2009, when he was vacationing in Hawaii

Sunday, March 24 @ Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St, Lansing. \$10 suggested donation, 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

and happened upon a jovial uke festival.

“There were a few hundred people having the time of their lives,” Hassenger said. “I immediately emailed Stan Werbin, the owner of Elderly Instruments and a long-time ukulele proponent, and told him I wanted to bring some of that joy back home. We got the Lansing Area Ukulele Group (LAUGH) started that fall and it all snowballed from there.”

“When we started LAUGH in 2009,” he added. “We were only the second ukulele group in the state —the other was in Ann Arbor. Being located in the center of the Lower Peninsula, people came from other cities across the state and then went home and started their own groups. We now have over 30 such groups in what I like to call ‘The Great Uke State,’ including four or five in the Upper Peninsula.”

In 2011, after the success of LAUGH, Hassenger launched Mighty Uke Day as a one-off screening of “The Mighty Uke,” and paired it with an open mic at Sir Pizza Grand Café. Since then, Mighty Uke Day has evolved into a two-and-a-half-day festival held at various locations across Old Town. The festival includes live performances, workshops, open mics, group strums, children’s activities and more. During the evening, concerts are held in Dart Auditorium in cooperation with LCC Radio WLNZ.

across the Midwest and Canada,” Hassenger said. “We are able to attract the top talent in the ukulele universe.”

Mighty Uke Day, now the Midwest’s largest ukulele festival, hosts its ninth annual event May 10-12. The featured headliners are The Naked Waiters and Danielle Ate the Sandwich. Opening acts include; Steven Espaniola, Cynthia Kinnunen, Matt Dahlberg and Abigail Stauffer.

With a healthy dose of national talent, Hassenger and the ‘Mighty Uke’ team want an equal emphasis on rising, local talent.

“Mighty Uke Day is a crazy mess of fun,” Hassenger said. “There are free beginners workshops for adults and kids, along with opportunities to learn from the top teaching artists in the world. You can get up and strut your stuff at our open mic, join in on group strums and then listen to amazing performers at Dart Auditorium.”

The full lineup, tickets and more are available at mightyukeday.com. Updates can also be found at their Facebook page, mightyukedayfestival.

For those who cannot attend the FUNdraiser at the Lansing Brewing Company, check donations can be made out to “Music is the Foundation” and mailed to 749 Cleo Street, Lansing, MI 48915.

“A few hundred people come from

LIVE AND LOCAL

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT PAUL@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.		Free GTG Show	Karaoke	The Jump Off Beat Battle
Buddies, 2040 N. Aurelius Rd.			Benny & the Jets 7PM	
Center Stage, 1785 W. State Rd.			Mark Wilcox 8PM	Sonic Voodoo 8PM
Classic Pub & Grill, 16219 Old US 27	DJ Trivia 8PM	Karaoke 6:30PM		
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia			Homespun Rocks 9PM
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Wednesday Night Live	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke, 9PM	Karaoke 9PM
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies Band	Jeff Shoup & Friends	Showdown	Showdown
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night	Karaoke Kraze	Soulstice	Mix Pack
Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee	Trivia Night W/Sporcle 9PM		JR Clark and the The All Star Blues Mob 8PM	The Outer Vibe 6PM, Tell Yo Mama 8PM
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Astronomy on Taps 7PM	Countryish - Sadie Bass 7:30PM	Throwdown Afterparty 7:30PM	Nineteen Ninety Something Party 9PM
Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.				Music for Minds II 8PM
Robin Theatre				Fight Girl Battle World 8PM
UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St.			Circuit Band 7PM	Grady Hall and the Disciples of Funk 8PM
VFW 701, 123 N. Rosemary St.			The New Rule	

Out on the town

from page 24

Tai Chi Yang Style 24. 1-2 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Tangled Trinket Boxes. 12-3 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

EVENTS

Creating Healthy Connections. 6:30-8 p.m. Holt SDA Church, 5682 Holt Rd, Holt. <http://Keys to Living Free: Staying the Course>.

"Kids Create" Clay Play! From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

Home School Study Group. From 1 to 4 p.m. free. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

Lansing Clippers Monthly Meeting. From 6 to 8 p.m. St David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Rd Lansing. 5173472019.

ARTS

"Inspirations" – A Multi-Media Art Exhibit. 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. www.thepeopleschurch.com.

"Kids Create" Clay Play! K6:30-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library -- Main Branch, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. grandledge.lib.mi.us.

Tangled Trinket Boxes. These little boxes are such fun to make. Can be used to hold small gifts, filled with candies for a party, hung on a tree, etc. 12-3 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Kids Reading to Dogs (All ages). 4-5 p.m. Okemos. www.cadl.org.

Music Storytime (Ages up to 6) . 10:30-11:30 a.m. South Lansing Branch Library, 3500 South Cedar Street, Lansing. www.cadl.org.

Preschool Storytime. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grand Ledge. www.viethconsulting.com.

Spanish Literature. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

MUSIC

Joseph Lulloff, saxophone, and Deborah Moriarty, piano – ARTIST-FACULTY SERIES sponsored by WKAR Presenting an array of musical styles for saxophone and piano, written for both duo and chamber music 7:30 p.m. East Lansing. www.music.msu.edu.

Keith Minaya and Travis Libby Acoustic Live! – 8 p.m.-12 a.m. The Exchange, 314 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-319-4500. lansingexchange.com.

Music Storytime (Ages up to 6) – Event Description: Children will enjoy singing, instruments, stories and more. 10:30-11:30 a.m. South Lansing Branch Library, 3500 South Cedar Street, Lansing. www.cadl.org.

Tuesday, March 19

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Acting/Improvisation Workshop . 2-4 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Business Plan Basics. From 6 to 7:30 p.m. Free! To Register Call: (517) 483-1921. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr. Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

Capital Area Community Emergency Response Team – Basic Class. 6:30-9 p.m. Lansing Fire Department #4, 1435 E. Miller Rd., Lansing.

Line Dancing. 1-2 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Stretch, Flex & Balance II. 10:45-11:45 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Technology with Michelle. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Book Discussion Group (Adults). E6:30-7:30 p.m. Dansville. www.cadl.org.

Movers & Readers Playtime (Ages up to 3). 10:30-11 a.m. Holt - Delhi Branch Library, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. www.cadl.org.

Preschool Storytime. From 11 a.m. to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library , 131 E. Jefferson St Grand Ledge. 5176277014.

Read Aloud Group. 9-10:30 a.m. Prime Time Seniors' Program, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Tadpole Storytime at 15 (Held off-site). 11:20 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

EVENTS

Dr. Anna Gawboy, music theorist. 6:15 p.m. East Lansing. www.music.msu.edu.

Paws for Reading. From 6 to 7 p.m. free. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

Pope Francis & the Muslims. Dustin Byrd (Olivet College) will give a lecture. 7:30-9 p.m. 500303 International Ctr, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

ARTS

"Inspirations" – A Multi-Media Art Exhibit. 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church of East Lansing, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. www.thepeopleschurch.com.

THEATER

A Wrinkle in Time – 7:30 p.m. Arena Theatre, Lansing. calendar.cal.msu.edu.

MUSIC

GEORGE HINGCHLIFFE'S UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN. 8:30 p.m.-12:59 a.m. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Ln, East Lansing. 517-353-1982. events.msu.edu.

Tini Tuesdays. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. The Exchange, 314 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. 517-319-4500. lansingexchange.com.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 25

A	B	E	L		C	R	A	G		O	B	I	T	
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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Toasted subs from Portland trek to Lansing

By DENNIS BURCK

Offering hand-sliced meats, cheeses, vegetables and house made prostini, J-Dubb's Signature Subs brings its "Super Slam" toasted sandwiches to Lansing from its Portland roots.

The business strives to keep everything Michigan made with bread from Grand Rapids, potato chips from Traverse City and meats from Ada.

"We want to support Michigan and we try to locally source as much as we can," owner Josh Nowell said.

After working as a restaurant investor, Nowell took a crack at operating his own sub shop four years ago. The strategy was simple: hand sliced quality meats and cheeses for the freshest sandwich possible.

"We slice everything right while the customer is watching," Nowell said. "It's been an amazing business in Portland. We do a lot with the schools and football teams. We run orders for them. There is not a lot to eat there so they were really excited for us. We like to take care of them."

Moving between Michigan State University's campus and the Meridian Mall, the J-Dubb's is taking over a former Subway sandwich shop. "We got

lucky and it is perfect timing. The sub shop being here makes the transition nice. The customer base is already accustomed to sandwiches," Nowell said.

The location is super convenient between the two commerce hotspots, he added.

"We are both huge Michigan State fans and are hoping to get some college business as well as the Okemos community."

J-Dubb's most popular sub is the "Signature Super Slam" with ham, capicola, salami, pepperoni and house made prostini with a choice of toppings.

The prostini is a black pepper ham slow roasted and dried for three hours.

J-Dubb's Signature Subs

11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Monday-Saturday
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday
2160 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
jdubbsignaturesubs.com



Another crowd pleaser is the meatball sub with massive two inch diameter meatballs, Nowell said.

For its grand opening, J-Dubbs will sell subs at 50 percent off from March 14 to 17. "We hope there are lines at the door," Nowell added.

Pending the success of the Okemos location, the sub shop owner said he would like to expand to the Lansing area. "I believe if you get too big too fast the quality goes down. With bigger stores going from 0 to 9000, you can't keep the quality and customer relation-

ship consistent, which is important to us."

Seeing progress is what drives Nowell to expand.

"I like investing in something and chasing the possibilities. I like a challenge. I like business and like to grow things," he said.

J-Dubbs also offers homemade soups, gluten free, vegetarian options. At home delivery will also be available through Doordash and Grubhub.

The sub shop will bring around 15 new jobs to the area.





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(Top) Owner Josh Nowell (left) and manager Scott Day.
(Bottom) J-Dubb's signature Super Slam sandwich.

Dennis Burck/City Pulse

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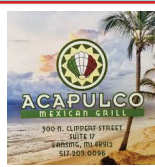
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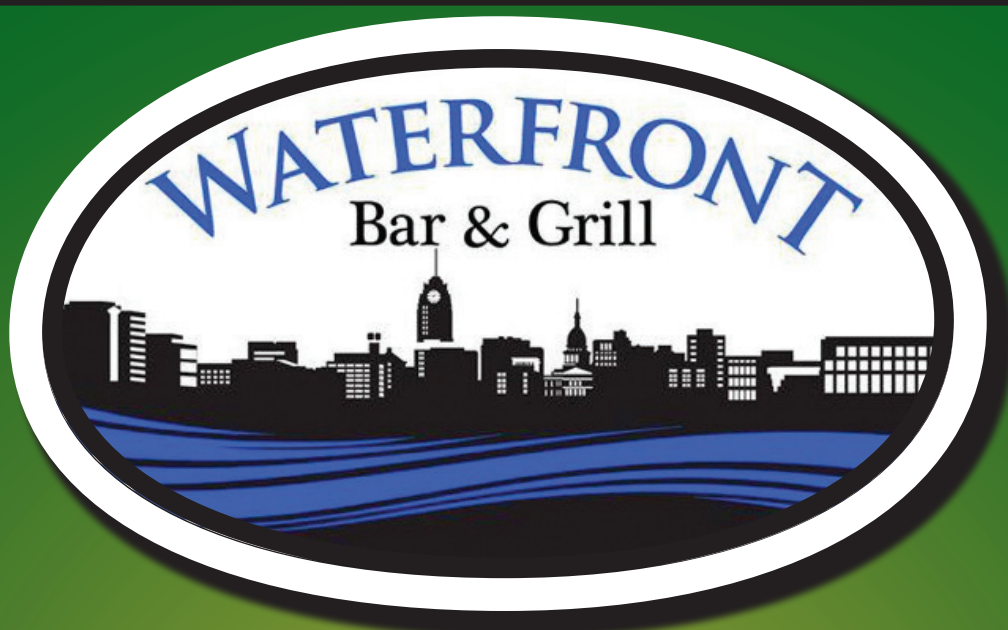
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