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CityPULSE

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August 15 - 21, 2018



**THE
CHEAP ISSUE
RETURNS**

See page 21

sidebar

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CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS

Tune in to see the monthly interview series with **Lansing Mayor Andy Schor** and hear what's happening in the capital city!

Watch **NEWSMAKERS** at lansingcitypulse.com

Produced by
MessageMakers



Dear readers:

City Pulse turns 18 this week. Thank you for 17 wonderful years.

As has become our tradition, we are celebrating by offering you money-saving coupons in ads that our customers paid half price for — a win-win!

Also, we have added a partner for the very popular "This Modern World" cartoon (aka, Tom Tomorrow), by Dan Perkins, which has appeared in City Pulse since we launched on Aug. 15, 2001. Joining Dan is Jen Sorensen, whose work appears in many alt papers, The Nation magazine and other places progressives frequent. Her strip is here on P. 4 — to the left of "This Modern World." You can decide if that placement is appropriate, politically speaking.

City Pulse grew this year by the addition of two full-time staff members: Kyle Kaminski and Dennis

Burck. Kyle, who joins us from the Traverse City Record-Eagle, is helping make the Pulse section more spirited and insightful. Have a news tip? You can reach Kyle at (517) 999-6715 or kyle@lansingcitypulse.com.

Burck, who has worked for the Metro Times in Detroit, is our roving reporter for what is happening in Greater Lansing, including our New in Town column. If you have a new venture, let him know at dennis@lansingcitypulse.com or call him at (517) 999-6705.

Look for both Kyle and Dennis' stories not just in print but on our reinvented website. We are striving to bring you fresh content there every day.

Again, thanks for picking us up. Our numbers continue to grow. Life is good.

Berl Schwartz Editor & Publisher

CityPULSE

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City takes aggressive measures to improve Housing Commission



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Lansing welcomes another food truck



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A look at Kingston Kitchen



**Cover
Art**

By Jonathan Griffith

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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor:

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

2.) Write a guest column:

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

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

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THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW

TRUMP ACKNOWLEDGED IN A TWEET THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE INFAMOUS TRUMP TOWER MEETING WAS TO GET DAMAGING INFORMATION ON HILLARY--NOT TO INNOCENTLY DISCUSS ADOPTIONS.

I MEAN, WE KNEW THIS ALREADY, FROM THAT EMAIL EXCHANGE DON JUNIOR RELEASED LAST SUMMER.

PUTIN BANNED AMERICANS FROM ADOPTING RUSSIAN ORPHANS IN RETALIATION FOR THE MAGNITSKY ACT, WHICH TARGETS THE OVERSEAS ASSETS OF RUSSIAN OLIGARCHS CONNECTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

BUT THE ADOPTION THING WAS ALWAYS A REALLY STUPID COVER STORY--EFFECTIVELY AN ADMISSION OF COLLUSION IN ITSELF.

A MEETING ABOUT "ADOPTIONS" WAS BY DEFINITION A MEETING ABOUT MAGNITSKY--ABOUT GETTING DIRT ON HILLARY IN EXCHANGE FOR HELP LIFTING SANCTIONS IF TRUMP ACTUALLY WON.

IN OTHER WORDS... COLLUSION.

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS, YOU HATE THE ORPHANS.

YES, THAT IS DEFINITELY THE TAKEAWAY HERE.

TOM TOMORROW © 2018

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Online rumors swirl before restaurant closes

Officials: No maggots found at City Buffet

A Grand Ledge restaurant seems to be permanently closed following widespread — and largely unfounded — rumors of unsanitary conditions inside. And a viral social media post may have shouldered some of the blame.

City Buffet, at 886 E. Saginaw Highway, was locked during regular business hours

earlier this month. The phone line is disconnected. No signs were posted out front. Its website doesn't offer an explanation.

But some said a viral Facebook post that accused owners of serving insect-infested dumplings might have triggered the closure.

A Facebook user named Jolene "Joey Marie" Browning took to the Internet in May after she claimed to have served herself "steamed wontons and a side of maggots" from the Chinese buffet. A picture of her plate has since ignited a communi-

ty debate, garnering nearly 1,000 shares and more than 400 comments in recent months.

Spurred by the online complaints, officials at the Barry-Eaton District Health Department arrived the next day to investigate. Environmental health sanitarian Amy Sharrow said the claim, as far as she could tell, was unfounded. No bugs were on the buffet, and the manager explained

See Buffet, Page 6

Housing Commission properties 'need work'

City to select third-party contractor for 'aggressive' improvement schedule

Recently released rental inspections detail a bevy of code violations within units managed by the Lansing Housing Commission, but city officials remain committed to an "aggressive" schedule to get them fixed.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor released the results Tuesday of inspections from LHC apartments at LaRoy Froh and the South Washington Complex. The findings detailed hundreds of issues ranging from rodent infestations and deteriorating floors to missing fixtures and electrical work completed without proper permits.

Schor said a third-party contractor hired by the LHC will work to solve the problems sooner than later but he didn't set a hard deadline on the ongoing improvements. He estimated the work could take months, but he doubled down on a prior commitment to expedite remaining inspections and quickly bring the dwellings up to city code.

"We have identified what the issues are and now we are moving forward to make sure they're in compliance as soon as pos-

sible," Schor said, noting residents should still feel safe to live inside the buildings. "We're not going to put someone out of a home and make them homeless because there's a hole in the drywall."

Ongoing criticism surrounding the LHC reached a head in June when a fire at LaRoy Froh killed a mother and her 5-year-old son. The City Council has since passed a largely symbolic

vote of no confidence against the LHC's board of directors, citing concerns with transparency, cooperation and communication to city officials.

Only Schor, however, holds the authority to fire board members. He said he plans to fix problems revealed in the recent inspection reports before making decisions to adjust staffing or restructure leadership of that department. He doesn't exactly know how the problems began; He just wants to find a solution before it becomes worse.

"We did an inspection, and we're fixing what we saw that needs to be fixed," Schor said before

abruptly ending a press conference. "We inspected it when we got here. This what we found and we're moving forward to fix

See LHC, Page 6

FOR DESIGN



Lawn Alternatives Multiple locations

The lack of rain, paired with this season's uncomfortably high temperatures, has distressed the region's ubiquitous manicured lawns. Frankly, few things are so curious as watering one's lawn, only to necessitate regular mowing. Property owners are choosing increasingly common alternatives, often using low-maintenance plantings in a rain garden. They are designed to retain rain water, rather than relying on public storm sewers.

Other homeowners are harvesting food, making productive use of available resources to grow vegetables and fruit trees. While watering is undoubtedly necessary, the bountiful output of produce seems a fair trade. Some employ more orderly placement in raised beds and well-defined paths, as seen in the example above, while others prefer a decidedly wilder look, bounded only by the sidewalks and curb.

East Lansing's progressive Oakwood neighborhood has numerous outstanding examples. Granted, the look does not appeal to everyone. It may be discouraged or forbidden in more exclusive neighborhoods, which judge the look as unkempt and out-of-place. Yet, individual reasons for undertaking this convention are varied. Perhaps the rear yard provides a safer place for children to play or it is too shady to sustain gardens. Whatever the reason, the practice makes improved use of available land and water resources.

DANIEL E. BOLLMAN, AIA

"Eye for Design" is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eye candy of the Week and Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Flowers in front of the townhome at LaRoy Froh public housing complex on Reo Road, where Tarshrikiya Beasley, 43, and her 5-year-old son, Elijah Brown, died early June 7, in a fire that officials have labeled tentatively labeled accidental. City officials announced Monday that Lansing Housing Commission properties had not been properly inspected and registered as rental units for years.

Buffet

from page 5

that the “maggots” were simply fried rice.

The picture itself doesn't offer a clear verdict. The tubular objects on Browning's plate certainly don't appear to be maggots, but they don't look much like fried rice either. Some have suggested they could be Chinese variety of artichoke.

Dozens more have offered their own speculation in the comments below the post.

But the blow to the business' reputation may have already been done. Rumors spread quickly in Grand Ledge.

Sharrow suggested City Buffet's subsequent closure was unrelated to the post but couldn't offer an alternative theory. The owner listed in state licensing records, Mei Quan Jiang, couldn't be reached to provide further clarification. Sharrow's colleague down the hall, however, claimed to have already solved the mystery.

In a Facebook post, Dawn Yost, a health department secretary, wrote about a recent visit to the restaurant the day before it

closed. Jiang, in broken English, explained how business had slowed as online rumors spread, Yost wrote. The continued criticism left them with “no choice” but to close up shop.

“This hurts my heart,” Yost wrote. “They have treated us so well over the years.”

Browning offered an apology this week to the owners but doubled down on her unfounded accusations.

“If it's true that they lost their restaurant, then I'd like to extend my sincere apologies to the family but people saying it was entirely my fault is just ridiculous,” she explained. “I wasn't even close to the only complaint made against them. My complaint just happened to go ‘viral’ and was the straw that broke the camel's back.”

Health department records indicate City Buffet earlier this year was cited for storing raw meats near their prepared foods. A soap dispenser was once absent from the employee restroom, according to another report.

Other minor infractions dot an otherwise clean record, and each violation was quickly alleviated, reports state.

Residents might never know the full story behind the restaurant's closure but after



A Facebook user named Jolene “Joey Marie” Browning publicly claimed to have discovered “maggots” in her food at City Buffet and posted this photo on her feed. Two months later, the Grand Ledge business appears to have closed.

at least eight years in business, City Buffet's absence certainly won't go unnoticed.

Yost declined to be interviewed for this story.

“It's too late,” Yost added. “But the idea of a story about the power of social media

is a good idea.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI

kyle@lansingcitypulse.com



LHC

from page 5

it.”

City inspectors years ago spotted problems at South Washington Park among other city-managed properties. Missing smoke detectors, broken fixtures, pest infestations and other cleanliness issues pushed the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to then label the LHC as a “troubled agency.”

The LHC board was then required to submit monthly progress reports to federal officials after former Executive Director Patricia Baines-Lake opted to retire from the gig and concerns surround the units continued to grow.

Five City Council members, amid the growing criticism, earlier this year asked for the LHC's recently installed executive director, Martell Armstrong, to resign or be fired by the board. Schor, in response, released inspection reports from LaRoy Froh and maintained city inspections couldn't have prevented the fatal fire.

Multiple LHC board members — including Chairman Tony Baltimore — have since publicly voiced an unwillingness to step aside. Schor last month appointed the president of South Washington Park apartments' residents council, Don Sober, to replace Commissioner Bobby Joyce. No approval was needed from the City Council.

Unnamed “complications” prevented the release of a completed fire inspection

report by this week, said Baltimore. But Schor still maintained the city wasn't to blame. City staff — even if they were to inspect the unit today — wouldn't pry into walls to find faulty electrical wiring inside.

City inspectors previously found several safety concerns within a 2-year-old report but couldn't locate documents to prove the LHC had ever fixed the problems. The building last year passed a HUD inspection, but Schor maintained that the apartments needed to pass inspections at both the local and federal levels.

“We want these fixes to happen, as we believe the board does, so we want to make sure we give time to get these fixed done so they're done right,” added Economic Development and Planning Director Brian McGrain, noting that incomplete inspections for remaining LHC properties will continue at a slow but ambiguously steady pace.

Schor said bids from a third-party contractor will be reviewed on Tuesday and will head to the commission before the end of the week. He offered no promises on a completion date but suggested the firm selected for the job could keep busy through November, racking up bills that Baltimore estimated could reach up to \$100,000.

“We want it fixed and that's our priority,” Schor added. “That's our whole priority right now.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI

kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

Waterfront Bar & Grill vs. LEPFA

A legal battle waged by Waterfront Bar & Grill owner Scott Simmons against the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority will head to court today.

Simmons filed a lawsuit last month in an attempt to divert the city's plans to evict his business from the Lansing City Market. And a court hearing today could decide whether the bar has the legal right to stay on the premises.

In May, LEPFA sought to evict the bar by July, but Simmons sought to force city officials into honoring an option for a three-year renewal to the lease. The legitimacy of that renewal clause could be a deciding factor in the case.

Simmons claimed the city violated the terms of the agreement, interfered with his business and wants a cash payout for the hassle. LEPFA officials — who claimed Simmons also breached the terms of the lease — just want the business gone.

Ingham County Circuit Judge Joyce Dragonchuk will review the complaint this week as Waterfront continues to operate without a valid, written lease. Visit lansingcitypulse.com for more detailed coverage and updates as they become available this week.

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Louney resigns commission post amid criticism

Morgan likely appointee to fill out his term

Acting under pressure, Ingham County Commissioner Dennis Louney has submitted his resignation following allegations he violated campaign laws.

Louney tendered his resignation by email on Monday. The commission could act on it at its next meeting, Aug. 28.

“I regret my error in judgement and the negative impact that it reflects



Louney

on the Board,” he wrote. “Because of this I am resigning from the Board of Commissioners effective immediately.”

Louney indirectly slapped some commissioners, saying in the same email, “It has been an honor serving with several of the Commissioners. Your leadership has been a model for others to emulate.” He did not elaborate.

County Clerk Barb Byrum said last week she discovered Louney repeatedly used his taxpayer-funded email address to illegally solicit donations and endorsements, promote fundraisers and form campaign strategies ahead of the August primary election.

Board Chairwoman Carol Koenig said today, “Dennis apparently didn’t know you can’t use county email for campaign purposes. It was a very hard-learned lesson.”

Commissioner Kara Hope urged Louney to quit last week. If he did not, Hope said she will take steps to formally reprimand him for his behavior.



Morgan

mand him for his behavior.

“I’m not glad it had to come to this,” Hope said today, “but I am glad he did the right thing. This allows commissioners to get back to their jobs without distraction.”

Calls were left with Louney seeking comment.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Mark Grebner said Monday he was preparing a resolution to appoint Thomas Morgan to fill out Louney’s term, which ends Dec. 31.

Morgan beat Louney, who came in third, and Robert Pena in a three-way race in the Democratic primary for the nomination for the 10th District seat to represent the east side of Lansing.

The commission picked Louney in February to fill out the unexpired term of Brian McGrain, who resigned in January to become director of the new Department of Economic Development and Planning under Lansing Mayor Andy Schor.

Reports show Louney emailed officials at Sparrow Health System for input regarding his campaign and to discuss an opponent’s “strange” behavior. Dozens more showed Louney contacted various local labor unions to discuss endorsements and his upcoming campaign fundraisers.

One email to officials at Lansing Community College sought to discuss how upcoming budget conversations can “best represent” the college’s financial interests. Louney asked for an endorsement in the

same message.

Louney serves on the Lansing Board of Water & Light’s board of commissioners in a term that expired on June 30, 2017. Schor nominated him in February to continue on the board, but the City Council has not yet acted.

Schor said today he does not know if he

will stand by his nomination.

“I will look at his resignation and the circumstances surrounding that,” he said, “and determine how to move forward with this seat on the BWL Board.”

— **BERL SCHWARTZ**
and **KYLE KAMINSKI**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2018, AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers
Trustees: Broughton, Harris, McKenzie, DeLay

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Minutes of the meeting held on July 10, 2018 approved.
Agenda approved.
Approved budget amendment #6.
Approved used car lot license renewals.
Claims approved.
Executive session held to discuss pending litigation.
Board returned to regular session.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#18-202

City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on August 27, 2018 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 #73 - 3600 Dunckel Road Redevelopment 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 3600 Dunckel Road located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

(As provided in Chicago Title Insurance Company, Commitment No. 331049134NTS, Revision No. 1, dated February 2, 2018): A parcel of land being part of Lots 1 and 2, Hospitality Motor Inns, a Subdivision being part of the Southwest ¼ of Section 36, T4N, R2W, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, as recorded in Liber 29 of Plats, Pages 9-11, Ingham County Records, being described as: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said plat, also being the Northwest corner of said Lot 1; thence S86°09'45"E along the North line of said Lot 1 a distance of 794.19 feet to the Northeasterly line of said Lot 1; thence S44°58'35"E along said Northeasterly line 256.85 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence continuing S44°58'35"E along said Northeasterly line 4.34 feet to the East line of said Lot 1; thence S01°32'07"E along said East line and along the East line of said Lot 2 a distance of 403.52 feet; thence N86°09'54"W parallel with the South line of said Lot 1 a distance of 314.67 feet to the East line of said Lot 1; thence S01°33'04"E along the East line of said Lot 1 a distance of 124.96 feet to the Southeast corner of said Lot 1; thence N86°07'51"W along the South line of said Lot 1 a distance of 602.03 feet; thence N01°32'07"W parallel with said East line of Lot 2 a distance of 466.52 feet; thence N88°27'53"E perpendicular to said East line of Lot 2 a distance of 542.31 feet; thence S01°32'07"E parallel with said East line of Lot 2 a distance of 21.04 feet; thence N88°27'53"E perpendicular to said East line of Lot 2 a distance of 367.31 feet to the point of beginning.

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
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CP#18-203

Coming Soon!

MICHIGAN BLUESFEST

Sept. 21-22, 2018

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'Pink Wave' rolls through Michigan

POLITICS



KYLE MELINN

Forget the "Blue Wave."

The "Pink Wave" rolled through mid-Michigan and the Great Lakes State during last Tuesday's primary, with Democratic gubernatorial candidate **Gretchen Whitmer** coasting to the party's nomination with more than 50 percent of the vote.

Elissa Slotkin not only bested **Chris Smith** in the 8th Congressional Democratic primary with 70 percent support, Slotkin and Smith combined received 171 more votes than incumbent U.S. Rep. **Mike Bishop** and his challenger.

The Democratic nominee in all five state House seats in the tri-county Capitol area were won by women, and in convincing fashion.

Kara Hope crushed her four primary opponents in the rural Ingham County-based 67th District with 71 percent support. The one male candidate in the 71st state House District on the Democratic side received 7 percent of the vote in a three-way race.

Statewide, in the 56 state-level Democratic primary elections featuring at least one woman and at least one man, a female candidate emerged the winner 75 percent of the time.

For Congress, the Democrats will be fielding a slate of women candidates in eight of the 14 seats. In the state Senate, 18 of the 38 nominations went to women. In the state House, 58 seats out of 110 nominees are women.

In the Detroit-based 13th Congressional District, **Rashida Tlaib** is poised to become the nation's first Muslim to serve in Congress after eeking out a close win over another woman, Detroit City Council President **Brenda Jones**.

The biggest shocker of the night was in the Detroit/Redford Township, where sitting Sen. **David Knezak** lost to a woman who admittedly spent no money and campaigned relatively little, **Betty Jean Alexander**, 54 percent to 46 percent.

While racial dynamics and local politics also played a large role in that race, the 2018 primary was an opportunity for women to flex some political muscle and they did.

Here are some of the most pronounced examples:

— **Lori Stone**, a Warren public school teacher who lost the Democratic nomination in the Warren-based 28th House District to then-Warren City Council member **Patrick Green**, 50 to 31 percent, defeated Green in a one-on-one rematch 53 to 47 percent.

— A recent Michigan State University student, **Laurie Pohutsky**, defeated a

twice-elected Livonia School Board member, **Dan Centers**, in the Wayne County 19th state House District.

— **Kyra Harris Bolden**, a young former law school student, defeated Sen. **Vincent Gregory** in his attempt to seek re-election to his old 35th House District seat. Small business owner **Katie Reiger**, the endorsee of the Democrats' Progressive Caucus, finished second behind Bolden.

— In the 10th Congressional District primary, an unknown environmental activist, **Kimberly Bizon**, defeated **Frank Accavitti Jr.**, the former Eastpointe mayor, state representative and Macomb County commissioner.

— In Muskegon County, former Rep. **Marcia Hovey-Wright** knocked off incumbent county Commissioner **Benjamin Cross** 64 to 36 percent.

— **Gidget Groendyk**, an openly transgender woman, received 35 percent of the vote in a three-way Dem primary in conservative West Michigan's 28th Senate District, finishing in a respectable second place as the only woman in the race.

The female dynamic only extended to the Democratic side of the aisle. With limited exceptions Republican candidates claiming the coziest connections to President **Donald Trump's** agenda or boasted the more conservative bonafides were successful.

Rep. **Tom Barrett**, in the Eaton/Clinton/Shiawassee state Senate District, for example, rolled over Rep. **Brett Roberts**. The only incumbent to lose on the Republican side was state Rep. **Dave Maturen** in Calhoun County, who was bested by **Matt Hall**, who beat up the Gov. **Rick Snyder**-backed Maturen for voting against an income tax, among other things.

The source of the female surge can clearly be connected to Trump, whose ascension to the White House angered enough people to draw 10,000 people to the state Capitol lawn in the middle of January last year.

Last Tuesday was the first opportunity for Michigan woman disgusted by having a perceived masochist as leader of the free world to do something about that other than getting together and yelling at a building.

"It's clearly a backlash over what is happening across the country," said Rep. **Christine Greig**, D-Farmington Hills, who could be the state's first House Speaker if Democrats take back control of the House, a very real possibility.

Greig said after Trump's election, women began organizing, walking, canvassing and making phone calls like she's never seen before.

"The personal is political. A lot of women didn't think we'd have to fight these fights again," Greig said. "They've woken up. They said, 'It's up to me and I have to get involved.'"

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

Lansing follows Akron into eBay partnership

Prominent developer eyes expansion after Ohio success

Local entrepreneurs could soon push their products out to billions worldwide following what Lansing Mayor Andy Schor labeled a “perfect partnership” between eBay and the city of Lansing.

And at least one prominent developer has already eyed the deal as an avenue for continued growth.

Schor — alongside eBay officials and a full cast of state politicians — announced Friday the state capital had been recently selected by the global online auction house for the next installment of its “Retail Revival” initiative, marking the second city nationwide to test out the 12-month, business-boosting partnership.

“I’m really excited,” Schor said. “This will afford small businesses with an online presence or platform that they otherwise might not have now. It’ll allow them to market their products not only to Lansing residents but to a much wider audience around the world. I think it’s going to be a great tool. There’s a lot of potential here.”

The program is billed by eBay officials as a way for local entrepreneurs to boost their online sales, potentially merging more than 100 small businesses onto a single, Lansing-specific eBay webpage that would allow anyone around the globe to take a digital stroll through products of those companies selected to participate.

A senior vice president at eBay, Scott Cutler, said Lansing was picked from a competitive process because of the diverse landscape of local businesses, the potential for online growth and because local leadership, largely under Schor’s

direction, seemed willing to offer continued support for the partnership into the future.

The city of Akron, Ohio, earlier this year was selected as the first city to participate in eBay’s initiative.

Christine Vadala, director of business development and the Downtown Akron Partnership, said 120 businesses have since signed up for the program. And their products have been flying off the

50 retailers under one roof, many of which sell local, and Akron-specific products. Testa said he worked “quite a bit” with eBay and they “instantly gravitated” toward the concept. He was their brick-and-mortar man; eBay helped take sales to the web.

And as conceptual plans for Lansing’s embattled City Market continue to swirl, Testa has already voiced a desire to see the process duplicated in the next city to

about them almost daily raving about the opportunity and the experience and what it’s doing for their businesses. Everyone who fits the qualifications ought to be going after this opportunity.”

Michael Considine, owner of Akron’s Norka Food & Beverage Co. told Crain’s Business how his company sold more than \$2,000 in glass-bottled soda within a month under the partnership. Most of his customers are former residents that have since left Ohio but still yearn for a taste of nostalgia back home, according to the report.

Selected businesses — at no initial cost — will be able to receive ongoing support and resources to get started and grow within the online platform with training programs, one-on-one coaching, access to a customer service team and more. Cutler said that support will be an integral part of boosting profits for local businesses.

The city bears no cost for the partnership, but participating business owners will likely need to pay eBay monthly subscription fees if they want to keep their online store operational beyond the 12-month trial period. Those fees in Akron ranged between \$60 and \$75 monthly and automatically renewed unless they opted out of the program.

Lansing-based businesses need to identify online sales as part of their growth strategy, offer a variety of products and demonstrate a “commitment and readiness to grow” their business. eBay also threw a promotional bone to Schor with a promise to promote Lansing through a dedicated “landing page” among other marketing efforts.

Visit ebayinc.com/Lansing for more information or to apply for the program.

—KYLE KAMINSKY

kyle@lansingcitypulse.com



shelves, reaching a wider audience than previously imagined with their standard, brick-and-mortar storefronts, she said.

Development titan Joel Testa, whose Ohio-based business ventures twice made INC Magazine’s list of fastest growing, privately held companies in the country, has already placed Lansing on his short-list for new projects. He said his business incubator concept at Northside Marketplace in Akron could easily be duplicated locally.

The newly opened urban market in Akron’s Arts District houses more than

be selected by eBay for the Retail Revival initiative. He said he’s never been to Lansing but he sent an email to eBay officials on Thursday to chat about another partnership.

Cutler isn’t familiar with Testa or his developments but eBay’s senior director of global impact and giving told Crain’s Business that the company “would love to find similar concepts in our next Retail Revival city.”

“Every city that eBay targets is a logical next choice for this concept,” Testa added. “The retailers in this program — I hear

REAL ESTATE AUCTIONS - TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2018

By order of the County Treasurer of Ingham County

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

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AUCTION LOCATION: Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI

A deposit of \$1,000 is required to receive a bid card.

Eric Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer,
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Aug 7 Brew Run

In a partnership between the Lansing Brewing Company, Playmakers and Tri-county TRIAD, running shoes and brews go toward helping area seniors receive Christmas gifts in this 5k for charity.

Aug 8 Food Frenzy

The Holt Farmers Market plays host to local restaurants, food trucks and live entertainment in its last call for the season.



Aug 9 Pizza Party on the Capitol Lawn

Benefiting the Fostering Futures Scholarship Trust Fund, proceeds of this pizza party event will provide foster youth with scholarships to cover tuition, fees, room and board, books and school supplies.

ARTS & CULTURE

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Spiritual shrapnel: Leonard Freed's 'Black in White America'

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Some photographers go for the iconic image that sums up war, poverty, work or some other big piece of life. Others look for shadows and shades of the inexpressible.

Photographer Leonard Freed did both. His eye and heart worked together to create images that change the way you look at life.

Leonard Freed Black in White America

MICA Gallery
1210 Turner St.,
Lansing
Open BluesFest
(Sept. 21-22)
and by appointment
(517) 371-4600
Meet Helen Mickens
6 p.m. Thursday,
Aug. 23

A woman is arrested at a civil rights demonstration. The arresting officer is holding the woman's hand, and the woman's hand is holding a Bible. It's a sight that, once seen, is impossible to shake off.

"Black in White America," a compelling selection of 35 Freed prints at Old Town's MICA Gallery, will be on view Aug. 23 at 6 p.m., accompanied by a talk from Helen Mickens, the first African-American woman to head the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. The exhibit can also be seen by appointment and will be open during Michigan BluesFest, Sept. 21-22.

Freed, who died in 2006, was on the scene for many of the most critical setbacks and celebrations of the Civil Rights movement, which he chronicled with gripping immediacy. A panoramic photo of the 1963 March on Washington is overflowing with granular detail, from the signs held by thousands of demonstrators to the telephones on the bustling press tables in the foreground.

But Freed took just as much care to track the never-ending beats of everyday life — weddings, funerals, people slogging to work.

Several photographs labeled "Signs of the Time in the South" show people walking in or out of facilities marked for "white" or "colored." This relatively recent abomination stuns today's viewer, like Roman gladiatorial conquests or Mayan human sacrifice, but the people in the photos, black or white, appear long used to it, making it all the more horrifying.

Civil rights struggles of the 1960s dominate the exhibit, including sadly familiar images of protesters confronting arrest and violence. But Freed is less interested in the big explosions of America's race wars than he is in the spiritual shrapnel those wars sent into countless streets and homes, inflicting lifelong pain and isola-



Courtesy photo

Freed's 1963 photo of an American soldier in West Berlin.

tion.

In several group photos, the viewer will discover one black face that's reacting to a completely different set of signals than the faces around it. A woman shopping in downtown New Orleans is part of a typical sunny afternoon, but she looks almost terrified as the oblivious white folks bustle around her. In a photograph of a string band in full swing, the white men in the foreground are happily lost in the tune they are playing, while a black woman playing guitar behind them wears a look of haunting sadness.

Freed's starkest image of isolation is a photograph of a black soldier on duty at Berlin Wall dividing East and West Berlin. The soldier inspired Freed to create this set of images, according to the 1968 book chronicling his work, available for perusal at the MICA Gallery exhibit. Freed saw a deep irony that the soldier, and others like him, were defending the nation abroad while so many injustices afflicted their homeland.

Students of composition, lighting and other niceties of photography will find as much to chew on at this exhibit as students of the civil rights movement.

Freed's empathic heart and precise eye achieve perfect fusion in "Children's Camp, Upstate New York." A bored boy at

summer camp sits at a table, hemmed in by static, criss-crossing lines: a totem pole and two trees on the vertical, the table-top and two logs on the horizontal. Even the boy's arms, dangling straight down in ennui, seem to obey Freed's strict composition, as regimented as summer camp itself.

The stacked, diagonal boxes in "Delivery Boys in New York" similarly dominate the

lives of the humans hauling them around.

One of Freed's most effective images shows street artists at work in Greenwich Village. In the foreground, invisible lines of force energize a triangle of mutually interacting faces: the pensive sitter, the objective, working artist and the half-finished portrait, a hybrid product of both sitter and artist.

Freed had a rare ability to pack aesthetic interest into his images without falling into the trap of aestheticizing suffering. "Living in Johns Island, S. Carolina" is a study in contrasting blocks of texture as much as it is of rural poverty, juxtaposing a collapsed metal roof with the back of a woman in a bathrobe and a pile of brush.

In "Bible Meeting, Johns Island, S. Carolina," two private, ecstatic faces, eyes hidden from view, are glimpsed through a window grating in a matrix of blinding light.

Freed didn't trade in the obvious. The longer you look at a Freed photograph, the more life you find. In an image of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. greeting well-wishers in a motorcade a guard is looking over his shoulder, away from the jubilation, toward some yet unseen threat from a sniper.

In several images of civil rights marches, the faces of the marchers are caught in the seemingly random expression of a fleeting moment. They are neither angry, nor tired, nor righteous. They are doors to long hallways of experience the photographer can only hint at.



Courtesy photo

Freed's image of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. riding through Baltimore in 1964.

Ingham County Animal Shelter

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600 Curtis St., Mason, MI, 48854.
ac.ingham.org



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Brownstone is a sweet young girl who came to the shelter as a young mama. She loves people and is always happy to come up to say hello. She should be fine with kids and dogs but she is a little too interested in cats.

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Reptar is a sweet older guy who loves people. He's easy going and would enjoy a home where he can be with his people most of the time. He doesn't mind other dogs but would probably be just as happy as an only dog.

Sponsored by
Anne & Dale Schrader



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Ranger is a very sweet boy looking for a new home. He loves people and will reach out to them in hopes one of them will stop by and give him some love.

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Great summer reading: 'Under a Dark Sky'

By **LEV RAPHAEL**

Eden's husband is dead and she's deeply phobic about the dark, but she's going to take the northern Michigan vacation he planned for them anyway — at a dark sky park where there's no light pollution at night to keep you from seeing the spectacular starry skies.

Review

Why do something so counter-intuitive? If people acted sensibly in novels like Lori Rader-Day's "Under A Dark Sky" a lot of great crime fiction would fizzle out. After pushing Chicago family and friends away and closing herself off "in a high white tower of misery," Eden is tired of grief and fear. She also feels unproductive, and she's trying to get past being furious at her late husband for having lied to her. Eden has to do something. If she doesn't, she says she'll remain "stunted and helpless ... while the world spun around me."

But the reservations got fouled up somehow, and instead of being alone at the very tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, Eden has to share the park's guest house with six younger men and women, who are there for some kind of murky reunion. There's all sorts of weird tension and jealousy simmering in this group. The last thing Eden wanted was company because people work her last nerve, but she thinks it's too late to leave and drive the five hours back to Chicago because it'll get dark soon.

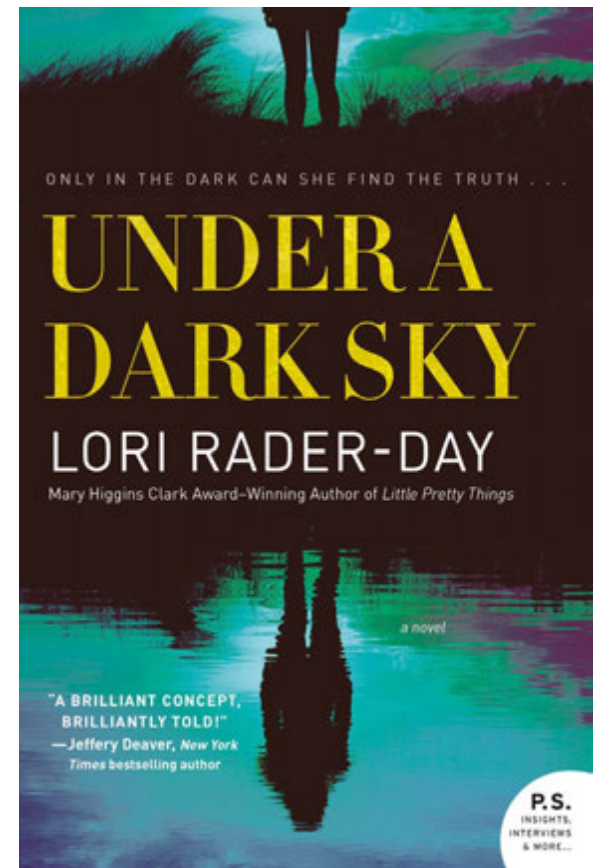
Some readers at this point would be thinking that she doesn't have to do the whole five-hour drive in one shot with night approaching — that she could easily find a hotel or motel somewhere between northern Michigan and Chicago.

And Michiganders know that if she drove due south from Mackinac City for about an hour while it was still light, she'd reach Gaylord and find plenty of hotels. Ditto if she drove southwest to Petoskey, which would be even closer. But we already know people don't act logically 24/7 in crime fiction.

Of course, Eden not only gets involved in a grotesque murder and takes on the role of amateur sleuth, she intriguingly becomes a prime suspect and suffers unexpected torments.

Rader-Day delivers a fiendishly clever plot and there are truly superb twists here. One of them blew my mind, and I reviewed crime fiction at the Detroit

Free Press for a decade. I loved this finely wrought, exciting book. The dialogue is natural all the way through, the characters are beautifully individualized, and the author deftly builds tension at different levels while taking us deep into the heart of Eden's grief.



I can't imagine anyone reading this book and not ruminating about the effects of losing a spouse or significant other. The author also does a perfectly calibrated slow reveal to explain why Eden is so damned mad at her husband, and what we find out is shocking. Perhaps best of all, there's a terse, dramatic poetry to the narrative voice that is quietly compelling:

"I didn't want the darkness to touch my skin. It made no sense. The darkness had no weight, no texture, no heat. And yet it burned me almost physically only to think of stepping out into its embrace."

I sleep with blackout shades and sometimes even an eye mask, but reading this enthralling novel made me identify so much with Eden's phobia that I wanted to turn on as many lights as possible. You might feel that way, too. Be prepared as well for a dark night of the soul or two in a superb mystery with tremendous psychological depth.

Lev Raphael is the author of 25 books in many genres and teaches creative writing online at writewithoutborders.com.

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Growing pains: Renegade Theatre Festival's 'Lucky 13' in Old Town

By **PAUL WOZNAK**

Everybody has limits, even Renegade Theatre Festival founder Chad Badgero. Since 2005, Badgero has been organizing the three-day, one-weekend festival, seeking out nontraditional spaces from alleys to abandoned buildings in East Lansing and Old Town for local theater companies and artists to perform works that would not fit in a regular setting or season.

Renegade is back in Old Town for its 13th non-consecutive season this weekend, but Badgero says change was inevitable. “We just very naturally grew out of Old Town because we were having so much participation, which is awesome. But the way that Old Town has grown over the last 10 years since we’ve been there, there just weren’t the available spaces that we once had at the beginning,” says Badgero. “As the festival has grown and spaces have shrunk, our biggest task has always been finding suitable venues for shows.”

Over the years, the Renegade Theatre Festival grew from one weekend in a few venues to two weekends over multiple locations in the city, including storytelling and live music. But this year is back to one weekend, and exclusively focusing on new content. Badgero says one of the main reasons for the festival restructuring was learning about his own personal limitations.

“I think Renegade reached that danger point. We were either going to burn each other out or the festival was just going to completely stop. And none of us want that.”

And so Badgero and fellow festival organizers Melissa Kaplan, Katie Doyle and Paige Dunckel Tufford, along with input from a live community forum, made the conscious effort to scale back certain aspects of the festival this year. But they also expanded others, such as the Renegade N.O.W., or New Original Works. Festival co-producer Melissa Kaplan says the Renegade N.O.W. section is so popular they had to cap the number of script submissions.

“We had such an influx of new play submissions to Renegade N.O.W., well over 400 plays,” says Kaplan. “This year we limited the number of submissions to 250 for manageability. We received 250 submissions really fast. There’s a lot of new work out there.”

The Renegade committee ultimately selected 15 productions including eight 10-minute scripts, five one-acts, and two full-length scripts for performances. While the directors and actors are mostly local, the script submissions came from around the country and the world including the winner of the One-Acts William Whitehurst from Lamma Island in Hong Kong.

The festival added more performance times for the Renegade N.O.W. productions. “In the past we did shows at 7 and 9. This year we’re doing shows at 7, 8 and 9. More opportunities to see more theatre for people who want to go all night,” says Kaplan.

For purely local playwrights and performers, the



Courtesy photo

Tobin Hissong as Robert F. Kennedy in "Soapbox Speeches" at Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum as part of last year's Renegade Theatre Festival.

organizers added a brand-new section called “Renegade Ruckus — a 24-hour free-for-all of play writing and performing madness.” Ruckus organizer Jeff Croff said he put out a call to six writers “who were willing to go without sleep for an evening.” The writers will write for 12 hours, hand off their scripts to six different teams who will have another 12 hours to rehearse before the eventual back-to-back performances Saturday evening starting at 10:30 p.m.

Croff says the Ruckus is meant to be a fun exercise for everyone. “Writers often get a little comfortable. They develop their routine and their ritual and they sit down and they turn on this music and they put on this cup of tea. And this is really one of those flash moments to get going and force themselves to write,” says Croff.

For Badgero, the Ruckus was a way to expand the festival in a more sustainable way. “We learned our lesson, ‘if we’re going to add new stuff, how do we add new people?’ So we really pitched it to Jeff. I don’t think we would have done it if he hadn’t said ‘yes’ because that’s very much in his wheelhouse,” said Badgero.

For future festivals, both Badgero and Kaplan agree that scaling back this year allows them more time to plan and think about the future of the festival and to recruit more staff. “After this year’s done, our first goal is to assemble a much larger board of people and supporters so that we can multiply our efforts. We have been a small but mighty group of four or five forever and that just doesn’t allow us to grow at all,” says Badgero.

It’s also a chance to assess the overall identity of the festival.

“Is the festival an opportunity to give all theater companies a showcase? Or is it a festival that is going to put Lansing on the map as the center of new play development?” Kaplan said. “Are they all compatible? That’s part of the things that we’re considering for the future.”

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The Downeaster Theatre

All shows held at the Downeaster Theatre, 1120 N. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing
For a comprehensive list of ticket prices and show times, visit or call: www.thedowneastertheatre.com, (517) 599-0737

Ixion Theatre Ensemble

Both shows will be held at the Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. Ticket prices run at \$15.
For a comprehensive list of ticket prices and show times, visit or call: www.ixiontheatre.com, (517) 775-4246

LCC Theatre Program

Black Box performances hosted at 1422 Gannon Building, 422 N. Washington Sq., Lansing,
Mainstage at Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave.
For a comprehensive list of ticket prices and show times, visit or call: www.internal.lcc.edu/cma, (517) 483-1546

MSU Department of Theatre

For a comprehensive list of ticket prices and show times, visit or call: www.theatre.msu.edu, (517) 355-1855

Owosso Community Players

For a comprehensive list of ticket prices and show times, visit or call: www.owossoplayers.com, (989) 723-4003

Over the Ledge Theatre Co.

For a comprehensive list of ticket prices and show times, visit or call: www.overtheledge.org, (517) 318-0579

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.

For a comprehensive list of ticket prices and show times, visit or call: www.peppermintcreek.org, (517) 927-3016

Riverwalk Theatre

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Williamston Theatre

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2018-2019 GREATER LANSING THEATER SEASON SCHEDULE

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

EL – East Lansing Community Theatre
 DE – The Downeaster Theatre
 IX – Ixion Theatre Ensemble
 LCC – LCC Theatre Program
 MSU – MSU Department of Theatre
 OC – Owosso Community Players

OL – Over the Ledge Theatre Co.
 PC – Pepperming Creek Theatre Co.
 RW – Riverwalk Theatre
 SL – Starlight Dinner Theatre
 WT – Williamston Theatre
 WC – Wharton Center for Performing Arts

Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical

Sept. 6-9, Sept. 13-16 - RW
 Book and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse
 Music by Frank Wildhorn
 Directed by Tom Ferris
 Music direction by John Dale Smith
 Choreography by Fran Ludington

Dancing at Lughnasa

Sept. 6-16 - OL
 Written by Brian Friel

Mamma Mia!

Sept. 7-9, Sept. 14-16 - OC

Chalk

Sept. 8-9, 15-16 – IX
 Written by Walt McGough
 Directed by Oralya Garza

King Lear

Sept. 13-15, Sept. 20-22 – EL
 By William Shakespeare
 Directed by Dale Wayne Williams

School of Rock: The Musical

Sept. 18-23 - WC
 Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
 Book by Julian Fellowes
 Lyrics by Glenn Slater

One Good Day

Sept. 21-23 - MSU
 Libretto and lyrics by Liz Suggs
 Music by Rona Siddiqui
 Pasant Theatre

Silent Sky

Sept. 20-Oct. 21 – WT
 By Lauren Gunderson
 Directed by Tony Caselli

These Shining Lives

Sept. 27-30, Oct. 4-7 - RW
 By Melanie Marnich
 Directed by Susan Chmurynsky

Dead Ringer

Sept. 28-29, Oct. 5-6 - LCC
 Written by Gino Dilorio
 Directed by Mary Matzke
 Black Box

See Schedule, Page 15



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<i>Jekyll & Hyde</i> THE MUSICAL Sept. 6-9 & 13-16	THESE SHINING LIVES Sept. 27-30 & Oct. 4-7
JITNEY by August Wilson Oct. 18-21 & 25-28	Noises OFF Nov. 29-Dec. 2 & Dec. 6-9

2018-2019 LUCKY SEASON 13

<i>Silent Sky</i>	<i>Hunting Shack Christmas</i>	<i>To Quiet The Quiet</i>	Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson Sept. 20 - Oct. 21, 2018
<i>The Gin Game</i>	NEW RELEASES	<i>POPCORN FALLS</i>	A Hunting Shack Christmas by Jessica Lind Peterson Nov. 15 - Dec. 23, 2018
Williamston Theatre 122 S Putnam St., Williamston 517-655-7469 www.williamstontheatre.org			To Quiet The Quiet by Christy Hall Jan. 24 - Feb. 24, 2019
			The Gin Game by D.L. Coburn Mar. 21 - Apr. 20, 2019
			New Releases by Joseph Zettelmaier May 9 - June 9, 2019
			Popcorn Falls by James Hindman June 20 - July 28, 2019

2018-2019 GREATER LANSING THEATER SEASON SCHEDULE

Schedule

from page 14

Love Never Dies

Oct. 9-14 - WC

By Andrew Lloyd Webber

A Memory of Two Mondays & A View from the Bridge

Oct. 12-14 & 16-21 - MSU

By Arthur Miller
Pasant Theatre

Fall in New York

Oct. 18-28 - DE

Written and directed by Kathryn Willis

Shakespeare in Love

Oct. 18-21, 25-28 - PC

By Tom Stoppard, Marc Norman and Lee Hall, Directed
by George Popovich

Jitney

Oct. 18-21, Oct. 25-28 - RW

By August Wilson
Directed by Vanessa Cunningham Sanders

Welcome to the White Room

Oct. 20, 21, 27 and 28 - IX

By Trish Harnetiaux
Directed by Leo Poroshin

Calendar Girls

Oct. 12-21 - SL

Written by Tim Firth
Directed by Kristine Thatcher

Leading Ladies

Nov. 2-4, Nov. 9-11 - OC

By Ken Ludwig

Hair

Nov. 2-3, 9-11 - LCC

Book/lyrics Gerome Ragni and James Radio
Directed by Dr. John Lennox
Mainstage

Men On Boats

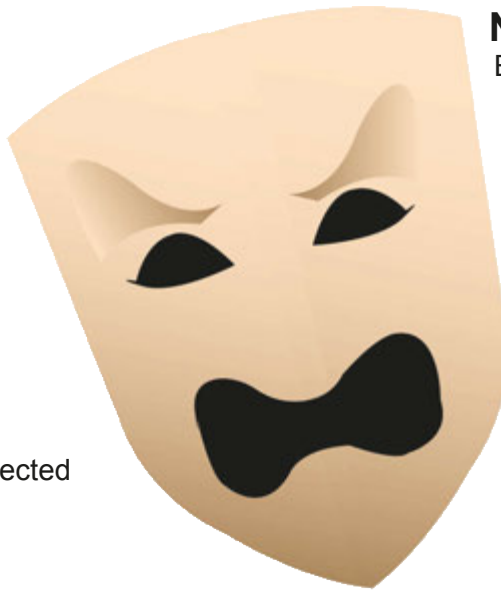
Nov. 9-18 - MSU

By Jaclyn Backhaus
Studio 60 Theatre

Framing Device

Nov. 13-18 - PC

Directed and co-conceived by Rob Roznowski,
Sarah Hendrickson, Grant Cleaveland and Chad Swan-Badgero



See Schedule, Page 18

PEPPERMINT CREEK THEATRE COMPANY

2018-2019 SEASON TIX NOW ON SALE!

*
CALL 517-927-3016 AND MENTION THIS AD FOR \$5 OFF SEASON TIX
*
PEPPERMINT CREEK .ORG

FREE!

RENEGADE THEATRE

PERFORMANCES AT 7 | 8 | 9 P.M. ON AUGUST 16 | 17 | 18

Renegade Theatre Festival is celebrating Lucky 13!

LUCKY N.O.W.

The focus this year is **N.O.W.: New Original Works** from around the country (and Hong Kong!) presented at the Red Cedar Friends Meeting Hall at 1400 Turner St., Old Town, Lansing.

Each play has two performance dates, as listed in the schedule below.

Capping it all off is the **Renegade Ruckus**, a 24-hour new play challenge for a fitting festival finale.

THIRTEEN YEARS of exciting new plays and wildly varied performances by local theatre artists.

Come early to enjoy a meal or drink in Old Town and explore the galleries, shops and parks of this lively neighborhood.

Whether you're a first-timer or a Renegade regular, get lucky and get to Renegade!

 = WINNER OF PLAY CATEGORY

THANK YOU

SPECIAL THANKS to our sponsors: Bibbee Creative, City Pulse, Jackson National, Lansing Community College and Piper & Gold.

We're grateful to the Red Cedar Friends Meeting Hall for making this wonderful space available to Renegade for many years. We're also thankful for the new kid on the block, META Collective, where Ruckus shows will rehearse and perform.

Finally, we thank all the Old Town businesses for their incredible commitment to the arts.

AUGUST THURSDAY 16

7 P.M. | ROOM #1

TAMAR: THE TWO-GATED CITY

By Emma Goldman-Sherman | New York, NY
Directed by Monica Tanner | 60 MIN

Before her wedding, Young Tamar tries to find out what happened to the aunt for whom she was named. Aunt Tamar exists as a ghost, hoping her story will be told so she can rest. When an old servant, Abida, tries to school Young Tamar in her oppressive reality, Young Tamar refuses Abida's lesson and so changes the way Abida sees the world.

7 P.M. | ROOM #2

RHYTHM OF THE EARTH

By Alec Seymour | New York, NY
Directed by Michael Hays | 25 MIN

Two strangers from toxic environments overcome the unspoken rules of masculinity and forge a true friendship.

HORNY TOADS

By Kita Mehaffy | Santa Fe, NM
Directed by Anna Szabo | 25 MIN

On a road trip, it doesn't take long for Natalie and Wes to discover that their idea of a vacation is not simpatico. One wants to talk, the other wants peace. When they meet a motorist stranded at a rest stop, Natalie's need to go on a verbal voyage is suddenly laid on the hapless stranger, both discovering there's nothing like wide open spaces to bring out the fear of isolation. Throw an amphibian into the mix and complications are inevitable.

8 P.M. | ROOM #1

PARTY FAVORS


By Cary Pepper | San Francisco, CA
Directed by Bob Robinson | 35 MIN

A local politician running for office must make some hard choices when he is faced with a moral dilemma that could affect whether or not he's elected.

8 P.M. | ROOM #2

HE WHO OUTFRONS RAINSTORMS

WINNER - ONE ACTS

By William Whitehurst | Lamma Island, Hong Kong
Directed by Paige Tufford | 40 MIN 

Eight fifth-grade children remember the events that led to the death of their classmate, Peter, a Native American boy.

9 P.M. | ROOM #1

10-Minute Plays – Awkward Encounters I

COLBY'S TRUCKS

By Danielle Radeke | Jackson, NJ
Directed by Amy Rickett

Jenna, a cut-throat third year Columbia law student, and Zoey, an imaginative young mother who spent the last year traveling the world after great personal loss, discover they can help each other learn a little about renewal.

THE WAKEUP CALL

By Roy Proctor | Richmond, VA
Directed by Tim Lewis

Many actors fantasize about blasting away at theater critics who have panned their performances. Young Randall Murrow realizes his fantasy in a booze-driven phone call in the wee hours of the morning, but with unexpected results.

LUCKY YOU! ALL PLAYS FREE!

THE ACCIDENT

By Richard Ballon | Amherst, MA
Directed by Amy Rickett

Two sisters – a horrible accident. What are we willing to do to protect one family while destroying another?

BUZZKILL | WINNER 10-MINUTE

By Rollin Jewett | Raleigh Springs, NC 
Directed by Michael McCallum

An American is looking to have a good time in Amsterdam when he's confronted by a foreign refugee with a frightful agenda. A gripping and intense experience with very immediate relevance.

9 P.M. | ROOM #2

MISOGYNOIR: LOSS

By Mikeala Berry | New York, NY
Performed by Teriah Fleming | 40 MIN

Part of a larger body of work that explores the vastness of what it means to be Black, *Misogynoir* invites viewers into the life, mind and garden of Lena, a young Black woman desperate to grow and prosper in the face of the voices and systems that try to keep her from flourishing.

LUCKY 13 ATRE FESTIVAL 2018

RED CEDAR FRIENDS MEETING HALL | OLD TOWN | LANSING

AUGUST 17 FRIDAY

7 P.M. | ROOM #1

10-Minute Plays — Awkward Encounters II

DOWNSIZED

By Anne Flannigan | Los Angeles, CA
Directed by Ann Marie Foley

It's Terri's closing day as career counselor for the Unemployment Office - because she's been laid off. Red, a dyslexic skywriter, is most likely Terri's final client and is most certainly on her last nerve.

BLACK HOLE ENTERPRISES

By C.J. Ehrlich | Chappaqua, NY
Directed by Quinn Kelly

Can a person be happy when their job is to make people miserable on social media?

THE BLOODY AXE

By Ron Burch | Valley Village, CA
Directed by Nick Lemmer

Armed with his bloody axe, Bjorn the Bold, a Viking, may have some trouble with Human Resources at the delivery company where he works.

AVOCADO TOAST

By Ken Levine | Los Angeles, CA
Directed by Nick Lemmer

A young couple dine in the trendiest new hot spot in town - a restaurant where every table has its own audience. Since Millennials feel they star in their own reality show, here they actually do. It's an interactive satire on trends, modern relationships, and avocado toast.

7 P.M. | ROOM #2

MISOGYNOIR: LOSS

By Mikeala Berry | 40 MIN
See August 16 | 9 p.m. for description.

8 P.M. | ROOM #1

TAMAR: THE TWO-GATED CITY

By Emma Goldman-Sherman | 60 MIN
See August 16 | 7 p.m. for description.

8 P.M. | ROOM #2

EVOLUTION | WINNER - FULL LENGTH

By Phil Darg | Maple Grove, MN
Directed by Judy Evans | 55 MIN

This allegorical depiction of history explores and portrays the dynamics of the growth of human society from its earliest stages up to the present day.

9 P.M. | ROOM #2

HE WHO OUTFRUNS RAINSTORMS

WINNER - ONE ACTS
By William Whitehurst | 40 MIN
See August 16 | 8 p.m. for description.

FREE!

RENEGADETHEATRE FESTIVAL

AUGUST 18 SATURDAY

7 P.M. | ROOM #1

10-Minute Plays — Awkward Encounters I

See August 16 | 9 p.m. for descriptions.

COLBY'S TRUCKS

By Danielle Radeke

THE WAKEUP CALL

By Roy Proctor

THE ACCIDENT

By Richard Ballon

BUZZKILL | WINNER 10-MINUTE

By Rollin Jewett

7 P.M. | ROOM #2

HE WHO OUTFRUNS RAINSTORMS

WINNER - ONE ACTS
By William Whitehurst | 40 MIN
See August 16 | 8 p.m. for description.

8 P.M. | ROOM #1

10-Minute Plays — Awkward Encounters II

See August 17 | 7 p.m. for descriptions.

DOWNSIZED

By Anne Flannigan

BLACK HOLE ENTERPRISES

By C.J. Ehrlich

THE BLOODY AXE

By Ron Burch

AVOCADO TOAST

By Ken Levine

8 P.M. | ROOM #2

EVOLUTION | WINNER - FULL LENGTH

By Phil Darg | 55 MIN
See August 17 | 8 p.m. for description.

9 P.M. | ROOM #1

PARTY FAVORS

By Cary Pepper | 35 MIN
See August 16 | 8 p.m. for description.

9 P.M. | ROOM #2

See August 16 | 7 p.m. for descriptions.

RHYTHM OF THE EARTH

By Alec Seymour | 25 MIN

HORNY TOADS

By Kita Mehaffy | 25 MIN

RENEGADE RUCKUS

What could be more renegade than 10-minute plays whipped up over the previous 24 hours?

HERE'S HOW THE RENEGADE RUCKUS WORKS: Six playwrights get prompts on Friday night. They have 12 hours to write a 10-minute script from scratch.

Saturday morning, six teams of directors and actors receive those scripts and have the next 12 hours to get that play on its feet.

THE FINALE: Six hot and fresh new plays are staged for you.

10:30 P.M. | META Collective
AUGUST 18 | 718 E. César Chávez Ave., Lansing
(E. Grand River)

LET THE RUCKUS BEGIN!

2018-2019 GREATER LANSING THEATER SEASON SCHEDULE

Schedule

from page 16

A Hunting Shack Christmas

Nov. 15-Dec. 23 - WT

By Jessica Lind Peterson

Directed by Tony Caselli

Noises Off

Nov. 29-Dec. 9 - RW

Written by Michael Frayn

Directed by Michael Hays

The Wild Party

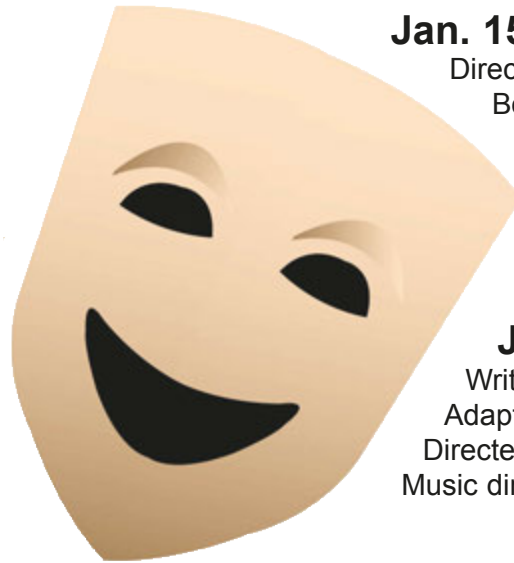
Nov. 29-Dec. 2, Dec. 6-9 - PC

Music and lyrics by Andrew Lipa

Directed by Ben Cassidy

Music direction by John Dale Smith

Choreography by Karyn Perry



Fiddler on the Roof

Dec. 4-9 - WC

Directed by Bartlett Sher

Original play written by Joseph Stein and composed by Jerry Bock,

Choreography by Hofesh Shechter

Anastasia

Jan. 15-20 - WC

Directed by Darko Tresnjak

Book Terrence McNally

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Jan. 24-27, Jan. 31-Feb. 3 - RW

Written by Richard and Robert Sherman

Adapted by Jeremy Sams and Ray Roderick

Directed by Brian Farnham

Music directed by Angie Schwab

See Schedule, Page 19

Purchase our FlexPass and get 6 tickets for the price of 5

2018-19 season

SEP 2018	MAMMA MIA!	NOV 2018
	LEADING LADIES	
DEC 2018	HOLIDAY AT LEBOWSKY	FEB 2019
	DISNEY'S TARZAN	
APR 2019	THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME	JUNE 2019
	CABARET	

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 owossoplayers.com

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 3 to 6 PM &
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 MEXICAN RESTAURANTS

Mon-Thurs 11-11 | Fri & Sat 11-Midnight
 Sun 11-10
517-485-0166
 2706 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing

Schedule

from page 18

To Quiet the Quiet

Jan. 24 – Feb. 24 - WT
Written by Christy Hall
Directed by Shannon Wojtas

Every Brilliant Thing

Jan. 31-Feb. 3,
Feb. 7-10 - PC
Written by Duncan Macmillan, with Jonny Donahoe
Directed by Chad Swan-Badgero

The A-Train Plays

Feb. 14-17,
Feb. 21-24 - RW
Written by David Riedy, Craig Pospicil, Anthony Pennino, Renee Flemings and Stephen O'Rourke
Directed by Doak Bloss

Student Body

Feb. 15-16,
Feb. 22-24 - LCC
Written by Frank Winters
Directed by John Lepard

Oklahoma!

February 15-17,
Feb. 19-24 - MSU
Music by Richard Rodgers
Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
Based on the play "Green Grow the Lilacs" by Lynn Riggs
Original Dances by Agnes de Mille
At Fairchild Theatre

Disney's Tarzan

February 22-24,
March 1-3 - OC

Promethea in Prison

Feb. 27 - WC
An interactive theatre performance

Miss Saigon

March 12-17 - WC
Directed by Laurence Connor
Books and lyrics by Alain Boubil

The Elephant Man

March 14-17,
March 21-24 - RW
Written by Bernard Pomerance
Directed by Amy Rickett

A Wrinkle in Time

March 15-17,
Feb. 19-24 - MSU
By Madeleine L'Engle
Adapted by Tracy Young
At Arena Theatre - MSU

The Gin Game

March 21 – April 20 - WT
Written by D.L. Coburn
Directed by John Lepard

A Behanding in Spokane

March 28-31,
April 4-7 - RW
Written by Martin McDonagh
Directed by Heath Sartorius

Pageant Play

March 29-30,
April 5-7 - LCC
Written by Matthew Wilkas and Mark Setlock
Directed by Paige Tufford

The Same Moon

April 11-14,
April 18-21 - PC
Directed by Blake Bowen

The Bacchae

April 12-14,
April 16-21 - MSU
By Euripides
Translated by Paul Woodruff
At Pasant Theatre - MSU

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

April 26-28, May 3-5 - OC

Freud's Last Session

May 9-12, 16-19 - RW
Directed by Rob Roznowski

New Releases

May 9 – June 9 - WT
Written by Joseph Zettelmaier
Directed by Paige Conway

Hamilton

May 12 – June 2 - WC
Book, Music and Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda
Directed by Thomas Kail

Hope

May 18-19,
May 22-23 - IX
Directed by Danica O'Neill

Indecent

June 6-9, 13-16 - PC
Written by Paula Vogel
Directed by Mary Job

Hairspray

June 6-9,
June 13-16 - RW
Written by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, Music by Marc Shaiman, Lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman, Directed by Sarah Hayner, Music direction by Angie Schwab

Cabaret

June 14, June 16-18,
June 21-23 - OC

Popcorn Falls

June 20 – July 28 - WT
Written by Jessica Lind Peterson
Directed by Dave Davies



LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS
2018-19 THEATRE SEASON

DEAD RINGER

BY GINO DILORIO
SEPT. 28-29 & OCT. 5-6

HAIR

THE AMERICAN TRIBAL-LOVE ROCK MUSICAL

BOOK & LYRICS BY GEROME RAGNI & JAMES RADO
MUSIC BY GALT MACDERMOT
NOV. 2-3 & 10-11


Student Body

BY FRANK WINTERS
FEB. 15-16 & 22-24

Pageant Play

BY MATTHEW WILKAS & MARK SETLOCK
MARCH 29-30 & APRIL 5-7

lcc.edu/showinfo



THE DOWNEASTER THEATRE

Upcoming Performances & Auditions

Youth (8-18)
Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare
Auditions 8/23, 24, 26, 6:30-9:30 and 08/25, 10 am-noon,
Performances 11/29-12/02 - 7 pm Thur/Fri; 2 & 4:30 pm Sat; 2 pm Sun
Dog Sees God by Bert V. Royal
Auditions 11/1, 2, 4, 6:30-8:30 pm and 11/3, 10 am-noon.
Performances 2/14-2/24 - 7 pm Thur/Fri; 2 & 4:30 pm Sat; 2 pm Sun
The Swan Princess by Dave Jeanes
Auditions 2/7, 8, 10, 6:30-8:30 and 2/9, 10 am-noon.
Performances 4/25-5/05 - 7 pm Thur/Fri; 2 & 4:30 pm Sat; 2 pm Sun
Charlotte's Web
Auditions 5/16, 17, 19, 6:30-8:30 and 5/18, 10 am-noon
Performances 7/25-8/04- 7 pm Thur/Fri; 2 & 4:30 pm Sat; 2 pm Sun

All youth productions have a \$5 audition workshops 5:30-6:30 on the first night of auditions to familiarize youth with our space, our team, and our process.
All youth productions also have a 10am performance on the second Friday of their run for school groups, with reduced ticket prices and preregistration required.

Adults
Fall in New York
Auditions 8/23, 24, 26, 6:30-9:30 and 08/25, 10 am-noon,
Performances 10/18-10/28 - 7 pm Thur; 2 & 8 pm Sat; 2 pm Sun
We Live Here by Zoe Kazan
Auditions TBA
Performances 3/21-3/31 - 7 pm Thur; 2 & 8 pm Sat; 2 pm Sun

1120 N. Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing
www.thedowneastertheatre.com
(517) 763-8045



Jazz musician Freddy Cole is coming to town

Freddy Cole's usual stops are clubs in New York, D.C. and Chicago, not to mention Europe and Australia. But a handful of lucky people will see him here on Aug. 22.

Freddy Cole
 August 22
 7 p.m.
 Tickets available
 jazzjamm.com
 \$35

Tickets are be available online at www.jazzjamm.com. You'll find out there where the venue is. The show is a benefit for the

nonprofit Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan. Seating is limited to 70, but a second show will be added if the 7 p.m. one sells out. Cole, 87, is something of a late bloomer. Once in the shadow of his late brother Nat King Cole and niece Natalie Cole, he has emerged as a star jazz singer and pianist. His band includes guitarist Randy Napoleon, an MSU professor of jazz — the connection that is bringing Cole to town.

W H A R T



Love Never Dies,
 October 9-14



Renée Fleming,
 October 16



Soweto Gospel Choir,
 November 18



Miss Saigon,
 March 12-17

2018-2019 SEASON
TICKETS ON SALE MONDAY 8/20 AT 10AM!

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

THE CHEAP ISSUE

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Another year, another Cheap Issue. City Pulse has always been a proponent of thriftiness; we've long offered advertisers 50 percent off their rates if they include a coupon that can be used by our readers. But this list is compiled by staff to highlight free deals available from Greater Lansing businesses.

And, as always, our stories in the Cheap Section highlight our favorite spots

for cheap deals. This time around, we profiled the used video game and electronics retailer Disc Traders.

This year's theme highlights the deals out there in Lansing for children, students and seniors. Or to put it simply — the young and the old. While this list isn't 100 percent comprehensive — no list is — it's certainly a good place to start.

CRADLE TO GRAVE DEALS

Aldaco's

10 percent off for seniors and students with ID.

6724 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48911

Apple Store

Educational discount provided with valid college student ID.

3025 Preyde Blvd., Lansing, MI 48912

Applebee's

Seniors receive 10 percent off.

Locations in Greater Lansing

Arby's

50 cent drink available for seniors.

Locations in Greater Lansing

Asian Buffet

50 percent off the buffet for children.

4920 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI 48864

Big John Steak & Onion

Students and seniors receive 10 percent off.

Locations in Lansing

Bob Evans

Children eat free on Tuesdays.

Locations in Greater Lansing

BoRics Hair Care

10 percent off for seniors and students with picture ID.

Locations in Lansing

B's Randall Auto Service

10 percent off services (except oil change) for students.

2516 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48912

Buffalo Wild Wings

\$2.50 children's meal with drink on Wednesdays for children 12 and under.

Locations in Greater Lansing

Buddie's Grill

Seniors get 10 percent off, and are allowed to order from children's menu.

Locations in Greater Lansing

Campus Scooter

\$100 off Lance Cabo 50cc moped for students.

200 Morgan Ln., Lansing, MI 48912

Celebration Cinema

Seniors, students and children receive \$1

off ticket price.

200 E. Edgewood Blvd., Lansing, MI 48911

Claddagh

Children eat free on Sundays.

2900 Centre Blvd., Lansing, MI 48912

Crossroads BBQ

5 percent off for seniors.

221 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Culver's

5 percent off with an MSUFCU debit card.

Locations in Greater Lansing

Denny's

Children eat free on Tuesdays.

Locations in Greater Lansing

Family Tree Café

Children eat for \$1 with a purchase of an entrée.

Locations in Greater Lansing

Fenner Nature Center

\$5 off memberships for students and seniors.

2020 E. Mt Hope Ave., Lansing, MI 48910

Finley's

Children 12 and under eat free Mondays and Tuesdays, 4 p.m. to close. Limit to two, with purchase of one adult meal.

7433 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917

Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet

Seniors (62 and above) get a 10 percent discount.

5837 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917

J2 Tanning

Students: \$20 spray tan on Tuesdays, \$10 off \$40+ lotion packages, \$10 off unlimited Level 3 Package, Student Saver Package \$24.99/month.

Locations in Greater Lansing

Kalamazoo Vapor

Students get 15 percent off, Wednesday and Sunday.

340 Morgan Ln., Lansing, MI 48912

Kohl's

Seniors get 15 percent off on Wednesdays.

Locations in Greater Lansing

Logan's Steakhouse

Children eat free on Wednesdays.

5800 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917

Los Tres Amigos

\$1.99 kid's meal on Sundays.

Locations in Greater Lansing

Maru Sushi

Monday and Tuesday nights: 20 percent off after 5:30 p.m.

Locations in Greater Lansing

McAllister's

Free kid's meal with an adult entrée.

2901 Preyde Blvd., Lansing, MI 48912

Michigan History Museum

Students: \$2 off entry with school group.

Seniors: \$4 off entry.

Children 5 and under: Free.

702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48915

Metro Retro

25 percent off for students and seniors.

304 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI 48906

NCG Cinema

Children 12 and under: \$2 off tickets

Students: \$1 off tickets

Senior: \$2 off tickets

2500 Showtime Dr., Lansing, MI 48912

North Winds Heating & Cooling Services

10 percent off for seniors.

2861 Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864

Okemos Auto Collection

\$1,000 off down payments on BMWs for students.

2186 Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864

Old Nation Brewing Co.

50 percent off meals for children under 10 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

1500 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston, MI 48895

See Deals, Page 22

Code:

- Blue** - Children
- Green** - Students
- Pink** - Seniors
- Red** - Multiple ages

grand concert series
lansing city market

remaining dates:

august 16th: kathleen murray band
23rd: 89th key

september 6th: msu professors of jazz

starts at 6:30 pm
lansingcitymarket.com

325 city market drive
downtown lansing

RIVERFRONT DISTRICT

sponsored by:

LAFCU WOLVERINE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Lansing State Journal WKAR

THE CHEAP ISSUE

Disc Traders: a museum of electronics on the cheap

By SKYLER ASHLEY

It's difficult to walk into Disc Traders, on Saginaw Highway, without immediately feeling overwhelmed. There's a labyrinthine collection of movies on the left and right side racks, with a veritable library of video games wedged between them. Then, in the back, you have a haul of retro video game consoles and cartridges.

That's without mentioning the vinyl records, electronic equipment and pop culture relics. And with a relatively cheap price for the goods, it's an ideal way for video game fans or movie buffs to waste part of their Saturday afternoon.

"We try to have an extremely friendly environment, where none of our employees have a snobbish or judgmental attitude," said Coty Jankoski, one of Disc Traders' district managers. "We're very friendly and outspoken people, if somebody doesn't have a lot of knowledge about a particular game or system, we're more than happy to help them."

For anybody without the funds necessary to finance a console from the latest generation — Xbox One, Playstation 4 and the Nintendo Switch — Disc Traders has any video game one could want from the preceding eras. One could go back just a few years behind the times, and get an Xbox 360 for around \$50, or go all the way back to the 16-bit era with a Super Nintendo for a similar price.

If one is just looking to expand their video game collection in general, any major game that's at least a few years old is priced around

the \$10 to \$20 mark.

The Midwest regional chain has carved out a niche for itself and continues to expand, even in locales situated right next to the de facto monopoly of the video game world, GameStop.

But among gamers, GameStop is becoming the second choice to stores like Disc Traders, said Jankoski. Jankoski mentioned it's become a widespread joke for gamers to exaggerate some of the more egregious lowball offers they've heard from a GameStop employee. "A brand-new one Xbox One? Well, we can give you about \$2.50 in store credit."

"When it comes to buying things from customers, we tend to give the most. We pull from multiple websites that do the same thing, and make sure that we are very competitive with our buy and sell prices," Jankoski said. "We tend to buy people's stuff at a higher price than the competition, while still selling the same stuff for cheaper."

Disc Traders also hosts some of the rarest video game artifacts. While one can walk in



and out having spent \$20 for a handful of games, one can also spend several hundred



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Jankoski at the front desk of Disc Traders.

dollars on some of gaming's holiest of grails.

"We've had the Super Nintendo game 'EarthBound' 100 percent complete, with the book and the scratch and sniff stickers in mint condition, which goes for about a thousand dollars," Jankoski said.

Jankoski said customers have experienced the "Antiques Roadshow" effect, where they expected around \$50 for an old collection of games, but instead walked out with several hundred.

After experiencing success slinging used video games, Disc Traders has been able to expand toward general electronic merchandise, such as cameras and musical equipment.

"We try to cater to the market and what it's asking for. The first obvious thing to branch out has been electronics," Jankoski said. "We're always getting people that want to be photographers, but don't want to have to spend a fortune. So it made sense."

Deals

from page 21

Potter Park Zoo

Kids under 3 receive free entry.
1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

Sansu

Students receive 20 percent off, Tuesday evening.
4750 Hagadorn Rd. #100, East Lansing, MI 48823

Steak 'n Shake

Children eat free all with adult entrée purchase.
Locations in Greater Lansing
Swadesh Grocery Store
5 percent off for students.
3544 Meridian Crossing Dr. #110, Okemos, MI 48864

Tabooli

MSU students: 15 percent off.
Seniors and children: \$5.99 entrees.
Locations in Greater Lansing

U-Pack

Students and seniors receive \$50 off.
841 Kim Dr., Mason, MI 48854

Wayback Burgers

Children eat free with adult meal, Sunday.
5021 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917

Wendy's

Students receive free 16-ounce fountain drink with purchase.

Locations in Greater Lansing

Wharton Center for Performing Arts

Various children and student discounts.
Upcoming "School of Rock" Broadway musical show will be priced at \$29 per ticket instead of usual \$40+.
750 E. Shaw Ln., East Lansing, MI 48824

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Social media witchcraft

Talking with the leader of the Okemos Witches Meetup group

By DENNIS BURCK

Dropping their brooms and straightening their noses, 21st century witches are nothing like the spooky, but imaginary, poisoners of yesteryear. Instead of trudging into the woods at midnight for secret rituals, millennial witches flock to social media to network and practice their religion.

“Look at me,” said Morgan, leader of the Okemos Witches Meetup social media group that sports 12 members. “I don’t have a giant nose with a giant wart, I don’t live in a cave; I’m just a normal person. I have a dog, a family, a cat, and I like long walks on the beach.”

Morgan said she was drawn to witchcraft at an early age.

“It was something I was fascinated by as a child in elementary school,” said Morgan. “I had a group of four girls in school — we would all play witches together and look things up online when we could.”

Practicing witchcraft, Morgan said she faces the threat of discrimination and abandonment from her traditionally Christian family. “I grew up in a Christian house, and it wasn’t an acceptable thing I could explore,” said Morgan.

She still hasn’t come out to them.

“This is definitely being a little bit vulnerable,” said Morgan.

“During my teenage years, I was very open about not being Christian. That was a huge point of contention with all of my family,” said Morgan. “I was forced to go to church. I told my family I’m not a Christian, and they told me it was their responsibility as my parents to force me to go and save my soul.”

Morgan said she waited until she could leave and took her chances. “I had to go to church until I was 18. It was something I looked forward to, to the day,” said Morgan. “I moved out on my 18th birthday.”

The conversation hasn’t started up since. “I haven’t talked about it, because if I truly feel if I were to express myself or my interests, it would be too overwhelming for them. I don’t want to ostracize myself from them.”

The sense of collective societal disapproval is palpable as well, said Morgan.

“You feel ashamed, because it is looked down upon by a lot of major religions. It is very specifically looking at witchcraft as bad — you will be condemned and you will be punished.”

Starting a Meetup group was a way to network with others in the community



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Okemos witch Morgan in the environment she feels closest to.

safely, said Morgan. “I want to get to know other people in the community, so we can grow to have more in person interaction,” said Morgan. “That’s what our meetups have been about: sharing books, sharing experiences and what we practice.”

Evxen in online networking, the threat of persecution is real, said Morgan.

“Creating a Facebook page, you are really going to open yourself up to potential danger, because there’s a lot of fear surrounding this type of thing in general,” said Morgan.

“I was on Facebook, but then deleted my profile permanently because I was targeted. I was tired of not being able to be who I am — to show pictures of who I am and what I like; what I’m interested in.”

A lot of discrimination comes from misconceptions, said Morgan. “People think it is satanic, but it isn’t.”

“Witchcraft is a broad term, while Wicca is an established religion. The people on my Meetup group are more ambiguous,” said Morgan. “You can still have witchy aspects of your life and practice a form of witchcraft, while not ascribing to the Wiccan religion or Druidism.”

Inclusivity and accessibility are paramount to her goals as administrator, said Morgan.

“This group is for anybody who wants to practice something that deals with the occult or mysticism.”

Morgan said she practices personally with a focus on nature and tarot. “I really like this new book called ‘The Green Witch.’ It’s about herbs and gardening and that’s something I’m very much into and spend a lot of time doing. It’s a mindful practice that I can do all summer.”

In terms of her religion’s physical rituals,

Morgan said she likes to use items out of her garden.

“I take herbs and scents and sew them into a small sachet. You can keep it below your pillow at night to invoke different kinds of dreams depending on what you’re looking for.”

Lansing is no stranger to pagans and witches. There is an active pagan food bank in Lansing, and Michigan has a scholarship committee that awards \$500 scholarships to high school seniors practicing paganism or witchcraft.

Morgan said that people curious about practicing witchcraft should know that there is a supportive subset of the com-

munity in Lansing. “There are two stores I know of in Lansing, and they seem to be thriving. Clearly there is a community here keeping them in business.”

Despite a family and society in contention with her practice, Morgan remains optimistic that the way people view witchcrafts can change.

“I don’t think it is something that people will always hate,” said Morgan. “Things are shifting where people are steering away from religion in general. People who go away from religion don’t mind what I’m doing, because I’m not out there knocking on doors and trying to push it onto the mainstream.”

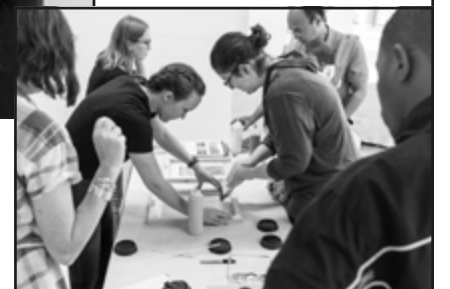
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ARTLAB

Alex McKnight returns for 'Dead Man Running'

By **BILL CASTANIER**

It was a cold day in Paradise when the two FBI agents came for Alex McKnight. He would not know for some time why they wanted him or where they were taking him, but the readers of "Dead Man Running" won't mind, because the author Steve Hamilton has clued them in from the beginning.

After a long five years, Hamilton has returned to his signature crime series featuring Alex McKnight, a ex-Detroit cop, who moved to Michigan's Upper Peninsula looking for a quiet life after being shot.

Book signing with Steve Hamilton

Wednesday, Aug. 22
7 p.m.
Schuler Books & Music
1982 W. Grand River
Ave.
Okemos
Free

In Paradise, McKnight runs a few tourist cabins, chases bond jumpers and hangs out at a nearby saloon. His life is pretty simple, until the FBI comes for him.

Hamilton said he likes to start his books with one idea. "I wanted to put McKnight in the most opposite place you could think of from Paradise — an arid desert," he said. "And Alex doesn't even know why he's there, or the dark person who has drawn him from Paradise."

In this relentlessly dark thriller, no one, except for a master criminal puppeteer, knows the "why" until the terrifying ending.

Hamilton spoke to City Pulse by phone from Los Angeles, where he is working on a major television series set in Michigan with Shane Salerno, a Hollywood producer and screenwriter with major credits. He also is still plugging away with Salerno to adapt two of his other books into movies.

Like most Midwesterners, Hamilton doesn't like Los Angeles. He complains about the congestion, the drought and the serious fire problems, but he knows this is where you go if you want to be in the movie business.

Hamilton wants to parlay his literary success into movie fame.

Producers like his punchy dialogue, unusual twists and cliff hanging denouements. He's confident it will happen, because, like his characters, he doesn't give up.

Graduating from the University of

Michigan with a prestigious Hopwood Award under his belt, Hamilton went to work for IBM as a technical writer in upstate New York. It was a far cry from being an author, but, like his go-to character Alex McKnight, he was relentless.

Writing whenever he could, he created the transplanted Yooper detective, McKnight. His first book, "A Cold Day in

Paradise," won the prestigious Edgar Award for Best First Novel. Later an ingenious stand-alone novel, "The Lock Artist," featuring a mute lock picker, was awarded an Edgar for Best Novel of the Year.

He then went on to create a new series about an ex-con, Nick Mason, who is a fixer for a criminal mastermind. He is currently working on the third installment of the Nick

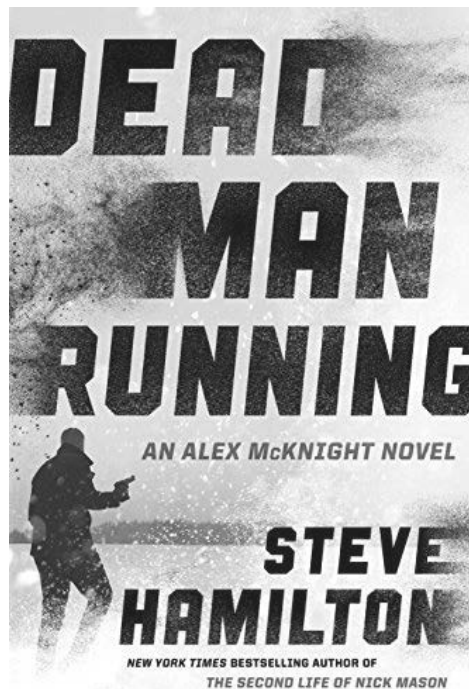
Mason series.

Hamilton said his new book, "Dead Man Running," is quite different from the 10 other McKnight mysteries.

"It's the first time part of the story is told from another point of view," he said. In "Dead Man Running" Hamilton had to put himself in the mind of a madman.

"It is a really evil point of view, and it's not fun to be in that state for a long time," Hamilton said. "Fortunately, I had Alex to come back to."

Without revealing too much about the book's plot, it is safe to say that in



Hamilton

"Dead Man Running" McKnight is able to use his own instinct in solving the crime, rather than the scientific methods employed by the FBI.

"This is a thriller with the clock ticking, and no one understands the 'why,'" Hamilton said.

Hamilton said popular culture is enamored with profiling citing one of his spouse's favorite television series "Criminal Minds."

"Stories have come to rely on the profiling idea too much and it gets out of hand," he said citing two real-life cases — the beltway sniper and the Unabomber — as examples of where profiling failed.

In McKnight, Hamilton has created the antithesis of scientific method in detective work — opting for good old fashioned intuition and following the clues where they take you. In "Dead Man Running" McKnight may not know the "why," but he is always a couple steps ahead of the FBI in tracking down a sociopathic killer.

Readers may be disappointed that his new book is not set in Michigan, but Hamilton said his next McKnight novel will be set in his beloved home state.

Following the rhythm of the series, McKnight will return to Detroit for the first time in decades and there will be a "night and day" difference between the desolate feeling of a lost city to one on a rebound.

Starting in his hometown of Highland, Michigan Hamilton will undertake a monthlong book tour to 17 cities from the Sault, to Mackinac Island and Bloomfield Hills — including a stop in Okemos at Schuler Books.

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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 Ella at (517) 999-6704.

Wednesday, August 15

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION. From 7 to 9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Lansing.

PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

SHAMANIC EDUCATION & HEALING. From 6 to 8 p.m. Donation. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

MUSIC

THE ST. JOHNS "CONCERT IN THE PARK" SERIES - THE AMAZING SALINE FIDDLERS. From 7 to 9 p.m. There is no admission charge - donations will be graciously accepted to help defray the cost of tonight's program. . William E. Tennant Performance Shell, 805 W. Park St. Saint Johns. 989-224-2429.

EVENTS

AGING 101 & OPTIONS FOR REMAINING INDEPENDENT. From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE . Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

GAMES AT THE MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER (SEE DESCRIPTIONS FOR DATES AND TIMES). From 12:30 to 4 p.m. Bingo and Bridge- \$1 - \$2 per person to play. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

MEET YOUR DOULA. At 6 p.m. Willow Tree Family Center, 3333 S. Pennsylvania Suite 101 Lansing.

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY EVENT: RBG DOCUMENTARY. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

ARTS

A PANOPLY OF PUPPET. From 12 to 2 p.m. free. Lookout! Gallery, 362 Bogue St., MSU campus East Lansing.

THEN NOW, MSU UNION ART GALLERY, DEPARTMENT OF ART, ART HISTORY, AND DESIGN. From 12 to 5 p.m. FREE. MSU Union Art Gallery, 230 Abbott Road East Lansing. 5174323961.

Thursday, August 16

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

(TOPS) TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY . At 6 p.m. First meeting FREE.. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St. Haslett.

A COURSE IN MIRACLES. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. Love offering.. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.

ADULT CRAFT NIGHT: LIBRARIES ROCK! From 6 to 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

EARLY MORNING MEDITATION. From 7 to 8 a.m. FREE. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, # 200 East Lansing.

MELT HAND & FOOT. From 7 to 8 p.m. \$12. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, # 200 East Lansing.

NIA. From 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. Cost: \$12 per class or purchase a 'Class Card' for 8 classes for \$80.. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, # 200 East Lansing.

SPANISH CONVERSATION. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

CHIPMUNK STORY TIME. From 10 to 11 a.m. \$3/child. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

MUSIC

JAZZ THURSDAYS WITH HAPPENSTANCE. From 7 to 9 p.m. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St. Lansing.

EVENTS

GOING SOLAR PRESENTATION. From 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. free. CADL Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

LUNCH AT THE SENIOR CENTER. From 12 to 1 p.m. suggested donations of \$3.00. If you are age 59 and under, there is a charge of \$5.75 (this is not a suggested donation). Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

SOUTH LANSING FARMERS MARKET. From 3 to 7 p.m. St. Casimir Church Parking Lot, 800 W. Barnes Avenue Lansing.

Friday, August 17

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

INFANT MASSAGE. From 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$30/1 adult

See Out on the Town Page 21



Mitten Mavens vs. Motor City Disassembly Line Roller Derby

It's a battle between the capital and Detroit when the East Lansing Mitten Mavens take on the Motor City Disassembly Line for their fifth bout of the season.

This nonprofit skater run organization started in 2010, with the goals of promoting sports "womanship" in the Greater Lansing community.

Hot off August's 2018 Summer Affair roller derby event in Cleveland, which puts derby players

through an intensive eight-hour training course, new player Sweet Poison received an MVP award, and the Mavens scrimmaged against teams all across the country.

For those interested in practicing roller derby, training is available for Lansing residents through a Mitten Maven boot camp course. Also, the Mavens 2018 coupon book fundraiser is underway with the goal of getting new uniforms for the 2019 season.

Email info@mittenmavens.net for more information about roller derby boot camp and coupon books.

Roller Derby

Saturday, Aug. 18 \$10 7 p.m. Starting at 7 p.m. at Court One Training Center 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing

SUNDAY, AUG. 19 >> NIGHT FOR NATE II

See local bands From Big Sur, The Stickarounds and Wentworth and Dave put on a show to commemorate Nate, a local music fan that died from complications related to his disabilities. All proceeds will go toward the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition.

3 to 7 p.m., \$10 suggested donation, Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. (517) 485-5287, www.moriartypublansing.com/schedule

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17 >> CAPITOL LAWN MOVIE NIGHT: DESPICABLE ME 3

Bring chairs and blankets to get comfortable on the capitol lawn. Presented by Comerica Bank, this free event will feature the third installment of the popular animated series of villains and minions — rated PG. Food and beverages available for purchase.

8:45 to 10:45 p.m. Michigan State Capitol, 110 N. Capitol Ave. (517) 373-2353, www.lansing.org/events

THURSDAY, AUG. 16 >> 56TH ANNUAL SQUARE DANCE CONVENTION TRAIL END DANCE

Featuring square dancers Jack Pladdys and couple Tony and Carolyn Ahart, see the convention kick off its three days of festivities with this welcoming dance. There will be five permanent dance floors including one clay tile and four hardwood for performances for all levels of square dance as the event progresses.

7 to 10 p.m., \$10, Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave. (313) 444-0048, www.squaredance-michigan.com/convention

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15 >> EAGLEMONK SIXTH ANNIVERSARY RIBFEST

Oddball ceramic mugs will fill with beer and pork bones will be cleaned dry. Partnering with Saddleback BBQ, ribs will be sold by the half and full rack. Anniversary shirts will be for sale to purchase a community Automatic External Defibrillator.

3 to 10 p.m., EagleMonk Pub and Brewery, 4906 W. Mt Hope Hwy. (517) 708-7350, www.eaglemonkbrewing.com/events

Jonesin' Crossword

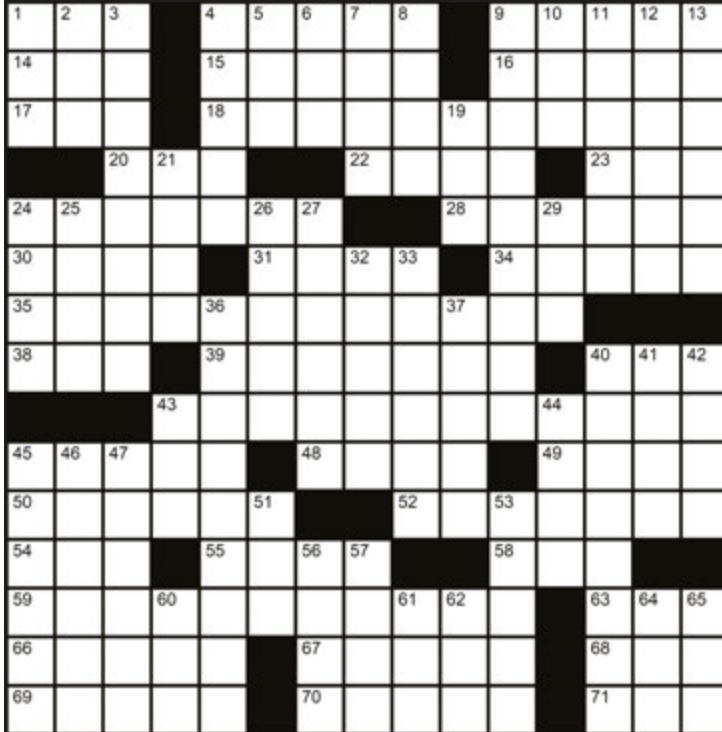
By Matt Jones

"Alien, the Sequel"—actually, do call it a comeback.

Matt Jones

Across

- 1 CNN chief White House correspondent Acosta
- 4 Disinterested
- 9 Ax handles
- 14 ___ pro nobis
- 15 Grammar concern
- 16 ___ the side of caution
- 17 "Humbug" preceoder
- 18 Harry's kin
- 20 Honey ___ (Post cereal, as renamed in 2018)
- 22 1990s Wink Martindale game show that paid off contestants' obligations
- 23 Cable company alternative to streaming, for short
- 24 Italian racecar
- 28 Levy
- 30 St. George's state
- 31 Difficult responsibility
- 34 More sick, in old hip-hop slang, or ... more sick, in general
- 35 Long-running role-playing video game franchise
- 38 Take to the skies
- 39 Place to go play
- 40 ATM maker bought by AT&T in 1991
- 43 Dress code loosening
- 45 Without toppings
- 48 Suffix after tera- or peta-
- 49 Provided party music
- 50 Bela of horror films
- 52 Ocean liner's route
- 54 Ultravox frontman Midge
- 55 1980s Secretary of State Alexander
- 58 "Automatic for the People" group
- 59 Trivia magazine started in 2001
- 63 Org. that's (supposed to be) concerned with pollution



- 66 Patient waiter
 - 67 "Helps stop gas before it starts" product
 - 68 "Neither fish ___ fowl"
 - 69 Light bite
 - 70 First two words of some political yard signs
 - 71 TV alien with a reboot announced in August 2018 (as found in the long answers)
- Down**
- 1 Interview goal
 - 2 Science writer Flatow
 - 3 Reddish-brown wood
 - 4 Blew up
 - 5 Bear, to Bernal
 - 6 Parker Jr. of the "Ghostbusters" theme song
 - 7 "Zounds!"
 - 8 Remove, to a proofreader
 - 9 Antagonist in "The Year Without a Santa Claus"
 - 10 Sleeve tattoo locale
 - 11 Waste time frolicking, old-style
 - 12 "I've got nothing ___"
 - 13 "The Late Late Show" host before Kilborn, Ferguson, and Corden
 - 19 Gp. once headed by Mueller and Comey
 - 21 "That's funny"
 - 24 Overly muscular
 - 25 Monopoly purchase (abbr.)
 - 26 Some meat alternatives
 - 27 Location of a nursery rhyme's three men
 - 29 It's not what the P stands for in TP (unless the T is "two"?)
 - 32 Retract, as regrettable words
 - 33 One way to walk tall?
 - 36 One generating a lot of interest
 - 37 Charge for a spot
 - 40 Capital of Chad
 - 41 Pulitzer-winning San Francisco columnist Herb
 - 42 Sydney suburb, or a California-based car-sharing rental company
 - 43 A.F.L. merger partner
 - 44 Running in neutral
 - 45 Tests the depths
 - 46 Entice
 - 47 Meeting outline
 - 51 Different ending?
 - 53 Pyromaniac's crime
 - 56 "One ___ land ..."
 - 57 Show with Jane Lynch as Sue Sylvester
 - 60 Private eye, informally
 - 61 ___ in "Oscar"
 - 62 ___-Caps (movie candy)
 - 64 D.C. sort
 - 65 Dog noise

©2017 Jonesin' Crosswords • For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. **Answers Page 29**

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

August 15-22, 2018

Aries (March 21-April 19) The two pieces of advice I have for you may initially seem contradictory, but they are in fact complementary. Together they'll help guide you through the next three weeks. The first comes from herbalist and wise woman Susun Weed. She suggests that when you face a dilemma, you should ask yourself how you can make it your ally and how you can learn the lesson it has for you. Your second burst of wisdom is from writer Yasmin Mogahed: "Study the hurtful patterns of your life. Then don't repeat them."

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Speak the following declaration aloud and see how it feels: "I want strong soft kisses and tender unruly kisses and secret truth kisses and surprise elixir kisses. I deserve them, too." If that puts you in a brave mood, Taurus, add a further affirmation: "I want ingenious affectionate amazelements and deep dark appreciation and brisk mirthful lessons and crazy sweet cuddle wrestles. I deserve them, too." What do you think? Do these formulas work for you? Do they put you in the proper frame of mind to co-create transformative intimacy? I hope so. You're entering a phase when you have maximum power to enchant and to be enchanted.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) As you map out your master plan for the next 14 months, I invite you to include the following considerations: an intention to purge pretend feelings and artificial motivations; a promise to change your relationship with old secrets so that they no longer impinge on your room to maneuver; a pledge to explore evocative mysteries that will enhance your courage; a vow to be kinder toward aspects of yourself that you haven't loved well enough; and a search for an additional source of stability that will inspire you to seek more freedom.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) If you have been communing with my horoscopes for a while, you've gotten a decent education -- for free! Nonetheless, you shouldn't depend on me for all of your learning needs. Due to my tendency to emphasize the best in you and focus on healing your wounds, I may neglect some aspects of your training. With that as caveat, I'll offer a few meditations about future possibilities. 1. What new subjects or skills do you want to master in the next three years? 2. What's the single most important thing you can do to augment your intelligence? 3. Are there dogmas you believe in so fixedly and rely on so heavily that they obstruct the arrival of fresh ideas? If so, are you willing to at least temporarily set them aside?

Leo (July 23-August 22) "All the world's a stage," wrote Shakespeare, "And all the men and women merely players." In other words, we're all performers. Whenever we emerge from solitude and encounter other people, we choose to express certain aspects of our inner experience even as we hide others. Our personalities are facades that display a colorful mix of authenticity and fantasy. Many wise people over the centuries have deprecated this central aspect of human behavior as superficial and dishonest. But author Neil Gaiman thinks otherwise: "We are all wearing masks," he says. "That is what makes us interesting." Invoking his view -- and in accordance with current astrological omens -- I urge you to celebrate your masks and disguises in the coming weeks. Enjoy the show you present. Dare to entertain your audiences.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) I think you've done enough rehearsals. At this point, the apparent quest for a little extra readiness is beginning to lapse into procrastination. So I'll suggest that you set a date for opening night. I'll nudge you to have a cordial talk with yourself about the value of emphasizing soulfulness over perfectionism. What? You say you're waiting until your heart stops fluttering and your bones stop chattering? I've got good news: The greater your stage fright, the more moving your performance will be., oranges, purples, golds, blacks, coppers, and pinks.

Libra (September 23-October 22) In all the time we've worked on diminishing your suffering, we may have not focused enough on the fine art of resolving unfinished

business. So let's do that now, just in time for the arrival of your Season of Completion. Are you ready to start drawing the old cycle to a close so you'll be fresh when the new cycle begins? Are you in the mood to conclude this chapter of your life story and earn the relaxing hiatus you will need before launching the next chapter? Even if you don't feel ready, even if you're not in the mood, I suggest you do the work anyway. Any business you leave unfinished now will only return to haunt you later. So don't leave any business unfinished!

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) Are you ready to mix more business with pleasure and more pleasure with business than you have ever mixed? I predict that in the coming weeks, your social opportunities will serve your professional ambitions and your professional ambitions will serve your social opportunities. You will have more than your usual amount of power to forge new alliances and expand your web of connections. Here's my advice: Be extra charming, but not grossly opportunistic. Sell yourself, but with grace and integrity, not with obsequiousness. Express yourself like a gorgeous force of nature, and encourage others to express themselves like gorgeous forces of nature.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) "When I picture a perfect reader," wrote philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, "I picture a monster of courage and curiosity, also something supple, cunning, cautious, a born adventurer and discoverer." I suspect he was using the term "monster" with a roguish affection. I am certainly doing that as I direct these same words toward you, dear Sagittarian reader. Of course, I am always appreciative of your courage, curiosity, cunning, suppleness, and adventurousness. But I'm especially excited about those qualities now, because the coming weeks will be a time when they will be both most necessary and most available to you.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) You do not yet have access to maps of the places where you need to go next. That fact may tempt you to turn around and head back to familiar territory. But I hope you'll press forward even without the maps. Out there in the frontier, adventures await you that will prepare you well for the rest of your long life. And being without maps, at least in the early going, may actually enhance your learning opportunities. Here's another thing you should know: your intuitive navigational sense will keep improving the farther you get from recognizable landmarks.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18) Healing isn't impossible. You may not be stuck with your pain forever. The crookedness in your soul and the twist in your heart may not always define who you are. There may come a time when you'll no longer be plagued by obsessive thoughts that keep returning you to the tormenting memories. But if you hope to find the kind of liberation I'm describing here, I advise you to start with these two guidelines: 1. The healing may not happen the way you think it should or imagine it will. 2. The best way to sprout the seeds that will ultimately bloom with the cures is to tell the complete truth.

Pisces (February 19-March 20) Nineteenth-century British painter J. M. W. Turner was one of the greats. Renowned for his luminous landscapes, he specialized in depicting the power of nature and the atmospheric drama of light and color. Modern poet Mary Ruefle tells us that although he "painted his own sea monsters," he engaged assistants "to do small animals." She writes that "he could do a great sky, but not rabbits." I'm hoping that unlike Turner, you Piscean folks will go both ways in the coming weeks. Give as much of your creative potency and loving intelligence to the modest details as to the sweeping vistas.

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

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 29

TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE
BY RICH TUPICA

Thur., Aug. 16

INCITE AT MAC'S BAR



Incite features stepson of thrash metal legend Max Cavalera

Thursday, Aug. 16 @ Mac's Bar 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 7 p.m.

Richie Cavalera, stepson of the legendary Max Cavalera of Sepultura and Soulfy, has a thrash metal band of his own: Incite. However, the band, which sees Richie Cavalera on vocal duties, has never leaned too heavily on the Cavalera name, nor has it aped the sound of Sepultura. The band's first tour saw the combo crammed tightly inside of a two door Toyota, which took them to 30 different gigs across the United States.

The band has six releases under its belt, its latest being 2016's "Oppression." Incite could easily be compared to fellow contemporaries like Goatwhore, and the group employs the sludgy/groove metal riff elements seen by older bands like Prong, Pantera or Crowbar. Opening for Incite are Throne, Fortress, the Revenant and Aethere.

For a full Q&A with Richie Cavalera himself: visit www.lansingcitypulse.com

Fri., Aug. 17

THE GO ROUNDS AT THE ROBIN THEATRE



Kalamazoo indie-psychedelic band heads to REO Town

Friday, Aug. 17, @ The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$15, \$12 adv., 7:30 p.m.

Fans of the psychedelic-indie rock stylings of MGMT might want to check out The Go Rounds, who headline Friday at The Robin Theatre in REO Town. The Kalamazoo-based group has continued to hone and abstract its unique brand of art-rock and baroque folk since its 2011 self-titled debut LP. The songs, led by lead singer Graham Parsons, are simultaneously catchy, twangy and trippy — a lush bed of sonic textures and intricate arrangements. The quartet has steadily toured Michigan and beyond for the last five years, while also releasing four LPs and four EPs. Their last full-length, "Don't Go Not Changin'," earned the band three WYCE Jammy Awards. In April, the Go Rounds dropped "Code," a seven-track release featuring "Pet Cemetery," the majestically poppy opener. The record (which is streamed at thegorounds.bandcamp.com) was mastered in East Lansing by engineering vet Glenn Brown.

Fri., Aug. 17

THE CLEAN WATER CAMPAIGN FOR MICHIGAN



Seth Bernard headlines free event

Friday, Aug. 17, @ Ann Street Plaza, Downtown East Lansing. All ages, FREE, 7 p.m.

Earthwork Music, a busy Michigan-based label/collective, has a long roster of artists — from Jen Sygit and Micah Ling, to Joshua Davis and Red Tail Ring. Friday, the imprint hosts "The Clean Water Campaign for Michigan" concert in downtown East Lansing. The shindig takes place outdoors in the Ann Street Plaza on the corner of Albert and M.A.C. avenues across from Pinball Pete's. Organizers suggest attendees bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. The show, which is a part of the city's annual summer Concert Series, features a diverse roster of Earthwork artists, including Gifts or Creatures, Libby DeCamp, Will See and Spirits Rising. Headlining is Seth Bernard, a veteran of the Michigan folk scene and a true folk-rock troubadour. His latest LP, "Eggtones 4 Directions" was released this year and showcases Bernard's talents as a producer, multiinstrumentalist and songwriter.

LIVE AND LOCAL

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT ELLA@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night	Open Mic	Jenn's Apartment	Hip Hop
Buddies Grill, 2040 N. Aurelius Rd.				The New Rule, 7pm
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia		Live Music	DJ
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends Open Mic, 8:30 p.m.	Smooth Daddy	Smooth Daddy
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Blues Night	Karaoke	Miranda and the M80's	The Rotations
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.	Josh Wolf, 7pm		Cousin Avery, 9pm	Heidi Rickard album Release
Watershed Tavern and Grill, 5965 Marsh Rd.			Capital City DJ's	Capital City DJ's

Out on the Town

from page 25

\$40/2 adults. Creative Wellness, 2025 Abbot Road, # 200 East Lansing.

MUSIC

TGIF CELEBRATE ALOHA HAWAIIAN PATIO DANCE PARTY FRIDAY 8/17/18. From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. \$15 includes complimentary dance lesson & buffet!. Hawk Hollow Golf Course, 15101 Chandler Rd. Bath. (517) 641-4295.

THE 2018 ANN ARBOR BLUES FESTIVAL. From 6 to 11 p.m. Tickets available on Festival Website. Early Bird Tickets avail thru 10am May 16th 2018 at excellent savings. General Admission Tix avail \$35 - \$50. VIP Tickets also available.
 . Washtenaw Council Farm Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road Ann Arbor.

EVENTS

LUNCH & LEARN WITH HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE. From 12 to 1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

SEWING DAY. From 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. FREE

Optional: bring your own sewing machine. Delta Township Library, 5130 Davenport Drive Lansing. (517)-321-4014.

Saturday, August 18

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

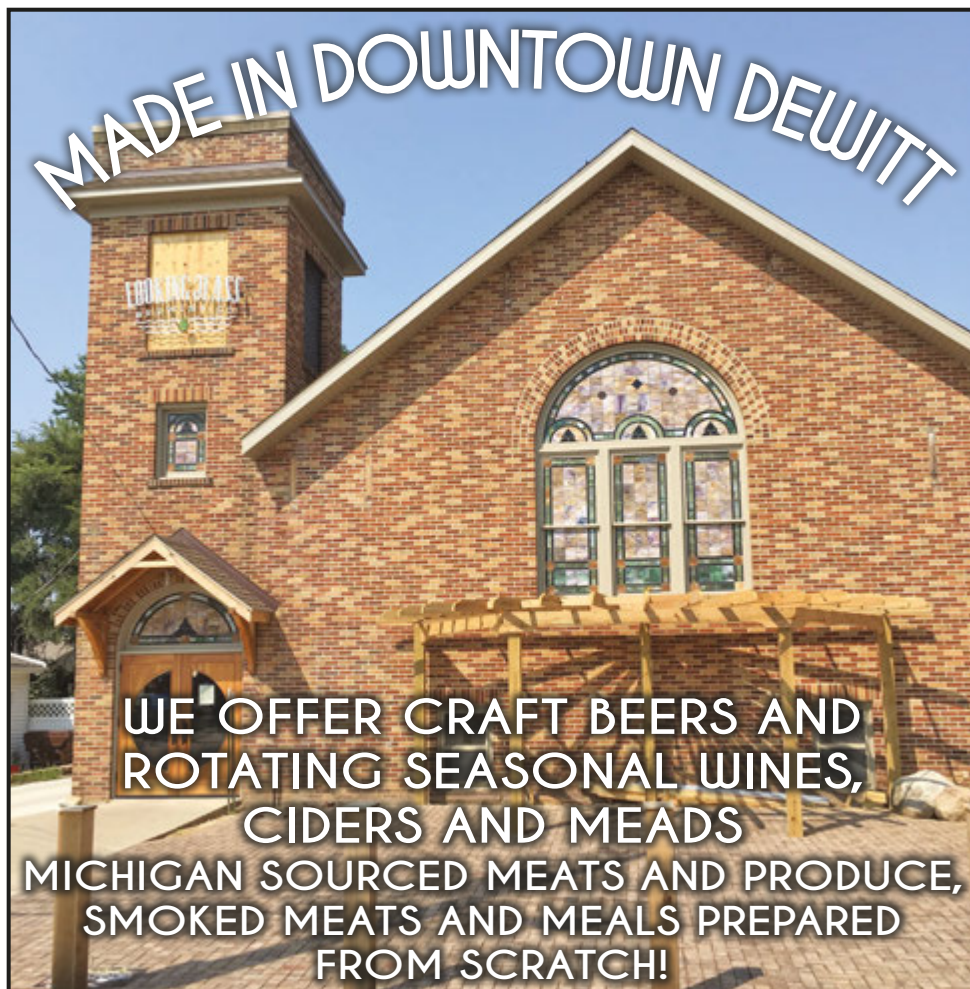
SOCIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP. From 10:30 a.m. to noon FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

SUNDAY, AUG. 19 >> LANSING CARS AND COFFEE

Exotic import, muscle cars and hot rod aficionados gather for morning coffee while showing off their cool rides. Open to the public, see these four wheeled powerhouses up close and personal with this monthly event

**8 to 11 a.m.,
 Biggy Coffee, 2546 E. Jolly Road
 (517) 882-9711,
www.facebook.com/Lansingcarsandcoffee/**

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Out on the Town

from page 28
EVENTS

EXPLORING YOUR SMART PHONE OR TABLET APPS WITH AARP. From 10:30 a.m. to noon FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

FRID AND NSCL OPEN HOUSE. From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, 640 South Shaw Lane East Lansing.

LANSING GROWN POP-UP FARMERS MARKET. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free to attend, and farm products for sale!. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive Lansing. (517) 483-7460.

RED PADDLE KAYAK RACE. At 9 a.m. \$25. River Town Adventures, 325 City Market Dr, Lansing, MI 48912 Lansing. 517 253 7523.

ARTS

YOUTH ART FESTIVAL. From 3 to 8 p.m. FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave. Lansing. (517) 999-3643.

Sunday, August 19

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

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

REIKI 1 TRAINING. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$75. Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts, 335 Seymour Ave, Suite D Lansing. 517-402-6727.

Monday, August 20

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

A COURSE OF LOVE. From 1 to 2 p.m. Love offering. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.

Tuesday, August 21

CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

EZ LOCK RE-KEYING. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St. Lansing.

HOME SECURITY 101. From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St. Lansing.

LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

FAMILY STORYTIME. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

MUSIC

JAZZ TUESDAYS AT MORIARTY'S. From 7 to 10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

(517) 485-5287.

EVENTS

KNITTING AND CROCHET GROUP. From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

TUESDAY GAMES. From 1 to 4 p.m. Euchre, Free Bridge, \$1 - \$2 per person. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

SATURDAY, AUG. 18 >> HEIDI RICKARD AT THE LOFT

This local pop artist paired with LCC students to create a music video featuring Preuss Pets and local parks as part of her album release of "Lost in The Woods." A free show, LCC continues its partnership with Rickard with a whole set design for the release party. Mikey Austin and Alex Mendenall will open.

6:30 p.m., free-for-all ages,
414 E. Michigan Ave.
(517) 913-0103, www.theloftlansing.com

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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SATURDAY, AUG. 18 >> ARTFEAST

Artists and food trucks pour into Old Town from around the state in this free festival that sports thousands of attendees.

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

Old Town, 1232 Turner St.

(517) 485-4283,

www.iloveoldtown.org/events/art-feast

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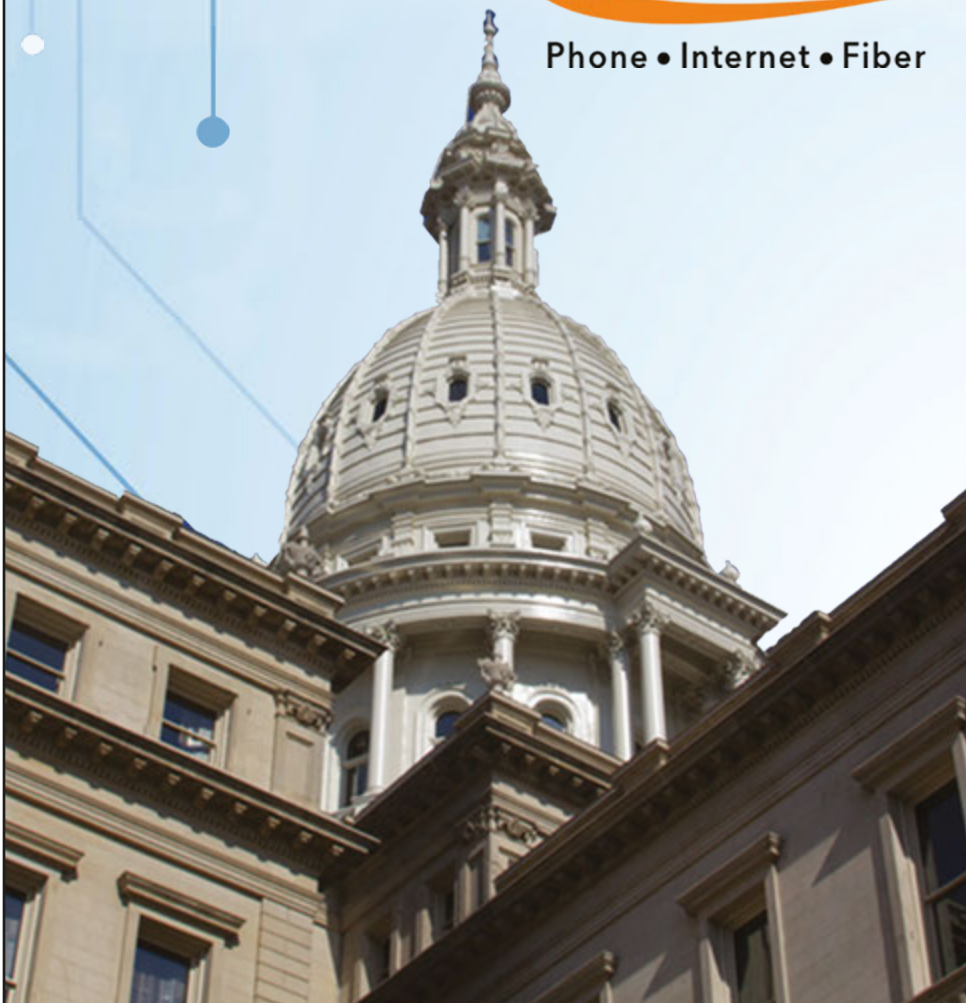
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NEW IN TOWN: TAQUERO MUCHO IN SOUTH LANSING



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Victor Banda in front of his new food truck Taquero Mucho

By DENNIS BURCK

Let the chorizo, lengua, asada, tamales and tortas flow with the latest installment of the food truck scene: Taquero Mucho in South Lansing.

“My whole family has always been part of the restaurant business working for other people,” said owner Victor Banda. “We were like, ‘Hey, let’s branch off and

start our own thing.”

Learning to cook from his mother, Banda said, He started making tortillas by hand. “That’s where I caught the want to make everything else. I flew with it,” he said.

Taquero Mucho is one of only a few authentic Mexican food trucks in Lansing, said Banda.

“You have to get here early in the morning to make everything fresh,” said Banda. “It is about sticking with your roots and not being afraid that people won’t try out your food. Everyone is willing to try something new.”

Handmade tortillas make a difference, said Banda. “We use a griddle or comal. You get your masa and you press them to the size you want, put them on the comal and flip them.”

Banda believes food trucks are the way of the future.

“I’m proud to be a part of this movement. It’s great that you can move around and go to a lot of places showing people what you can provide for the city,” said Banda. “People don’t enjoy just sitting in restaurants nowadays. They want something quick to grab and eat.”

However, the food truck environment presents challenges different from a restaurant.

The biggest challenge is the heat. “It can get really hot for the employees, even 100 degrees Fahrenheit in there,” Banda said.

The small amount of space and how to use it properly is a big deal as well.

Besides food, Taquero Mucho offers Hamaica, Tamarindo and horchata drinks.

“Most people use a powder to make these but we have to spend a lot of time in the morning preparing the actual fruit.”

Banda has found that South Lansing is hospitable to food trucks. “Cedar Street is really busy. There are a lot of businesses nearby, and word-of-mouth did a lot for us.”

Future plans for Taquero Mucho are branching off across Lansing with a fleet of food trucks. “Our end goal would be to get our own restaurant,” Banda said.

Happy hour is from 2 to 5 p.m. with three tacos of any meat for \$5.

Banda said that people shouldn’t be afraid to try authentic Mexican food though it is somewhat different from its American counterpart.

“Youa might be caught off guard at first by the way something sounds but when you taste it, it is all a combination and everything hits your taste buds at one time.”





HE ATE

SHE ATE



Kingston Kitchen

By **MARK NIXON**

Kingston Kitchen is a tale of two kitchens, which may leave lovers of Jamaican food hopeful if not exactly over the moon ecstatic.

As I write this I'm about to flip a coin that decides which of two visits to this Okemos restaurant gets first billing. Heads is the good visit, tails is the bad. Flip.

OK, bad it is. It was our first time at Kingston Kitchen, and I marveled at the Jamaican-themed decor, including references to the quirky movie about a Jamaican Olympic bobsled team, "Cool Runnings."

A map of Jamaica on one wall brought back memories of evening beach strolls and wading across the mouth of Dunn's River.

Those were the days, some 30 years ago. Reality snapped me back to the present, and I ordered the Red Stripe sandwich. The best part of it turns out to be the name; Red Stripe is the unofficial king of Jamaican beers. The menu's description sounded appetizing — a fried chicken patty topped with pork belly bacon, avocado aioli and honey mustard blended with Red Stripe.

Red Stripe was a red-hot mess. The pork was tough. I detected no bacon smokiness. The chicken was soggy and tasteless. The aioli and honey mustard underperformed as accents. The overall effect was dull.

I fared better with a bowl of pork and bean soup. It was rich and savory, but I'm conflicted. There were small chunks of bone in the soup. That indicates scratch-made authenticity. Yet it also poses a risk of choking or chipping a tooth to diners unaccustomed to chomping on bones amid the soup. I recommend that if the bones stay in, the customer should be forewarned.

Judy and I shared a split of smoked jerk chicken wings. They were the best thing I tasted on this visit. The exterior was crisp, browned skin. The lightly spiced meat inside was juicy and flavorful. They were the closest thing to real Jamaican food I tasted during two visits.

Judy ordered a plate of traditional Jamaican patties, orange-colored pastries stuffed with minced, spiced beef. The verdict was a split decision. Judy liked them. I thought they were a pale imitation of patties I've tasted in Jamaica.

A side of fried plantain chips were served at room temperature, which I suppose is fine. Except they were practically tasteless. They needed salt, sauce, spice — something.

A second kitchen revealed itself on our second visit; the good kitchen. I tried the

Irie Mac n cheese, freshly made with a six-cheese blend. It was obscenely rich and creamy with hints of garlic and topped with juicy strips of jerk chicken. "Irie" is Jamaican for "the best", and I concur that this version of Mac n cheese was one of the best I've ever tried.

We ordered a side of bammy, another traditional Jamaican dish made from cassava root. The side looks a bit like deep-fried potato patties. The taste is somewhat bland, but I detected a whiff of cloves. A lightly spice cream sauce was a fine counterpoint to the bland bammy.

Judy had the Cool Runnings Salad, perfect for a hot summer evening. Avocado, greens, brown rice and caramelized walnuts are tossed in a spiced olive oil vinaigrette. Oh, and there are bits of ackee in the salad, which reminds me of scrambled eggs but is actually a tropical plant. If not cooked, ackee is poisonous.

Overall, our entree meals were spot-on and generous enough that we took home sizable leftover portions. With a nod to the environment, we were told the to-go boxes were made of compostable sugar cane pulp. Nice touch.

Our community needs and, frankly, deserves greater diversity in cuisines from other countries. I say this as someone who remembers a time in Lansing when egg rolls and tacos were considered exotic fare. We've come along way.

So I am pleased that a taste of Jamaica is now in our midst, and happy that Kingston Kitchen's owner, a native Jamaican, chose Mid-Michigan as his culinary homage to the homeland. I want this place to be better, and am fairly confident it will be. Let's just say It should strive to be the "Irie" it can be.

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

I can point to a few locations around town that just seem to be, for lack of a better word, cursed. The gas station at the corner of Grand River and Homer that was going to be the site of Punk Taco and now sits vacant. 4749 Central Park Drive in Okemos has been a veritable revolving door, vacillating from a jewelry store to a Sultan's to another location of Lou and Harry's to the current occupant, Kingston Kitchen. The space is plenty big, airy, and in a prime location for people



to grab a quick dinner after leaving the office.

While the physical size of the restaurant is enviable, the size of the menu gives me pause. I tend to espouse the philosophy that less is more, especially

for a menu that focuses on a particular cuisine. I don't need a pasta section, and a burger section, and a separate sandwich section, all of which are included on the Kingston Kitchen menu. I would much rather see a carefully curated menu, featuring only the best dishes that could possibly come out of the kitchen.

However, in the interest of experiencing as much of the vast menu as possible, Mr. She Ate and I started our dinner with the coconut shrimp. While "jumbo shrimp" is one of my favorite oxymorons, these babies slapped the jokes right out of my mouth.

While there are only four shrimp to an order, they are palm-sized and could easily be the entire protein portion of my dinner. The coconut batter was perfectly light, the shrimp were fried to a beautiful golden brown, and the orange pineapple marmalade and frizzled onions were fla-

vorful and complementary accents to the dish.

I chose the jerk chicken sandwich, which came with fries, and almost immediately regretted my decision. The fries were thick, uninspired, unseasoned, and had very obviously come out of a bag shortly before arriving at our table. The brioche roll was overwhelming, as brioche rolls tend to be, because there's just so much puffy, vaguely sweet bread to contend with.

The biggest oversight, however, was a problem that has persisted for other friends who have ordered the same thing — the thick slice of pineapple atop the chicken bread hadn't been cored. When I chomped down on the core, I pushed the rest of the sandwich aside.

He had the jerk chicken fettuccini Alfredo. Jerk seasoning is the signature of Jamaican cuisine. The spice blend features allspice and can include variety of other seasonings, such as scotch bonnet peppers, nutmeg, black pepper, thyme, cayenne, paprika and garlic. It sounds delicious and is mouth-watering until it become mouth-searing, which was the situation with the fettuccini.

On our return visit, we started with the boom boom cheese balls. These were, in a word: hushpuppies. I believe the menu, which states they were fried jerk cheese balls, but I'll be darned if they didn't taste exactly like hushpuppies.

I was dying for more shrimp, but was also eager to explore more of the menu, so I chose the Caribbean classic. The menu claims that sautéed chicken and shrimp are tossed with onions and peppers in a spicy sauce, and while the sauce hit exactly the right savory and spicy notes, I yearned for more than three shrimp. My side of Jamaican cabbage was, surprisingly, the start of my show. It was a bit sweet but still crunchy and melted in my mouth.

He had a burger, which was fine, but might as well have been a holdover from the Lou and Harry's days. Anybody can buy a bag of frozen steak fries, and I unapologetically expect more when I choose to go out for a meal rather than eat at home.

I hope that Kingston Kitchen is able to pare down its offerings and focus on what they do so well: coconut shrimp, for one, and other dishes that rely on Jamaican flavors and preparations. Get rid of the clutter, and let the obvious passion for Jamaican cuisine shine.

Kingston Kitchen

4749 Central Park Dr., Okemos

Hours: Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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